

town, volleys being fired at they went. The creek was then crossed in safety and by 9 a.m. we were in complete possession of the town.

In bringing this article to a close, I take the liberty of again quoting from Admiral Bedford's interesting dispatches, published in the London Gazette of 21st December, 1894. He says:

"In concluding, I venture to express the belief that the downfall of this powerful chief will have a very far-reaching and beneficial effect. For a long time he has terrorized the country round for a radius of a hundred miles or more. By force of arms he has compelled almost the entire trade of this District to pass through his hands without a shadow of right. He has owned a vast number of slaves, and regularly recruited them by cruel slave-raiding; he has, after entering into the treaty obligations with this country, repudiated them whenever it suited his convenience, and defied us to enforce them; and all the time he has been preparing for the fight he knew must come, sooner or later, and which he deliberately provoked at last, though given time and many opportunities of retreating from the position he had taken up. Perhaps the more extraordinary part of it is that he so carefully prevented visitors from seeing any but the trading quarters of his stronghold, Brohemie, that no reliable information could be obtained about the defences or resources of the place; and so it gradually came about that in a town so little known that it was actually not indicated on the chart, the largest store of munitions of war ever possessed by any native chief was accumulated, and the approaches by the usual route defended so strongly that direct attack would have been a most risky operation."

I feel sure that it gave much pleasure to all others who had the honor of serving under this gallant officer, as it did to myself personally to see that he was deservedly rewarded by his Queen by being made a Knight Commander of the Bath, "in recognition of his services in recent operations against Chief Nanna of Brohemie in the Benin River."

Very little remains to be said. The Town of Brohemie has ceased to exist. After looking to the safety of the inhabitants, it was fired and so effectually razed to the ground that not a stick remains standing. The rebel Nanna is now confined at Old Calubard during Her Majesty's pleasure. Half measures are of no avail in dealing with the West African. If obliged to strike, hit hard.

KENNETH CAMPBELL.

Lieut. 6th Dragoon Guards and
H. M. Deputy Commissioner and
Vice-Consul, Niger Coast Protectorate.

Thornhill, Quebec, January 25th, 1895.

The following extract explains itself:
List of Ordnance and other Stores found
in Brohemie, 25th September, 1894, to
3rd October, 1894.

Enclosure in Commander-in-Chief's
Letter of 3rd October, 1894

Cannon, mounted and unmounted.....	6"	2
	5½"	1
Destroyed subsequent- ly, either by guncot- ton or thrown into the river.....	5"	2
	4"	24
	3½"	14
	3"	22
	2¾"	16
	2½"	17
	2"	8
Total.....		106

ORDNANCE STORES

Gunpowder, 14 tons.

Heavy blunderbuss-shaped guns, with swivels for mounting on war canoes. The diameter of the bore of most of them, excluding the slightly bell-shaped mouth, was 1½ inches. About 100 of these new, with iron barrels; a large proportion of the rest had brass barrels, and were found loaded with about 30 iron bullets in each, 445 tons.

Long flint lock guns (new,) 640.

Short flint lock guns (more than half these new,) 906.

Flint and cap guns (found in various places in remains of burnt thatched houses,) 245.

Short swords, 17 cases.

Long knives (Macheti,) 231 cases.

Case shot made up in zinc cylinders and filled with iron balls and broken-up iron, between 500 and 600.

Bamboo cases of various calibres filled as above, and many cases ready for filling, about 500.

Gatling feeders (some of these empty,) 7 cases.

Gatling ammunition, 2,500 rounds.

Snider ammunition, 2 cases.

Revolver ammunition (Eley's,) 300 rounds.

Friction tubes, 2 boxes.

A very large quantity of round shot of various sizes, barrels of iron bullets, broken-up scrap iron, &c.

NOTE.—The Gatling gun feeders and ammunition were found in the bush near the creek where the war canoes were abandoned. The gun itself had not been found when I left, the search having been interrupted by heavy rain, but in all probability it will be, and I expect many more arms.

MISCELLANEOUS STORES

Large stores of cloth (estimated value between £3,000 and £4,000.)

Hardware, &c.

Gin (cases containing 12 bottles in each,) 8,300.

The store containing the cloth was burnt by accident on the morning of 2nd of October.

The Lee-Metford Bullet.

One of the most interesting problems yet to be solved, says the *Pioneer* of Allahabad, is whether the Lee-Metford bullet, the "lead pencil" as it has been termed, will stop a fanatic in full charge. It is long, thin, and light, and leaves the muzzle with a very high initial velocity. If it strikes a big bone it is supposed not only to smash it to pieces, but to splinter it for several inches up and down. Thus a man struck on the hip or knee joint or on the point of the shoulder would be terribly damaged. He should be dropped in his tracks if the bullet really performs its work according to theory. This is just what the military authorities desire to ascertain, for stories are afloat of a hole having been simply drilled through a large bone without any splintering at all. These cannot be accepted without most trustworthy evidence; they are opposed to reports of experiments carried out on animals both in India and Europe with small-bore rifles. There does, however, seem good reason to believe that the Lee-Metford bullet passes through the thinner bones of the human body, such as the shoulder-blade, ribs, and the breastbone, without having any smashing effect. It does drill a small hole, and the shock is consequently trifling. Similarly, when striking muscles or soft tissues, it does not tear and break up the flesh like the old Snider bullet—which was practically a shell—or make a fairly big hole on exit like the Martini.

From this it will be argued that the stopping-power of the Lee-Metford is

limited, for a ghazi takes small account of a wound which does not instantly cripple him. At the Malakand and Khar there were no rushes of desperate fanatics in large numbers such as occurred at Ahmad Khel in the Afghan War, at Kotkai in one of the Black Mountain expeditions, and more recently at Wano. Had there been, the magazine attachment to the rifle would have been resorted to as the charge was driven home, and the advancing tribesmen would have literally had a sheet of lead to face. Some of them might have got through to the bayonets, but we cannot yet believe that the charge as a whole would have been made good. Unfortunately, from the musketry point of view, this practical test of magazine-fire never took place. It would have been most valuable (if the apparent inhumanity of the remark will be forgiven), for cordite was being used and there was no smoke to obscure the scene and give the attacking party a cover. At the fight beyond the Panjkora rushes were made on the Guides, but these were met with admirable coolness, and though individual tribesmen got as close as 20 yards or less, they were invariably shot down, or turned and fled. The Guides, however, were armed with the Martini and used black-powder ammunition, and in the Soudan and South Africa experience was gained years ago as to what this rifle can do. It was admittedly not equal to the Snider, as was proved at McNeill's zareeba, where the 15th Sikhs with the latter rifle did tremendous execution; but still the Martini proved itself very effective. Had its weak extractors never caused it to jam there would have been small reason to find fault with its action.

The Lee-Metford can claim among its advantages that one bullet may hit two or even more men. The pellet, with its drilling action through the human body where no large bones obstruct its course, travels onwards with considerable velocity, and thus may kill or wound men in rear of the first man struck. This, of course, can occur only at comparatively short ranges. At longer distances, curiously enough, the bullet is said to give a much greater shock when it reaches its human billet. When it ricochets the wound it inflicts is likely to be most severe, as the cupro-nickel envelope gets torn by impact with the ground. Those of our readers who are interested in the subject must not be misled by reports of the splendid results obtained with the Lee-Metford against large game. The sportsmen who use the rifle slit the thin metal covering over the leaden pellet, which thus acts as a shell. It is then equivalent to an "express" bullet, owing to its high initial velocity, and it undoubtedly gives most satisfactory results. In warfare this device of slitting up the covering is not permissible; it is barred by the terms of the Geneva Convention. We have then to trust to the bullet as we know it in the Service cartridge, and to ascertain exactly what its behaviour has