

Sir Garnet sent the Ashantee ambassadors early on the morning of 8th January across the Prabh, in charge of the naval brigade, who were in complete marching order. After escorting them some distance on their road, the brigade was halted a short time, and then marched back to its camp, having sufficiently performed the act of invasion in presence of the King's messengers, who would, no doubt, bear speedily to this King the unpleasant tidings of white men being on Ashantee soil. This act was meant to impress the King with the necessity for instant action, or induce him to listen with willing ear to the terms of the ultimatum which the English General had despatched to King Koffee by messengers.

The tactics of the Ashantees are said to be always the same, and on giving battle to an enemy their forces are disposed in a head and two wings, the head attacks and then feigns a retreat, and the two wings envelop the foe until he is entirely surrounded. Picket ambuscades are used to check the advance of the foe, and are placed alongside of the road, the men kneeling behind a thick barrier of boughs and leaves, having previously cut a path open in the rear so that they can make good their escape before their fire is returned. But the Ashantees surpass their neighbors more in that system than in these savage arts of war. When the Ashantee army marches to war, the soldiers, who are chiefly free men accompanied by corps of carpenters, blacksmiths, and other artisans; by money lenders, who advance gold dust at ten per cent. per month; by butlers, who sell provisions, and by women who carry the pots and calabashes. These women stand behind their husbands, serving out the powder and animating them by their songs. In battle the advanced skirmishers are slaves, who, if they show cowardice are killed. The Generals also have a code of honor, and if disgracefully defeated, kill themselves.

A curious story was reported from the camp of the Akims, some thirty miles eastward of Prabsu. An Akim merchant, long resident in Coomassie, had returned to his country and met his king. He told the king and Captain Butler (N.P. 69th Regiment), who was with him as commissioner, that some days previously an aroho had fallen in one of the principal streets of Coomassie. The inhabitants were greatly alarmed and attribute it to the British agency, many of them believing it had been thrown from their guns at Prabsu! High honor this to the powers of the little 7 pdr. mountain guns. Another and still greater prodigy had, however, occurred later. A child was born who was able to speak at its birth. Alarmed at this occurrence, the King ordered the child to be sequestered, with learned watchers to report its conversation. The child was accordingly secured at night but next morning no child could be found in the chamber, which was filled instead with bush. The fesh men were thereupon consulted and declared that this prodigy betokened the downfall of the Ashantee kingdom, and that in six months time the town of Coomassie would be covered with bush like the floor of the child's chamber.

Many particulars regarding recent actions were being learned in the course of the examination of prisoners and others. Thus the fate of a Houssa reported as missing since the action of 8th November at Ahest had only been ascertained. This man was knocked over in a river by a rush of fugitive Fantees, and supposed to have been drowned, though his body when searched for could not be found. It now appears he

escaped up the banks into the bush, and was captured by the Ashantees. He was brought before Amanquattia, their General, who examined his Snider rifle, caused himself to be instructed in the method of loading, and made many enquiries as to the number of arms of this description in our possession. When he had obtained all the information he required from the Houssa, he had him tied to a tree by his arms and legs, and had his head cut off, or rather, as an eye witness described it, hacked off with blunt knives.

A correspondent writes:—"The sailors of the naval brigade are the happiest fellows in camp, if one may judge by the hilarious sounds which issue from their quarters at night. They have a copious repertoire of ballads and songs with which they charm evenings which otherwise would be exceedingly dull. They are marched in couples through the camp during the day for many purposes, but the mere sounds of their regular footsteps are cheering, while they sometimes enliven their work with a well sung song and chorus."

THE BATTLE NEAR COOMASSIE.

NAMES OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The following appears in the New York World of Monday. No other New York paper publishes it:—

CAPE COAST CASTLE, February 5.—A great battle has been fought near Coomassie, resulting in the defeat of the Ashantees and the capture of Amoaful. The operations commenced at six a.m. on the 31st of January and lasted until three p.m. The British forces consisted of Lord Gifford and his natives scouts; the Forty second Regiment, under Major Macpherson, two guns of Ratt's artillery; the left column, under Colonel McCleod; Major Russell's native regiment, with Gordon's Houssas; two rockets under Lieutenant Palmer, and a wing of the Naval Brigade under Captain Grubbe, R.N. A path was cut at right angles to the main road, for 300 yards and then due north. Upon the left was the Forty second Regiment, and on the right a column under Colonel Wood, with a wing of the Naval Brigade under Capt. Lynamore, and two rockets under Lieutenant Knox. Colonel Wood's native regiment was to carry out the same plan on the right of the centre column. The second line consisted of the Twenty-third, supported by Colonel Wood's and Major Russell's native regiments on its flanks. The third line was composed of the Rifle Brigade under Colonel Warren. The enemy formed a broad angle, diverging from the main right apex of the Amoaful, and had a position on steep hills. The King of the Ashantees is supposed to have been present. The enemy fought most desperately, and suffered severely. Amanquattia, the Commander in Chief of the Ashantee army, is reported to be killed. The firing was very heavy for five hours. The casualties on the British side are: Royal Engineers—Captain Buckle, killed; Major Home, wounded in two places; Lieutenant Hare, wounded in two places; two sappers and thirty-six labourers killed. The Naval Brigade, which was 145 strong, had three officers wounded, namely, Captain Grubbe, Lieutenant Mundy, and Lieutenant Rawson; and twenty six men killed and wounded. The Twenty third, which was about ninety strong, had one officer and five men wounded. The Forty second lost nine officers and 105 men in killed and wounded, including Major Macpherson, wounded in two places. One bullet passed through his

leg, but he led his men the whole way. Major Baird was badly wounded in both legs and in the chest, and was carried to the rear, being unable to move. The carriers were attacked, and he himself was beloaded. Lieutenant Borwick was wounded in the ankle, and Lieutenant Stevenson, Captain Creagh, and four others were slightly wounded. The Rifle Brigade had an officer and twenty five men killed and wounded. No return of the loss of the native allies has been received, but it is heavy among Gordon's Houssas. The troops bivouacked on the ground. A baggage train has been attacked on the way up. Seven hundred and fifty loads arrived at Amoaful on the 1st of February, escorted by men of the Rifle Brigade, the Forty second and Second West India regiments. A strong force attacked Dequa, a mile on the right. The place was well defended, and the houses were loop holed. One blue jacket was killed and three were wounded, as well as some allies. The rear is threatened, and a large force is said to be to the south-west. Companies of the Twenty third Regiment are defending the threatened paths. Several carriers have been killed on the way up. During the battle on the 31st the staff was much exposed to the fire, but suffered no casualties.

Brevet Major William Baird, who had for the last six years been senior captain of the gallant Forty second Royal Highland Black Watch, was one the most highly thought of officers in that gallant corps, and beloved and esteemed alike by officers and men, especially by those of the A or the old Grenadier company, in which he had served off and on ever since he joined in 1854. He saw service both in the Crimea and Indian mutiny, and was decorated for both campaigns, and had been a captain in the Forty second for the last seventeen years, and was a grandnephew of the great Sir David Baird, who was taken prisoner by Tipoo Sahib in the first attack on Seringapatam, and who led the storming party, partly composed of the old Second Battalion of the Forty second, now the Seventy third Regiment, to victory at the taking of that fortress on May 4, 1799. He was only thirty three years old.

THE LATE CAPTAIN HUYSHO.—In Captain Huysho, of the Rifle Brigade who died of fever in the camp at Prabsu, on the 19th ult., the army has (the Army and Navy Gazette says) lost an officer of considerable promise. The deceased joined the service close upon eighteen years ago—in April 1856—and obtained his lieutenantancy the same year; he served as a subaltern in the 53rd regiment throughout the Indian mutiny of 1857-59. He purchased a company in the 53rd on the 19th of December, 1862, and exchanging into the Rifle Brigade early in 1864 joined the 1st battalion in Canada. In 1870 he was appointed to the staff of Sir Garnet Wolseley for service with the Red River Expedition. Returning to England with his battalion he became a candidate for the Staff College, and having passed a highly creditable examination, entered upon a course of study at Sandhurst in February last. On the decision of the War Office to place an armed force in the field against the Ashantees becoming known, Captain Huysho volunteered his services, which were at once accepted, and he left England with Sir Garnet Wolseley in the Ambriz in September last. It will also be remembered that Captain Huysho served with Sir R. Hunter's column in the operations in Central India in pursuit of Tantia Topo in 1858-59.