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AFRICA. No. 2 (1896).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

OPERATIONS AGAINST SLAVE TRADERS

IN

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.*

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Correspondence respecting Operations against Slave Traders in British Central Africa.

No. 1.

Commissioner Johnston to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20, 1896.)

My Lord,

The Residency, Zomba, November 13, 1895.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform your Lordship that the expedition against the slave-trading Chief Zarafi has been completely successful.

A force of about 65 Sikhs and 230 negro soldiers and 26 irregulars, commanded by Major C. A. Edwards, and accompanied by myself and Mr. J. F. Cunningham, the Secretary to the Administration, left Zomba on the 23rd October to proceed, viâ Chikala, overland to Mangoche Mountain, on which Zarafi's capital is situated. The military officers commanding sections of this expedition were Captain the Honourable W. E. Cavendish, Lieutenant H. Coape-Smith, Lieutenant G. de Herries Smith, Sergeant-Major Devoy, and Dr. Poole. There were also two officers who volunteered their services and were accepted, viz., Major L. J. Bradshaw (35th Sikhs) and Mr. Walter Gordon-Cumming, who had also gone with us on the expedition against Matipwiri.

The expedition was admirably organized by Major Edwards, and the value of this organization was severely tested by a long rapid march of 78 miles, some 50 of which were through the enemy's country. All the transport had to be done by negro porters. These latter were chiefly furnished by the friendly Chiefs of the Mlanje district, and their conduct was admirable, as they were repeatedly under fire and never attempted to leave their loads and run away. Major Edwards, after some considerable study of the question, had decided that the only approach to the lofty mountain on which Zarafi lived which it was possible to ascend without a severe loss of life at the hands of a determined enemy was the more gradual slope on the south-east end of this great ridge, which is about 12 miles long, a mile broad, and which rises at its highest point to an altitude of 5,500 feet.

Two subsidiary expeditions, one approaching from the north-east end of Lake Malombe, and the other from Fort Johnston, under Captain Stewart (45th Sikhs) and Commander Cullen, R.N.R., respectively, were also to have co-operated with us in the attack on Zarafi's, but owing to the tremendous natural difficulties of an ascent to the mountain from those directions, they were not able to meet us until after the place had been taken. Commander Cullen's small expedition was only able to get within 15 miles of Mangoche. This latter section was joined by another volunteer, Major F. C. Trollope, (Grenadier Guards) who has been visiting this country for big game shooting. Although Major Trollope was not able to get in touch with us, he rendered valuable assistance in the plains below by arresting large numbers of fugitives and capturing two Chiefs and twenty-three armed men, besides a large number of guns.

The great success of the expedition certainly resulted in part from the excellent guides which, strange to say, were furnished us by Kawinga. The Chief Kawinga, who, as your Lordship will remember, delivered a determined and unprovoked attack on the settlements in the Shiré Highlands at the beginning of this year, and who was totally defeated and driven out of the country by Mr. Acting Commissioner Sharpe, has since run over the Portuguese boundary, but has constantly appealed for permission to return. As he has given up a number of guns, and has commenced paying a war indemnity in ivory, and has restored a number of people whom he had captured from the Zomba district, I have first of all allowed his son to settle once more in the plains round Lake Chilwa, and have admitted a number of his people, but have refused to allow Kawinga to return until the rest of the guns are given up and the remainder of the indemnity is paid. However, from the double motive of wishing to see Zarafi soundly thrashed (to console himself for his own defeat), and of winning my favour to the extent of allowing

him to return, Kawinga sent us two guides who professed to be able to take us along a little-known route into Zarafi's country, which would enable us to avoid most of the enemy lying in ambush and would lead us past a plentiful supply of water. We were provided with other guides as a security, but these two men certainly knew their business, and the result was that we completely took the enemy by surprise, and had no serious fighting until within 15 miles of the capital. Moreover, the route was a delightfully easy one for such a mountainous country, and we nowhere suffered from lack of water.

Upon entering a wooded gorge, which led up to the south-eastern base of Mangoche Mountain, we were first attacked by Zarafi's men, and the caravan was nearly cut in two, as they had the sense to allow the main body to go on and deliver their attack chiefly on the porters. Their firing was very wild, however, though delivered at short range, and only one Atonga soldier was severely wounded, none of the porters being hurt, and before they could reload their guns they were scattered by the Atonga soldiers under Major Bradshaw and Captain Cavendish.

Shortly after this we seized an important position undefended by the enemy—a kind of natural castle of rocks crowning a low hillock commanding a clear flowing stream. Here we rested the much over-tired porters and were able in perfect security to scan the surrounding country. Although the expedition consisted, with porters, of about 750 men, all were easily concealed within the natural battlements of this very strong position. Zarafi had believed we were coming along another route, and when the error was found out he sent a large body of men to occupy this hill. They advanced towards it without any disguise, not knowing that we could see them from behind the rocks, and we consequently fired on them with such effect that they promptly retired with a loss of a good many killed and several wounded.

Whilst the porters were resting here Major Edwards, with the bulk of the soldiers, pushed on for a distance of 3 miles along a mountain road, his progress being most determinedly opposed by a large force of Zarafi's men. The country here was extremely difficult, the hillsides being steep and strewn with enormous boulders, behind which the enemy concealed himself, and from which he delivered a galling fire on the troops who were toiling up the narrow path.

On this march the Havildar Major of the Sikhs was killed and two other Sikhs were severely wounded. A Yao soldier was killed and three Atonga wounded. The European officers had extraordinarily lucky escapes, some of them having their clothes shot through, whilst numbers of the Sikhs had their high turbans riddled with bullets. As in almost all cases out here the men fighting against us fired much too high. There were, however, several good marksmen armed with Snider rifles, who killed and wounded the Sikhs and others. The European officers did great execution with their Lee-Metford rifles, and amongst them killed about thirty-five of the enemy, whose total loss on this day exceeded 100 men, so far as bodies could be seen and counted.

The upshot of this fight was the seizing of another position even more favourably situated, which covered the final ascent of Mangoche Mountain. This also was a sort of natural castle on a hillock with a good water supply, and 600 yards distant from the nearest outpost of the enemy, which were placed on some high cliffs overlooking the path that ascended the mountain.

When we were all established here such of Zarafi's men as were armed with Sniders began again to display their marksmanship, and both Major Edwards and myself had a narrow escape of being shot—a porter who was standing behind us being shot through the foot by a bullet which was intended for one or other of the white men. Seeing that the enemy was becoming very troublesome at this point the 7-pounder was brought into action and cleared the hillsides in a very short time, by exploding shells amongst the enemy, who were hidden in a wooded gorge. Two war rockets were also launched with great success. The most of the enemy then congregated behind the cliffs to which I have referred, but were again scattered by a few shrapnel shells being "lobbed" over the cliffs. Sargeant-Major Devoy, under the superintendence of Major Edwards, worked the 7-pounder and the rockets, and not a single one of the shells or rockets failed of effect. Meantime Lieutenants H. Coape-Smith and G. de Herries Smith, Major Bradshaw and Mr. Gordon Cumming were scouring the amphitheatre of hills to the east, and gradually driving the enemy before them, till at last night fell and all retreated to the fortified camp.

Before dawn on the morning of the 28th October the ascent of Mangoche was carried out by Major Edwards in a most successful manner, and without the loss of a man. Two small forces, one under Captain Cavendish and the other under Lieutenant Coape-Smith and Mr. Gordon Cumming, worked their way up the hillside to the east and

to the west, thus distracting the attention of the enemy who, if he had known his business, would have been watching the proceedings of the main body, whose ascent of the mountain by the regular path he could have made almost impossible; but finding himself shot at from both sides by the two parties referred to, his firing became wild, and Major Edwards made a rapid rush up the hill, and then the enemy was completely routed, and it was one long flight onwards for 12 miles over the crest of the mountain, Zarafi's people streaming away before us and down the eastern and western flanks of Mangoche.

With Mr. Cunningham I followed up behind the main body with all the porters. Mr. Cunningham managed by one or two long shots to disperse such few stragglers of the enemy as might have harassed our rear. We none of us stopped in our forward movement until we entered Zarafi's town, which we could see by our field glasses was being rapidly abandoned by the enemy as soon as we came within sight, and before we were within gunshot. When the town was entered it was devoid of inhabitants.

It transpired that Zarafi had fled, either in the night or in the early morning, after hearing of the complete repulse of the men sent against us. Amongst the scattered articles left on the verandah of his house was an unexploded war rocket, which evidently had been brought in by his men as an example of the things hurled against them.

The prisoners told us that, weeks before, Zarafi, in the fear of defeat, had dispatched all his ivory, cattle, and his reserve gunpowder and most of his women to Mtarika, a big Yao Chief who lives on the Lujenda River far away into Portuguese territory.

Zomba, as I have said, was left on the 23rd October, the principal fighting occurred on the 27th, and Zarafi's town was occupied on the 28th October. Our total loss in this action consisted of the Sikh Havildar-Major* and one Yao soldier killed, two Sikhs and three Atonga severely wounded and one porter wounded, besides a graze or two from bullets which had touched two or three of the European officers.

On the 29th October minor expeditions were dispatched against a number of Zarafi's towns, which were taken and destroyed with very little resistance. On the same day also a large body of Atonga, under Sergeant-Major Bandawe, was dispatched to the head of Lake Chiuta to follow up Zarafi, as it was thought that he had fled in that direction.

On the 29th, also, we were joined by Captain Stewart and Lieutenant A. S. Hamilton, who had captured a few prisoners on the way up from Lake Malombe. One of these prisoners declared that Zarafi, or, any rate, most of his fighting men, had fled to a hill called Lisieti, near the Portuguese boundary at the back of Makanjira's country. In consequence of this information, and with this man as a guide, Major Edwards and about 150 men and most of the European officers set out for Lisieti, a mountain as high, or higher, than Mangoche, viz., about 5,500 feet, and with steep sides. The mountain was ascended by night, and the enemy taken by surprise, so much so that he offered but a feeble resistance as his losses began to be considerable. Zarafi was not found here, however, and the Chief residing there was none other than Makandanji, who had fought with us in 1891. He was not captured, however. A large number of prisoners was made, and amongst them were found many slaves who had been captured at different times from the Upper Shiré, Lake Nyasa, and even from Zomba. These people were all set at liberty and sent back to their homes. The total number of slaves recaptured and set at liberty on the Zarafi expedition amounted to twenty-eight, but besides these, 400 people who had been enticed away by Zarafi from the Upper Shiré district at the time of the Liwonde war took advantage of his downfall to return to their old homes. We were a few days too late for the rescue of many slaves, which, in view of our approaching expedition, were sold to coast caravans, and dispatched only five days before we reached Mangoche. One of these slaves, however, managed to escape. She was a native of Zomba, and was of much use in giving us information as to the whereabouts of the different towns and Chiefs. Amongst the trophies brought from Lisieti were some heavy slave-sticks, which were removed by our men from the necks of women.

Very little loot was taken at Zarafi's, but, to the great joy of the Sikhs, the 7-pounder gun which we had to abandon in our disastrous attack on Zarafi's in 1892, was recovered. This gun was found by Major Bradshaw at a short distance from Zarafi's town, carefully hidden in the forest. Hidden with it were the helmet and sword of a Portuguese officer, apparently one of the two who were murdered at Mtarika's in the early part of 1891. Enormous quantities of food, however, were captured, and served to feed the many fugitives who after Zarafi's defeat hastened to return to their country and begged for peace at our hands. We also captured seven cattle and about 150 goats and sheep.

* Nihal Singh, 29th Punjab Infantry.

On the 3rd November Major Edwards, placing Captain Cavendish in command at Zarafi's with a garrison of forty men, left for Fort Johnston with the rest of the troops. I preceded him thither a few hours before, and we both reached that place on the evening of the 3rd November, the distance being about 24 miles.

Zarafi's country is certainly one of the finest portions of the Protectorate. It is marvellously well watered by countless streams, and is very fertile, in spite of the extraordinary boulders with which it is strewn. I do not know how this appearance can be accounted for. It is as though mighty monoliths, some of them the size of those at Stonehenge, had been dropped down from Heaven on a fine range of well forested, grassy hills. Between these great blocks of stone the soil is remarkably rich, and the grass short and in some places turfy. There are patches of dense forest and charming glades here and there free from boulders. On the lower slopes of the hills there are flat shelves of fertile land through which clear streams meander, their banks lined with the beautiful raphia palm. Zarafi's town enjoys about the most remarkable situation of any place in this Protectorate. It is situated on a flat ridge about a quarter of a mile broad at an altitude of 4,250 feet above the sea. This ridge or neck connects Mangoche Mountain with two great castellated hills of almost equal height. It is a veritable pass into British Central Africa, and on seeing it one can understand the importance attached to Zarafi, as the position which he occupied is the most practicable gate into Nyasaland from the East Coast regions. From his town you can see on the one hand right down the valley of the River Lujenda for a tremendous distance towards the East Coast of Africa; you can descry the long, marshy lake of Chiuta; from another point you can see the Zomba and Chikala Mountains, the whole course of the Upper Shiré from near Mpimbi to Lake Malombe, then the whole length of Malombe and the extreme Upper Shiré, and the south-eastern gulf of Lake Nyasa up to Cape Maclear, besides gazing westward to the great tablelands of the Angoni. For beauty of views, there is no place in this country to beat it. How far its climate will suit European settlers I cannot say. It is extremely windy, and even at this the hottest season of the year was quite sufficiently cold to be disagreeably chilly at night. Prior to our invasion there must have been a population of at least 25,000 dwelling in and around Zarafi's main town, and the surrounding country was thickly populated, scattered houses being perched on all the heights like chalets in Switzerland.

The bulk of Zarafi's people belong to the Anyanja stock, and with all these we have now made peace, and they have come in to settle down in their old homes. The dominant race, however, was Yao, and most of them have fled with Zarafi, and may not care to return under the very stringent conditions of disarmament which I shall feel compelled to impose.

Upon reaching Fort Johnston we found that Mponda, counting too confidently on the power of Zarafi to repel our attack, had already commenced hostilities against us by sending men to attack the Settlement at Monkey Bay, and the town of a friendly Sub-Chief known as Matewere. As though this provocation was not sufficient, on the day of my arrival at the fort I found two messengers of Mponda's awaiting me with a letter couched in very insolent language, calling on me to withdraw all the Europeans from his country, and insisting that the young boy Chief,* the real "Mponda" (who had fled with his mother some time before to the village opposite Fort Johnston), should be given up to him, together with such of Mponda's own sons as had come over to the British. At the same time I received a deputation from all Mponda's Headmen who had lived with us on friendly terms during the last few years, and from the mother of the real Chief, together with the little boy himself. They all stated that they were harried by Mponda night after night, and their people were carried off and sold as slaves or else barbarously murdered, and all because they were friendly to the British.

In reply to Mponda's two messengers, I sent back word to him that if he wished to avoid worse things he had better at once surrender himself at Fort Johnston, and close on the heels of the messengers I dispatched Major Edwards, with a force of 400 men, to capture Mponda's position in the circle of hills called Mauni. Mponda, seeing the force I had sent against him, thought he had better comply with my message, and, evading the force, came down to Fort Johnston with his wives in canoes, and surrendered himself at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 6th November. I saw him later on, and told him that, in consequence of his having surrendered himself, and thus prevented considerable bloodshed, I would grant him the most favourable terms that I could, which would be to secure

* Mponda is not the son or heir of the old Mponda, but was only declared by that Chief on his death-bed to be regent during the minority of the young boy who was to succeed him. The present Mponda, however, was very anxious to "suppress" the legitimate heir and rule in his own right.

to him as far as I was able for his own use all his private property, and whilst removing him altogether from Lake Nyasa, I would assign to him a pleasant and suitable place to live at, and, if he made no attempt to escape, would treat him as a prisoner at large. I told him it was out of the question his ever returning to Lake Nyasa, but that I should henceforth, with your Lordship's permission, recognize the boy Chief as *the* Chief of Mponda's country, and would appoint a Council of Headmen to act as Regents during his minority.

Major Edwards' party met with a slight resistance in taking Mauni, which was occupied by the more recalcitrant Yaos of Mponda's party, but there was no loss on the side of the British. A large number of prisoners was taken, and I hear that a good many slaves were released. Between 200 and 300 lbs. of gunpowder and 42 guns have been captured, together with a small quantity of ivory and a large herd of cattle.

As soon as I learned that everything had gone off satisfactorily in connection with the expedition against Mauni, I left Fort Johnston on the 7th, and arrived at Zomba on the 9th November.

In regard to Mponda's affairs, it may be thought that perhaps I might have done more wisely to have caused the native Chieftainship to cease with the deposition of Mponda, but I felt that, in view of the persistent support that we had received during four years from a large section of Mponda's Headmen and people, and especially from the mother of the young Chief, who is the rightful heir, it would be decidedly unfair to deprive them of a privilege they much value—being governed in their own internal affairs by themselves. As all the people referred to have for several years past paid the hut tax, and comported themselves in a thoroughly friendly manner, it is evident that they should not be treated as a conquered people, but as allies, and be treated quite differently to the recalcitrant Yaos who hung about Mponda and gradually weaned him from his friendship with the British.

As soon as the operations were completed at Mauni, Major Edwards was about to set out for Makanjira's coast country to punish a number of small Yao communities who have been slave-raiding lately in the vicinity of the Anglo-Portuguese boundary.

I shall join Major Edwards again on Lake Nyasa on the 23rd November, and if all has gone well with him up to that date, we shall proceed to the north end of Lake Nyasa to deal with the Arab question, on which I have written to your Lordship a separate despatch.

In closing this Report on the Zarafi expedition, I desire to express to your Lordship a cordial recognition of the able manner in which it was organized by Major Edwards, and I should also like to mention the services of Lieutenant H. Coape-Smith (11th Bengal Lancers), Lieutenant G. de Herries Smith (45th Sikhs), and Major L. J. Bradshaw* (35th Sikhs).

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 2.

Commissioner Johnston to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20, 1895.)

My Lord,

The Residency, Zomba, November 15, 1895.

I HAVE already telegraphed to your Lordship that I am obliged to proceed to the north end of Lake Nyasa to undertake a war against the Arabs who have so long troubled that district. That such a conflict was more or less inevitable I never concealed either from myself or from the Foreign Office, but it was one which I had hoped to defer for some little time longer as I believed I should find the work of subduing the Yao

* Major Bradshaw was one of the principal officers in the 35th Sikhs, a regiment which has supplied us with many of our best soldiers. As he was much interested in this question of Sikh soldiers fighting in Central Africa, he has employed a portion of his year's leave in visiting this country at his own expense and accompanying us on some of these expeditions. Major Bradshaw has seen considerable service in the Indian frontier wars and in Afghanistan, and although accompanying us more or less as a volunteer should for the time being be almost reckoned amongst our regular officers. The great demands on our armed forces at the present time for garrisoning recently-taken positions and conducting these numerous campaigns, have made me only too willing to accept the generously-tendered and unremunerated services of such volunteers as Major Bradshaw, Mr. Walter Gordon Cumming, and Major F. C. Trollope. The three gentlemen above alluded to accompany us on the expedition against the Arabs, Major Trollope having already been up there to make a study of some of the positions.—H. H. J.

slave-raiders on our borders even more lengthy and arduous than it has been. But the great successes which have attended us on our recent campaigns, and have thereby greatly shortened the warfare to be carried on in the south-eastern part of Nyasaland, places the armed forces at my disposal for another month's campaigning before the rainy season should render it a difficult matter to fight in a country covered with thick vegetation.

Apart from this consideration, the Arabs have left me no choice between undertaking their conquest immediately or submitting to see the traffic with Tanganyika cut off.

The present troubles may have been said to have begun in the month of June last when various complaints reached me from the African Lakes Corporation and Dr. Cross (a medical missionary residing near Karonga) and Mr. Vice-Consul Crawshay as to the raids carried on by the Arabs and their allies, the Awemba. Accordingly, when I went to the north end of Lake Nyasa in the end of July I endeavoured to see what negotiations would do with the Chief of the Arabs, Mlozi, to at any rate pacify the districts adjoining the Tanganyika road and prevent anything like raiding of caravans. I went to the north end of Lake Nyasa without any force whatever, merely in one of the small gun-boats, and sent up messengers to Mlozi to tell him that I would meet him anywhere within reasonable distance of the shore, unattended, provided he came equally unattended, or else with the same number of followers as himself. I proposed then that we should see if we could not come to some understanding by which the Arabs would be prevented from going a step too far in breaking their Treaty of 1889. Mlozi prior to this had written me a long letter setting forth many grievances against Mr. Crawshay, and hinting that unless these grievances were redressed he would be obliged to consider himself an enemy of the British. I expressed myself quite willing to discuss these grievances, although they principally referred to the interception of slave caravans. However, Mlozi stated, in reply to my message, that he would not come to see me as he feared there was some plan to trap him. He consented, however, to discuss his grievances with Mr. Crawshay if the latter would leave Deep Bay and meet him in the interior. Accordingly I instructed Mr. Crawshay to do this, viz., to make a tour through all the portions of the North Nyasa district occupied by the Arabs and see whether they had any real grievances against our Customs officials, and, if so, to redress them, in short, to do what he could to give the Arabs no excuse for embarking on hostilities if they possessed any real desire to settle down peaceably under our rule.

Mr. Crawshay spent part of August and the whole of September in journeying about the North Nyasa district and the adjoining Senga country, which lies within the British South Africa Company's sphere. The Arabs, however, treated him with the greatest insolence, refusing to allow him to approach their settlements, and sometimes surrounding him with armed men and threatening to shoot him. Only the greatest coolness on his part, and the pluck of the few policemen who were with him, prevented a serious mishap. On one occasion, indeed, he was fired on by Mlozi's men, though the bullet did not reach him. So far from Mlozi consenting to see him, he refused to do anything of the kind, and warned Mr. Crawshay that he had better not remain too long near his fortified town. Shortly afterwards the slave raids were worse than ever. The Awemba came in at the request of the Arabs, and raided two large villages* which had displayed marked friendship with the English, and who furnished quantities of porters to the African Lakes Corporation for traffic on the Tanganyika road. They almost exterminated the people of these villages, carrying some of them off into slavery and killing the others. As an act of defiance they blocked the Nyasa-Tanganyika road with large trunks of trees just at the time when Major Forbes, of the British South Africa Company, was returning from Tanganyika, and on these trees they put the heads of the recently killed natives of the villages of Kameme and Zoche. So far from expressing any irresponsibility for this action, Mlozi avowed that the Awemba had acted as his allies. He sent word to Mr. Yule, the Assistant Collector at Songwe, that as the English, and Mr. Yule especially, had blocked his road to the coast, he would now close their road to Tanganyika.

On the 11th October Mr. Crawshay reports that Mlozi and Kopakopa had set to work rebuilding Msalemu's stockade, an Arab fort which I had caused to be destroyed in 1889, and which commanded the Tanganyika road. This action, of course, is almost the most marked breach of the 1889 Treaty that the Arabs could have made.

The excitement which is rising in this portion of the district is prejudicially affecting the adjacent German Territory, and Captain Berndt, the Acting Commandant

* Kameme and Soche (or Zoche).

of German Nyasaland, has represented to me that it is absolutely necessary some steps should be taken to control the Arabs. To assist me to do this at the present time he has very kindly placed the German steamer at my complete disposal from the 25th November onwards. I hope to require the use of his steamer for only five or six days, first of all for the transport of the troops to Karonga. Later on I may require her for a like period in retransferring the troops to Fort Johnston.

The missionaries and the agent of the African Lakes Corporation in the same district have also begged me to take some immediate action to prevent disastrous attacks on their stations. I have hired the steam-ship "Domira" from the African Lakes Corporation on the same terms as the German steamer, and the Manager of the said Corporation has given me full powers over this steamer and over the station and all the resources of the Lakes Corporation at Karonga.

I leave Zomba on the 18th for Lake Nyasa, and leave Fort Johnston on the 23rd November. The first party will start from Fort Johnston in the "Domira" on the 19th, and the last section of the expedition will leave on the 25th November. It is hoped that an advance may be made on the Arab positions on the 1st or 2nd December. I shall have at my disposal a force of about 400 soldiers, commanded by Major Edwards and by the following officers: Captain F. C. Stewart, Lieutenant H. Coape-Smith, Lieutenant G. de Herries Smith, Lieutenant E. Alston, Sergeant-Major Devoy and Dr. Wordsworth Poole; also by the following volunteers: Major L. J. Bradshaw (35th Sikhs), Major F. C. Trollope (Grenadier Guards), and Mr. Walter Gordon Cumming. We shall take with us two 7-pr. guns and two 9-pr. guns, and perhaps Commander Cullen, R.N.R., and Lieutenant-Commander Edmund L. Rhoades will assist in working these guns. We shall also have with us two Nordenfeldts from the gun-boats.

I do not conceal from myself that we have a very arduous undertaking before us. This time we have to attack and take fortified stockades which can only be taken by artillery, and we shall have against us a force not much exceeding our own in numbers but well armed and almost as good in marksmanship. It is possible, therefore, that the loss of life on our side may be much greater than that on former campaigns, but I have no fears of the ultimate result, as the natives of the country are wholly with us, and our fighting force is in the best trim and rendered thoroughly confident by our recent successes.

If all goes well I hope to be back at Zomba by Christmas time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. H. JOHNSTON.

No. 3.

Commissioner Johnston (Karonga) to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11, 1896.)

(Telegraphic.)

Blantyre, December 6, 1895.

OPERATIONS against North Nyasa Arabs beginning 1st December completely successful after two and a-half days' fighting. All stockades taken, destroyed; 4 Arabs killed, 2 taken prisoners, and Mlozi captured, tried and executed 4th December. Arab loss in [and] around Mlozi's stockade: 210 men.

Casualties: Lieutenant Guy de Herries Smith, 45th Sikhs, severely wounded. Sepoy Jaimed Singh, 36, killed; 3 Atonga soldiers killed; 6 Sikhs and four Atongas severely wounded; 569 slaves released; many prisoners taken.

Desire specially commend services of Major C. A. Edwards; Lieutenant G. de H. Smith, who is badly wounded, but recovering, was first man to enter Mlozi's stockade. Officers and petty officers of Lake Nyasa gun-boats did excellent service with guns.

I return shortly Zomba.

No. 4.

Foreign Office to Commissioner Sir H. Johnston.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 29, 1896.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th November, giving an account of the expedition against Zarafi, and to state that his Lordship has read with satisfaction your report of the complete success of the operations against this slave-trading Chief.

The expedition appears to have been thoroughly well organized by Major Edwards, and Lord Salisbury desires to express his appreciation of the services rendered by the officers and men engaged.

Your own actions in connection with the deposition of Mponda, as well as your proposals with regard to the district formerly ruled by that Chief, are approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. PERCY ANDERSON.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting operations against
Slave Traders in British Central Africa.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
mand of Her Majesty. February 1896.*

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