

Duffla Expedition.

feet high, which is a conspicuous object from the plains, bearing south-by-east, with hills 6,000 feet high lying between it and camp.

- Immediately on the arrival of the force in camp, messengers were sent on to summons Nana and his sworn brother Gobind, but returned with a message from Nana's mother that he and Gobind had gone to the new village, and would come in the next day; accordingly, at about midday, Nana and Gobind, with their mothers, wives, and children, with a number of people, male and female, made their appearance in camp, when Nana and Gobind, with the mother of the former, were taken to the Brigadier-General's hut, the following being in effect Nana's replies to questions put to him. He stated that there had been deaths in his village from whooping-cough; and that, determining to recoup himself amongst the villages to the south, where he heard it had broken out, he made inquiries, and was informed by Kersa Gam, who lived in the hills north of Gohpur, and Hali and Nannu, gams of Amtollah, that the cough had broken out at Amtollah, a village in which there was plenty of plunder and captives to be had, and that he therefore went there, they showing him the way; but that he did not know Amtollah was a village of the Queen's. That Nana did not know that the village to be attacked was in British territory is open to doubt, but there can be none as to the persons who showed him the way, and directed him on Amtollah. It is well known that the disease broke out in Kersa's village, and he had therefore every reason for diverting attention from his own people; while Hali and Nannu, both of them Tagin Dufflas, actually lived in Amtollah, and, so far from being plundered by the raiders, one of their people who had been carried off, evidently by mistake, returned the next day. Nana, on being asked what he would have done, had forty-five people been carried off from his village, and eleven of them had died, replied that if there had been no fault on the part of his people, and he had been strong enough, he would have taken revenge. He was then told that, as he had given up all his captives, and been promised his life if he came in, there was no wish to kill him, nor to burn or plunder his village, which we could very easily do, but that he would be fined; to which he replied, fairly enough, that, if the fine were in proportion to the injury done, neither he nor all his village could satisfy it; but when called on to pay his fine of bison and gongs, he declared that he was ruined, and it was not until after some days that the fine was fixed at fourteen bison and six bells, or gongs. He was also called upon to produce Loka Gam, one of the captives (who he said had married and wished to remain with him), which he shortly after did, and Loka Gam electing to remain, was allowed to do so. The remaining captive, a little girl named Mekoli, had, it was stated, been sold by Tagen Gam, a Duffla residing south of the Tenir Lampa, to Booya Gam, an Abor living north of Pakfi, who had in his turn sold her to the Deling Abors, who lived still further north, all of which was afterwards found to be true.
- 36. Nana is a fair well-made man, aged about twenty-eight, while his brother Gobind is somewhat taller and better-looking, but has received some injury to his right eye.
- 37. From this time up to the 6th January, there was nothing but wind, rain, and fog, almost everything being at a standstill, excepting, indeed, the coolies, who, rain or no rain, were working along the road by relays.
- 38. On the 7th January the weather cleared a little, and Lieutenant Harman, R.E., started for Narainpur for the purpose of attempting to survey the country to the eastward, in the direction of the Ranga valley; and at the same time Mr. Ogle, also attached to the Survey, left with an escort of ten sepoys for the purpose of surveying the country lying south of the Tenir Lampa range, and up the Borpani river, a project in which he fully succeeded, as did also Lieutenant Harman, in a measure, in the Ranga valley.
- 39. Up to this time there had been some delay about the survey, as, until supplies were in a satisfactory state, coolies could not be given, and neither, until matters were settled with Nana, could the survey be allowed to move about freely.
- 40. During the day Nana sent in three bison, saying it was all he could afford, but they were at once refused, and he was told he would be visited the following day, and, accordingly, next day at about 11 a.m., the General, taking with him a few men from each regiment and the sappers, entered Nana's village, which was on cleared hills in a kind of amphitheatre, two miles beyond camp, at a height of 3,835 feet above the sea, while to the south of it, at about a day's journey off, towered the Misa Purbut mountain, 8,020 feet high.