

C E Y L O N.

Head-quarters, Candy, October 31.

Lieutenant O'Neil marched about four A. M. on the 28th from Puliamcolom, with a detachment of about 30 men, to search the country in the neighbourhood of Parawahaganime. Having no particular information, after a march of four Cingalese miles, he fell in with a rebel picquet, under a tree, who fled in different directions; one had a firelock, whom Lieutenant O'Neil pursued, and after a chace of about 300 yards across a puddy field, when, on the point of being seized, the fellow attempted to fire twice, but the piece missed fire.

Lieutenant O'Neil knocked him down with a stick he had in his hand, when he immediately exclaimed that Peleme Telawe was close by. Lieutenant O'Neil then collected his detachment, crossed the puddy field silently, and surrounded a house near at hand, in which were actually assembled all the great rebels and their followers. The latter escaped, leaving 20 stand of good arms, a quantity of ammunition, and a bag of sulphur. On Lieutenant O'Neil's entering the house, Keppetapola seized him by the hand, and announced his name twice, 'Keppetapola! Keppetapola!' Peleme Telawe lay stretched on a couch lame, and ill of disease; Madugalle, who was in the room, and others whose names were given by Keppetapola, fled; but Captain Fraser, on joining Lieutenant O'Neil the next morning, made the latter write to Madugalle, and he was expected to return.—Keppetapola says he joined Peleme Telawe that morning, that he left Doombera twenty days before, and that they all intended moving the next morning to Pantawella, a village at four miles distance, within the seven Korles. Lieutenant O'Neil speaks in the highest terms of the good conduct of his detachment; they were deluged with rain throughout the march, and had been without arrack eight days.

The Commander of the Forces requests Captain Fraser, and the officers and men of his detachment, will accept the just tribute of his cordial thanks for this distinguished and important service; and in communicating this gratifying intelligence to the troops, he directs that the usual extra allowance on days of rejoicing be issued on the day these orders reach the different stations of the army.

Captain Fraser, in transmitting to Lieutenant-Colonel Hook, and remarking on Lieutenant O'Neil's proceedings, mentions the high terms in which that officer represents the conduct of native Lieutenant Cadee Bayet, of the 1st Ceylon regiment; and the Lieutenant-General, to mark his desire of rewarding the native Malay soldier on so remarkable an occasion, is pleased to promote him to the rank of native Captain in the same regiment, to be dated 28th October 1818.

(Signed) T. B. GASCOYNE, Dep. As. Adj. Gen.
(A true copy.) (Signed) H. BATES, Mil. Sec.