

## MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SIERRA LEONE: SCENES IN THE KISSI COUNTRY.

*From Sketches by Lieutenant Rambaut, R.A.*

Operations for the pacification of Sierra Leone are still being vigorously prosecuted by the West India Regiment. A detachment of that force, under Major Blunt, was recently reported to have left Bandajuma for Freetown, where it was expected to arrive about the beginning of the present month. Sir F. Cardew and his suite had, about the same time, visited the Bandajuma district, where he proclaimed a general amnesty and the remission of all arrears of hut-tax. Bandajuma is situated in the south-eastern portion of the British colony of Sierra Leone, and is distant from the coast about thirty-three miles. The pictures on this page represent some of the operations in the district around Kissi, a town on the coast three miles south-east of Freetown, the capital of the colony.

Our first Illustration of fighting in the Kissi country shows a rush up-hill on a very narrow path to take a stockade, which usually defends all chief towns in the Kissi country. The attack must be made in single file, as these stockades are always built in the narrowest part of the path. Here the Englishman must give the black man the lead. The stockades are made of two rows of trunks about one foot apart. The space between is filled with stones. The whole is very strong, and has only a narrow door, well barricaded. This class of bush-fighting becomes wearisome to all concerned. The path is always narrow; consequently, single file order must be adopted. Almost every hour a gun goes off at some one or other in the column—sometimes in front, then



RUSHING A STOCKADE.

again in the middle of the column, or perhaps in rear. Even at night the enemy creep up to the camp and fire their guns, which are usually loaded up to the muzzle with all sorts of bits of iron, or "pot-legs," as the British call them.

Our second Illustration shows the manner of an action on the Meli River, also in the Kissi country. The force engaged was under Colonel Marshall, of the West India Regiment. The column had no sooner come out of the bush and discovered the river than a brisk fusillade began from the thick bush on the opposite bank. After the seven-pounder and repeated volleys had been fired, a ford was found and a path cut in the bush opposite. It will be remembered that last April, when the situation resulting from the hut-tax disturbances grew critical, the West India Regiment was brought up to help in restoring order. Between that time and September a West African Regiment was raised, and the back of the rebellion was broken last November when Bai Bureh, the leader, was captured in the Karene district. The Imperial Commissioner, Sir David Chalmers, has full powers, and is specially directed to inquire into the causes of the insurrection and the general affairs of the colony and protectorate. He was to inquire into the allegations representing the hut-tax and the brutality of the native police as causes of the rebellion, and to seek for other motives for the outbreak. He was to inquire also into the best methods of administration and of establishing stable government.



ACTION ON MELI RIVER UNDER COLONEL MARSHALL, WEST INDIA REGIMENT: THE SEVEN-POUNDER IN ACTION.