

DESPERATE AFFRAY WITH BUSH-RANGERS.

[FROM OUR BOURKE CORRESPONDENT.]

On Tuesday night, about 10 o'clock, a black came into Bourke for sergeant Clevy to proceed to Sheaver's, on the Warrego, and to take a doctor with him as senior-constable M'Cabe had been shot by some bush-rangers, and was then lying at Sheaver's. In a few hours Sergeant Clevy started, accompanied by Dr. Roberts and constable Johns.

The facts, as far as I have been able to glean them, are as follow:—Constable M'Cabe and a Queensland constable with two black trackers had followed the two desperadoes—one supposed to be Thunderbolt, the other named Rutherford, known on the Warrego as a shepherd. It would appear that they had stuck up Hill's public-house, on the Narran, and also Newcoman's station. M'Cabe, who has charge of a police station on the Bire, when he heard of this, being alone, sent to the nearest Queensland police station, twenty-five miles, and got one of their men to accompany him in pursuit. They took up their tracks for four or five days and followed it to within two miles of Sheaver's public house on the Warrego (sixty-five miles from Bourke). The constable went on to Sheaver's, and in about a quarter of an hour the two bushrangers rushed in, with revolvers in hand. M'Cabe cowered down with a man before him, and fired at the man supposed to be Thunderbolt, whose arm was extended with his revolver in the act of firing when M'Cabe's ball struck him on the wrist, glancing through the fleshy part of his arm into his neck. The other then fired at M'Cabe, and the ball struck him on the left breast, passed through his lungs, and lodged in the back. The bushrangers then bolted, and made off towards Belahce, twelve miles higher up. Rutherford had been a shepherd at this station. They compelled the storekeeper to dress the wounded arm; and it is from his information that the account given above as to where the ball struck is obtained. The bushrangers then got two fresh horses, which happened to be in the yard. These horses belonged to Mr. Zouch, late sub-inspector, who is in the employment of Mr. Furlong, to whom Belahce belongs. They happened to be taking sheep into Queensland, and were not at the station at the time, but returned shortly after. They then made after the bushrangers, and met a man who was carting water to Belahce, for there is none at the station, who said he had seen them pass. Some time after Mr. Zouch and his party got sight of the scoundrels across a plain, and seeing them enter into a scrub, it being near night, they thought they would be likely to camp there—but it would appear they did not do so, but went on. As the pursuing party were without water, and their horses knocked up, they had to return. This was on Tuesday, when they got sight of them, that is, the day on which they had stuck-up Sheaver's.

Sergeant Clevy, after reaching Sheaver's with the doctor on Wednesday, went on with his man and the tracker, and met Zouch and his party returning, who told them it would be useless to go with knocked up horses, and no water to be had; so they returned to Bourke on Saturday mornin'.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Sams arrived at Bourke, from the Bulloo, and reported that the bush-rangers had been to Yantabaiba, a station of Cox and Dowling's, where they got two fresh horses; that one of these had his arm across his breast, so there can be no doubt that these are the same men. The Queensland constable purposed going to the Youar, where there is a station of native police, and reporting the affair there. What the upshot may be it is difficult to foresee, but one man being wounded, perhaps that may bring him up. The road they took would lead them to the Paroo, where there are two or three public-houses and a store, but no police.

The doctor returned to Bourke on Thursday night, and reported that the constable wounded, as above

and reported that the constable wounded, as above stated, might be thought get through, if inflammation did not supervene.

Bourke, October 10th, 1868.