

promising that they should go free if they complied, and, to their shame, they agreed to the terms of capitulation. But the five Armenians were taken and done to death in the most horrible manner, after their noses, ears, and tongues had been cut off, and their eyes plucked out. This occurrence was regarded as a fearful scandal, and the colonel of the 800 men from Erivan knew that he would be tried by court-martial, for reports on missing rifles must be delivered direct to the Tsar. An attempt was made to save him, and Enckel had already recovered four of the lost rifles, and trusted that by threatening and intimidating the Tatar chiefs he would obtain the two still missing.

At the same time the Tatars attacked the Armenian village Jarni-ja and drove off its cattle into the mountains. In this enterprise they set to work in the following ingenious manner. They crept up to the herds in the darkness and discharged some shots, which frightened the animals and sent them off in wild flight in the desired direction. Riders were posted to see that the herds drew together from all sides into a close mob, and while the hunters hung on their heels like bloodhounds to prevent the flying animals from slackening their pace, they chased the whole collection over hill and mountain, and before the robbed owners could collect their thoughts the robbers were far away with their booty. However, Enckel sent an officer with fifteen Cossacks and three gendarmes to follow up the cattle raiders from Jarni-ja. In the evening he received a report from the officer that he had reached the village Nagajia in the uplands, but had been fired at from a height above the village. He had been exposed to the fire of the Tatars for several hours, and had been at last forced to retire without effecting anything. But he had seen a large herd moving up to the heights, and now asked Enckel to send a reinforcement.

The latter then set off in the middle of the night with sixty foot soldiers, and made a forced march over the fourteen miles to reach the village before daybreak. The Tatars received him with fire from an eminence which was at once surrounded. After a Russian had been wounded and several Tatars had fallen, the rest fled farther up into