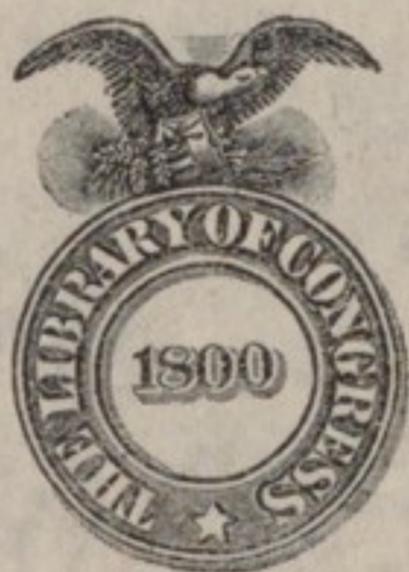


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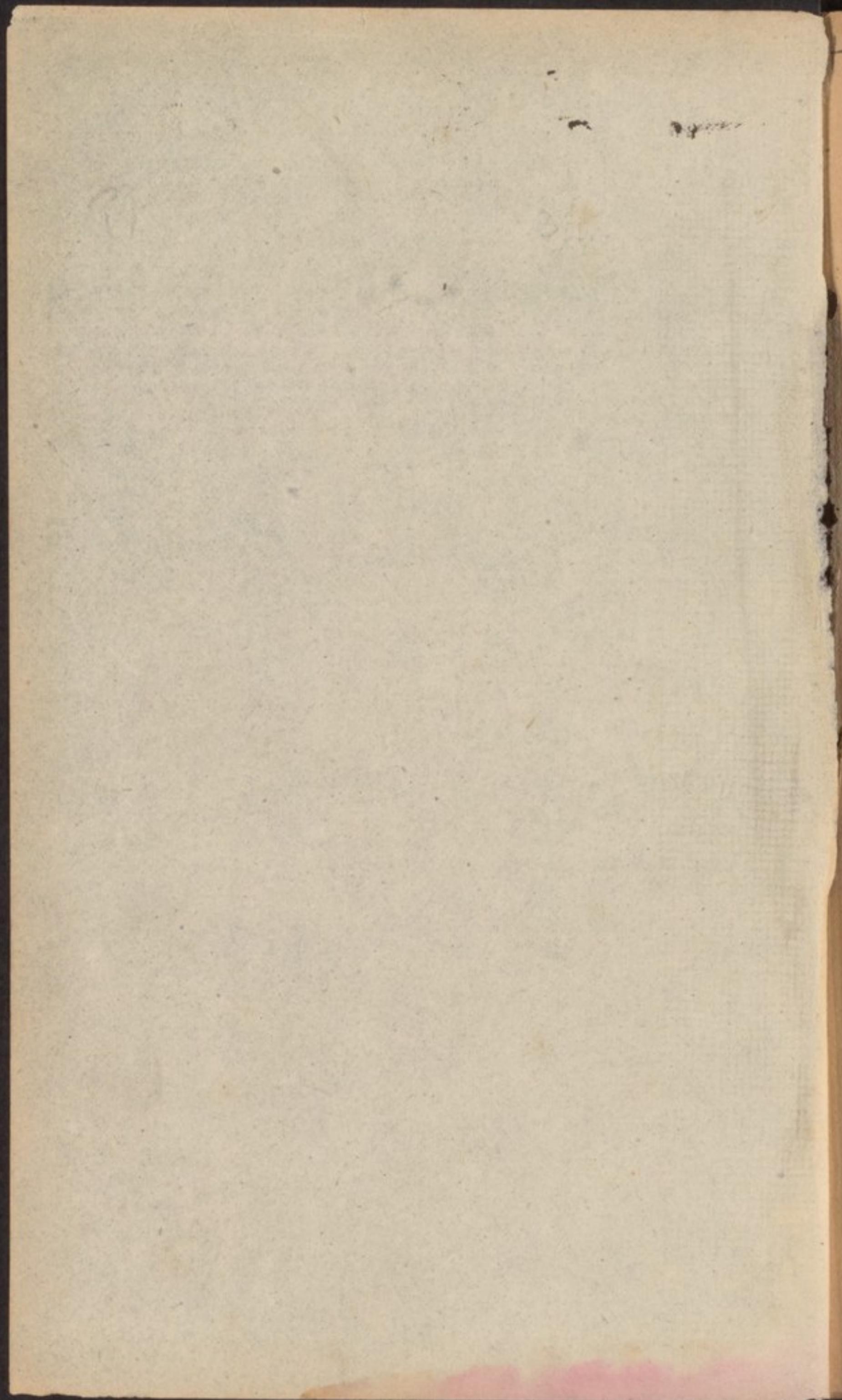
JOURNAL
OF THE



AFFGHAN WAR.







JOURNAL
OF THE
AFFGHAN WAR
IN 1842.

BY
LIEUTENANT EDWARD WILLIAM BRAY,
H.M. THIRTY-FIRST REGIMENT.

EDITED BY
MAJOR EDWARD WILLIAM BRAY,
FIRST BATTALION FOURTH THE KING'S OWN ROYAL REGIMENT.

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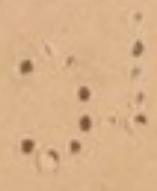


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P R E F A C E.

As Affghanistan is never likely to be seen again by an English army, although we have advanced our frontier up to the very Khybur Pass itself, by the conquest of the Punjaub, I have thought that my journal of the campaign in 1842, under General Pollock, although written when I was very young, and a lieutenant of only three years' service, is worth preserving; as scarcely any accounts of that campaign were ever published, that of Lieutenant Greenwood, 31st

regiment, being the only one I have ever met with.

At all events, I hope it may prove interesting to those who still survive, and who served in that eventful campaign, whom it may remind of scenes long past, though very stirring and full of interest at the time.

The Affghan war was commenced in error, in 1839, by our sending an army into Affghanistan to establish Shah Soojah, an unpopular and banished king, upon the throne of Cabool, and to dethrone Dost Mahommed, a popular, energetic, and good king, worth five hundred Shah Soojahs. This extraordinary measure was undertaken and carried out under the impression that by our having a firm ally in the King of Cabool, all fear of a Russian invasion of India would be set at rest; this being the great bugbear of those days.

Although we failed in our intention as regards

Shah Soojah, we established one fact very clearly at the cost of millions of money and thousands of men ; and it is, that no Russian army ever could invade India through Affghanistan, or arrive on the frontier of India in such strength or condition as to be able to do battle with an Indian army such as would be concentrated to meet it.

Even an army of Affghans with them as allies would not save them from total destruction.

After the insurrection of the Affghans in 1841-2 to throw off our yoke, and the destruction of our armies and outposts throughout the country,—except at Jellalabad and Candahar, which held out successfully, the former held by Sir Robert Sale, the latter by Sir William Nott,—two armies were assembled, one at Peshawur, under Major-General Pollock, and the other at Candahar, under Sir William Nott, for the purpose of relieving the beleaguered

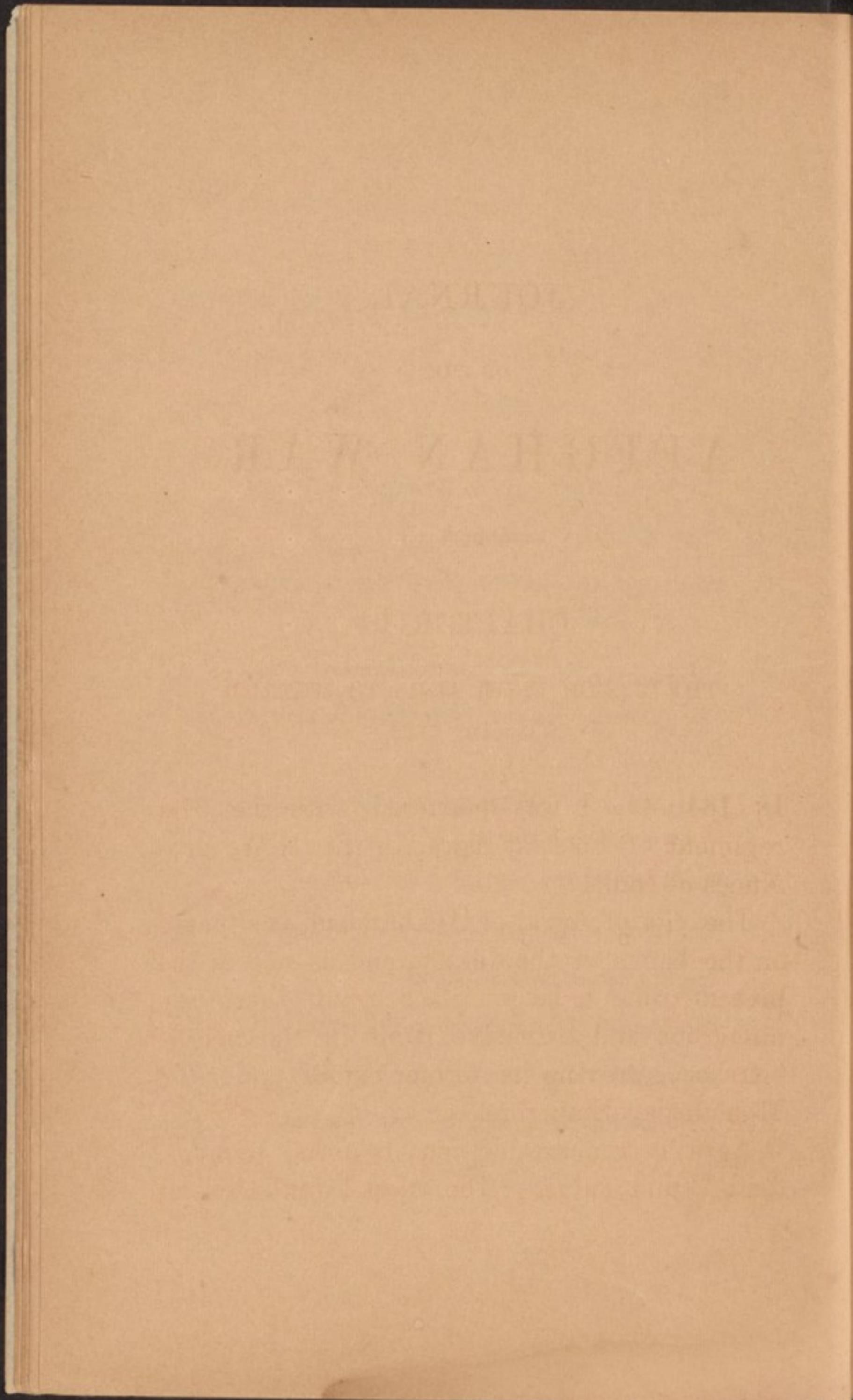
garrisons, recovering the prisoners, and, if possible, of re-establishing our supremacy and military prestige by a march on Cabool.

My regiment joined the 4th brigade of General Pollock's army, and this journal contains the movements of that portion of the army, and such events as occurred to a young subaltern in his limited sphere of action during a twelvemonth's campaign, which, in its day, made quite as much sensation as the Crimean War and the Sepoy Mutiny did in later times.

Folkestone, 14th August, 1865.

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JOURNAL
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AFFGHAN WAR.

CHAPTER I.

THE MARCH FROM AGRA TO MEERUT.

JANUARY 1842.

IN 1840-41, I was quartered with the 31st regiment of Foot, at Agra, in the N.W. provinces of India.

The city of Agra, or Ackbarabad, is situated on the banks of the Jumna, and is not at the present time a large place; but there are numerous and extensive ruins in the neighbourhood, proving its former extent under the Mahomedan Emperors.

Agra is remarkable for its forts, temples, tombs, and ruins. The most wonderful of

which is the Tauje Mehal, which is a magnificent mausoleum, built of marble, and was erected by the Emperor Shah Jehan, to the memory of his wife, the celebrated Noor Jehan Begum.

This edifice, with its four minars, large gateway and garden, is a splendid specimen of Eastern architecture, and in fact forms the most exquisite group of oriental architecture in existence.

The costly mosaics inside the building, consist of many kinds of stone; and although some of them have been injured or removed, yet the general effect is still almost quite perfect.

The gardens are kept in order by Government, and we used all to use them as a walk; and the inhabitants of Agra also resorted to them in crowds on high days and holidays.

The fort is strongly built of red stone, and has a very deep ditch, and double rampart, the inner one of great height; and there are bastions at intervals. A strong place before the invention of cannon.

The Pearl Mosque in the fort, is built entirely of white marble, and the tomb of Etimad O'Dowlah, on the opposite bank of the river

Jumna, and the Jumna Musjid, are all fine buildings, and good specimens of oriental architecture, particularly the Pearl Mosque, or Motee Musjid, which is unique in its beauty.

Six miles to the north of Agra, at Secundra, is the tomb and mausoleum of the Emperor Acbar. From the summit of one of the minarets of the gateway, there is a very fine and extensive view over a flat country, with numerous ruins. We used often go out to Secundra to pic-nics and pigeon matches.

We found Agra a very hot station, but not unhealthy. And as there was good shooting to be had in the neighbourhood—particularly about Gao Ghaut—we liked the place well enough.

The hot winds were especially hot at Agra. Agra was the seat of government for the North West Provinces; and at this time the Hon. Mr. Robertson was governor. General Pollock commanded the station. The 34th and 61st regiments, Native Infantry, and some artillery, were quartered with us.

During the cold season, the 31st were inspected by Sir Jasper Nicholls, G.C.B., the Commander-in-Chief, and on this occasion we gave a first-rate fancy dress ball, one of the best

I ever saw. We were afterwards inspected by Sir Edward Williams, K.C.B., Commander of the Meerut Division.

We lost two officers while we were quartered here. Lieutenant Le Couteur, at Agra, and Captain McGhie, who died in Dublin. By his death I got my lieutenancy.

Nineteen miles W. S. W. from Agra, is Futty-pore Sikree, at which place is the tomb of Shah Selim Cheestee, a Mahomedan saint, in the time of Acbar ; also numerous tombs and buildings of the same reign, as this was a favourite residence of that Emperor.

About the end of the year, rumours began to fly about of disasters to our army in Affghanistan, and the bazaars were full of reports, and the minds of the people began to be disturbed, and our defeats in that country openly spoken of.

In December—in consequence of these reports—it was judged expedient to mount a European guard in the fort, and not to leave it entirely in the hands of the Sepoy guards.

On the 1st January, 1842, I mounted guard at the fort for the first time, and on that very day we were ordered to march to Meerut.

Authentic intelligence was at last received of the insurrection of the Affghan chiefs and

people all over the country, and of their having attacked and isolated our detachments scattered over the country from the Bolan Pass, Candahar, Cabool, Chareekar, and Jellalabad, to the Khybur Pass. A vast extent of country to have had a few troops scattered about in, far from all support, as the Punjaub on the one hand, and Scinde on the other, lie between Affghanistan and India. They were, therefore, beyond all immediate aid.

Soon afterwards, we heard of the insurrection at Cabool, the retreat of our army from Cabool under General Elphinstone, preceded by the murders of Sir A. Burnes and Sir William Macnaghten, and the total destruction of their army of 5,000 men in the mountain passes (which were then covered with snow) between Cabool and Jellalabad.

The Cabool brigade or division consisted of Her Majesty's 44th Foot, 5th Bengal Light Cavalry, 5th, 37th, and 54th regiments of Bengal Native Infantry, two troops of artillery, besides some regiments of the King of Cabool, called "Shah's Regiments,"—officered by English officers.

General Elphinstone, of the Royal army, commanded.

This compact force, which had however been greatly demoralised during the attacks of the insurgent Affghans on the intrenched camp, and had been very badly handled by the officers in command, was totally destroyed and cut to pieces by the enemy, aided by the severity of the cold, which quite incapacitated the Sepoys and Indian camp followers for work, as their hands and feet were so frozen that they could not load their muskets, or use them in their defence.

The retreat from Cabool gradually became a rout, and near Jugdullock negotiations were entered into with Sirdar Ukhbar Khan, the son of Dost Mahommed, who commanded the Affghans. This chief agreed to allow the remains of the army to retire through Jellalabad to Peshawur, and several of the principal English officers were given up as hostages. But, either through treachery or in consequence of his being unable to restrain his troops, the English were attacked while the negotiations were yet unfinished ; and our people continued their retreat on Jellalabad through the Jugdullock pass, which being barricaded and defended in force, a great slaughter ensued ; and only a few hundreds forced their way through. These gradually were killed and shot down ; and when

they arrived at Gundamuck there were not more than 300 left. These took post on a small hill on the side of the road, and attempted again to make terms with the pursuing enemy. While some of the officers were trying to arrange terms with the Affghan leaders, it is said that the Affghans gradually closed round the hill and mixed with our people; and that a quarrel arose between an Affghan and an English officer, whose pistol the Affghan attempted to sieze, and in the scuffle which ensued, the officer shot the Affghan. A general fight then ensued, and the English, out-numbered, exhausted, and destitute of ammunition, were shot down; and at last the Affghans rushed on them with drawn swords, and cut to pieces what remained fighting to the last. One officer, Captain Souter, and seven soldiers of the 44th regiment escaped, and were carried off as prisoners. These were the last of General Elphinstone's Cabool division!

One officer, Dr. Brydon, had pushed on with two others on horseback for Jellalabad, and, although his two companions were killed, he arrived at Jellalabad, and gave information to the garrison of the destruction of our troops. His horse was so exhausted from fatigue that it fell

down and died as soon as it had entered the gate of the fort.

The papers were soon full of details of the disastrous retreat from Cabool, and the isolation and investment of the forts of Guzni and Jellalabad.

In consequence of these untoward events, orders were issued by the ruling powers of India for the march of many regiments of cavalry and infantry and troops of artillery towards Ferozepore on the Sutlege; and it was soon noised abroad that an army was to be assembled on the Sutlege and marched through the Punjaub as rapidly as possible, to the relief of the garrison of Jellalabad, which was now beleaguered by the enemy under Ukhbar Khan. The troops at Candahar were also to advance to the relief of the garrison of Guzni.

The 31st regiment marched from Agra on the 15th January, crossed the Jumna on a bridge of boats, and passing through Huttrass, Sarsni, Allyghur, Bolundshahur, and Hauper, arrived at Meerut on the 27th.

At Huttrass is a mud fort, with a ditch 90 feet deep and 120 feet wide. It was taken in 1817 after a severe bombardment from forty-two mortars, which knocked it about so much

that the commander, Dyaram Thakoor, escaped in the confusion.

On our arrival at Meerut, we were by some blundering put into the barracks vacated by the 9th Foot, who had marched for Ferozépore, instead of being kept in camp, as no one expected that we would remain at Meerut.

Meerut is one of the largest cantonments in India, and being generally healthy, it is looked upon as the best station in Bengal. It has also the great advantage of being only twenty-four hours dawk—about 100 miles—from the Himalayah mountains, here called “The Hills.”

We were closely packed in our lines, as the depot of the 9th Foot were in them also, so we all had to double up in our bungalows. McIlveen and myself had a small house; and Atty, Pollard, and others bivouacked in and about it, as a temporary measure, till we knew what was going to be done, and whether we were to remain.

On arrival we dined with the 16th Lancers, who were a gentlemanly and fine body of officers.

On the march up from Agra we had enjoyed ourselves very much, as the change was very agreeable and exhilarating, and the only un-

pleasant part was the getting up at two or three o'clock every morning. We breakfasted soon after our arrival in camp, and then sallied out shooting, as there was almost always good shooting to be had. After Mess, we very soon tumbled into bed to get as much sleep as we could.

Marching in India is certainly the most delightful thing imaginable, and, to a sportsman or a man of energy and inquiring mind, most enjoyable.

CHAPTER II.

FROM MEERUT TO FEROTZEPORE.

WE had not been more than a week at Meerut, and after we had discharged all our marching equipage, when we were ordered to march with as little delay as possible on Ferozepore, where we were told we should receive further orders. We now made up our minds for a campaign in Affghanistan, as the garrison of Jellalabad (consisting of Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, 35th regiment Native Infantry, some artillery, and a squadron of cavalry) were besieged and cut off from all communication with our provinces.

About the end of January, a brigade of Native Infantry, under command of Brigadier Wild, which had been pushed on from Ferozepore when the first rumour of the insurrection had reached India, made an attempt to force

the Khybur pass and relieve Jellalabad. They advanced from Peshawur and got through the pass, and reached the hill fort of Alli Musjid under cover of the night without molestation; but at daylight the Khyberries assembled in every direction and attacked them vigorously. They not only prevented the further advance of the Sepoy brigade, but drove them back through the pass on Jumrood in confusion, with a very heavy loss in killed and wounded, and the greater part of their baggage. The brigade consisted of the 30th, 53rd, 60th, and 64th regiments of Native Infantry.

Thus ended the first attempt to relieve Jellalabad.

The 3rd Light Dragoons, Her Majesty's 9th Foot, and several regiments of Native Infantry and some artillery had already advanced into the Punjaub, and were marching with all speed to Peshawur.

On the 4th February we heard that the 3rd Buffs were ordered back from Kurnaul to Cawnpore—it was said that they were in a very sickly state—and that we were to take their place in the army about to be formed at Peshawur or Jellalabad.

During the few days we were at Meerut

preparing for our march, we were trying to reduce our marching establishments to the lowest point, as we knew that we should have great difficulties in obtaining carriage, and numbers of our servants had already struck work, afraid to go to the Lurrai or Wars. We were duly prepared for the difficulties of the road by letters from the officers of the 9th regiment, who were constantly sending back all superfluous baggage, even to their gun-cases! No one, not even the colonel, is to have a second tent, and we are to cast aside our luxurious mode of marching in India as soon as possible.

All our officers, including Major Skinner and Captain Marshall, were ordered to join forthwith.

We began our march on the 8th February, 1842, and passing through Surdhanna, formerly the capital of the old Begum Sumroo, we arrived at Kurnaul cantonment on the 14th February. This station, that is the European lines, were originally built by the 31st, in 1832, and it was at one time a very large station for troops, but as the frontier has advanced its importance has diminished; and latterly, also, it had become a very feverish and unhealthy place in consequence of the canal. The 31st

were particularly healthy during the five years they were quartered at Kurnaul.

On the 9th we halted and changed our hackeries or carts for camels. The camels are a great improvement on the carts, and cheaper, as they only cost 9 rupees a month per camel, and they keep up with the troops better, and arrive within an hour or two after we do on the encamping ground. They travel at the rate of two miles an hour; troops at the rate of three miles an hour.

The wretched hackeries are always breaking down and coming to grief, and they travel very slowly.

We dined with the 1st Bengal Fusiliers at Kurnaul, and a capital dinner they gave us. They were strong in officers, but they had only 400 men.

17th February.—We marched to Leelakharee, on 18th to Thanasur. This place is held in high veneration by the Hindoos. There is a large jheel here, swarming with wild fowl. On one side are some temples and a tope of large trees, swarming with red monkeys. They are fed by the Brahmins and visitors, and are treated with the greatest respect by the people.

21st.—Arrived at Amballa. The city of

Amballa, which is in the Sikh protected States, is large ; and surrounded with a wall, the streets are good and regular. George Clerk, Esq.,* the Governor-General's agent for Sikh affairs, lived here.

We are now only about sixty miles from the Himalayah mountains, which look exceedingly beautiful in the early mornings, when they are distinctly visible. The last two mornings it has been very cold—thermometer at 42° —and a strong cold wind blowing all night, to the great discomfiture of our servants and camp followers, who shiver and shake in their cotton dresses.

We found Amballa quite deserted, as all the irregular horse had gone on to Ferozepore, and all the Civilians to Loodianah.

24th.—Arrived at Sirhind, which interpreted means the “Head of India.” This was once a large city, now it is only an immense extent of ruins. And there are the remains of an ancient canal, with a very odd-looking bridge over it, and a large walled-in palace, the property of the Rajah of Pattiala, a Sikh chieftain.

There are also picturesque old tombs of

* Now Sir George Clerk, and late Governor of Bombay.

ancient kings, chiefs, warriors, and saints scattered about.

We have now entered the Sikh states, and the people we now see for the first time are Sikhs. They are a much finer race of men than those of the lower Provinces. They wear their beards and moustaches, which they train with the greatest care, and they tie on their turbans quite differently from the people of India proper.

27th.—Arrived at Loodianah, a large town, chiefly inhabited by Cashmerians and Affghans; also a military cantonment five miles from the bank of the Sutlege.

After leaving Amballa, we came on the Delhi milestones, which are large pillars, about 80 feet high, built in former days by the kings of Delhi. We often had two, three, and four of them in sight at the same time!

7th March.—We marched into the cantonment of Ferozepore, a villanous-looking station; the worst looking that I have seen in India; scarcely a tree to be seen.

All the Sepoy lines are flat roofed mud huts. There are two artillery barracks, but none for European infantry.

CHAPTER III.

MARCH THROUGH THE PUNJAUB FROM
FEROZEPORE TO PESHAWUR.

WE halted to change cattle again. The commissariat charged 32 rupees for each camel to Jellalabad ; but we had no security that the drivers would go there, as was soon afterwards proved by their desertion in large numbers. It was almost impossible to get servants here, who would go on with us. The reports they hear of the suffering they would have to undergo having frightened them all ; and we are greatly in want of servants, as a great many of ours had run away on the march up. We had to raise their wages all round after passing the Sutlege.

We have been still further lightening our own baggage.

The chacos are to be left behind here, as

useless incumbrances ; they are exceedingly unsuited to Indian warfare, and the Indian climate.

Our brigade, or, as it is styled, "The Rear Column," is now to be composed of H.M. 31st Foot, 6th regiment Native Infantry, two rissalahs of 3rd Irregular Horse, three guns of Foot Artillery, and is to be commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Bolton, of the 31st regiment. Bolton has appointed Brevet-Major Urmston his Brigade Major.

10th.—We crossed the Sutlege over a boat bridge, and advanced into the Punjaub. The river is about 400 yards broad, and is a fine looking stream. We are here joined by a Sikh escort, commanded by a Sikh colonel, who is to accompany us through the Punjaub, and assist in procuring forage, carriage, &c., and to settle disputes along the road. I visited his camp, and found his people civil but very inquisitive. They examined my dress, and asked me all sorts of questions.

At Ferozepore we were served out with *white* cap covers, padded with cotton, which we found a great improvement on the *black oil skin* cap covers which we had always worn on the march up to this time, and which used to get fright-

fully hot and uncomfortable in the mornings after the sun rose.

The white cap covers had a curtain behind to keep the sun off the back of the head.

The 31st marched out of Ferozepore on the 10th March, with nearly 800 bayonets, and the following officers, viz :—

Lieut.-Colonel S. Bolton.	Lieutenant T. Bourke.
Major T. Skinner.	Lieutenant J. A. Duncan.
Major Van Cortlandt.	Lieutenant J. Greenwood.
Brevet-Major C. Shaw.	Lieutenant. G. Shaw.
Brevet-Major B. Urmston.	Lieutenant T. H. Plasket.
Captain G. C. Marshall.	Lieutenant E. W. Bray. —
Captain G. Baldwin.	Ensign W. W. Atty.
Captain W. G. Willes.	Ensign J. R. Pollard.
Captain G. D. Young.	Ensign H. Hart.
Lieutenant T. Pender.	Ensign R. Law.
Lieutenant E. Lugard.	Ensign Tritton.
Lieutenant R. J. Eagar.	Paymaster Matthews.
Lieutenant J. C. Brooke.	Quartermaster Bennison.
Lieutenant Sayers.	Surgeon A. Hart.*
Lieutenant D. McIlveen.	

Colonel Eckford is the officer commanding the 6th regiment of Native Infantry.

* In 1865, twenty-three years after, Lieutenant E. Lugard is now Lieutenant-General Sir E. Lugard; and Colonel of the 31st Regiment. Lieutenant Robert Eagar is now Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding the 31st Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Brooke, Lieutenant-Colonel and Major Bray, Captain Law, and Major Matthews are still living. None of them, however, now belong to the 31st. Colonel Bolton, C.B., Major Baldwin, Captain Willes, Lieutenants Pender, McIlveen, Pollard, and Hart were all killed in action or died of wounds.

11th.—To Kassoore, an ancient place. There is a fort here, built of masonry and surrounded by a deep narrow ditch. They would not allow us to enter the gates, and all through the Punjaub we found the Sikhs jealous of our entering their forts and cities. This fort they would not allow us to enter on any pretence.

12th.—To Lullianee. A great many of the camel drivers carried off their camels to-day, and tried to give us the slip. Consequently, when we marched in the morning, a large quantity of baggage had to be left on the ground with the rear guard. The camels were afterwards found concealed within the walls of the town.

We buried the first man after crossing the Sutlege; he belonged to my company, and was the first man I had seen buried without a coffin.

The name of the Sikh colonel who commands our escort is Chate Sing.

The country passed through the last two days was very wild.

14th.—Ginghatty. This morning was very cold. Early, about day-break, I was riding alone some distance in front of the column, when, on entering a village, I found myself in the middle of a tremendous row between the villagers and the Irregular Horse, who were charging amongst

them with drawn swords, and the villagers striking at them with sticks and poles. I was nearly unhorsed by a fellow who charged at me with an iron-bound stick, with which he struck my horse over the head and crupper.

Just as we were beginning to be hard pressed, and thinking seriously of using our swords, the 31st Band came on the scene, and the tide of battle was turned in our favour, and the villagers all bolted, pursued by the soldiers, who thrashed a lot of them, and brought those they caught armed on to the camping^s ground, and handed them over to the Sikh colonel, who, after inquiry, had them severely punished. But I believe the fact was that our camp-followers had been trying to rob the village, and they were merely defending their property.

15th.—We arrived at Rungelpore on the Ravee. The river was not fordable at this time of the year, and we found about twenty-five boats, of different sizes, collected for us. The river was about the same width as the Sutlege.

The 3rd Irregular Horse crossed in the afternoon. On the 16th we were occupied all day with strong fatigue parties crossing over the commissariat, artillery, and treasure.

The 31st Foot crossed early on the morning

of the 16th, but in consequence of the immense trouble given by the camels, which had all to be passed over in boats, it took us the whole day to get over our camp.

The 3rd troop, 3rd brigade Horse Artillery, arrived to-day to join us, and were ordered to keep one march in our rear.

16th.—Dingha. We made a forced march of twenty-two miles to-day to make up for lost time. It was very hot and dusty, and most of the men were knocked up. To-day we are only eight coss west of Lahore, the capital of the Punjaub.

We continued to press on as fast as possible, as we were urged by General Pollock, who had taken command of the troops assembling at Peshawur, to march with all speed to assist in forcing the Khybur pass.

24th.—Arrived at Ramnuggur, a large walled town, three miles from the river Chenaub. We did not pitch our tents, but sent them on with a strong fatigue party to cross; and about noon, after the men had breakfasted, we marched down to the river and crossed over. We found the river broad and rapid; but we had thirty good boats and made good progress.

We got the treasure tumbrils and all the 31st baggage over by sunset. I was on the last fatigue party that day.

The Chenâb is the *Ascessines* of the Greeks.

The next day the Artillery and 6th Native Infantry crossed, and we continued our march the day after.

The distance from the Chenâb to the Jhylum is $44\frac{1}{2}$ miles. On the 27th we were encamped at Koree, from which we had a beautiful view of the mountains of Cashmere.

Three miles from Koree encampment, we passed over a low range of sandhills, from the top of which the view was beautiful; to the north flowed the Jhylum, winding between two ranges of hills. To the south was still visible the Chenâb, and to the north-east appeared the majestic mountains of the Himalayah covered with snow.

We found the Jhylum, on our arrival on its banks on the 29th, a broad and rapid river, the current running at the rate of about five miles per hour. In December it is fordable near the town of Jhylum, which stands on the right bank.

In consequence of the rapidity of the stream, and the small number of boats available, the

column was two days in crossing. We now left the treasure in charge of the 6th Native Infantry to come on after us, and pressed forward to join General Pollock,

On our arrival at Tumiak on the 2nd April, we received intelligence from Peshawur that the Commanding general could not wait for us any longer, and that he intended to force the Khybur on the 5th instant. In consequence of this unpleasant news, we halted here three days, to allow the 6th regiment Native Infantry to close up with the treasure.

7th.—Manikyala Tope. We hear to-day that General Pollock forced the Khybur pass on the 5th, had defeated the enemy, and that he had pushed on to the relief of Jellalabad. His force consisted of Her Majesty's 3rd Light Dragoons, 1st and 10th regiments Light Cavalry, Her Majesty's 9th Foot, six regiments of Bengal Native Infantry, and a proportion of artillery.

In the attack and forcing of the Khybur, General Pollock lost, killed and wounded, 135 officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates; a small loss considering the opposition made by the Affghans.

The Tope of Manikyala is a large and most in-

comprehensible looking building. It is dome-shaped—built of stone—about 70 feet high, and 150 paces in circumference. It is flat at the top, and it has a square shaft through the centre of it. There are steps to the top. By the inhabitants of this part of the country it is called the Tope or Mound, and it is supposed to be the tomb of Alexander the Great's horse, Bucephalus.

Ancient coins, mostly Greek, were brought into camp for sale.

Near this place we were much surprised by a great number of beggars, men, women, and children, following the column, and asking alms in the name of Esaw (Jesus).

They appeared to be a tribe of gipsies, and were very ragged and miserable-looking.

At Hoormuck. We heard that, on the 7th of April, the garrison of Jellalabad, commanded by Major-General Sir Robert Sale, sallied out in three columns, and attacked and completely routed Ackbar Khan and his army, by whom they had been besieged for more than two months. Sir R. Sale burnt the enemy's camp and retired into the fort again.

The garrison had only seventy-one killed and wounded in the action.

For the gallant defence of Jellalabad, the garrison received a medal and six months batta, and they were styled by Earl Ellenborough the Governor-General, the "Illustrious Garrison."

Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry had the honourable distinction of "Prince Albert's Own," conferred on them for their distinguished valour.

Attock 16th.—Arrived at Attock. We have had an immensity of trouble during the past week, in consequence of our camel men deserting and carrying off their camels. On several occasions we have had to leave a quantity of baggage lying on the ground when we marched, which was brought on with great difficulty after us.

We found a bridge of boats on the Indus. It is extremely rapid and deep, the sides of the river being lined with a black kind of stone, quite polished by the action of the current.

The Cabool and Lundi rivers unite about a mile above the town.

The fort of Attock is on the east bank of the river; it is built of stone, and the river washes its walls. Although it looks formidable, it is commanded by a hill on its own side of the river.

We saw here for the first time, men swimming across the rapid river on inflated skins of oxen; they swam with the greatest ease, and with very little effort. We find that they can float very long distances down the river on these skins.

Attock fort was built in 1581 by the Emperor Acber. The town is within the walls of the fort. The Indus being the boundary of India, after we crossed it the Sepoys received extra batta.

It took our brigade two days to get across the Indus, as the ghaut was very narrow and bad; only one loaded animal could pass at a time.

The country between Attock and Peshawur was generally wild, flat, and uninteresting.

At Akora we encamped for the first time on the banks of the Cabool river, which was very rapid,—not very wide.

Peshawur, 21st April.—Encamped close to the city, which is in lat. $34^{\circ} 6' N.$, long. $71^{\circ} 13' E.$, and it is placed in a large plain, nearly circular, bounded by hills. The city is large, being nearly five miles in circumference, and surrounded by a high mud wall. The inhabitants are principally Affghans, as all the country

between the Indus and the Khybur originally belonged to Affghanistan, and was only conquered in the time of Runjeet Sing. On the west side of the city is a large garden, called the Wuzzeer Baug; in it lived all the Europeans now at Peshawur, consisting of all the sick depôts left behind by General Pollock. All the stores were also kept here. Captain Henry Lawrence, afterwards the famous Sir Henry Lawrence, of Lucknow, was in charge.

CHAPTER IV.

THROUGH THE KHYBUR PASS TO JELLALABAD.

WHILE we were encamped at Pashawur, our time was mostly taken up in buying camels, as we could not hire them to go any farther.

I succeeded, after much trouble, in buying two for 267 rupees; one was, however, a very fine one. The government were also in the market, buying camels by hundreds every day for public carriage.

On the evening of the 22nd the officers of our brigade all dined with General Avitabile, the governor of Peshawur. He is an Italian by birth, and he has been in the Sikh service for many years.

Many other Europeans, French, Italians, English, and Eurasians, are employed in the Sikh army, and many of them hold high commands.

General Avitabile lives in a palace within the city walls; it is surrounded by a high wall and well guarded, as this is rather a dangerous command, and the population unruly. He is a very old gentleman, dressed in a blue jacket, richly embroidered with gold lace, loose red trowsers, and red morocco leather boots. He wore his cap at dinner, as the Sikhs, like all Asiatics, consider it disrespectful to take off the turban. He kept us waiting about two hours for dinner; so long that many officers went home again and would not wait any longer. The dinner was served in a long narrow room gaudily ornamented with paint and gilding. The food was good, mutton and fowls cooked in a variety of ways, lambs roasted whole and filled with spices, and numerous native dishes, which were mostly quite new to us. What we enjoyed most was the beer and wine, as many of us had not tasted beer since we left Kurnaul.

After dinner there was a grand nautch. A good many dancing girls were paraded and danced in sets in turn; but none had any great pretensions to beauty.

In our passage through the Punjaub we were, upon the whole, disappointed with the part of the

country that we saw; generally it was but poorly cultivated, flat and uninteresting.

The inhabitants are Sikhs, Singhs, Jauts, Rajpoots, and Mahomedans. The Sikhs are a fine, manly, robust race of men, wearing their moustaches and beards as long as possible. They appeared inquisitive, proud, and much given to boasting. The language spoken is the Punjaubee, a mixture of Hindoostanee and Persian.

The women are much inferior in appearance to the men; they wear very loose pijammahs or trowsers, tight at the ankle, instead of a petticoat.

Peshawur is to all appearance ruled with a rod of iron. Triangular gibbets were erected round the city, on which the culprits were strung up in dozens, their bodies hanging in every stage of decomposition. A shocking sight, as it was evident that they were hung at different times, and that a fresh convict was strung up amongst the decomposed bodies of those who had preceded him at various times.

On the north side of the city is a large mud fort surrounded by a deep ditch.

At this season the only fruit procurable were raisins and a bad description of mulberry.

On the 25th we marched to Jumrood, a Sikh fort, three miles from the mouth of the Khybur. We passed several Sikh encampments this morning, and one very large one near Jumrood. A large body of Sikhs is assembled here to watch the course of events. The Sikhs detest the Affghans, and the dislike is returned with interest.

We occupied ourselves during the day in laying in supplies of grass and forage, as none is to be had in the Khybur pass, and even here it is very scarce and dear.

Many an anxious gaze was turned to the famous Khybur to-day, and we hear that there is every likelihood of our passage to-morrow being disputed.

There is much cleaning of pistols, adjusting of flints, and sharpening of swords and bayonets in consequence. Fifty rounds of pistol ball cartridge is scarcely considered enough for to-morrow's work by the griffs.

We had the first battle parade this evening, to see that the men had their flints properly adjusted, and their pouches filled with sixty rounds per man.

The officers paraded in their red shell jackets in fighting trim, with pistols attached to their

sword belts. We are all in high health and spirits, and expect to do good business tomorrow if we do meet the enemy.

26th March.—We marched this morning with a beautiful moon at 2 A.M., and on our arrival at the mouth of the Pass, skirmishing parties of the 31st regiment and 6th Native Infantry scaled the heights on both sides, and prepared to drive the enemy off the hills; Major Urmston, 31st, commanding the left flanking parties, Captain Willes, 31st, the right, and Captain Young, 31st, led the advance with the Grenadier company of the 31st, supported by Native Infantry and four guns Horse Artillery. Major Skinner, 31st, commanded the advance guard.

The hills on both sides of the gorge are high and steep, and if properly defended would be most difficult to force.

A couple of thousand good soldiers, with a few guns, ought to have kept us out altogether.

However, as it turned out, all our military ardour was of no avail, as no enemy disputed our passage, and we were allowed to march through, guns, baggage, treasure and all, without firing a shot!

This result was partly brought about by the success of General Pollock's operations a short

time before, and by the support of a body of Sikh troops, which had been left in garrison at Alli Musjid to support and cover our advance.

These troops crowned the heights along part of the road to cover our advance, and consequently the passage through the far-famed Khybur was skilfully effected. An enterprising enemy ought not to have allowed us to get through so easily, as our line of march was about six miles long, and open to attack. The road was good, being over the dry sandy bed of a river.

About two miles from Alli Musjid we found the Sikh camp pitched. The fort commands the Pass certainly, but it is itself commanded from a neighbouring hill.

We found it much cooler in the Pass than at Jumrood, as in our camp there one day the thermometer had risen to 102°. On the 27th we halted to rest the cattle, as the camels had been laden for from twelve to sixteen hours yesterday. The next morning we marched to Lundee-Khanah.

For some distance from Alli Musjid, the hills on both sides were high, steep, and very difficult to ascend, and the road at times narrow.

The Pass is very defensible, but the Affghans did not show or attempt to dispute our passage.

Our advance was covered by Brigadier Monteath, who had been sent out from Jellalabad with two companies of Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, and two regiments of Native Infantry with guns, and was encamped near Lundee Khanah with his troops.

Towards the end of our march we passed through a fertile valley near Lall Beg Ghurrie, where green forage was abundant, and our cattle were turned into the green crops. There was a great scarcity of water in and near our camp.

Brigadier Monteath, C.B., assumed command of his brigade, numbered the 4th to-day, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Lugard, of the 31st Foot, was appointed Brigade Major.

The brigade consisted of the 31st Foot, 6th and 33rd regiments Native Infantry, Tait's Irregular Horse, and Major De La Fosse's troop Horse Artillery.

On the 29th and 30th, we passed through the Lundee Khanah Tungee or Pass, the road over which was narrow, steep, and most difficult.

Since joining our brigade, Colonel Bolton has resumed command of the regiment, and Lieutenant Robert Eagar has been appointed Adjutant, *vice* Lugard.

Our Brigadier is a very gentlemanly, good

looking man, and we hear that he is a smart and excellent soldier. We are fortunate in having him to command us. He is a Native Infantry officer, but looks as if he had been in the Royal Army all his life.

The officers of the 13th Light Infantry and the Brigade staff dined with us at Lundee.

They tell us that Jellalabad is a vile hole, but that Cabool is a first-rate place, and that we are sure to like it very much, as it has all the advantages of a splendid climate in an eastern country, with lots of shooting, &c., and Indian pay to enjoy it with. The 13th officers enjoyed their wine immensely, as they have had very little of it for many a long day—not for months.

There is a report in camp that Akhbar Khan is willing to give up all the Cabool prisoners in exchange for his father, the Ex-King, Dost Mahommed, who is a prisoner in India.

General Elphinstone, who commanded the Cabool division, which was destroyed in the retreat, has just died in the enemy's camp. Perhaps it is the best thing that could have happened him, as, had he survived, it is said that he would have been tried. He was an old gouty man, and by all accounts quite unfit, from infirmity, to command an army in the

field. He should never have been sent to an advanced post like Cabool, where a complication might arise at any moment, and in fact no one can understand how he came to be sent to so important and difficult a command at all.

On the 1st May, we encamped at Dhaka, on the banks of the Cabool river—a rapid stream, and opposite Lall-poorra. To-day a body of Khyberries attacked our camel guards, and carried off some of the camels into the hills; they were pursued by a party of the 6th Native Infantry, who came up with them, and after a short fight, they killed five Khyberries, and returned to camp in triumph with the lost camels and the heads of the men they had slain. This is the first skirmish we have had.

A wing of the 64th Native Infantry, the 6th Native Infantry, the Mountain Train, and some Irregular Horse were left at Dhaka in a standing camp to keep open our communications with Peshawur.

5th May.—We marched into Jellalabad, and took up our position in the immense camp of General Pollock, which was pitched on the north side of the fort fronting the river.

The 1st or Sale's brigade, are in the fort, which is a larger place than I expected to find it.

On our arrival we breakfasted at the 13th mess in the fort; they gave us the best breakfast we had had for a long time. We soon became friends, and mixed readily with each other, as all Queen's regiments do in India; there seems a freemasonry amongst them out here, and they pull well together. The 31st showed us a standard taken from Akhbar Khan on the 7th, and two flags taken at Ghuznee.

Amongst the officers of the 13th, I met Captain Havelock,* whom I had known as a boy, when he was adjutant to my father. He was very civil; he is now on the staff as D.A.A. General. General Sir Robert Sale was also at breakfast, and looking remarkably well. Lady Sale is still at Lughman with the other prisoners in the hands of the Affghans, but we hear that they are all likely soon to be recovered by negotiation. Captain MacKenzie, one of them, was in camp a few days ago, trying to arrange matters.

We have now a fine army assembled at Jelalabad. It consists of one cavalry brigade, four infantry brigades, horse and foot artillery, and irregular cavalry and infantry—in all about

* Afterwards the celebrated Major-General Sir Henry Havelock, of Cawnpore and Lucknow.

15,000 fighting men. The camp followers number about 36,000!

The army is brigaded as follows:—

CAVALRY BRIGADE.

Brigadier White, 3rd Light Dragoons, Commanding.

Her Majesty's 3rd Light Dragoons.

1st Bengal Light Cavalry.

5th do. (2 squadrons).

10th Bengal Light Cavalry.

3rd Irregular Horse.

ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

Brevet-Major Delafosse Commanding.

3rd Troop 3rd brigade Horse Artillery.

Alexander's troop Horse Artillery.

Abbott's Field Battery.

Backhouse's Mountain Train, Foot Artillery

INFANTRY DIVISION.

Major-General McCaskill, Her Majesty's 9th Regiment, Commanding.

1st BRIGADE.

Sir Robert Sale, Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, Commanding.

Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry.

35th Native Light Infantry. Ferris's Jizzailchee Regiment.

2nd BRIGADE.

Brigadier Wild, Native Infantry, Commanding.

Her Majesty's 9th Foot.

26th Regiment Native Infantry.

60th Regiment Native Infantry.

3rd BRIGADE.

Brigadier Tullock, 60th Native Infantry, Commanding.

30th Regiment Native Infantry.

53rd Regiment Native Infantry.

64th Regiment Native Infantry.

4th BRIGADE.

Brigadier Monteath, C.B., Commanding.

Her Majesty's 31st Regiment of Foot.

6th Regiment of Native Infantry.

33rd Regiment Native Infantry.

CHAPTER V.

THE STANDING CAMP AT JELLALABAD, AND
LIFE IN CAMP.

GENERAL POLLOCK had relieved Jellalabad on the 15th of April, 1842. This small garrison, completely isolated and cut off from all reinforcements, held out against a large body of Affghans under Akhbar Khan, who sat down before it after he had destroyed General Elphinstone's army, with the determination to take it, and exterminate the Feringees. The fort was a poor, indefensible place, and very much out of repair when General Sale threw himself into it. They rebuilt a great deal of the wall, and strengthened it in every way possible, and kept the enemy completely at bay for three months.

On the 7th April, in consequence of the garrison having heard a false report that General

Pollock had been beaten back in an attempt to force the Khybur, they sallied out under the command of Sir Robert Sale, attacked and completely routed Akhbar Khan and his army, and destroyed his camp.

Sir Robert Sale only lost ten killed, and sixty wounded; amongst the killed was Lieutenant-Colonel Dennie, C. B., of the 13th Foot.

A week later they were relieved by General Pollock's advance.

For the defence of Jellalabad, and the brilliant sortie which concluded the siege, the Earl of Ellenborough issued a most highly complimentary order to the garrison, and awarded them a medal and six months' batta. The 13th Light Infantry were afterwards made "Prince Albert's Own," as a mark of honour. The 35th Native Infantry were made Light Infantry, and a large share of brevet promotion was given to the officers.

The 13th speak highly of the 35th Native Infantry, whom they consider the finest Sepoy regiment in the service.

6th May.—We find the 9th, 3rd Dragoons, and other troops that came on with General Pollock, in a state of great discomfort, as they

left Peshawur in the lightest marching order possible, as they expected to retire as soon as they had relieved Jellalabad. So now they are encamped in this hot plain in Sepoy Palls, which are already so hot that they have to dig holes in the ground to keep themselves cool. If we are to remain, they must send back for their large tents and baggage, as English troops cannot campaign in such hot countries without good cover, and sufficient provision to ensure health and cleanliness.

Jellalabad is not by any means a nice place to hang up one's hat for any time. The winds are hot—no end of dust blowing in clouds day and night—frequent earthquakes, and a combination of vile smells.

There was some first-rate shooting not very far from Jellalabad, at Alli Boghau, Butta Kole, and Hazarinow, but we could not take advantage of it, as it was dangerous to go far from camp, and shot was very scarce; very few sportsmen had any, it being so heavy to carry.

They now say that there is little use our going on to Cabool without a siege train, and we have none. General Elphinstone's army lost theirs, which will now be used against us.

General Nott is said to have one, however, at Candahar.

We see by the English mail, just in, that they are becoming alarmed in England, and that several regiments are on their way out as a reinforcement.

12th May.—We are still at Jellalabad. I sleep every morning when I can until 9 o'clock to bring up arrears of sleep, and to be ready for the next move; but we have a great deal of piquet and fatigue duties, pulling down old forts, &c., which keep us occupied in the mornings. The dust all day is abominable, everything is covered with it, one's hair is always full of it. I should not mind this sort of thing once in the way, but we have dust and hot winds every day. Although the wind is not what in India is properly called a hot wind, still it is very warm. The thermometer in a hill-tent is now 94° at noon, 98° at 3 P.M., but the mornings are cool. Amongst other annoyances the flies are a perfect plague. Earthquakes are common; we have already had three, all slight ones.

We find to our dismay, that the camels which we purchased in the Punjaub, do not thrive here. They eat some herb out grazing,

which poisons them and knocks them up. A great many have died.

The following will give an idea of the scarcity of supplies:—At an auction in camp, tea sold at 26s. a pound, wine and brandy at £1 a bottle, a hill tent for £30; cheroots at £12 per thousand. I heard yesterday that some mess was offering 40 rupees a seer for tea, that is £2 per pound.

On the 8th instant, we gave a dinner to the officers of the 13th Light Infantry, after which all the wine, spirits, &c., were equally divided amongst us, giving each officer two sherry, six port, and six brandy. So in a short time we will all be disciples of Father Mathew.

We hear that the General has succeeded in ransoming some privates of the 44th regiment, but they have not come in yet.

One of our sentries was killed—cut down—last night; the fellow must have crept up to him in the dark and run him through as he turned his back. The sentries required to look very sharp always, as the Affghans used to cross the river on skins at night and prowl about.

Time begins to hang heavy on our hands now; no books, nothing to do but eat, drink,

cards, read the papers twice over, extract valuable information from the advertisements, and abuse the commissariat, who are always doing something objectionable.

We hear that all officers in England are ordered out. High time, too, as some of them have been knocking about the depôts—recruiting, and dodging India for years; and we are all doing their duty as well as our own, which, in war time, is not pleasant.

20th May.—High winds and dust continue, and we have swallowed a jolly lot of sand! The heat has increased regularly and steadily every day. Thermometer is now 106° at 3 P.M., the hottest part of the day. We lie under the mess tables after breakfast, and before 12 o'clock they get so hot that one can scarcely touch them.

We are all now occupied in digging pits in our tents and building mud walls round our tent walls, to keep out the heat. Sinking the floor is a capital plan, as it makes a tent much cooler; but it should not be sunk more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet; if dug deeper, it becomes stuffy and warm again.

In the midst of our digging operations, our brigade — the Monteath or 4th Brigade—was

ordered to be held in readiness to march. Rumour was rife as to our destination, but no one seemed to know.

I have just been lucky in picking up a capital servant, who can and will do anything. He was in the service of Mr. Macartney, of the 6th Shah's Regiment, who was one of those who escaped from the massacre of Jugdulloek, but was killed near Jellalabad. This man was at Cabool a year, was all through the retreat of the winter of 1841—2, and was taken prisoner.

Generals Pollock and McCaskill dined at our mess. The Commanding General looked thin and careworn. He is, we hear, very anxious to go on to Cabool with our army, but I believe the difficulties of moving so large a force through a mountainous country are almost insurmountable; and they do say that the bigwigs at Calcutta cannot make up their minds as to whether we should try to re-conquer Cabool, or quietly retire from the country altogether.

The 31st continues healthy, notwithstanding the heat. Only three officers, Brooke, McIlveen, and Law, and 35 men in hospital.

29th May.—Here we are still; no move after all, so it was all bosh. Passed the day

yesterday in the fort with Speedy and Talbot, of the 13th regiment. Much cooler than in camp.

We heard much of the Affghan fruit, but so far the only fruits in season are apricots and a plum called alucha, and we are afraid to eat much of them, as they are apt to bring on dysentery.

Captain Frederick Abbott,* who is principal engineer with our army, came to see me to-day. I had known him when I was a boy.

9th June.—Here we are still. Warlike rumours as plentiful as plums, but nothing doing. We had races here last week, and Plasket and myself entered my pony, which was a very good one, but did not win. Stakes worth £40, which would have been a nice haul for us, as our treasuries were very low. We get no regular pay, but only small sums on account.

Apricots, melons, and grapes are now coming in, the last, however, very small. Before the siege the fort was surrounded with good gardens, but they were all destroyed, as they afforded too much cover for the enemy's sharpshooters so near the wall.

* Now Major-General Sir Frederick Abbott, K.C.B.

On the 5th instant we had a very severe earthquake, which lasted several seconds, but it did no harm. We had another shock at sunset, and another at night.

The hospitals are filling fast now. Although we are the healthiest European regiment here, we have between fifty and sixty sick.

CHAPTER VI.

RAID INTO THE SHINWARREE VALLEY, AND
THE ACTIONS AT MAZEENA.

ON the 17th June we moved out of the standing camp, and the brigade marched a little before sunset. It consisted of the following troops, under command of Brigadier Monteath, C.B. :— 1st Light Cavalry, Her Majesty's 31st Foot, 33rd regiment of Native Infantry, 53rd regiment of Native Infantry, Captain Ferris's Jezzailchee regiment, Captain Abbott's Battery, detachment of Sappers.

The object of the expedition was supposed to be the destruction of Pesh Bolâk, and to give the troops something to do, as they were becoming unhealthy from remaining so long in a standing camp in hot weather. We marched to Alli Boghau, and arrived there at 10 o'clock at night, and forthwith set to work pitching our

tents. It rained during the night. Major Cortlandt got a bad fall in going his rounds last night from his charger shying at a sentry coming to the charge.

Early the next morning, by some misunderstanding, the village was plundered by the brigade. I was awoke by hearing a great rushing of men through the camp; so I dressed, and ran down too, and by standing on the top of a wall, had a good view of the "loot"—fellows scrambling over and through the houses in every direction, and tearing down the houses, and fighting with one another for the loot. In a square beneath me, one Sepoy found a large bag of money; but he was seen—a rush was made at him, the bag torn, the rupees scattered about, and a grand scramble ensued. This ended in a regular fight, in which our men, Sepoys and Jezzailchees, joined, and hammered each other in good earnest. Swords were drawn, and cuts and blows exchanged. One fellow of my company, Nocton, knocked down several men with the leg of a bed, and at one time he had a whole circle of Sepoys round him trying to get a cut at him; but he knocked them over right and left, and escaped with only one ugly slash over his head. The village was

set on fire, and the plunder was at last stopped by Lugard, the brigade major, being sent down by the brigadier with the Camp Guards and Piquets to turn us all out.

The whole thing was a mistake, and there was an awful row about it, as these very villagers had behaved in a most friendly way to the garrison of Jellalabad during the siege; so it was an unfortunate mistake altogether, and we got well abused for it; and we were nearly recalled in consequence of it.

Our camp was pitched near the river, and after the rain the scenery was very pretty. There are no regular rains here as in India.

On 19th June we marched in the evening to Baukab, near Buddee Kote, 13 miles. The water here was excessively bad,—an important matter with troops campaigning, who are drinking different kinds of water every day.

20th June.—Marched this morning at 3 A.M., to Goolai, near Pesh Bolâk, over a stony desert, and crossing several streams, shallow but rapid.

We did not meet with any opposition from the enemy to-day, as was expected. The Affghans have deserted all the forts and villages, and have taken to the hills about ten miles

off. The encamping ground was good, with abundant forage for the cattle.

There are no wells about here, the water is brought in streams underground from the highlands; it is beautifully clear and cool, and a great luxury in this hot camp.

29th.—Went over to Lugard's tent to get a frank. He gave me some first-rate figs. The thermometer to-day at noon was 112°! I put up a joassie tattie to-day, and it answered very well.

We are now halted for some days, and manage to pass the days agreeably enough playing *vingt-et-un* after tiffin. We assemble in one of our hill-tents, and it is a very amusing though very hot scene to watch a whole lot of fellows packed closely round a table, nearly all of them smoking, with wet towels round their heads to keep them cool, making a tremendous noise, laughing, chaffing, and talking, and enjoying themselves extremely, notwithstanding the heat.

The heat in camp is now very great, we have already thirty-two men in hospital since we left Jellalabad eleven days ago, and we started without any sick, having left them behind.

In this valley there are about twenty-five small forts, which are in fact villages, as the

people all live in them. They vary in size, but are all built on the same plan. They are from one hundred to two hundred yards square, some oblong; the walls about twenty feet high, about ten feet thick at the base, thinning off to the top, which is not more than a foot thick. At each corner is a loopholed turret or tower. The houses of the people are all built round inside against the walls, but being not more than sixteen feet high, they do not act as a banquette to fire over the curtain.

Each ghurrie or fort contains about thirty families. There are no wells in the forts, but there are numerous springs and underground streams in every direction outside the walls.

Near every fort is an orchard of mulberry, vine, and peach trees, on which the people set a high value.

As a punishment for the late treacherous conduct of these people, working parties of troops are hard at work every day cutting down or killing the trees by ringing the bark.

This is rather a barbarous mode of carrying on war, and I do not know who is the originator of this retaliation.

There is one particularly beautiful spring of cold water some way from the camp, which we

call the Tye-khanah, and often pass away the hot hours of the day in. We are, however, obliged to be very careful, one of us always remaining outside on watch, and we are always armed with swords and pistols. People often say that we will be caught like rats in a trap some day, but we generally have our horses with us.

We get ice brought us into camp from the mountains occasionally, which is a great treat. Willes looks after the ice department.

After doing all the mischief we could at Goolai, we moved on the 8th July to a place called Chehulgazee, four miles. We camped in a nice tope of trees, with streams of cool water running through it. On the 10th we again moved to Khyder Khan Kote, and camped in a wooded valley. On the 11th died poor Major Charles Shaw, of dysentery. He had served in the 31st all his life, and he was greatly regretted by all his brother officers.

As we were afraid of the enemy disinterring his remains, we buried him as quietly as possible in his tent—in fact, on the very spot on which he died. There was no band, no firing, and nothing that could attract attention. As soon as he was consigned to the earth, his tent was struck, and his horse and camels

piqueted over his grave, to obliterate all traces of it.

The mail (English) is just in, and we see that J. A. Duncan is transferred to the 29th regiment; we are all sorry to lose him. We also hear that they are going to assemble a grand army of reserve at Ferozepore, under the Commander-in-chief, Sir Jasper Nicholls. What for? To cover our retirement from this country, or to re-conquer it? Thermometer 108°.

On the 14th Captain Matthias, 33rd Native Infantry, died in camp.

We moved to Sheahsune and Hissaruk, and on the 23rd we encamped at Mazeena.

On the 20th I was appointed to the grenadier company, vice McIlveen, at which I was greatly delighted, as the flank companies in war time are always those selected for doing dashing work; and, besides, they consist of all the finest and smartest officers and men in the regiments, and have certain distinctions of uniform which encourage *esprit de compagnie*.

Soon after our arrival in camp at Mazeena, a report spread that several of our people had been killed in one of the neighbouring forts; a company was immediately sent out, and recovered the bodies of two native soldiers who had been

killed, and they brought in two artillerymen wounded. This showed that the enemy were hovering about and watching our movements, and doubtless watching an opportunity of taking vengeance for the destruction of their property. On the 24th July, as it was reported that bodies of the enemy had collected in the valley to the north of our camp, Brigadier Monteath ordered out a reconnoitring party under command of Captain Willes, 31st regiment, to make observations in the valley, and to get a general idea of the country in the neighbourhood of Sekunder Khan's Fort, where it was reported the enemy had collected.

The reconnoitring party consisted of the grenadiers (mine), and No. 1 company of Her Majesty's 31st regiment, one company of the 33rd, and one company of the 53rd regiment Native Infantry, Ferris's regiment of Jezzailchees (native riflemen), and twenty troopers.

Soon after leaving camp we ascended a long ridge of hill on the left of the valley, and kept along it, as we had a good view as we proceeded. When we had got about four miles from camp, we saw the inhabitants of all the forts collecting in groups and companies in our front and to our right, and soon afterwards they

began to skirmish with our advance guard. The enemy rapidly increased in numbers, and we could hear the alarum drums beating all over the valley, and see the people turning out for the defence of their forts.

We continued to advance for five miles, until we were in sight of Sekunder's Fort; the enemy retiring before us skirmishing.

When, however, we had gone as far as was necessary, and accomplished our object, we began to retire. Then the enemy at once turned on us, and assailed our rear and flanks with a very hot fire.

Our two companies and the light company of the 33rd Native Infantry formed our rear guard, and retired slowly on our camp. The Affghans proved themselves excellent light troops; they understood skirmishing well, and took advantage of cover admirably. A very hot fire was kept up on both sides as we retired, with very little loss, however, as the ground was very broken and afforded cover.

The enemy's jezzails (rude rifles) carried a long way, but they were bad shots and fired at long ranges. They followed us well up for two hours, never, however, coming nearer than 150 or 200 yards.

When we got back to camp, which we found in a state of great excitement, we ascertained that our loss in this affair was five killed and twenty-seven wounded.

This was the first time we had been under fire, and a very sharp one it was. We called it afterwards the first action of Mazeena.

Captains Willes and Young, Lieutenant Bray, and Ensign Atty were the 31st's officers present in this action.

2nd action of Mazeena.—Brigadier Monteath having determined to punish our friends of the 24th, the Mundoozie Shinwarries, for attacking us, the brigade turned out for fighting at daylight on the 26th; and, as the day would be very hot, the men turned out in their shirt sleeves; the officers in red jackets.

Two companies from each regiment remained in camp for its protection.

The brigade followed the same line of ridge that we did on the 24th—the Sappers and Miners keeping along the valley and burning all the forts, or rather the houses in them, as they went along.

About 9 o'clock our advance guard, under command of Major Skinner. 31st Regiment, began to skirmish with the enemy. The ad-

vance consisted of three companies of the 31st, Nos. 6, 7, and light company; the light companies of the 33rd and 53rd Native Infantry, and Captain Ferris's Jezzailchees. They continued to advance along the ridge and valley, driving the enemy before them, until they reached Sekunder's fort, which was burned down as intended.

Captain Abbott's battery followed the advance guard, and took advantage of the ground to shell the enemy whenever they got an opportunity. It was capital fun to see the shot drop amongst a group of them, and to see them cutting behind the ridges under cover.

The main column followed the artillery. The enemy showed in large numbers, and the musketry fire was kept up with great spirit, but without much execution.

The enemy always retired from the ridges and high ground before our people.

While the fight went on in the valley and front, the column were halted, piled arms and took off accoutrements, and had bread and rum served out to them. It became awfully hot as the day advanced, and the rocks were so hot that one could scarcely sit on them.

I sat on the top of a hill with twenty of my

company, and a company of Native Infantry, enjoying the fight and my breakfast at the same time, as our own turn had not yet come for shooting.

About midday the body of poor Dalway McIlveen was brought in.

He was one of our finest young officers, and he was shot through the heart in endeavouring to take a stone breastwork with a few men of No 7 company from a party of the enemy who defended it stoutly.

McIlveen had ordered the few men with him to fix bayonets, and, drawing his sword, they charged the Sungah or breastwork; but as they got close up the enemy jumped up and banged a volley into them, which brought down McIlveen and one of his men. The Affghans drew their swords and made a rush to secure the officer's body, as they knew he was an officer or chief by his sword and red jacket (the men being all in shirts); but they were driven back by the steadiness and courage of Serjeant Trench and the remaining handful of men. Serjeant Trench took up McIlveen's body and carried it off, covered by the soldiers (only seven of them), and hotly pursued by the Affghans, who wounded some of them.

After the destruction of Sekunder's fort, which was the principal one, the advance guard retired on the column, closely followed by the enemy. When the advance closed up to the column, we extended and took up their places and the game. They looked very tired, as it was really awfully hot.

After the column had retired some way towards camp, we retired in regular skirmishing order, and keeping up a brisk fire.

They followed us for two miles, and then gradually dropped off, and the fight was over, and we returned to the camp very tired and hot. Our faces were so burnt that they were quite sore for two or three days, and many people got fever from the exposure.

We got back to camp about two o'clock. Our killed and wounded in this affair—the second action of Mazeena—amounted to one officer and five privates killed, and twenty-four wounded.

It was reported next day that we had knocked over a good many of the enemy.

30th.—Rumour began now to say that the army was, after all, to advance on Cabool, and in a few days our brigade was ordered back to Jellalabad. We marched *via* Hissaruk, Kultrazee, and Alli-Boghan to Jellalabad, where we

arrived on the 3rd August, and took up our old place in Pollock's camp.

Several of our officers had been knocked up by the exposure at Mazeena, and were on the sick list, including Marshall, Duncan, and young Hart.

CHAPTER VII.

THE ARMY MOVES FORWARD TO GUNDAMUCK.

WE find that Captains Troup and Lawrence, two of the prisoners, are now in camp, treating. Two privates of the 44th Foot have been given up by some chief.

We have just received a small supply of wines and spirits from Peshawur, which are most acceptable, as we have had nothing but a ration of rum for a long time. We all carry to mess a soda water bottle covered with leather, which contains our allowance of grog.

Mr. Arratoon, a merchant, is now in camp, selling supplies at fabulous prices; brandy at 70 rupees, beer at 48 rupees a dozen, &c.

I purchased from him a glass tumbler, as a great luxury, as I had not had a glass to drink out of since I crossed the Sutlege, six months ago!

On the 8th, General Sale's brigade moved out to Futteahbad, on the road to Cabool. The 13th regiment lost four men on the first day's march, and twenty went into hospital.

On the 14th, the 3rd Light Dragoons marched out to Futteahbad.

Our camp life is very monotonous, but we manage to exist, although we have now about eighty men in hospital from fever and dysentery, and several officers are ill.

A writer in the Agra Ukhbâr, signing himself "Triglyph," has created quite a sensation by his writings and criticisms on the conduct of the war. The officers of all the regiments were assembled by their respective commanding officers, and informed that Sir Jasper Nicholls the Commander-in-chief, is greatly enraged with Messrs. Triglyph and Senex, and that he will play the deuce with them—IF he can catch them. This created much amusement.

We have grapes, and very good grapes, in abundance now, but we are obliged to be very careful about eating too many, as fruit causes diarrhœa, which is very prevalent in camp.

Captain Fenwick, of the 13th, who has been in Affghanistan for a long time, tells us that September is a cool month in this part of the

world, so that we are nearly done with the hot weather.

18th August.—The great news of the day is, that an **ADVANCE ON CABOOL** is really and positively decided upon; and that it is to take place immediately.

This is great news for us all, and we are in great spirits; as having come so far, it would be heartbreaking having to go back without seeing Cabool and leaving our mark.

General Nott is also to advance with a part of his army from Candahar, and meet us at Cabool. Our army is to be at Cabool on the 15th September, and they say we are to be back at Jellalabad about the 15th October.

We are to march as light as possible, so small pall tents and two in a tent are the order of the day. Captain Young and myself take my tent, as it is a good strong one, between us; and, as we have plenty of private carriage, we ought to do well.

The 2nd brigade with head-quarters and staff marched for Gundamuck on the 20th. Her Majesty's 9th Foot had Sepoy palls served out to them in lieu of their large tents, to economise carriage.

The 6th and 53rd regiments of Native In-

fantry and two squadrons of 10th Light Cavalry are in orders to remain behind to garrison Jellalabad. All sick soldiers are to be left in garrison also.

22nd August.—We are all on the move to-day ; our brigade marches to-morrow. Nothing going on but tent striking, and taking off the upper flies, to make them lighter and more portable. Many are being sent into the fort with baggage of every description. Every one is buying sacks of grain for their cattle, and fitting camel saddles. Lieutenant Bourke is to remain in charge of our sick. Lieutenant Roach, 3rd Dragoons, Lieutenant Shelton, 9th, and Lieutenant Speedy, 13th regiment, remain with their sick.

Marshall, Willes, and Plasket all have fevers, and we will all be delighted to get out of this abominable hole into pure air again.

August is the most unhealthy part of the year in this valley, and why we were not moved up to the high lands of Gundamuck long ago we cannot make out. At Gundamuck we would have been encamped in a fine climate, about 4,500 feet above the sea level, and been much nearer Cabool itself, to make a dash at it when required.

We hear that Ukhbar Khan, the son of King Dost Mahommed, who commands the Affghan forces, has issued a proclamation, calling upon all good Mussulmans to rise and arm in the cause of their country, and to annihilate the Feringees!

They will find this rather a toughish job this time, I calculate.

On the 23rd we marched with our brigade to Châr Baug, only four miles, the road stony and dusty; the morning cool, but day exceedingly hot. A lot of our camels were pounced upon to-day, when out grazing, by the enemy; but recovered by a party of Native Cavalry and riflemen, after a fight, in which they killed a few of the Affghans.

On the 24th we moved to Sooltanpore, and on the 25th to Futteahbad. Here we found the 1st brigade of Infantry, and Cavalry brigade. We hear that General Pollock with 2nd brigade has had a good fight at Mammoo-Khail, four miles from Gundamuck, with a body of the enemy, detached by Ukhbar Khan to hold the place, which was just under some hills. Our people drove them out of the fort and into the mountains, and burnt the place. Several officers were wounded in the action, amongst

others, Major Huyshe, 26th Native Infantry, and Captain Edmonds, 9th Foot.

The report is, that one of the Sepoy regiments did not behave well in the fight, and covered themselves with anything but glory. There is little use disguising the fact, though people try to ignore it as much as possible; our native troops do not like coming to close quarters with the Affghans. From all I hear, the fighting qualities of the Sepoys are very uncertain; sometimes they fight well, at others badly; in fact, they are not to be thoroughly depended on.

It is our policy, of course, to cry them up, and to persuade people that they are first-rate troops in the field. For war against Asiatics, they ought, with the advantage of English officers and English discipline, to be able to beat any army in India, single-handed, without the assistance of British troops at all. But it is not so, for in every Indian battle the English soldiers are obliged to do all the hard fighting, and to bear the brunt of the battle.

If the Sepoys are such good troops as their officers wish to persuade us, and try to persuade themselves, why are they not made to do more of the actual fighting? Our soldiers are so

much more valuable, they ought to be held in reserve ; and backed by us, the Sepoys ought to be able to walk over any Asiatic troops opposed to them.

If Jack Sepoy cannot fight single-handed the Sikhs, Affghans, Sindees, &c., with all the advantages of artillery, and an organised and disciplined army, how will it be, when he some fine day finds himself drawn up in front of a Russian, French, or American army ?

Captain Marshall, of the 31st, died last night of fever, and was buried in his tent during the day. We have seven officers on the sick list with fevers just now.

We remained halted at Futteahbad for a week, while the big-wigs were completing their arrangements for the advance, and negotiating with the enemy for delivering up the prisoners.

We out-siders are, of course, in the dark, though rumours of all kinds fly through the camp all day.

During this halt we suffered a great deal from the heat, as our men are all in Sepoy palls, which are dreadfully hot after their large Bengal tents.

Colonel Bolton, Captain Willes, Lieutenants

Brooke, Plasket, Sayers, and Pollard are all down with fever.

This halt seems very injudicious, and we never expected to be kept here having our brains scorched, but thought that we were to push on like mad for Cabool; but I believe General Pollock's movements are greatly hampered for want of carriage, to carry on a sufficient supply of grain and provisions.

The 13th Light Infantry are near us; they are first-rate fellows, and we see a great deal of them.

On 2nd September, the 1st brigade marched to Gundamuck; and we hear that Futteh Jung, a son of Shah Soojah, has arrived in camp. He was obliged to bolt from Cabool at last.

On 4th September our brigade marched onwards to Neemla, seven miles; Captain Alexander's troop Horse Artillery and 1st Light Cavalry being attached to us.

At Neemla are some fine gardens with a building in the centre; the rows of cypress and plane trees planted alternately were very fine and beautiful.

On the 5th we advanced to Gundamuck, and encamped two miles in advance of the other

brigades. A little farther on is the bridge of Sufaed Sung (white stone) over a small stream.

The country is tolerably open about here, and as this table-land is 4,600 feet above the sea, the change of temperature is very great, the mornings being now quite cool, and the days quite pleasant!

It was near the now famous Gundamuck, a mile farther on the road, that the last stand was made by the 44th Foot, and the remains of General Elphinstone's army, who were here utterly destroyed and cut to pieces after a tremendous struggle. Captain Souter and seven soldiers were the only survivors! and they were taken prisoners. When Captain Souter was taken, he had one of the colours of his regiment, which he had taken off the colour-staff, wrapped round his body, as several officers and serjeants had been killed in carrying it. Captain Souter was taken to the house of the Affghan who saved him, and while he was living with the family, it was soon found out that he wore a splendid silk under-garment, embroidered with gold, which the women of the family insisted on having; but Souter told them it was a magic garment given him by his mother. The ladies, however, compromised

matters by insisting on taking off all the gold letters and embroidery, which recorded the former services of the 44th regiment, and Souter was allowed to retain the silk colour, which he actually brought back with him when he was released months afterwards.

We have cavalry videttes out, and the enemy have a cavalry piquet on the Cabool road, and report says that all the passes are manned and protected with Sungahs and artillery, so there will be broken heads before long.

The following is a list of the officers of the 44th regiment who were killed at Cabool, and during the disastrous retreat of General Elphinstone's army.

Eighteen officers were killed in the last three days.

Captain Swayne,	killed at Old Fort,	Nov. 3, 1841.
Captain Robinson,	" "	Nov. 4, 1841.
Lieutenant Raban,	" "	Nov. 6, 1841.
Lieut.-Colonel Mackrell,	" Bucka-bashie Fort,	Jan. 10, 1842.
Captain McCrea,	" "	Jan. 10, 1842.
Major Scott,	" Tazeen Pass,	Jan. 10, 1842.
Captain Leighton,	" "	Jan. 10, 1842.
Captain Dodgin,	" "	Jan. 10, 1842.
Lieutenant White,	" "	Jan. 10, 1842.
Lieutenant Wade,	" Jugdullock,	Jan. 12, 1842.
Lieutenant Fortye,	" "	Jan. 12, 1842.
Qt.-Master Hallahan,	" "	Jan. 12, 1842.
Surgeon Harcourt,	" "	Jan. 12, 1842.

Lieutenant Cadett, killed at Soorkâb Bridge,	Jan. 12, 1848.
Captain Collins, „ Gundamuck,	Jan. 13, 1842.
Lieutenant Hogg, „ „	Jan. 13, 1842.
Lieut. Cumberland, „ „	Jan. 13, 1842.
Lieutenant Swinton, „ „	Jan. 13, 1842.
Assist.-Surg. Balfour, „ „	Jan. 13, 1842.
Assist.-Surg. Primrose, „ „	Jan. 13, 1842.
Ensign Gray, „ „	Jan. 13, 1842.

Colonel Shelton was given up as a hostage at Jugdullock, Lieutenant Evans remained at Cabool in charge of the sick. Lieutenant Souter was taken prisoner at the last stand at Gundamuck, on 13th January.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE ADVANCE THROUGH THE PASSES ON
CABOOL.

THE army was divided into two divisions for the advance, and the 1st division, under the Commanding-general, moved forward on the 7th September to Soorkâb. The division consisted of Her Majesty's 3rd Dragoons, Her Majesty's 9th and 13th Foot, 26th, 35th, and wing 60th regiments Native Infantry; one squadron of 1st Light Cavalry, 400 Irregular Horse, Sappers and Miners, Captain Abbott's Battery, two guns Horse Artillery, and the mountain train.

On the 8th our division, the 2nd, marched to Soorkâb, 8 miles, under command of Major-General McCaskill. We had with us two squadrons 1st Light Cavalry, 200 Irregular Horse, four guns Horse Artillery, Her Majesty's

31st Foot, five companies 33rd, five companies 60th regiment Native Infantry, Captain Ferris's Jezzailchee regiment, and a body of Sikh troops, about 500 men, under the direction of Captain Henry Lawrence.

A force of artillery, cavalry, and infantry was left at Gundamuck, to keep open our communications with Jellalabad.

Our small army when thus divided was not a bit too strong for the work before them—viz. marching through a mountainous and very difficult country, with numerous difficult and narrow passes, defended by a brave and enterprising, though undisciplined army.

Fortunately for us, the Affghans are very badly provided with artillery, and do not know how to use the guns they have, with effect.

Soon after leaving our ground we passed close under, on our right hand, the HILL OF GUNDAMUCK, on which the last of the Cabool army were destroyed. We halted under it, and every body rode and ran up it, to see this celebrated spot. The hill was covered with the skeletons of those who were slain, in every attitude as they fell. The skeletons were, in wonderful preservation, as, when they were

killed the snow lay thick upon the ground ; and after the snow melted, the hot summer sun burnt and parched them up. The result of the double action of the snow and sun was that the skeletons were still covered with skin like brown parchment, and those that had not been torn by birds and wild beasts, were so perfect that many of them were recognised by those who had known them in life, and in most cases it was quite possible to trace the marks of the bullet or sword that had killed them. The faces and hair were wonderfully perfect, the only part of the faces disfigured being the noses, which were sunk. Many of the skeletons had pieces of uniform and clothes still hanging to them, though in most cases they were quite naked, having been stripped and plundered.

It was a shocking sight for English soldiers to behold, and many a deep vow of vengeance was made by those who witnessed it, which was fulfilled to the best of our ability, as no quarter was given in actual action after this.

I was on rear guard to-day. We only left camp at 8 o'clock, although the advance guard started at daylight, as it took a long time before

the immense line of baggage had followed along the road, and we arrived in camp at one o'clock, as the road was pretty good and open all the way, with alternate ascents and descents.

No enemy showed this morning. They are said to have retired before the first division to the strong position of Jugdullock.

Encamped in a valley surrounded by hills which we covered with our piquets, for the protection of the camp.

To Jugdullock, 9th September, 13 miles.— Soon after leaving our ground we were fired upon from a hill before us.

The road ascended the whole way from Soorkâb to the top of the Jugdullock pass. There were a great many steep and difficult places along the road up which the infantry had to drag the guns, and our fellows did this hard work with the greatest good humour. We saw numerous parties of Affghans perched on the hills on both sides of us as we moved along the road. These gentry attacked the advance, but were beaten off. They then turned their attention to the rear guard, which they followed up closely to the top of the pass, where the column had halted to allow the

rear to close up, and the baggage to get on ahead.

At this time the firing in the rear was very sharp, and a great many men were hit. When the rear guard came up we pushed on again for camp ground, distant about three miles.

The Pass now became very narrow, not many yards wide, with hills on both sides, covered with stunted oak and holly, affording excellent cover for the enemy, and of which they perfectly understood how to take every advantage. We were fired into, all through this Pass, which was about two miles long.

The remains of the barrier which was erected by the Affghans to check the retreat of General Elphinstone's army, and at which so many of his troops were slain, still existed in the Pass, and the ground was covered thickly with the skeletons of his soldiers, which were ground under the wheels of our guns and the hoofs of our cavalry, as our army pressed onwards!

We encamped in the bed of a river surrounded by hills. The piquets were firing a good deal during the night, and began at it again in the morning.

We started from Soorkâb at 5 A.M., but did not arrive in camp till dark, after being all

day exposed to a hot sun, which had a very unpleasant effect on the face. The 31st had killed and wounded an officer and about forty men, and the brigade about eighty. The leading division under General Pollock had an engagement in the Jugdullock Pass the day before, and lost an officer killed, and about eighty men killed and wounded.

We passed a good many bodies of Sepoys and camp followers lying on the road, who had been killed the day before by the enemy.

Rood-i-Kutta-Sung, Sept. 10th.—There is a steep ascent immediately on leaving camp, and on the top of it the remains of an old fort, which was filled with skeletons of the Cabool army. In dragging the guns up this ascent, we had an officer and some men wounded. After this the country became more open, and gradually descended into camp, at which we arrived about sunset; ground very stony and confined; no forage for cattle whatever. Piquets firing at night.

Tazeen, 11th.—We made a forced march this day in order to join General Pollock's division at Tazeen, and assist in the forcing of the Koord Kabul Pass, which we were told, had been fortified by Ukhbar-Khan, who was pre-

pared to defend it with a large body of Affghans, Half-way between Kutta-Sung and Tazeen, we passed a tomb under a tree; this is the regular halting place, road pretty good, wider than usual. The advance guard, with which I was, arrived in camp a little before sunset; my company had scarcely taken off their accoutrements, when we were ordered to re-establish a piquet of Sappers and Miners, who had just been dislodged from the summit of a high hill by the enemy. The hill was very high and particularly steep, and we were a long time getting up. The enemy were beaten off, and the post re-established by a company of Her Majesty's 13th, before we could get to the top. Hill 7,000 feet above the level of the sea. We remained up here all night—very cold night—and all the next day. Our rear guard got well peppered coming in this evening, which looked very pretty in the dusk of the evening from our post, from which we saw it to advantage.

Halt, September 12th.—Firing in the valleys all day between the camel guards and enemy. During the night a strong piquet of the 60th Regiment Native Infantry were attacked, and half of them killed and wounded, and driven from their post. Four companies of the 31st

had to turn out and ascend the hills in the dark to re-establish the post, and had some firing, but when the Affghans heard the English voices they did not wait for them. A heavy fire was kept up all night, and the hoarse yelling of the Gilzies, the whizzing of bullets, and getting under arms twice during the night, completely banished sleep, although I had had no rest for thirty hours previously. This halt was made to rest the baggage cattle. The Affghans thought we funked, and instead of waiting for us at Koord Kabul, as they intended, they came on to meet us to the Tazeen Pass.

Koord Kabul, September 13th.—This day we forced the Tazeen and Huft Kotil Passes, which were defended by Ukhbar Khan in person, with about 10,000 Affghans, and four pieces of artillery. Our advance and rear guards were very strong. The advance guard moved at 5 A.M., and crowned the heights on both sides of the Pass as they went along, leaving parties on every commanding height as they advanced, and meeting with considerable resistance. Numbers of the enemy were killed, many even stood to be bayoneted, and the cavalry with the rear guard sabred a great many in the valley just after they left the old

ground. Strong flanking parties were left on each side of the road to defend the baggage, and the column pushed on into camp. At the top of the Huft Kotil we took four pieces of artillery which had not been brought into action, and were abandoned. The result of the day was that Ukhbar Khan was completely beaten, and retreated towards Cabool, and most of his army disbanded itself. The loss on our side must have been very considerable in to-day's battle, as there was much fighting. The whole of the 31st, with the exception of twenty grenadiers with the colours, were on the heights, and engaged. The native commandant of Ferris's Jezzailchees, a very fine fellow, was amongst the killed. Encamped near a little mud fort called Koord Kabul.

Bootkhak, September 14th—8 miles.—About two miles from camp we entered the Koord Kabul pass, which is certainly the most formidable looking of all the passes between Jellalabad and Cabool. The pass is very narrow, and a little river about a foot deep runs through it. The hills on both sides are very high and steep, and composed of a slaty rock, and can only be crowned by following particular paths. About the middle of the pass we found two

sungas made of loose stones, which had been thrown up by Mahommed Ukhbar. If they had been defended, we would have come to the point of the bayonet, and, although we should have lost many, a great number of the enemy would have been slaughtered, as they could not have got away from us, and the cavalry would have followed them up to the gates of Cabool. The Balla Hissar or citadel of Cabool is visible from Bootkhak. We encamped in clover fields, which was a decided improvement on the narrow, stony valleys we had just left.

From Gundamuck to Bootkhak the passes are STREWED WITH THE SKELETONS OF THE UNFORTUNATE CABOOL ARMY, particularly in the Jugdullock, Tazeen, and Koord-Kabul passes. The slaughter must have been terrific. The bodies, from having been killed in January, were preserved by the snow, and were very perfect, particularly the faces, and many of them were recognised.

Seah-Sung, near Kabul, Sept. 15th—7 miles. Marched this morning to within two miles of Cabool, and heard that the prisoners had been carried off by order of Ukhbar Khan towards Bameaun. A party of Kuzzilbash Horse under Lieutenant Shakespeare were sent after

them. He succeeded in recovering them. General Sale was sent out to support him a few days after, as the Huzzarahs threatened a recapture. Sale met them at the foot of the Kohee Baba, and brought them all into camp on the 23rd September.

Balla Hissar, 16th.—On the morning of the 16th the whole of the Grenadier companies of regiments, 3rd Light Dragoons, and a troop of Horse Artillery, were marched from camp with General Pollock, to take possession of Cabool, and hoist the British colours in the Balla-Hissar or citadel.

We passed through a part of the city, which was almost quite deserted; the doors of all the houses locked. We entered the Balla-Hissar by the city gate, formed up in a line facing the Audience Hall. As soon as the colours were hoisted on the highest part of the citadel, we presented arms and cheered; the artillery fired a royal salute. We were ordered to remain in garrison till further orders. Made ourselves comfortable in a part of the palace. In the Hissar we found about thirty pieces of cannon, many of them curiously carved. These were taken to India.

CHAPTER IX.

THE ENGLISH ARMIES AT CABOOL.

THE next day we were delighted to find some of the fruit shops in the bazaar of the fort opened. There were grapes of many kinds in the greatest abundance, and delicious they were; apples, pears, peaches, and surdas, a peculiar kind of white melon, all laid out in the most tempting manner, and ridiculously cheap.

The inhabitants of the city, who had all taken to the hills on the approach of our army, fully expecting that we would have destroyed the whole place the moment we arrived, gradually gained confidence when they saw us so quiet, and came in daily in large numbers, and opened their shops again. On the 17th General Nott's force encamped within six miles, on the west

side of the city, and on the night of the 18th at 12 o'clock the garrison of the Balla-Hissar were relieved by the 2nd Bombay Native Infantry from Nott's force.

On the 26th September two brigades, one from General Nott's camp, and one from ours, with Her Majesty's 9th Foot, Her Majesty's 41st Foot, and a squadron of 3rd Dragoons, under command of Major-General McCaskill, marched into the Kohistaun, for the purpose of destroying Ishlatiff and Charekar.

The city of Cabool is large and handsome—is surrounded on three sides by low hills, over which runs a double wall of little strength. The Balla Hissar, which contains the palace, is on the south side of the town, and commands a fine view of the neighbouring country, which is very pretty, and covered with walled villages and orchards.

After we had been a fortnight encamped, we were allowed to go into the town. The streets were all very narrow and very dirty, the only respectable part of it being the *choke*. This consists of four large squares, connected by covered arches, with what I suppose were originally intended for foun-

tains (now full of dead cats and filth) in the centre. This bazaar would be pretty if kept clean and in order, but it was at this time very much out of repair. Here were displayed for sale many kinds of cloth, ready-made clothes, and a great variety of goods of all kinds.

Poshteens and meemchees, cloaks and jackets made of sheepskins and furs, were in great demand, as every officer and soldier was trying to get them. They are first-rate dresses for piquet duty, and are very warm.

On the 7th October General McCaskill's division returned from Kohistaun. General Pollock having determined to destroy the market-place, or choke, a party under the command of Colonel Richmond, 33rd Native Infantry, consisting of the right wing of Her Majesty's 31st regiment, 26th Native Infantry, 33rd Native Infantry, and the Sappers, marched this morning into the city for the purpose of carrying the General's orders into execution. The Engineers set the Sappers and Miners to work, and the work of destruction soon began, and continued all day till sunset.

While the Sappers were at work, the sol-

diers, who were scattered through the town to guard the streets and protect the workmen, amused themselves by plundering and breaking open the houses within their reach; but as the townspeople had been warned by the authorities of the intended destruction, we found nothing valuable. However, the men found quantities of clothes, chintzes, muslins, lungees, and preserved grapes. On the whole it was great fun, and we returned to camp very much pleased with our day's sport. We destroyed nearly all the choke-bazaar, and many houses caught fire, and others were set fire to in different parts of the town by the camp followers, who got into the city, and looted everything they could.

10th October.—Another detachment from both camps proceeded to the city to-day, to complete its destruction, and a great deal of damage was done, and the town set on fire in many places.

On the 8th instant I went with a few others of the regiment, headed by our Colonel, and accompanied by an armed party of our soldiers, to inspect the camp of General Elphinstone, generally called the intrenched

camp, about two miles to the north-east of the city. Near the camp was a small range of hills above the village of Beymaroo, from which there was a most beautiful view of Cabool and the surrounding country, the salt lake and the Hindoo Koosh mountains. The cantonment was very extensive, and the rampart very low, and on one side of it there was an orchard within half musket shot, on another some small forts called the Rikabashee. Altogether it appeared to be a very ill chosen spot for defence.

A village under the hill called Beymaroo was well known during the attacks of the Affghans on the camp, as were also the Rikabashee Forts—small, square, walled forts, which played a conspicuous part in the siege of the garrison.

11th October.—Orders for the march back to India issued. Troops to march to Bhoodkhauk at 6 A.M. to-morrow morning, in three divisions.

A party of Sappers blew up the tomb and mosque of Dost Mahommed's grandfather, which was near the intrenched camp. This was retaliation with a vengeance!

There must have been a great deal of vacillation in the council chamber at this time, for we heard several times that we were to winter at Cabool, at others that we were to reconquer the whole country, and keep it. However, they made up their minds at last, and back we are to go.

CHAPTER X.

THE ENGLISH ARMIES RETIRE ON PESHAWUR.

OCTOBER 12th.—The whole army marched to Boodkhauk this morning. In consequence of there being a couple of narrow bridges on the road, and such an immense train of baggage and cattle, several accidents occurred, and many baggage animals fell into the river, mine amongst the number.

13th.—Koord Cabool.—The 1st division went on yesterday, and turned the Pass by the Goss Pundurrah road, and then crowned and occupied the heights. The 2nd division accordingly passed through in safety, and on arrival in camp, the 31st were sent back to relieve the troops perched up on the different hills—a very fatiguing process after our day's march. We remained upon the hill tops till sunset, when we were relieved by detachments from General

Nott's division, which was now marching as the last division of the army.

14th.—The 1st and 2nd divisions marched to Tazeen. The 4th brigade (ours) formed the rear guard.

On account of the immense quantity of baggage, and the narrowness of many of the defiles of the Huft Kotil and Tazeen Passes, the rear guard moved very slowly, as we were obliged to keep everything in front of us.

An extraordinary number of camels knocked up to-day, from having been standing and walking under heavy loads for nearly three days. When they could go no farther, they quietly and resignedly sat down, and the pricks of bayonets and swords would not move them, even after their loads were removed.

The loads were distributed, as far as possible, on other animals ; but all the least valuable part of the load was left on the ground, and heaped up and set on fire by the rear guard. The camels were all shot to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, as every camel was worth 100 rupees, and they only required two or three days' rest and a good feed to be as good as ever. Hundreds were destroyed every

day on this *Retirement* ; and this slaughter, and the destruction of property by the rear guard, made the retirement look very like a retreat, particularly as the enemy attacked and fired into both front and rear guards, whenever the passes were narrow and they got a chance.

The rear guard had a continual fight nearly the whole way from one camp ground to the other, every day ; and when it got dark there was often a good deal of confusion caused by these incessant night skirmishes.

On the whole, it looked much more like a Retreat than a dignified retirement from a conquered country.

By the time we got to the entrance to the Tazeen it was dark ; and as a body of Affghans had taken up a strong position on a rocky hill on our flank, and it was too dark to see or dislodge them, they had it all their own way, and and blazed into us at their leisure ; when the moon rose they made the defile very hot for us, and we were obliged to move on, and leave a lot of loot for them in the Pass.

Several people were killed and wounded in this skirmish. We did not get into our camp till very late, as we had to drag two of the captured Cabool guns (which were being taken

to India) a part of the way, as the bullocks could not move.

15th.—To Seah Babba. A tomb at this place marks the encamping ground. General Pollock marched on with the 1st division to-day. We halted. To-day, Lieutenant T. Pender, of ours, and his company, had a heavy skirmish in trying to establish a piquet, which they could not succeed in doing till we sent out two more companies under Willes to his assistance. Pender himself was severely wounded, also several of his men, and a corporal and one or two men killed.

I was sent on piquet to-day on a very high hill, a long way from camp, where we had nothing to eat or drink all night. In the morning we got up a fight and knocked over two Affghans.

16th.—To Kutta Sung. All the piquets on the rear guard, and mine amongst the number; it being the custom for all our piquets to remain on their posts till the officer commanding the rear guard sounded the assembly for the piquets, which he did when all the baggage was well on the road. Consequently, after night piquet, we were always on rear guard. No end of camels were shot to-day, and heaps of baggage destroyed.

17th.—To Jugdullock. This was a famous fighting ground, and there was always a shindy getting through. Our rear guard had a good heavy skirmish getting through, and there were killed and wounded as usual.

As the first division marched in front of us, we used to find many of their killed lying on the ground, stripped naked, and always gashed with sword cuts.

At dark we could plainly hear the report of the cannon fired by the divisions in front and rear of us, which showed that the Affghans were pressing their rear guards as much as they possibly could.

19th.—Arrived at Gundamuck, where we found the 2nd division halted; we halted to rest next day also. We resumed our march to Jellalabad on the 21st, and arrived there on the 23rd—exactly *two months* since we left Jellalabad for Cabool, to avenge the fall of that city and the destruction of General Elphinstone's army.

The order of the Governor-General, Earl Ellenborough, is published, granting the "Cabool Medal" for the campaign. Nominal rolls of all officers and men who advanced beyond Gundamuck with their regiments called for.

We remained halted here till 27th. The Sappers and Miners were hard at work every day blowing up the bastions and curtains of the fort, to leave our mark on this now famous fortress, which was knocked pretty well to pieces before the last of us left.

We (the subalterns) passed our leisure hours in killing the cats which abounded in the town after it was deserted by the inhabitants. We made heavy bags daily.

27th.—We resumed our orderly retreat or retirement to-day, and as it rained heavily, our already overloaded cattle broke down in every direction, and many of the men's tents were left on the ground and destroyed. I had to throw away the upper fly of my tent to lighten my load, and every thing I could spare. I had little enough, as I had not slept on a charpoy, except when my servant took one for a night out of a village, for a long time.

28th.—To Barukâb. More rain and more confusion. All property at a discount.

29th.—To Hazarinow. Plenty of forage to-day, as the villagers had—poor devils!—laid in their winter stores. We helped ourselves.

30th.—To Dakkah. On the rear guard to-day, worse luck, for it was a nice job. On the

march, we came to a tungee or defile, very narrow, and a mile long. Here the whole of the baggage of the two divisions got jammed in one dense mass, and only one camel could pass at a time. Of course the confusion was very great, as several of the camels and bullocks fell from exhaustion in the defile and blocked it up, and the dead cattle had to be removed.

The baggage stuck in this pass from sunrise till 10 o'clock at night; and then the whole of the rear guard had to set to work to clear it. When we had got rid of the baggage animals, we found a lot of the captured guns lying about in a helpless state. Amongst the number was the Cazeer of Jellalabad, a facetious name for an immense brass gun, mounted on a rude carriage on three wheels, and drawn by twelve pairs of bullocks.

Parties of soldiers and Sepoys were told off to the different guns, and the lighter ones were soon dragged through; but the venerable Cazeer (or judge) of Jellalabad required the united efforts of a whole regiment to move him and pull him to the top of the Pass. When we did get him to the top, he became more unmanageable than ever, for he charged down the incline, and buried his foremost wheel in the side

of the hill so skilfully that it took us an hour to dig him out; and, no sooner had we got him out with ropes, levers, &c., than he took a second charge down, and nearly killed two of our grenadiers. Many and deep were the curses now showered on the head of this most unwieldy and unmanageable of Cazees, and the clock struck five before we ran him triumphantly into camp, amidst volleys of abuse from the whole regiment.

Fortunately the country was tolerably open, and no enemy at hand, as they were afraid of our cavalry, or we would have had a hard time of it, between the Cazee and his Mahomedan friends.

31st.—To Lundee Khanah. The 1st and 4th brigades marched to the foot of the Lundee Khanah pass. I was on piquet at night. This will be my last piquet in this country, thank goodness! as we will be soon out of it now.

1st Nov.—To Alli Musjid. This was a long and difficult march for the cattle; the road over the Lundee Khanah had, however, been greatly improved by the sappers since we were there last, and guns and all got up with ease. The column arrived at Alli Musjid at 12 o'clock, but the rear guard did not get in till 3 o'clock

in the morning, having had a fight as usual. The heights had been crowned for them during the day, which saved them a good deal. I lost my best camel to-day; he could not get along, so he was shot by the rear guard. Only one day more and he would have been all right, but he gave in. We found a body of Sikh troops encamped at Alli Musjid.

2nd.—We marched through the Khybur pass this morning, and every one was delighted to get out of Affghanistan, as, though the country was interesting enough, and a very pleasant one to live in in times of peace, we had had nothing but hard work, bad grub, and much sickness during our campaign of eight months in it.

The fort of Jumrood looked pretty from the Pass. Encamped at Jumrood, and next day we encamped at Kawulsir.

CHAPTER XI.

THE RETURN MARCH THROUGH THE PUNJAUB.

PESHAWUR.—We encamped on the 4th at a village called Chumkunnee, four miles south of Peshawur, and we remained halted to rest men and cattle till the 12th.

The bazaar of Peshawur is exceedingly good, and well worth seeing. I heard one day the band of a Sikh regiment playing in front of General Avitabile's house. The instruments used were drum, fife, and bugle, and the music, though harsh, was really not so bad.

The regular Sikh infantry are armed with the French musket and bayonet, and are disciplined in the French fashion.

Several French, English, and other European officers are to be found in the Sikh army.

We found that our 2nd division got a good touching up in getting out of the Pass, and

General McCaskill had two officers and several men killed, and a lot wounded.

General Nott's division, however, got through in safety, as he had taken the necessary precaution to protect his baggage.

The fort of Alli Musjid was blown up by the rear division before it left.

The Affghans were game to the last, and followed us up to the verge of the Pass, and as long as they could do so with safety.

On the 10th the order for the march back to India was issued. The troops to move by brigades.

The 4th brigade marched on the 13th, and arrived at Attock on the 16th. We found a good bridge of boats over the river half a mile above the town. The scenery about Attock is very pretty; the country mountainous. The rivers Cabool and Lundi unite about two miles above the town.

18th. — Borhan. We heard to-day that Pender, our senior lieutenant, who had been left behind at Peshawur very ill from dysentery, brought on by confinement from his wounds, died in the camp of the 41st Foot, at Nowshera, as, after we had left, he asked them to bring him on with them.

19th.—Vah. Lieutenant Sayers, 31st, died here of small pox, and was buried at Janee-ka-Sung. Sergeant Reed, our bandmaster, died here also. The army was at this time suffering very much from dysentery, more particularly the native troops.

20th.—Arrived at Rawul-pindee, a large town, the streets very narrow and dirty. We found the 3rd brigade here. We halted next day. I had charge and command of No. 5 company in consequence of Sayers' death.

24th.—Munykyala Tope. Encamped near the Tope, an extraordinary and very ancient building in the form of a dome, 375 feet in circumference, and about 50 feet high. There is a well or shaft down the centre, and steps leading to the Tope. The history or origin of it is unknown.

There are several villages about. About three miles from this, there is a very singular ridge of rocks, and a very old serai.

Arrived at Jheelum on the 30th, and as the ghauts were all clear, we commenced crossing immediately. We found plenty of large boats, and as there was a ford for camels below the town, we got over the artillery and cavalry by sunset. The 31st and 33rd crossed by companies next day.

We arrived at the Chenaub on 5th December, and crossed over and encamped at Ramnuggur the next day.

10th Mallyan. Poor young Tritton died here after a very long illness. We had hoped that he would have got over it, but the rapid marching through the Punjaub killed him, as it did many of our men who were suffering from dysentery. This is the sixth officer we have lost since we left India, and upwards of 100 men.

17th —A large army of reserve had been assembled by Lord Ellenborough at Ferozepore, to assist us in case of need, as we heard rumours constantly that the Sikh troops were very anxious to attack us, as they looked upon us as a beaten and retreating army. This, it is to be presumed, is the reason we were marched at such a pace through this country, when, with a large quantity of sick, we required rest and easy marches.

On the 16th the illustrious garrison of Jellalabad arrived on the banks of the Sutlege, and their medals were distributed to them. On the 17th they crossed the river, and were received with unusual honours, as the Army of Reserve was drawn out to receive them, and every

regiment presented arms to them as they passed. The Governor-General received them at the bridge.

The following are the names of the officers of the 13th Light Infantry who served in the campaign of 1842.

Lieut.-Col. Sir Robert Sale.	Lieut. Mein.
Lieut.-Col. Dennie (killed).	Lieut. R. E. Frere.
Captain Vigors.	Lieut. G. Wade.
Captain Havelock.*	Lieut. J. Cox.
Captain Wade.	Lieut. W. Williams.
Captain Fenwick.	Lieut. F. Van Straubenzie.
Captain Jennings.	Lieut. T. B. Speedy.
Captain Holcombe.	Lieut. J. F. C. Scott.
Captain G. King.	Lieut. G. G. Stapylton.
Lieut. Wood (Adjt.).	Lieut. Parker.
Lieut. Honble. Forester.	Lieut. A. Oakes.
Lieut. Oxley.	Lieut. G. Talbot.
Lieut. Hobhouse.	Assist.-Surgeon Robertson.
Lieut. Rattray.	

On the 18th General Pollock marched into the Ferozepore camp with the artillery, the cavalry, and the 2nd infantry brigades.

On the 19th the 3rd and 4th brigades of infantry marched over the Sutlege.

General Nott's division did not march in till the 22nd or 23rd.

* Afterwards Sir Henry Havelock, of Cawnpore and Lucknow.

CHAPTER XII.

THE 31ST REGIMENT MARCHES TO UMBALLAH.

I WENT over to the 39th camp the morning of our arrival, and breakfasted with and was introduced to the 39th officers by my father, amongst others to Colonel Wright, Dr. Stark, Captain Nixon, Messrs. Monro, Colville, Currie, &c. &c.

It rained the day we marched in, and for days afterwards. This enormous camp, containing 35,000 fighting men, hosts of camp followers, and covering miles of country, was one constant sheet of mud and water, and the darkness of the nights made it impossible to find the camp of any particular regiment. Stray officers and soldiers were always wandering about in search of their regiments, and generally ended by stopping for the night at some friendly tent.

All the royal regiments in camp asked each

other to dinner, and as there were so many regiments, there was one incessant round of gaiety and feeding.

Lord Ellenborough also gave large entertainments, and also Sir Jasper Nicolls, the Commander-in-chief.

On the 31st December, 1842, was held a grand review of the whole army of Ferozepore, and 35,000 men marched past, with a large body of artillery and cavalry.

Lord Ellenborough, the Governor-General, reviewed the troops in great state, and Dehan Sing, the Sikh Prime Minister, was present, with a very large escort of picked Sikh troops.

We did not know—that is, the rank and file of the army—till after the danger was past, that the Sikh troops, or rather Panchayats, had been urging their rulers to attack us on our passage back through the Punjaub, as they looked upon us as a beaten and retreating army. And without doubt they would have done so, had not a reserve army been assembled at Ferozepore, which held them in check.

After our disasters in Affghanistan, our prestige was gone, and the Sikhs no longer feared us; they continued constantly threatening war, till they actually crossed the Sutlege

in November, 1845, and attacked our army on our own ground.

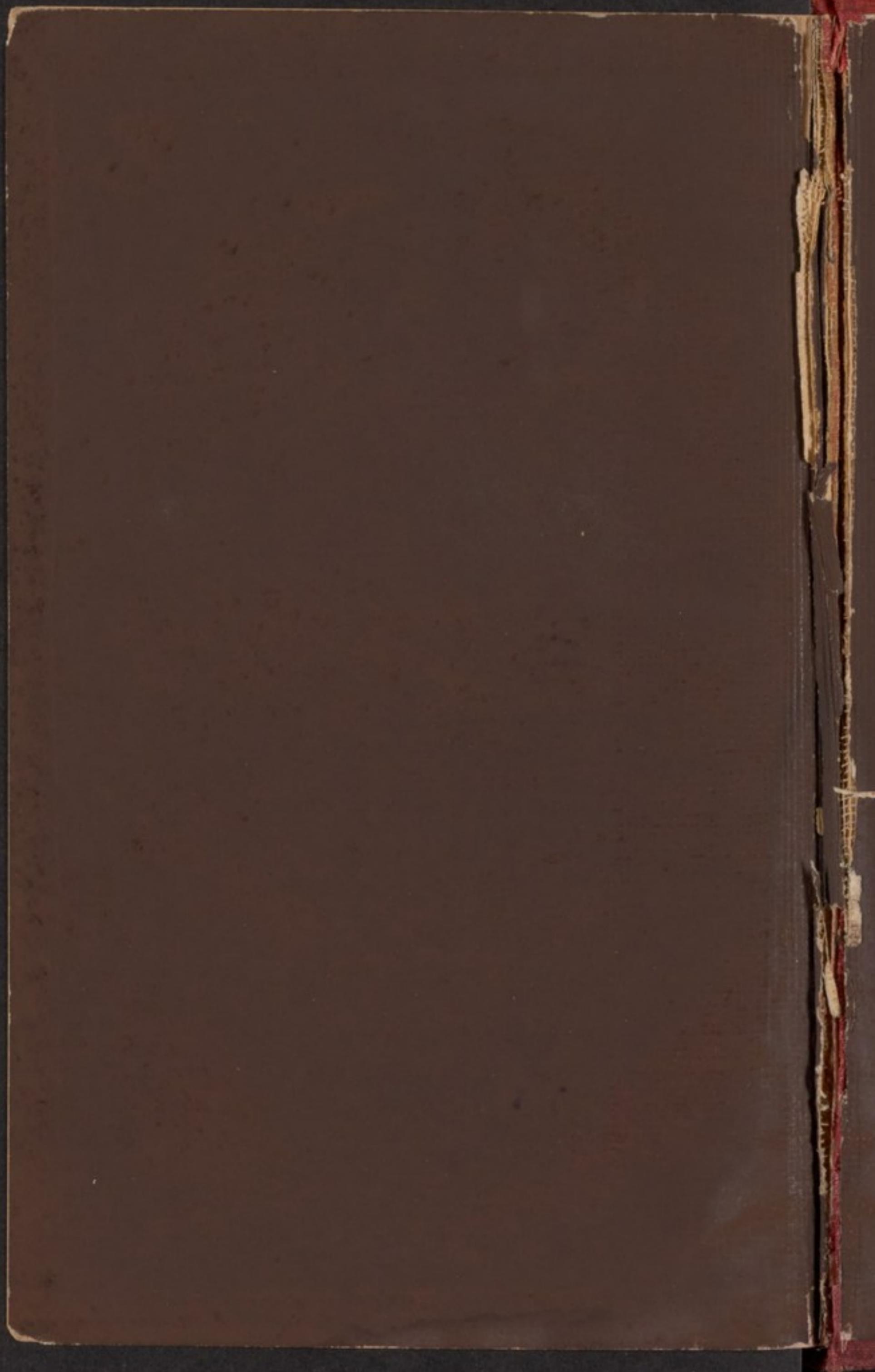
On the 2nd January, 1843, Lord Ellenborough broke up his camp and left for Delhi; and the troops began to break up and march for their various cantonments immediately after. New stations had been ordered to be formed at Kussowlee, Subathoo, Loodianah and Umballah. We were ordered to build the latter one, to our great disgust, as we had hoped to have got a good and quiet quarter after our campaign; instead of which we were marched off to Umballa, and started in company with the 10th Native Infantry on the 13th January, and arrived at our new quarters, or rather encamping ground, on the 26th January, as, although the lines for us were all marked out, there was not a house or barrack of any description on the ground where now stands the large station of Umballa.

And thus terminated the campaign of 1842; and the 31st regiment had now for several months to turn their undivided attention to the arts of peace, and especially to house-building. The regiment remained under canvass for several months before they were housed; and before they finally settled down in barracks, the

regiment was employed in the annexation of the small state of Khytul, which, on the death of the Rajah, broke out into sudden rebellion, headed by the Ranee, but on the appearance of the Meerut and Umballah brigades, which were rapidly concentrated upon it, the rebels lost heart, and retired across the Sutlege, and left the state of Khytul to the paternal care of the Honourable John Company, who forthwith absorbed it into his already extensive dominions; and the English troops returned immediately to their respective stations, and the 31st regiment returned to Umballah in May, 1843.

The words "Cabool, 1842" were inscribed on the colours of the 31st regiment, in commemoration of the campaign in Affghanistan—this being the ninth record of campaigns and victories in which the 31st have played a conspicuous part. Let me conclude by hoping that the colours of the 31st regiment may yet be carried through many glorious campaigns by our successors in the corps, and that many victories may yet be emblazoned on their silken folds after

"CABOOL, 1842."





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