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PORTRAIT OF AN AFFGHAUN.

Fac-Simile of a Drawing in colours found in the women's Anderoon at Ghuznee on July 23rd 1839, just after the storming of that Fortress: supposed to be the Portrait of an Affghaun Exquisite.

VIEWS
IN
AFFGHAUNISTAUN,
&c. &c. &c.

from Sketches taken during
THE CAMPAIGN OF
THE ARMY OF THE INDUS,
BY
Sir Keith A. Jackson Bart.

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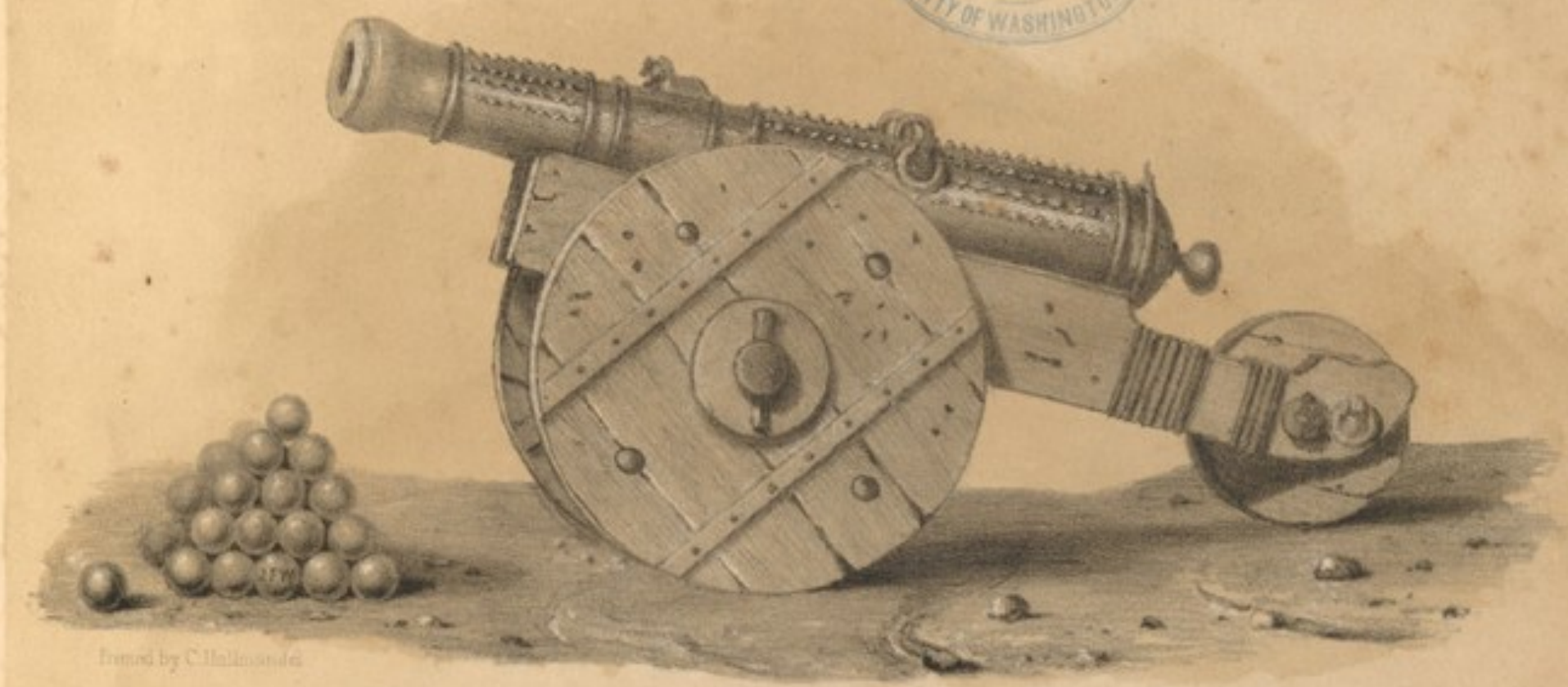

Great Gun at Ghuznee.

LONDON.
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Of Rosa Vincent

DS352
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To

The Chairman and Directors

of the Hon.ble the

East India Company.

This Volume is,

by Permission,

most respectfully Dedicated,

by their

very obedient Servant,

Joseph Fowell Walton.

MAP
of the
ROUTE
of the
Army of the Indus.
1839.
BALKH
Koondooz
Budakshan
KOONDOOZ
R. Meergaub
Parepamisan Mts
HERAT
Koh-i-Baba
CABUL
Bala Hissar
Jalalabad
Peshawur
Ghuzni
C A U B U L
R. Urghandaub
R. Turnuk
Kelati Ghilzie
KANDAHAR
A F G H Ā N I S T Ā N
R. Helmund
Bakwa
Dera Ismael Khan
Kaheree
Leia
Sanguir
Oodoo da Kote
R. Sinde or Indus
Soliman Mts
P U N J A U B
Sewestan
Kelat
Noeshky
Kharan
Zuhuree
Mittun
Meerbur
Och
Kanbaila
R. Indus
Gundava
Shikarpoor
Khozdar
B E L O O C H I S T A N
M U K R A N
Wadd
L. Manchar
Kedge
Jaysulmeer
Sirna
Rajral
Barka
Balmeer
Sehwan
Lakkat
Mattaree
HYDRABAD
Tatta
Kurachee
Bela
Lyaree
Hala Mts
Course of the Waters of Inundation
S I N D E
Bakanr
Ally Bunder
Ballyarie
I N D I A N O C E A N
64°
66°
68°
70°
72°
36°
34°
32°
30°
28°
26°
24°

CAUBUL.

Caubul is about 6000 feet above the level of the sea; it is the capital of Affghaunistān, and the residence of its King. The city is surrounded on three sides by fortified hills, at the foot of which flows the river Caubul. The Bala Hissar or Citadel commands the town, and contains the palace of the King which is a venerable building in a dilapidated state. In the northern parts of the building, the apartments are lofty, and not devoid of splendour, but for lack of care and attention many of them are fast falling to decay. Within the inner court is the garden, laid out in terraces, walks and parterres containing also some splendid pavilions, and a large fountain. The streets of the city are irregular and confined, and the river, which in this part is shallow and narrow, divides the principal portion, on the right, from the lesser on the left: the latter is mainly composed of detached dwellings, gardens, orchards, &c. The tomb of the Emperor Baba is situated in one of the most delightful spots in the neighbourhood, about a mile from the town; it consists of two upright slabs of white marble, covered with inscriptions, and stands in a garden which has once been surrounded by a wall of the same material. Caubul is celebrated for the excellence and extent of its bazaars, the principal of which is the Charchutta, 600 feet in length and 30 in width, consisting of four arcades, which contain nearly two thousand shops, stored chiefly with costly silks, furs, jewellery and a variety of every article for dress and ornament. The next bazaar of importance is appropriated to the sale of delicacies and food of every description.

The houses of Caubul are principally built of wood and sun-dried bricks: the city, being subject to earthquakes, wood has been found more effectually to resist them than any other material of which houses are usually constructed. The male inhabitants are tall, strong, active and bold, generally handsome, with swarthy complexions, and wearing large whiskers and beards. In their dealings they are honest, and are proverbial for their hospitality. The women, who are seldom to be seen, are well formed and of good stature; they are mostly of fair complexions and very beautiful; their costume is nearly the same as that of the upper classes in Persia, being a long frock of rich silk with full coloured trowsers; on their heads they wear a small cap embroidered with gold, attached to which is a large white veil to cover their heads, and to be drawn over their faces on the approach of a stranger, leaving only a small opening for the eyes. The language of the Affghauns

is Persian, but that of the common people is Pushtoo, for which they have no written characters; all their literary works, principally on scientific subjects, being written in Persian.

Their religion is Soonnee Mahommedan, that sect who contend that the lawful succession to Mahommed, rested in the four Imaums, Aboobeker, Othmar, Omar and Ali, while the Sheeahs, as strenuously maintain that Ali alone, as the nephew and son-in-law of the prophet, had that right; and many of them perform the pilgrimage to Mecca; they tolerate other sects, but abhor idolators, though, from their natural hospitality of disposition, they overcome their repugnance sufficiently to treat them with attention and kindness. Like all good Mussulmans, they abstain from intoxicating liquors, but they indulge in a spirit distilled and sold by the Armenians. No such thing as a man reeling in the street, from the effect of liquor, is ever seen.

The climate of the city of Caubul is much milder than that of Ghuznee, from its being nearly surrounded by mountains. The temperature of its winter months is very similar to that of England, but much more uniform; the summer, however, is considerably hotter; a stranger is struck by the suddenness with which the seasons change, when in less than a fortnight woollen dresses and sheep skin wrappers are seen discarded for chintz or muslin. These variations are favourable to the growth of almost every fruit to be found in Europe, from the acid gooseberry, called there Tamertunga, of the north, to the sweet melting peach and juicy grape of the south.

The awful peals of thunder and vivid forked lightning which accompany the south west monsoon during the rainy season in Affghaunistān, are not, however, so fearful as in the south of India. These prevail for some days after, whilst the whole face of nature is changed as if by magic. Before the rains commence, the fields are dry and parched up, with scarcely a blade of grass visible, but when the first outburst of the storm is over, every patch of ground is speedily covered with a luxuriant verdure; for a month or two after which the ground is continually supplied with genial and refreshing showers. The pestilential Simoon is known and dreaded in the valley of the Caubul river, and though blowing only for a few minutes, the luckless traveller, whom it overtakes, perishes almost to a certainty beneath its influence; a speedy immersion in water or prostration beneath a covering, however thin, affording his only chance of escape, from its deleterious effects on the human body. Animals are effected by it even to madness, and whatever teems with life is blasted in its course.

The general law of the Affghauns is the Koran, and minor offences are decided by the Jeerga or chief of the district; all penalties are fixed and invariably include a public and humble apology. Criminal trials are conducted before a court of experienced persons, formed of the upper and inferior classes, and in cases of great turpitude, a certain number of young women, from the family of the offender, are given in marriage to the person aggrieved and his relations. According to the Honourable Mount-Stuart Elphinstone. "Among the western

tribes of Affghauns, a murder is expiated by giving twelve young women in marriage, six with portions and six without; the portion of each among the common people is sixty rupees (£7. 10. 0) partly to be paid in goods."

"For cutting off a hand, an ear, or a nose they give six women; for breaking a tooth, three women; for a wound above the forehead (unless it takes a year to heal) or any other small offence, is expiated by apologies and submission."

"Among the eastern Affghauns, fewer young women are given and more money; on the whole the penalty is lighter; there are equivalents for the women fixed in money, which the person to whom compensation is awarded may take if he pleases." The Affghauns purchase their wives, consequently they are considered as property. A female is marriageable at sixteen, a male at twenty years of age. A man can divorce his wife without assigning any reason, but a wife cannot divorce her husband.

Shah Shooja ool Moolk, the present King of Affghaunistān, is of the Douraunee tribe, one of the most distinguished of the nation. A consciousness of superiority, combined with a sense of national dignity, courage and elevation of character, have raised them above the rest of their countrymen in the scale of civilization. His Majesty is a handsome man, of good height, with a large thick beard; his complexion is dark, and the expression of his countenance is benevolent; he is gentle and dignified in his manners, particularly to the English, to many of whom he is much attached. Shah Shooja lost his kingdom in 1809, at Neemla, in a battle against Futteh Khan, the Vizier of Mahommed, and to the army of the Indus he is indebted for its recovery after thirty years exile in a province of British India.

When the camp broke up after the storming of Ghuznee, Shah Shooja accompanied the army on its march to Caubul. Whilst *en route*, intelligence was received that Dost Mahommed had advanced from Caubul to Urghundee Bala; but that many of his troops together with such Kuzzilbāshes as had joined his standard, having manifested a disposition to desert, the Ameer had addressed them with the Koran in his hand, imploring them, by that holy book, not to submit their allegiance to one who would fill their land with Feringees, (as Europeans are called.) On finding, however, his exhortations were without effect, he had formally disbanded them; and, with a small force that remained faithful, fled with his family into Koondooz, leaving his artillery behind.

On the 27th of August, his Majesty Shah Shooja, made his solemn entry into his capital; being escorted by some squadrons of European and native cavalry, to his palace in the Bala Hissar, and accompanied by Sir John Keane, the commander-in-chief, together with the principal officers of the staff of both presidencies. He was not greeted vociferously by the multitude, but the expression upon the countenances of the thousands present, sufficiently demonstrated a feeling of satisfaction, if not of affection. On entering the interior of the Bala Hissar after so long an absence, amidst the triumphant firing of the troops without, which was kept up until his Majesty had gained the palace, he seemed

completely overpowered by sensations of pleasure and excitement at such a termination of his long years of suffering and exile.

In the early part of 1840, Dost Mahommed again collected a force of about four thousand men and gave battle; he was defeated at Purwan Durra, when, having fled from the field of battle, he the next day surrendered himself at Caubul to the British Envoy, Sir William McNaughten, at the court of Shah Shooja: the surrender of this pretender has fully established the latter on his throne, having been sent under escort to British India, together with his son Mahommed Hyder, who was made prisoner at Ghuznee, and has been allowed to join him.

PART OF JUBBUR KHAN'S HOUSE, NEAR CAUBUL

NUWAB JUBBAR KHAN'S HOUSE.

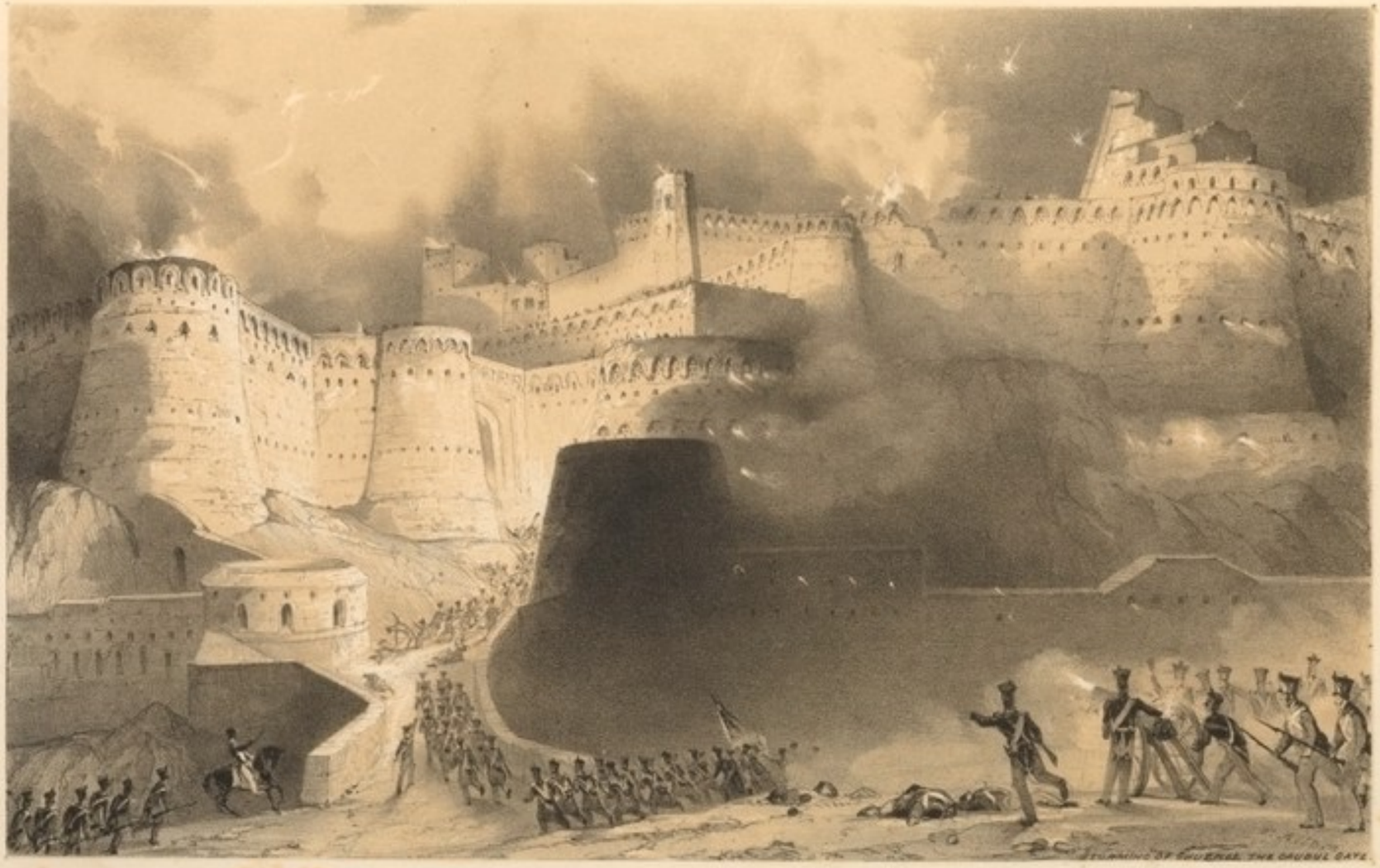
Our English word Nabob, applied to a rich Indian, is only a corruption of the word Nuwab, which is a title and appellation of distinction.

Nuwab Jubbar Khan is brother of the Ameer Dost Mohammed, and was once governor of Cashmeer; he is much beloved at Caubul, is hospitable, sincere and frank, and withal a great admirer of everything English. He arrived at Ghuznee during its occupation by the British force, with offers of submission from Dost Mohammed to Shah Shooja, expressive of his willingness to cede to him all right to the city of Caubul, on condition that he should not be compelled to remain in a British province under surveillance, maintaining at the same time, his indefeasable right to the hereditary office of Wuzeer as head of the Barrukzyes. It being impossible to entertain such a proposition, the old man, in his bluntness, expressed great indignation at the rejection of what he regarded as but just and righteous. Jubbar Khan's house is within a mile of Caubul, and forms three sides of a square court yard, with the customary flat roof which prevails throughout the city. The front of the house is plaster, painted with curious devices; it contains some forty or fifty apartments singularly furnished, and may be considered a fair specimen of those belonging to persons of distinction in Caubul.

RUINED TOWER ON THE RIVER

MAIDAUM.

Maidaum, so called from the Persian, implying a "plain or parade," is situated about twenty-five miles from Caubul, and ten from Urghundee, the spot chosen by Dost Mohammed when he intended to dispute the progress of the army of the Indus, being shut in on both sides by lofty rocks. There are, in the valley, scattered mud-forts and small villages, and the country is interspersed with groves of luxuriant trees, amongst which, the white poplar is most conspicuous. Fruit is very abundant at Maidaum, particularly the pear, which is of exceedingly fine quality, both in flavour and size. The army was encamped at this place, and found it, after so long and fatiguing a march, a perfect paradise.



GHUZNEE.

The town and fortress of Ghuznee stand upon a hill of moderate height, on one side of which runs a small river: it is surrounded by a rampart 35 feet high, flanked by numerous towers, with a *fausse braye* and wet ditch. The town contains about fifteen hundred houses, and is situated in the very heart of the kingdom of Caubul, having been partly built on the site of the capital of a powerful empire, which extended from the Ganges to the middle of Persia. In its vicinity are many flourishing villages, with a multiplicity of gardens and orchards abounding in almost every variety of European fruits and vegetables. Its ancient name was Medineh or the City, and Dar-al-Islam, (the seat of the true faith,) it contained at that period many palaces, with other magnificent structures, and was strongly fortified. Having been taken by Mohammed, afterwards called "of Ghuznee" the city was burned, in revenge for persecutions to which his family had been subjected; after which, having established himself on its ruins, he gradually extended his power by the conquest of surrounding states, and founded eventually the kingdom of Caubul.

The tomb of this conqueror still exists near Ghuznee. It is a large unadorned building, which stands in a court yard, surrounded by mud walls, and is surmounted by a dome. In the apartments connected with the building are many remarkable sculptures in stone, of lions, tigers, &c.; and on the marble sarcophagus, in which were deposited the remains of the conqueror, are sculptured passages from the Koran, with divers other Arabic inscriptions. The ponderous mace of the Iconoclast of Indian history still remains, a memorial of his prowess, deposited at the head of his tomb.

The climate of Ghuznee is so cold as to have become proverbial among the Affghans; the snow lying for many weeks upon the ground during winter even within the city; but in summer, the temperature is extremely hot, its vegetation being very similar to that of England.

After a most fatiguing march from Kandahar, the army of the Indus, commanded by his Excellency Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Keane, and accompanied by Shah Shooja ool Moolk, the dethroned monarch of the country, arrived before Ghuznee on the 21st. July 1839.

The fortress was in possession of Mohammed Hyder Khan, son of the Ameer of Caubul at the head of a garrison, consisting of between three and four thousand troops, about fifteen hundred of which were well mounted cavalry, and a most brilliant plan of attack was immediately formed by the commander-in-chief, Sir John, now Lord Keane, the success of which was as perfect as its conception was brilliant and its execution daring. The fortress was reconnoitred on the 22nd, and general orders for the attack were immediately issued. About two o'clock in the morning of the 23rd. the artillery, under the command of Brigadier Stevenson, were placed in position on some well chosen hills which commanded the citadel, and a brisk cannonading immediately commenced. The cavalry, consisting of two brigades, one H.M. 4th. light dragoons, and 1st. Bombay light cavalry, commanded by Brigadier Scott, the other H.M. 16th. lancers and 2nd. and 3rd. regiments of Bengal light cavalry, commanded by Brigadier Persse formed a cordon round the northern face of the fortress. The besieged Khan without loss of time brought all his disposable guns to bear upon this position, whilst the camel battery of nine pounders opened their fire within two hundred and fifty yards of the walls. During this operation, and whilst the attention of the enemy was directed to the artillery, Captain Thomson, with the officers and men of the engineering corps, made his way down with nine hundred pounds of powder in bags to the north or Caubul gate, against which, having piled the powder, attached the hose, and fired the train, he withdrew to the best cover within reach. The terrific explosion which almost immediately followed, effectually burst open the gate, rending asunder its massive masonry, and scattering its fragments in such a manner as still partially to block up all access to the interior. The storming party, however, consisting of four companies, under Lieut.-Col. Dennie, rushed to the narrow opening; upon gaining which, they found themselves engaged, hand to hand, with the Affghāns, through whom a passage was soon forced, when the first glimmering of daylight appearing, it was evident that they were in possession of the fortress, and their success was intimated by hearty cheers of triumph to their companions in arms. Meanwhile, a false rumour had prevailed amidst the confusion which took place on firing the train, that the attack had failed, and the then Brigadier Sale, commanding the reinforcements, in the full conviction of its truth, had sounded a retreat, and the troops were in the act of retiring, when the reiterated shouts of their comrades recalled the supporting columns, consisting of skirmishers of H.M. 2nd. 13th. and 17th. Bengal European, these promptly advancing, again reached the gates just in time to meet the rush of fugitives who were escaping from the fire and bayonets of the party within.

Desperate at finding their escape opposed by the Queen's 17th. this dense body of Affghāns threw themselves with fury on their enemies, when a severe struggle took place, during which Brigadier Sale received a severe wound on the face from a sabre; when, closing with his antagonist, both lost their footing and rolled over together. In

this extremity the Brigadier recognized Captain Kershaw of the 13th. light infantry, who at that moment, came up, and having made his situation known to him was speedily relieved by the Captain passing his sword through the body of the frantic Affghân, the Brigadier, at the same moment, cleaving his skull. The opportune arrival of Colonel Croker with some companies of H.M. 17th. regiment was immediately followed by that of the reserve, consisting of parts of the 16th. 35th. and 48th. regiments, commanded by Sir Willoughby Cotton. It was expected that the citadel would have been strongly contested, but on the arrival of this force at its gates, they were found to offer but a feeble resistance, and in a few minutes the British standard was floating on its walls. The cavalry were sent in pursuit, and succeeded in killing and capturing a considerable number of the enemy who were escaping.

Thus fell, in little more than two hours, the fortress of Ghuznee. The whole of the British troops employed on the service amounted to about four thousand four hundred: of the enemy, upwards of eight hundred were slain and near fifteen hundred made prisoners. Numerous horses, camels and mules were captured, but no valuable booty was obtained. Mohammed Hyder, son of Dost Mohammed, was found by Captain Taylor concealed with about twenty followers in a tower near the Kandahar gate; he is a stout and rather good looking young man, and was conveyed to the presence of Shah Shoojah, his pardon having been previously assured to him by the commander-in-chief. He was released after the interview, but placed under surveillance. Brigadier Scott picked up in the fortress, a cartridge of French manufacture, with the word "Paris" upon it, together with some of Russian manufacture. Ghuznee is one of the strongest fortresses in Western Asia, and its capture is unquestionably one of the most important and brilliant of our recent military operations, alike honourable to the genius and skill with which the plan of attack was conceived, and to the fearless intrepidity displayed in its execution.

The vignette to the title page of this work is a correct representation of the great gun of Ghuznee, the length of which is ten feet nine inches, with a calibre of eight inches, carrying balls of sixty pounds weight. The Affghâns attached vast importance to this unwieldy piece of ordnance, very disproportionate to the injury it was capable of inflicting; for though they contrived to fire it several times during the preparations for the attack, the only effects resulting from the discharge were the overturning of a tent, the wounding a Bengal artillery man, and the death of a horse, scarcely sufficient to compensate for the ammunition expended. Sir John Keane contemplated sending this gun as a curiosity to England, but its great weight, together with the badness of the roads to the Indus, determined him on abandoning the intention.

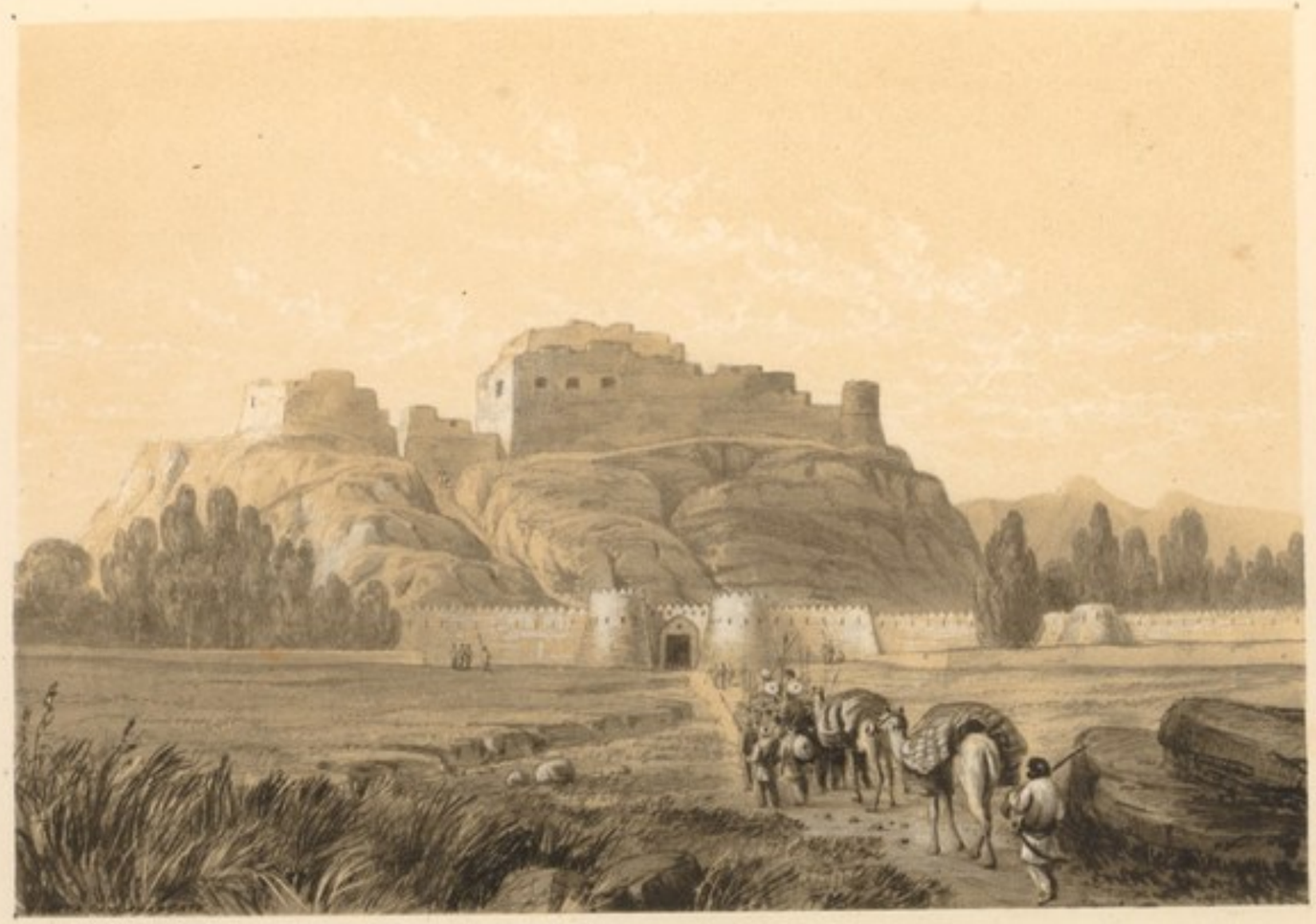
Near the fortress of Ghuznee are the two celebrated minarets of the ancient city; they are hexagon pillars projecting at the angles, and built of brick, about one

hundred feet high and twelve in diameter at the base, gradually diminishing to above half their height, whence rises a circular column, terminating in the Muezzim's gallery. They are about four hundred yards apart, and according to tradition, marked the extremities of the ancient bazaar.

The Minarets of Ghuznee.

ABDOOL RAHMUN'S FORT.

Abdool Rahmun Khan was one of the refractory Ghiljee chiefs, and was formally deposed by His Majesty, Shah Shooja. He endeavoured to open a negociation with the British military commander; but as the Shah had been peremptory in his deposition, no terms could be listened to, and he was warned that he would always be regarded as an enemy if he kept the field. Abdool Rahmun's fort was at Killa-i-Murgha; it was well-constructed, possessed a lofty citadel, and was surrounded by a ditch. On the approach of the British force, under the command of Captain Outram, he sent off most of his women and all his valuables, keeping about eighty horsemen with him, in expectation of being joined by the Khan of the Turkees, who, unknown to him, was in the interest of the Shah. In the dusk of the evening, after having seen his *faithful* ally enter, with his followers, the British camp, he mounted his horse, and with three of his wives and his sister, followed by his troops, dashed through the piquets which surrounded his fort, and escaped. The next morning, this fort, which had withstood two unsuccessful sieges, by Shah Shooja, during his former brief sovereignty, was undermined and completely demolished.



KWETTAH.

Kwettah, the capital of the Beloochie province of Shawl, is a small town, surrounded by a wall of mud; the houses are built of the same material, and are but few in number, the population being poor and inconsiderable. In the centre, is the citadel, which is the residence of the Governor: it is built upon an elevation, overlooking the town, which may be about four hundred yards across. There are four gates in the wall surrounding it, which open on to a very luxuriant part of the valley. The situation of Kwettah, from its proximity to the mountains, is grand and striking. It was from this part of the valley, during its occupation by the Bengal column of the army, that the Kakur freebooters carried off about fifty of the commissariat camels; they were pursued by a party of troops of the 2nd. Light Cavalry, and a company of native infantry, but without success, as the booty had been driven into the mountains, and no trace of them could be discovered. They afterwards made another successful sally from their mountain fastnesses, and carried off some camels that were grazing, belonging to the troops. Sir John Keane and Shah Shooja, on their arrival, shortly afterwards, made Kwettah their head-quarters. The gardens surrounding the town are full of English flowers and fruits, and its vicinity abounds in the buttercup and cyanus, and many other varieties of English field vegetation.

KANDAHAR.

Kandahar is the western capital of Affghānistān; it is in the Douraunee country, and is built upon an extensive flat, being bounded on the west and north by rocky mountains. The town is quadrangular, and enclosed by a loop-holed mud wall, thirty feet high, with several towers, and is surrounded by a ditch. It has four large gates; one, the Caubul Gate; another, the Herat; a third, the Shikarpoor; and a fourth, the Eedgah. Kandahar was founded by Ahmed Shah, in 1753, who, from an obscure origin, rose progressively in the service of Nadir Shah, to the rank of an Affghān prince. On the northern side of the city, near the palace, stands his tomb, an imposing building, surmounted by a cupola of thirty feet in diameter, with a gallery and minarets. The interior is painted, and enriched with gilt ornaments.

The length of the town is about a mile and a half, and its breadth about a mile; the houses are low, and built of mud and wood; its streets are narrow and crooked; in the centre, towards which all the principal streets converge, is a circular space, about fifty yards in diameter, surmounted by a dome. Until the removal of the court to Caubul, by Timour Shah, its residence was Kandahar; it contains about thirty thousand inhabitants. The gardens are well cultivated, and supply fine fruit and vegetables, being well irrigated by water sources, conducted from the river. Kandahar has a high reputation for a certain description of tobacco, which cannot be grown of so fine a quality elsewhere. On the approach of Shah Shooja, the Barukzye usurpers abandoned all intention of opposition or defence, and fled towards the Persian territory, and on the 6th May, 1839, the authority of that monarch was solemnly recognized in the plains to the north of the town. On his entrance into the city, he was joyfully welcomed by multitudes; the streets and houses being thronged to see him pass to the shrine which contains the sacred shirt of the Prophet. Here thanksgivings were offered up, and Shah Shooja afterwards visited the tomb of his grandfather, whence, having prayed, he proceeded to the citadel and there remained.

KHELĀT.

Khelāt (or "the City," in the Beloochee dialect) is a town, in the Ghiljee territory, surrounded by hills, and was the residence of Mehrab Khan, chief of a clan of Ghiljees. It contains between three and four hundred houses, and is exceedingly well fortified with mud walls. The citadel, though presenting a formidable appearance, from its towering height, offered but a fruitless resistance to the science with which it was assailed. The fortifications of Khelāt were erected by Nusseer Khan Beglerbeg, in 1750, at his own expense. He formed many gardens in the valley, and stocked them with fruit trees from Caubul; he afterwards made presents of them to the most deserving people, and also gave rewards for the finest fruit, grain, &c. The *amor patriæ* Nusseer Khan possessed, was displayed in every action during his reign. On the 13th November, 1839, the Queen's Royals, H.M's. 17th. Regt., the 31st. Bengal N.I., the Bombay Engineers, and two pieces of horse artillery, under the command of Lieut.-Gen. Willshire, arrived before the town. The artillery, under the command of Brigadier Stevenson, moved towards the base of the heights near the fort, on which were posted the enemy's infantry, with five guns, and opened their fire, under cover of which the British columns moved forward for the purpose of dislodging them, exposed to a galling fire. The enemy, however, retired before the well-directed discharges of the artillery into the fort, at the N.W. entrance, or Kandahar Gate, abandoning their guns. The 17th. regiment rushed forward, in the hope of making good their entry at the same time, but the gate being closed, it was blown open by two guns, which were immediately turned upon it by Lieutenant Creed, when the advanced guard, under Lieutenaut Pennycuick, followed by the storming column, commanded by Brigadier Baumgardt, quickly forced an entrance, under a heavy fire from the works and buildings in the interior. Every inch of ground up to the base of the citadel was disputed, where, when an entry was with some difficulty made, Mehrab Khan was found surrounded by many of his chiefs, and at the head of the bravest of his followers. In the terrific struggle which ensued, Mehrab Khan fell, sword in hand, defending his fortress and home, and the British flag soon floated over the noble citadel of Khelāt. Meanwhile, part of the reserve column, a company of the 17th. regiment and 31st. Bengal N.I. had been detached to the western side of the fortress to secure its gate, and cut off any retreat; a party of the enemy were thus driven in, and the column entered. The garrison

was estimated to have consisted of about two thousand fighting men; of these, four hundred were killed, and rather more than that number taken prisoners; the British loss not exceeding thirty-two killed, and a hundred and seven wounded; the force employed having been about one thousand. The booty secured at Khelät was supposed to have been considerable.

The forces employed on this occasion having, in due time, marched into Cutch Gundava, but a small number of British troops was left to garrison the town, and for the protection of the fortress. Its quiet possession was, however, doomed not to be of long continuance, for Nusseer Khan, a lad of about fifteen years of age, and son of the late chief, having ascertained by means of spies the small number of captors remaining within its walls, at the head of a reinforcement, which arrived too late to render any assistance to his father, resolved to attempt its recapture. By the aid of the Beloochees, who quickly joined his standard, his project was attended with success, and Lieutenant Loveday, the political agent, made prisoner. Taking this officer with him, at the head of a force which had now increased to four thousand men, on the 4th November, 1840, Nusseer Khan attacked the British post at Dädur, and after sacking that town, made an unsuccessful attempt on their entrenched camp, about a mile distant. The opportune advance of a force, under Major Boscawen, compelled him to retreat; but in the pursuit, the corpse of the ill-fated Lieutenant Loveday was found chained to a kujawah, or camel chair, his head being severed from the trunk, and his only clothing, a pair of drawers. General Knott marched into Khelät without opposition, which is once more in possession of the British.

Nusseer Khan, with a host of Beloochees, fled into Lheree, when he immediately set to work to form another army; this he accomplished in a few weeks, and with four thousand men under his command, took up a position at Koika, in the Hill Country, where he was attacked by nine hundred sepoys, sixty irregular cavalry, and two field pieces, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Marshall. The position chosen was very strong, but the sepoys behaved with great bravery, exposing themselves in the most fearless manner, and cheering each other on. In spite of the difficulties of the ground, which was intersected by gullies, ravines and scarps, having driven the enemy up a hill, which they crowned, waving their flags, they were compelled to sue for quarter, which they did with the Koran on their heads, when about one hundred and fifty were taken prisoners, Nusseer Khan, with two followers, escaping by climbing over a lofty hill. The sketch from which the accompanying drawing is made, was taken by an officer of Engineers.

MOUNTAINS AT KIRTA, NEAR GURM AUD, BOLAN PASS

HONOYE, BOLAN PASS

THE BOLĀN PASS.

The entrance to this important pass, is about half a mile wide, over a perfectly level and stony road, along the bed of the Kanhee or Bolān River, which winds through the valley, varying materially in width. On each side are mountains, partially formed of pudding-stone, of a dull brown colour, in some places full a thousand feet in height. Some parts were covered with grass alternating with high rushes and reeds, whilst others presented only a surface of absolute sterility. Near the small village of Kirta, the pass widens to an extent of three or four miles, and is in possession of a Beloochee chief, whose friendship was purchased at the cost of fifty rupees. A plunderer by habit and education, with abundant opportunities to gratify his propensity, during the passage of the army, this chief, nevertheless, religiously kept faith with his unwelcome visitors. The same slightly varied vegetation prevails, even where the pass widens to the extent of five or six miles, and in many places were remarked caves formed by the Beloochee bandits, from which to watch the movements of the traveller, who, if so unfortunate as to be attacked, scarcely ever escapes with life. The Siri Bolān, or head of the Bolān stream, is near the termination of the pass, beyond which is the mouth of a most picturesque defile, overhung by dark and rugged cliffs. The pass then spreads out into a much wider space, covered with southernwood, when narrowing again, after a further march of about two miles, its gorge opens on to a barren plain in Affghānistān. The army was eight days crossing the pass, its length being eighty-three miles.

DADUR

DĀDUR.

Dādur is a Beloochee town, situate in a valley, near the entrance to the Bolān Pass; it contains about fifteen hundred houses and four thousand inhabitants. The plains are well cultivated, but foliage is very scanty, the place being proverbial for its excessive heat. The very characteristic tomb of an opulent native, who was murdered in the defiles of the Bolān Pass, is an attractive object on approaching the town. It was this town which was sacked by Nusser Khan, whilst the British forces were in their entrenched camp, at about a mile distance.

HAJEE KA TAU, AN ISLAND JUST ABOVE THE FORT OF BUKHUR, ON THE INDUS.

BUKKUR.

The fort of Bukkur is built upon a rocky (limestone) island, in the Indus; it is about eight hundred yards long, and three hundred broad, and is situate between Roree and Sukkur. The walls of the fortress enclose the island, and slope to the water's edge, excepting on the northern side, where there is a small space nearly covered with date trees. There is a gateway on each side, opposite to Roree and Sukkur, and in the interior, numerous houses and mosques. This fort was given up to the British by the Ameer of Khyrpoor, Meer Roostum, after a lengthened and difficult negociation, conducted by Sir Alexander Burnes, who had been munificently entertained by him in 1831, on his way to Lahore, with presents to Runjeet Singh, from the King of England. By the arrangement entered into with that officer, it was agreed that the fort should remain in the occupation of the British, so long as the character of our external relations to the westward rendered it necessary for the general security. It was made the general depôt of the army of the Indus, in consequence of its important situation. The natives of this part of the river employ a singular and peculiar method for catching a fish, called the pulla, which abounds at certain seasons of the year. This fish is held in high estimation, and is caught by men, women, and children, who float horizontally upon a large earthen jar, which they steer with their hands, in the manner of a swimmer, propelling the vessel by their legs and feet. Furnished with a net, attached to a pole, they glide over the surface of the stream, and when the prey is netted and speared, it is placed in the jar on which they float. Similar means are sometimes employed by them to push a boat or small canoe, which they do with their hands, whilst with their legs and feet they paddle themselves along.

ROREE.

Roree is a town of importance on the left or western bank of the Indus, opposite to the island of Bukkur. It is built on a precipice of Limestone, ten or twelve yards high; the situation is extremely picturesque and romantic, with its houses towering over the river. Roree contains about eight thousand inhabitants, and the environs are richly cultivated. A road on the face of the rock is cut down to the water's edge, from which persons embark for Bukkur. On the south side of the town is a large grove of date trees, and the grape, orange and pomegranate, abound in its gardens and orchards, whilst the tamarisk flourishes most luxuriantly in its neighbourhood.

SUKKUR.

Opposite to Roree, on the right or western bank of the Indus, is Sukkur, a ruinous town, in which are many dilapidated mosques and minarets, indicating it to have been once a rich and populous place, and of considerable importance. It is now but thinly inhabited, containing not more than twelve hundred Scindians; its fort is about eight hundred yards long, and three hundred broad. Depending more on the rapidity of the stream for security than on any natural or artificial strength; it is necessarily weak and unimportant.

A RUINED GATEWAY OF THE ANCIENT FORTRESS OF SERWATIN

SEHWAUN.

The town of Sehwaun is near the Lukkee mountains; it contains about ten thousand inhabitants, and stands upon rising ground on the River Arul, a branch (so called) of the Indus which runs from Larkhanu. Sehwaun is of great antiquity, and was both wealthy and magnificent in the days of the Mogul splendour, at which time it was the residence of a governor who held his court there. There are many mosques and tombs surrounding Sehwaun, several of which are very ancient and curious; it is celebrated for the tomb of a saint of Khorassan named Lal Shah Baz, who was interred there about six hundred years since. The shrine is in the centre of the town; it is beautifully ornamented with blue painted slabs, and is placed under a lofty dome at one extremity of a quadrangular building. A pall of gold and others of red silk are hung over the sepulchre, on the walls surrounding which are extracts from the Koran, and in large Arabic characters the praises of the saint. Pilgrims by thousands flock to the consecrated spot, and the Kings of Caubul and India have often visited the shrine. It has a handsome silver gate, which was a gift of devotion by a Scindian Ameer. On the north side of the town is the ruined castle or fortress of Sehwaun, by which it is completely commanded; this is perhaps the most extraordinary building on the Indus, and no doubt existed before the invasion by Alexander the Macedonian. It consists of a natural mound sixty feet high, encased in many parts with burnt brick. In fact, the fortress and mount are so amalgamated, that it is difficult now to distinguish what portions of it are the work of art. The gate is opposite to the side of the town, and has evidently been an arched one. The Emperor Humaioon A.D. 1541, attempted to take it, and was unsuccessful, it was invested by his son Acbar for seven months, who at length succeeded in its capture.

TOMB NEAR TATTA

TATTA.

Tatta was formerly the capital of Scinde, and is supposed to be the Pattala of the Greeks; it is six miles in circumference, and lies in a low flat plain, about four miles distant from the River Scinde or Indus, above which it is slightly elevated, being built on a mound formed probably of the débris of the ancient city. It was once splendid, rich and populous, but is now a mere ruin, with its trade destroyed by the policy of its governors. Few vestiges of its former grandeur remain; but the most prominent is a mosque, erected by Shah Jehan, built of brick, but now in a very ruinous condition, and a cemetery of six square miles in extent. The present town contains about two thousand inhabitants; its streets are winding, intricate and narrow; its houses are built of wood with brick basements, and are all lofty and flat roofed, with terraces upon which the inhabitants enjoy themselves and pass most of their leisure hours. Amongst the most thriving of the products of the vicinity of Tatta, are the grape, the pomegranate, the fig-tree, the apple, &c. &c., its hares and partridges are numberless.

About a mile westward of the house is a low range of stony hills which are covered with tombs and Mohammedan remains. Some of the tombs are in tolerable preservation, the domes being covered with glazed tiles and bricks, the colours of which are dazzling to the eye from their variety and brightness.

The tomb here delineated, is one near the city, and the largest and most conspicuous for its architecture. Upon its dome, which is ornamented with enamelled tiles of beautiful green, purple and blue colours, are inscribed numerous passages from the Koran and various epitaphs, in Persian, are scattered over various parts. Nadir Shah, on his return from Delhi, visited Tatta in 1742, and an anecdote is related of his having ordered the governor of the province, Meer Noor Mohammed into his presence, who came with his turban round his neck, a wisp of hay in his mouth, and his feet covered, all customary tokens of submission. Nadir Shah asked him if he had a well full of gold; the governor laconically replied, "Not one but two." Nadir then asked if he had the Lal, a celebrated large ruby; the governor made the same answer as before. The King threw up his handkerchief and inquired what he saw on looking at it, the reply was, "Nothing, but troops and arms." Then, said Nadir, "Produce your gold and rubies." The governor called for a very large basket, made in divisions, and used for holding grain and flour,

which he caused to be filled and placed on his right hand; he next ordered a skin of ghee or clarified butter to be put on his left, and said to the Shah, "I am a cultivator of the soil, and these are my gold and rubies, in which I shall not fail you." The King was pleased with his frankness, and bestowed on him an honorary dress. The Governor afterwards entertained the whole army, exceeding five hundred thousand people, for sixteen days, in the most princely manner.

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