



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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*India Board, October 30, 1839.*

**D**ISPATCHES have been received at the East India-house, from the Governor General of India, dated at Simla, the 22d of August 1839; and from the Governor in Council of Bombay, dated the 12th of September; of which the following are extracts:

*From the Governor General.*

I FORWARD, with feelings of the highest satisfaction, the intelligence of the storm and capture of the important fortress of Ghuznee, by the British army, under the command of his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane.

The judgment, skill, and gallantry by which this great success was accomplished, is most honourable to the brave men of all ranks engaged in the action; and I cannot doubt, that their conduct will be honourably and warmly acknowledged.

*From Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane to the Governor-General of India, dated Head Quarters, Camp, Ghuznee, July 24, 1839.*

I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that the army under my command have succeeded in performing one of the most brilliant acts it has ever been my lot to witness, during my service of forty-five years, in the four quarters of the globe, in the capture, by storm, of the strong and important fortress and citadel of Ghuznee, yesterday.

It is not only that the Afghan nation, and I understand, Asia generally, have looked upon it as impregnable, but it is in reality a place of great strength, both by nature and art, far more so than

I had reason to suppose from any descriptions that I had received of it, although some are from Officers in our own service, who had seen it in their travels.

I was surprised to find a high rampart in good repair, built on a scarped mound, about thirty-five high, flanked by numerous towers, and surrounded by a *fausse braie* and a wet ditch, whilst the height of the citadel covered the interior from the commanding fire of the hills from the north, rendering it nugatory. In addition to this, screen walls had been built before the gates, the ditch was filled with water, and unfordable, and an outwork built on the right bank of the river, so as to command the bed of it.

It is, therefore, the more honourable to the troops, and must appear to the enemy out of all calculation extraordinary, that a fortress and citadel, to the strength of which, for the last thirty years, they had been adding something each year, and which had a garrison of three thousand five hundred Afghan soldiers, commanded by Prince Mahomed Hyder, the son of Dost Mahomed Khan, the Ruler of the country, with a commanding number of guns, and abundance of ammunition and other stores, provisions, &c. for a regular siege, should have been taken by British science and British valour, in less than two hours from the time the attack was made; and the whole, including the Governor and garrison, should fall into our hands.

My dispatch of the 20th instant, from Nanee, will have made known to your Lordship, that the camps of His Majesty Shah Shooja-ool Moolk, and of Major-General Willshire with the Bombay troops, had there joined me, in accordance with my desire; and the following morning we made our

march of twelve miles to Ghuznee, the line of march being over a fine plain; the troops were disposed in a manner that would have enabled me at any moment had we been attacked, as was probable from the large bodies of troops moving on each side of us, to have placed them in position to receive the enemy; they did not, however, appear, but on our coming within range of the guns of the citadel and fortress of Ghuznee, a sharp cannonade was opened on our leading column, together with a heavy fire of musquetry from behind garden walls, and temporary field works thrown up, as well as the strong out-work I have already alluded to, which commanded the bed of the river. From all but the out-work, the enemy were driven in, under the walls of the fort in a spirited manner by parties, thrown forward by Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton, of the 16th and 48th Bengal Native Infantry, and Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry, under Brigadier Sale. I ordered forward three troops of horse artillery, the camel battery, and one foot battery to open upon the citadel and fortress by throwing Shrapnell shells, which was done in a masterly style, under the direction of Brigadier Stevenson; my object in this was, to make the enemy show their strength in guns, and in other respects, which completely succeeded; and our shells must have done great execution, and occasioned great consternation. Being perfectly satisfied on the point of their strength, in the course of half an hour, I ordered the fire to cease, and placed the troops in bivouac. A close reconnoissance of the place all round was then undertaken by Captain Thomson, the Chief Engineer, and Captain Peat, of the Bombay Engineers, accompanied by Major Garden, the Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Bengal Army, supported by a strong party of Her Majesty's 16th lancers, and one from Her Majesty's 13th light infantry. On this party a steady fire was kept up, and some casualties occurred. Captain Thomson's report was very clear; he found the fortifications equally strong all round; and as my own opinion coincided with his, I did not hesitate a moment as to the manner in which our approach and attack upon the place should be made. Notwithstanding the march the troops had performed in the morning, and their having been a considerable time engaged with the enemy, I ordered the whole to move across the river (which runs close under the fort walls) in columns to the right and left of the town, and they were placed in position on the north side on more commanding ground, and securing the Cabool road. I had information that a night attack upon the camp was intended, from without. Mahomed Ubzul Khan, the eldest son of Dost Mahomed Khan, had been sent by his father with a strong body of troops, from Cabool, to the brother's assistance at Ghuznee, and was encamped outside the walls, but abandoned his position on our approach, keeping, however, at the distance of a few miles from us. The two rebel chiefs of the Ghilzye tribe, men of great influence, viz., Abdool Rhuman and Gool Mahomed Khan, had joined him with one thousand five hundred horse, and also a body of about three thousand Ghazees, from Zeinat, under a mixture of chiefs and moollahs, carrying banners, and who had been assembled on the cry of a religious war. In

short we were in all directions surrounded by enemies. These last actually came down the hills on the 22d, and attacked the part of the camp occupied by His Majesty Shah Shooja and his own troops, but were driven back with considerable loss, and banners taken.

At day light on the 22d, I reconnoitred Ghuznee, in company with the Chief Engineer and the Brigadier commanding the Artillery, with the Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of the Bengal army, for the purpose of making all arrangements for carrying the place by storm, and these were completed in the course of the day. Instead of the tedious process of breaching (for which we were ill prepared), Captain Thomson undertook, with the assistance of Captain Peat, of the Bombay Engineers, Lieutenants Durand and Macleod of the Bengal Engineers, and other officers under him (Captain Thomson), to blow in the Cabool-gate (the weakest point) with gunpowder; and so much faith did I place on the success of this operation, that my plans for the assault were immediately laid down, and the orders given.

The different troops of horse artillery, the camel and foot batteries moved off their ground at twelve o'clock that night, without the slightest noise, as had been directed, and in the most correct manner took up the position assigned them, about two hundred and fifty yards from the walls. In like manner, and with the same silence, the infantry soon after moved from their ground, and all were at their post at the proper time. A few minutes before three o'clock in the morning, the explosion took place, and proved completely successful. Captain Peat, of the Bombay engineers, was thrown down and stunned by it, but shortly afterwards recovered his senses and feeling. On hearing the advance sounded by the bugles (being the signal for the gate having been blown in), the artillery, under the able directions of Brigadier Stevenson, consisting of Captain Grant's troop of Bengal horse artillery, the camel battery, under Captain Abbott, both superintended by Major Few, Captains Martin and Cotgrave's troop of Bombay horse artillery, and Captain Lloyd's battery of Bombay foot artillery, all opened a terrific fire upon the citadel and ramparts of the fort, and in a certain degree paralyzed the enemy.

Under the guidance of Captain Thomson, of the Bengal Engineers, the chief of the department, Colonel Dennie, of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, commanding the advance, consisting of the light companies of Her Majesty's 2d and 17th foot, and of the Bengal European regiment, with one company of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, proceeded to the gate, and with great difficulty, from the rubbish thrown down, and the determined opposition offered by the enemy, effected an entrance, and established themselves within the gateway, closely followed by the main column, led in a spirit of great gallantry by Brigadier Sale, to whom I had entrusted the important post of commanding the storming party, consisting (with the advance above mentioned) of Her Majesty's 2d foot, under Major Carruthers, the Bengal European regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Orchard, followed by Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, under Major Tronson, and Her Majesty's 17th regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Croker. The struggle within the fort was

desperate for a considerable time. In addition to the heavy fire kept up, our troops were assailed by the enemy sword in hand, and with daggers, pistols, &c. but British courage, perseverance, and fortitude overcame all opposition; and the fire of the enemy in the lower area of the fort, being nearly silenced, Brigadier Sale turned towards the citadel, from which could now be seen men abandoning their guns running in all directions, throwing themselves down from immense heights, endeavouring to make their escape, and on reaching the gate with Her Majesty's 17th, under Lieutenant Colonel Croker, followed by the 13th, forced it open; at five o'clock in the morning the colours of Her Majesty's 13th and 17th were planted on the citadel of Ghuznee, amidst the cheers of all ranks. Instant protection was granted to the women found in the citadel (among whom were those of Mahomed Hyder, the Governor), and sentries placed over the magazine for its security. Brigadier Sale reports having received much assistance from Captain Kershaw; of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, throughout the whole of the service of the storming.

Major-General Sir Willoughby Cotton executed, in a manner much to my satisfaction, the orders he had received. The Major-General followed closely the assaulting party into the fort with the reserve, namely, Brigadier Roberts with the only available regiment of his brigade, the 35th native infantry, under Lieutenant Colonel Monteath; part of Brigadier Sale's brigade, the 16th native infantry, under Major Maclaren, and 48th native infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wheeler, and they immediately occupied the ramparts, putting down opposition whenever they met any, and making prisoners, until the place was completely in our possession. A desultory fire was kept up in the town long after the citadel was in our hands, from those who had taken shelter in houses, and in desperation kept firing on all that approached them. In this way several of our men were wounded, and some killed; but the aggressors paid dearly for their bad conduct in not surrendering when the place was completely ours. I must not omit to mention that three companies of the 35th native infantry, under Captain Hay, ordered to the south side of the fort to begin with a false attack, to attract attention to that side, performed that service at the proper time, and greatly to my satisfaction.

As we were threatened with an attack for the relief of the garrison, I ordered the 19th Bombay native infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Stalker, to guard the Cabool road, and to be in support of the cavalry division. This might have proved an important position to occupy, but as it was, no enemy appeared.

The cavalry division under Major General Thackwell, in addition to watching the approach of an enemy, had directions to surround Ghuznee, and to sweep the plain, preventing the escape of the runaways from the garrison. Brigadier Arnold's brigade (the Brigadier himself, I deeply regret to say, was labouring under very severe illness, having shortly before burst a blood vessel internally, which rendered it wholly impossible for him to mount a horse that day), consisting of Her Majesty's 16th lancers, under Lieutenant Colonel Perse momentarily commanding the

brigade, and Major McDowell, the junior Major of the regiment (the senior Major of the 16th lancers, Major Cureton, an officer of great merit, being actively engaged in the execution of his duties as Assistant Adjutant General to the cavalry division), the 2nd cavalry under Major Alter, and the 3rd under Lieutenant Colonel Smith, were ordered to watch the south and west sides. Brigadier Scott's brigade was placed on the Cabool road, consisting of Her Majesty's 4th light dragoons under Major Daly, and of the 1st Bombay cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Sandwith, to watch the north and east sides. This duty was performed in a manner greatly to my satisfaction.

After the storming, and that quiet was in some degree restored within, I conducted His Majesty Shah Shooja ool Moolk, and the British envoy and minister Mr. Macnaghten round the citadel, and a great part of the fortress. The king was perfectly astonished at our having made ourselves masters of a place conceived to be impregnable, when defended, in the short space of two hours, and in less than forty eight hours after we came before it. His Majesty was of course greatly delighted at the result. When I afterwards, in the course of the day, took Mahomed Hyder Khan, the Governor, first to the British Minister, and then to the King to make his submission, I informed His Majesty that I had made a promise that his life should not be touched, and the King in very handsome terms assented, and informed Mahomed Hyder in my presence, that although he and his family had been rebels, yet he was willing to forget and forgive all.

Prince Mahomed Hyder, the Governor of Ghuznee, is a prisoner of war in my camp, and under the surveillance of Sir Alexander Burnes, an arrangement very agreeable to the former.

From Major General Sir Willoughby Cotton, commanding the first infantry division (of the Bengal army) I have invariably received the strongest support, and on this occasion his exertions were manifest in support of the honour of the profession and of our country.

I have likewise at all times received able assistance from Major-General Willshire, commanding the 2d infantry division of the Bombay army, which it was found expedient on that day to break up, some for the storming party, and some for other duties; the Major-General, as directed, was in attendance on myself.

To Brigadier Sale I feel deeply indebted for the gallant and soldier-like manner in which he conducted the responsible and arduous duty intrusted to him in command of the storming party, and for the arrangements he made in the citadel immediately after taking possession of it; the sabre wound which he received in the face did not prevent his continuing to direct his column until everything was secure, and I am happy in the opportunity of bringing to your Lordship's notice the excellent conduct of Brigadier Sale on this occasion.

Brigadier Stevenson, in command of the artillery, was all I could wish; and he reports that Brigade Majors Backhouse and Coghlan ably assisted him; his arrangements were good, and the execution done by the arm he commands, was such as cannot be

forgotten by those of the enemy who have witnessed and survived it.

To Brigadier Roberts, to Colonel Dennie, who commanded the advance, and to the different officers commanding regiments already mentioned, as well as to the other officers and gallant soldiers under them, who so nobly maintained the honour and reputation of our country, my best acknowledgements are due.

To Captain Thomson, of the Bengal engineers, the chief of the department with me, much of the credit of the success of this brilliant coup-de-main is due. A place of the same strength, and by such simple means as this highly talented and scientific officer recommended to be tried, has perhaps never before been taken, and I feel I cannot do sufficient justice to Captain Thomson's merits for his conduct throughout. In the execution he was ably supported by the officers already mentioned; and so eager were the other officers of the engineers of both presidencies for the honour of carrying the powder bags, that the point could only be decided by seniority, which shews the fine feeling by which they were animated.

I must now inform your Lordship, that since I joined the Bengal column in the valley of Shawl, I have continued my march with it in the advance, and it has been my good fortune to have had the assistance of two most efficient Staff Officers, in Major Craigie, Deputy Adjutant-General, and Major Garden, Deputy Quarter master General. It is but justice to those officers that I should state to your Lordship the high satisfaction I have derived from the manner in which all their duties have been performed up to this day, and that I look upon them as promising officers to fill the higher ranks. To the other officers of both departments I am also much indebted for the correct performance of all duties appertaining to their situations.

To Major Keith, the Deputy Adjutant General, and Major Campbell, the Deputy Quarter master General, of the Bombay army, and to all the other officers of both departments under them, my acknowledgments are also due, for the manner in which their duties have been performed during this campaign.

Captain Alexander, commanding the 4th Bengal local horse, and Major Cunningham, commanding the Poona auxillary horse, with the men under their orders, have been of essential service to the army in this campaign.

The arrangements made by Superintending Surgeons Kennedy and Atkinson, previous to the storming, for affording assistance and comfort to the wounded, met with my approval.

Major Parsons, the Deputy Commissary-General in charge of the department in the field, has been unremitting in his attention to keep the troops supplied, although much difficulty is experienced, and he is occasionally thwarted by the nature of the country and its inhabitants.

I have throughout this service received the utmost assistance I could derive from Lieutenant-Colonel MacDONALD, my officiating Military Secretary, and Deputy Adjutant-General of Her Majesty's Forces at Bombay, from Captain Powell, my Persian Interpreter, and the other officers of my personal Staff.

The nature of the country in which we are serving, prevents the possibility of my sending a single Staff officer to deliver this to your Lordship, otherwise I should have asked my Aid-de-Camp, Lieutenant Keane, to proceed to Simla, to deliver this dispatch into your hands, and to have afforded any further information that your Lordship could have desired.

The brilliant triumph we have obtained, the cool courage displayed, and the gallant bearing of the troops I have the honour to command, will have taught such a lesson to our enemies in the Afghan nation, as will make them hereafter respect the name of a British soldier.

Our loss is wonderfully small considering the occasion; the casualties in killed and wounded amount to about two hundred.

The loss of the enemy is immense, we have already buried of their dead nearly five hundred, together with an immense number of horses.

I enclose a list of the killed, wounded, and missing. I am happy to say that although the wounds of some of the officers are severe, they are all doing well.

It is my intention, after selecting a garrison for this place and establishing a general hospital, to continue my march to Cabool forthwith.

*List of Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Army under the Command of Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, before Ghuznee, on the 21st July 1839.*

- 2d Troop Bengal Horse Artillery—3 horses wounded.
- 3d Troop Bombay Horse Artillery—2 rank and file, 2 horses, wounded.
- 4th Troop Bombay Horse Artillery—1 horse killed.
- 2d Regt. Bengal Cavalry—1 horse killed; 1 rank and file wounded.
- 4th Bengal Local Horse—1 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.
- H. M. 13th Light Infantry—1 rank and file killed.
- 16th Bengal Native Infantry—1 captain wounded.
- 48th Bengal Native Infantry—1 lieutenant, 2 rank and file, wounded.

Total Killed—1 rank and file, 2 horses.

Total Wounded—1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 5 rank and file, 6 horses.

Total Missing—1 rank and file, 1 horse.

*Names of Officers wounded.*

- Captain Graves, 16th Bengal native infantry, severely.
- Lieutenant Vanhornrigh, 48th Bengal native infantry, slightly.

R. MACDONALD, Lieut. Col. Military Secretary, and Deputy Adjutant-General, Her Majesty's Forces Bombay.

*List of Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Army under the Command of Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, G. C. B. and G. C. H. in the Assault and Capture of the Fortress and Citadel of Ghuznee, on the 23d July 1839.*

- General Staff—1 colonel, 1 major, wounded.

3d Troop Bombay Horse Artillery—1 rank and file wounded.

4th Troop Bombay Horse Artillery—1 rank and file, 1 horse, wounded.

Bengal Engineers—3 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded; 1 rank and file missing.

Bombay Engineers—1 lieutenant, 1 rank and file, wounded.

2d Bengal Light Cavalry—1 rank and file wounded.

1st Bombay Light Cavalry—1 havildar killed; 5 rank and file, 7 horses, wounded.

H. M. 2d Foot (or Queen's Royal)—4 rank and file killed; 2 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 serjeant, 26 rank and file, wounded.

H. M. 13th Light Infantry—1 rank and file killed; 3 serjeants, 27 rank and file, wounded.

H. M. 17th Foot—6 rank and file wounded.

Bengal European Regiment—1 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 2 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 1 serjeant, 51 rank and file, wounded.

16th Bengal Native Infantry—1 havildar, 6 rank and file, wounded.

35th Bengal Native Infantry—5 rank and file killed; 1 havildar, 8 rank and file, wounded.

48th Bengal Native Infantry—2 havildars killed; 5 rank and file wounded.

Total Killed—3 serjeants or havildars, 14 rank and file.

Total Wounded—1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, 4 captains, 8 lieutenants; 2 ensigns, 7 serjeants or havildars, 140 rank and file, 8 horses.

Total Missing—1 rank and file.

Grand Total, on the 21st and 23d July, Killed, Wounded, and Missing—191 officers and men, 16 horses.

*Names of Officers killed, wounded, and missing.*

General Staff—Brigadier Sale, H. M. 13th Light Infantry, slightly; Major Parsons, Deputy Commissary-General, slightly.

Bombay Engineers—Second Lieutenant Marriott, slightly.

H. M. 2d Foot (or Queen's Royal)—Captain Raitt, slightly; Captain Robinson, severely; Lieutenant Yonge, severely; Lieutenant Stisted, slightly; Adjutant Simmou, slightly; Quartermaster Hadley, slightly.

Bengal European Regiment—Lieutenant-Colonel Orchard, slightly; Major Warren, severely; Captain Hay, slightly; Captain Taylor, slightly; Lieutenant Broadfoot, slightly; Lieutenant Haslewood, severely; Lieutenant Fagan, slightly; Lieutenant Magnay, slightly; Ensign Jacob, slightly.

R. MACDONALD, Lieut. Col. Military Secretary, and Deputy Adjutant-General, Her Majesty's Forces Bombay.

*Head Quarters, Camp Ghuznee, 23rd July 1839.*

**GENERAL ORDER,**

By his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, Commander in Chief of the army of the Indus:

Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane most heartily congratulates the army he has the honor to command on the signal triumph they have this day obtained in the capture by storm of the strong and important fortress of Ghuznee. His Excellency feels that he can hardly do justice to the gallantry of the troops.

The scientific and successful manner in which the Cabool gate (of great strength) was blown up by Captain Thomson, of the Bengal engineers, the chief of that department with this army, in which he reports having been most ably assisted by Captain Peat, of the Bombay engineers, and Lieutenants Durand and Macleod of the Bengal engineers, in the daring and dangerous enterprize of laying down powder in the face of the enemy, and the strong fire kept upon them, reflects the highest credit on their skill and cool courage; and his Excellency begs Captain Thomson, and officers named, will accept his cordial thanks. His acknowledgments are also due to the other officers of engineers of both Presidencies, and to the valuable corps of sappers and miners under them. This opening having been made, although it was a difficult one to enter by, from the rubbish in the way, the leading column, in a spirit of true gallantry, directed and led by Brigadier Sale, gained a footing inside the fortress, although opposed by the Afghan soldiers in very great strength, and in the most desperate manner, with every kind of weapon.

The advance under Lieutenant-Colonel Dennie, of Her Majesty's 13th, consisted of the light companies of Her Majesty's 2nd and 17th, and of the Bengal European regiment, with one company of Her Majesty's 13th, and the leading column, consisted of Her Majesty's 2nd Queen's, under Major Carruthers, and the Bengal European regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Orchard, followed by Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, as they collected from the duty of skirmishing, which they were directed to begin with, and by Her Majesty's 17th, under Lieutenant-Colonel Croker.

To all these officers, and to the other officers and gallant soldiers under their orders, his Excellency's best thanks are tendered, but in particular, he feels deeply indebted to Brigadier Sale for the manner in which he conducted the arduous duty intrusted to him in command of the storming party. His Excellency will not fail to bring it to the notice of his Lordship the Governor-General, and he trusts the wound which Brigadier Sale has received, is not of that severe nature long to deprive this army of his services. Brigadier Sale reports that Captain Ker-shaw of Her Majesty's 13th light infantry, rendered important assistance to him, and to the service, in the storming.

Sir John Keane was happy, on this proud occasion, to have the assistance of his old comrade Major General Sir Willoughby Cotton, who, in command of the reserve, ably executed the instructions he had received, and was at the gate ready to enter after the storming party had established themselves inside, when he moved through to sweep the ramparts, and to complete the subjugation of the place, with the 16th Bengal Native Infantry under Major Maclaren, Brigadier Roberts with the 35th Native Infantry under Lieutenant Colonel Monteath, and the

48th native Infantry under Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler. His arrangements afterwards, in continuation of those Brigadier Sale had made, for the security of the magazine and other public stores, were such as met his Excellency's high approval.

The Commander in Chief acknowledges the services rendered by Captain Hay, of the 35th native Infantry, in command of three companies of that regiment sent to the south side of the fortress to begin with a false attack, and which was executed at the proper time, and in a manner highly satisfactory to his Excellency.

Nothing could be more judicious than the manner in which Brigadier Stevenson placed the artillery in position. Captain Grant's troop of Bengal artillery, and camel battery under Captain Abbott, both superintended by Major Pew, the two troops of Bombay horse artillery, commanded by Captains Martin and Cotgrave, and Captain Lloyd's battery of Bombay foot artillery, all opened upon the citadel and fortress in a manner which shook the enemy, and did such execution as completely to paralyze and to strike terror into them, and his Excellency begs Brigadier Stevenson, the officers and men of that arm, will accept his thanks for their good service.

The 19th regiment Bombay native infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Stalker, having been placed in position to watch any enemy that might appear on the Cabool road, or approach to attack the camp, had an important post assigned to them, although, as it happened, no enemy made an attack upon them.

In sieges and stormings, it does not fall to the lot of cavalry to bear the same conspicuous part as to the other two arms of the profession; on this occasion Sir John Keane is happy to have an opportunity of thanking Major Thackwell, and the officers and men of the cavalry divisions under his orders, for having successfully executed the directions given, to sweep the plain and to intercept fugitives of the enemy attempting to escape from the fort, in any direction around it; and, had an enemy appeared, for the relief of the place during the storming, his Excellency is fully satisfied that the different regiments of this fine arm would have distinguished themselves, and that the opportunity alone was wanting.

Major General Willshire's division having been broken up for the day, to be distributed as it was, the Major General was desired to be in attendance upon the Commander in Chief. To him and to the officers of the Adjutant and Quartermaster General's department of the Bengal and Bombay army, his Excellency returns his warmest thanks for the assistance they have afforded him.

The Commander in Chief feels, and in which feeling he is sure he will be joined by the troops composing the army of the Indus, that after the long and harassing marches they have had, and the privations they have endured, this glorious achievement, and the brilliant manner in which the troops have met and conquered their enemy, reward them for it all. His Excellency will only add, no army that has ever been engaged in a campaign deserves more credit than that which he has the honour to command, for patient, orderly, and correct conduct, under all cir-

cumstances, and Sir John Keane is proud to have the opportunity of thus publicly acknowledging it.

By order of his Excellency, Lieutenant-General Sir JOHN KEANE, Commander in Chief of the army of the Indus,

R. MACDONALD, Lieut.-Colonel, Military Secretary, and Deputy Adjut.-Gen. Her Majesty's Forces, Bombay.

*From the Governor in Council at Bombay.*

WE have the highest gratification in forwarding copies of the two letters from his Excellency Sir John Keane, dated the 3rd and 8th ultimo, in the latter of which communications (written from Cabool) his Excellency states that His Majesty Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk entered his capital on the preceding afternoon without opposition, accompanied by himself, Mr. Macnaghten the British Envoy and Minister at His Majesty's Court, the gentlemen of the mission, and the general and staff officers of the army of the Indus, escorted by squadrons of Her Majesty's 4th light dragoons and 16th lancers, and a troop of horse artillery.

It appears that the news of the quick and determined manner in which we took possession of Ghuznee, completely paralyzed the population of Cabool, and Dost Mahomed's army; and that, on the evening of the 2d ultimo, all his hopes were terminated by a division in his camp, and the greater part of his army abandoning him; and finding that our army was fast advancing upon him, and that all opposition with the slender force which remained with him would be but useless, Dost Mahomed fled, and, with such precipitancy, that he left behind him his guns with their ammunition and waggons, and the greater part of the cattle by which they were drawn.

On the 8th ultimo, the encampment of the army was about three miles from Cabool to the north west; but Sir John Keane states that it was his intention to move the camp on the following day to about five miles west of the city, and between it and Killa Hæzee.

The conduct of the army under Sir John Keane, both European and Native, has, his Excellency states, been admirable throughout, and that notwithstanding the severe marching and privations they have gone through, their appearance and discipline have suffered nothing, and the opportunity afforded them at Ghuznee of meeting and conquering their enemy has added greatly to their good spirits.

P.S.—Since this dispatch was signed, the accompanying letter from Mr. Maddock, dated the 26th ultimo, has reached this Government.

*From T. H. Maddock, Esq. Secretary with the Governor-General of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated at Simla, August 26, 1839.*

SIR,  
I AM desired by the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India to forward, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy

of a notification, this day issued by order of his Lordship, together with copies of the papers noted in the margin.\*

I have, &c.

T. H. MADDOCK.

Simla, August 26, 1839.

THE Governor-General of India publishes, for general information, the subjoined copy and extracts of dispatches from his Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Army of the Indus, and from the Envoy and Minister at the Court of His Majesty Shah Shooja-ool Moolk, announcing the triumphant entry of the Shah into Cabool, on the 7th instant.

In issuing this notification the Governor-General cannot omit the opportunity of offering to the Officers and men composing the army of the Indus, and to the distinguished leader by whom they have been commanded, the cordial congratulations of the Government, upon the happy result of a campaign which, on the sole occasion when resistance was opposed to them, has been gloriously marked by victory, and in all the many difficulties of which the character of a British army for gallantry, good conduct and discipline, has been nobly maintained.

A salute of twenty-one guns will be fired on the receipt of this intelligence, at all the principal stations of the army in the three Presidencies.

By order of the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India,

T. H. MADDOCK, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor General.

*From Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, and the Envoy and Minister at the Court of Shah Shooja, to the Governor-General of India, dated Head-Quarters, Camp, Shikarbad, August 3, 1839.*

MY LORD,

WE have the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that the army marched from Ghuznee, en route to Cabool, in two columns, on the 30th and 31st ultimo; His Majesty Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk with his own troops forming part of the second column.

On the arrival of the Commander in Chief with the first column at Hyder Khail, on the 1st instant, information reached him, and the same reached the Envoy and Minister at Huft Asaya, that Dost Mahomed with his army and artillery were advancing from Cabool, and would probably take up a position at Urghundee or Midan, the former twenty-four, the latter thirty-six, miles from Cabool. Upon this it was arranged that His Majesty, with the second column, under Major-General Willshire, should join the first column here, and advance together to attack Dost Mahomed, whose son, Mahomed Akhbar, had been recalled from Jelalabad, with the troops

\* Copy of a letter from his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, and the Envoy and Minister to the Court of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, dated 3d August 1839.

Extract from a letter from his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane, dated 8th August 1839.

Extract from a letter from the Envoy and Minister to the Court of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, dated the 9th August 1839.

guarding the Khyber Pass, and had formed a junction with his father; their joint forces, according to our information, amounting to about thirteen thousand men.

Every arrangement was made for the King and the army marching in body from here to-morrow; but in the course of the night messengers arrived, and since (this morning) a great many chiefs and their followers, announcing the dissolution of Dost Mahomed's army by the refusal of the greater part to advance against us, with him, and that he had in consequence fled with a party of 300 horsemen in the direction of Bameean, leaving his guns behind him, in position as they were placed at Urghundee.

His Majesty Shah Shooja has sent forward a confidential officer, with whom has been associated Major Cureton, of Her Majesty's 16th lancers, taking with him a party of 200 men and an officer of artillery, to proceed direct to take possession of those guns, and afterwards such other guns and public stores, as may be found in Cabool and the Bala Hissar, in the name of, and for, His Majesty Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, and the King's orders will be carried by his own officers with this party, for preserving the tranquillity of the city of Cabool.

A strong party has been detached in pursuit of Dost Mahomed under some of our most active officers. We continue our march upon Cabool to-morrow, and will reach it on the third day.

We have, &c.

JOHN KEANE, Lieut.-Gen.

Commander in Chief.

W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Envoy and Minister.

*Extract from a Letter from his Excellency Lieutenant General Sir John Keane, G. C. B. and G. C. H., dated Head-Quarters, Camp Cabool, 8th August 1839.*

IT gives me infinite pleasure to be able to address my dispatch to your Lordship from this capital, the vicinity of which His Majesty Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, and the army under my command, reached the day before yesterday. The King entered his capital yesterday afternoon, accompanied by the British Envoy and Minister and the gentlemen of the mission, and by myself, the Generals and Staff Officers of this Army, and escorted by a squadron of Her Majesty's 4th light dragoons, and one of Her Majesty's 16th lancers, with Captain Martin's troop of horse artillery. His Majesty had expressed a wish that British troops should be present on the occasion, and a very small party only of his own Hindoostanee and Afghan troops. After the animating scene of traversing the streets, and reaching the palace in the Bala Hissar, a royal salute was fired, and an additional salvo, in the Afghan style from small guns resembling wall pieces, named ginjalls, and carried on camels. We heartily congratulated His Majesty on being in possession of the throne and kingdom of His ancestors, and upon the overthrow of his enemies, and after taking leave of His Majesty, we returned to our camp.

I trust we have thus accomplished all the objects which your Lordship had in contemplation, when you planned and formed the Army of the Indus, and the expedition into Afghanistan.

The conduct of the Army, both European and Native, which your Lordship did me the honour to place under my orders, has been admirable throughout, and notwithstanding the severe marching and privations they have gone through, their appearance and discipline have suffered nothing, and the opportunity afforded them at Ghuznee, of meeting and conquering their enemy, has added greatly to their good spirits.

The joint dispatch addressed by Mr. Macnaghten and myself to your Lordship, on the 3d instant, from Shikarbad, will have informed you, that at the moment we had made every preparation to attack (on the following day) Dost Mahomed Khan in his position at Urghundee, where, after his son, Mahomed Akhbar, had joined him from Jelalabad, he had an army amounting to thirteen thousand men, well armed and appointed, and thirty pieces of artillery, we suddenly learnt that he abandoned them all, and fled with a party of horsemen on the road to Bameean, leaving his guns in position as he had placed them to receive our attack.

It appears that a great part of his army, which was hourly becoming disorganised, refused to stand by him in the position to receive our attack, and that it soon became in a state of dissolution. The great bulk immediately came over to Shah Shooja, tendering their allegiance, and I believe His Majesty will take most of them into his pay.

It seems that the news of the quick and determined manner in which we took their strong hold, Ghuznee, had such an effect upon the population of Cabool, and perhaps also upon the enemy's army, that Dost Mahomed, from that moment, began to lose hope of retaining his rule for even a short time longer, and sent off his family and valuable property towards Bameean, but marched out of Cabool with his army and artillery, keeping a bold front towards

us until the evening of the 2d, when all his hopes were at end by a division in his own camp, and one part of his army abandoning him. So precipitate was his flight, that he left in position his guns, with their ammunition and waggons, and the greater part of the cattle by which they were drawn. Major Cureton, of Her Majesty's 16th lancers, with his party of two hundred men, pushed forward on the 3d, and took possession of those guns, &c. There were twenty-three brass guns in position loaded, two more at a little distance, which they attempted to take away, and since then three more abandoned still further off on the Bameean-road, thus leaving in our possession twenty-eight pieces of cannon, with all the materiel belonging to them, which are now handed over to Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk.

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*Extract from a Letter from Envoy and Minister to the Court of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, dated Cabool, August 9, 1839.*

By a letter signed jointly by his Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Keane and myself, dated the 3d instant, the Right Honourable the Governor-General was apprised of the flight of Dost Mahomed Khan.

The Ex-chief was not accompanied by any person of consequence, and his followers are said to have been reduced to below the number of one hundred on the day of his departure. In the progress of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk towards Cabool, His Majesty was joined by every person of rank and influence in the country, and he made his triumphal entry into the city on the evening of the 7th instant. His Majesty has taken up his residence in the Bala Hissar, where he has required the British Mission to remain for the present.

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