

the city and Bala Hissar, the people no doubt suffered some inconvenience, and a few whose relations with us had been friendly were ill treated. The houses of certain Sirdars were plundered, but I have reason to believe that no large amount of either treasure or valuables was discovered or carried away.

90. Before the events above recorded, I had directed that all gunpowder (about 210 tons) in the Bala Hissar fort should be destroyed, with the exception of a sufficient supply to meet the requirements of the Engineers and Sappers.

This work, involving considerable care, was a tedious one, but by the 10th December upwards of 80 tons had been got rid of, leaving only 130 tons in the magazine, all of which was either carried off by the Afghans, or expended in accidental explosions, which were of constant occurrence amongst them, on one occasion upwards of 100 of the enemy being blown up.

It would have been impossible to commence its destruction earlier on account of the ruins of the old magazine continuing to smoulder; indeed, at the present moment the fire is not altogether extinguished, and rendered any dealings with powder in their vicinity highly dangerous. The open jars in which the powder was kept were too weighty, and yet too fragile to be removed, and the nearest water was some hundreds of feet below. Eventually the powder was taken out of the jars and sent down a shoot into the water beneath, but, as I said before, this work was necessarily slow. To blow up the magazine was impossible, for up to the evening of the 14th our troops were occupying the hill immediately above it, and before they were withdrawn from that position, the magazine was in possession of the enemy.

91. I may here explain that though my information for some weeks previous to the disturbances made me aware of the increasing hostile feeling with which we were regarded, and of the fact that the tribes were assembling in considerable strength, yet it was impossible to form any estimate as to what numbers we should have to contend with at Kabul.

As the contingents from Kohistan, Logar, Wardak, and other districts passed along, they received accessions from every hamlet, and when within a day's journey of Kabul, were joined almost *en masse* by the population of the numerous surrounding villages, and by many disaffected people of the city.

It is difficult to speak accurately of the total numbers that were opposed to us. Persons likely to be best informed say that the combined forces of the enemy exceeded 100,000 men, but though this computation is probably not excessive, I am of opinion that more than 60,000 never took the field at any one time.

Their losses were considerable, not less than 3,000 having been killed and wounded.

92. I wish to place on record my very high sense of the services performed by the troops under my command, and of the spirit by which they were animated.

All and every night, in most severe weather, officers and men were at their posts or sleeping with their arms in the immediate vicinity of the trenches, and each day fatigue parties were employed in strengthening our defences.

Hardships and exposure were cheerfully borne, and I never for one moment doubted that when the assault should be delivered, it would be successfully and decisively repulsed.

93. I have already mentioned several officers whose services during the recent operations merit praise, and I would, in conclusion, bring to

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's notice the following:—

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Kennedy, K.C.S.I., to whom I am specially indebted for cheerfully rendered advice and assistance, and the officers accompanying him; namely:—Colonel A. G. F. Hogg, Bombay Staff Corps; Major H. B. Hanna, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General; and Captain T. Deane, Assistant Secretary, Military Department, who most readily placed their services at my disposal.

I would wish to express my thanks to Lieutenant-General J. L. Vaughan, C.B., who aided me with the experience gained during many years' service on the frontier.

Major-General J. Hills, C.B., V.C., and Brigadier-General Hugh Gough, C.B., V.C., were each entrusted with the command of a section of the defence, and the constant presence of these experienced officers at their posts relieved me of considerable anxiety.

The most determined attack of the enemy was directed against the sections commanded by Brigadier-General Hugh Gough and Colonel F. H. Jenkins, C.B., and its defeat was in great measure due to the excellent dispositions which these officers made.

The following officers, one and all, deserve my thanks for their good service:—Lieutenant-Colonel H. Collett, 23rd Pioneers; Lieutenant-Colonel A. FitzHugh, 5th Goorkhas; Major W. H. B. Kingsley, 67th Foot; Major G. S. Hills, 28th Punjab Native Infantry; Captain C. McK. Hall, 5th Punjab Infantry; Captain S. V. Gordon, 23rd Pioneers; Captain R. Eardley-Wilmot, 14th Bengal Lancers; and Captain W. M. Campbell, R.A.

Of Colonel C. M. MacGregor, C.B., C.S.I., and C.I.E., who has held the important post of Deputy-Adjutant and Deputy Quartermaster-General, I cannot speak too highly. I have already referred to the prominent part which he bore in the recovery of our guns on the 11th December, and I take this opportunity of recording the admirable manner in which he has discharged the responsible duties attached to his office in which he has been ably assisted by Major G. de C. Morton, 6th Regiment, Assistant Adjutant-General, who deserves commendation for the quiet manner in which Brigadier-General Gough's orders for the arrangements for defending Sherpur were carried out on the 11th December.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. A. Lockhart, Assistant Quartermaster-General, has already made a reputation for himself, and this he fully maintained both when out with Brigadier-General Macpherson's column and on subsequent occasions.

Major R. G. Kennedy, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, has served with me since the outbreak of the war in 1878. He is an invaluable Staff officer, and I have great pleasure in recommending him for some mark of His Excellency's approval.

Major B. A. Combe, 10th Hussars, and Lieutenant C. H. Manners Smith, Deputy Assistant Quartermasters-General, have on all occasions acquitted themselves well, and are excellent officers.

Lieutenant J. P. Brabazon, 10th Royal Hussars, Brigade-Major of Cavalry, has proved himself an excellent Staff officer, and has distinguished himself in the field. Brigadier-General Massy speaks of him in high terms of approbation.

In the late Officiating Deputy Surgeon-General J. H. Porter, Army Medical Department, I found an administrator of high capacity