

North-Western
Frontier
And
British India
1839-42

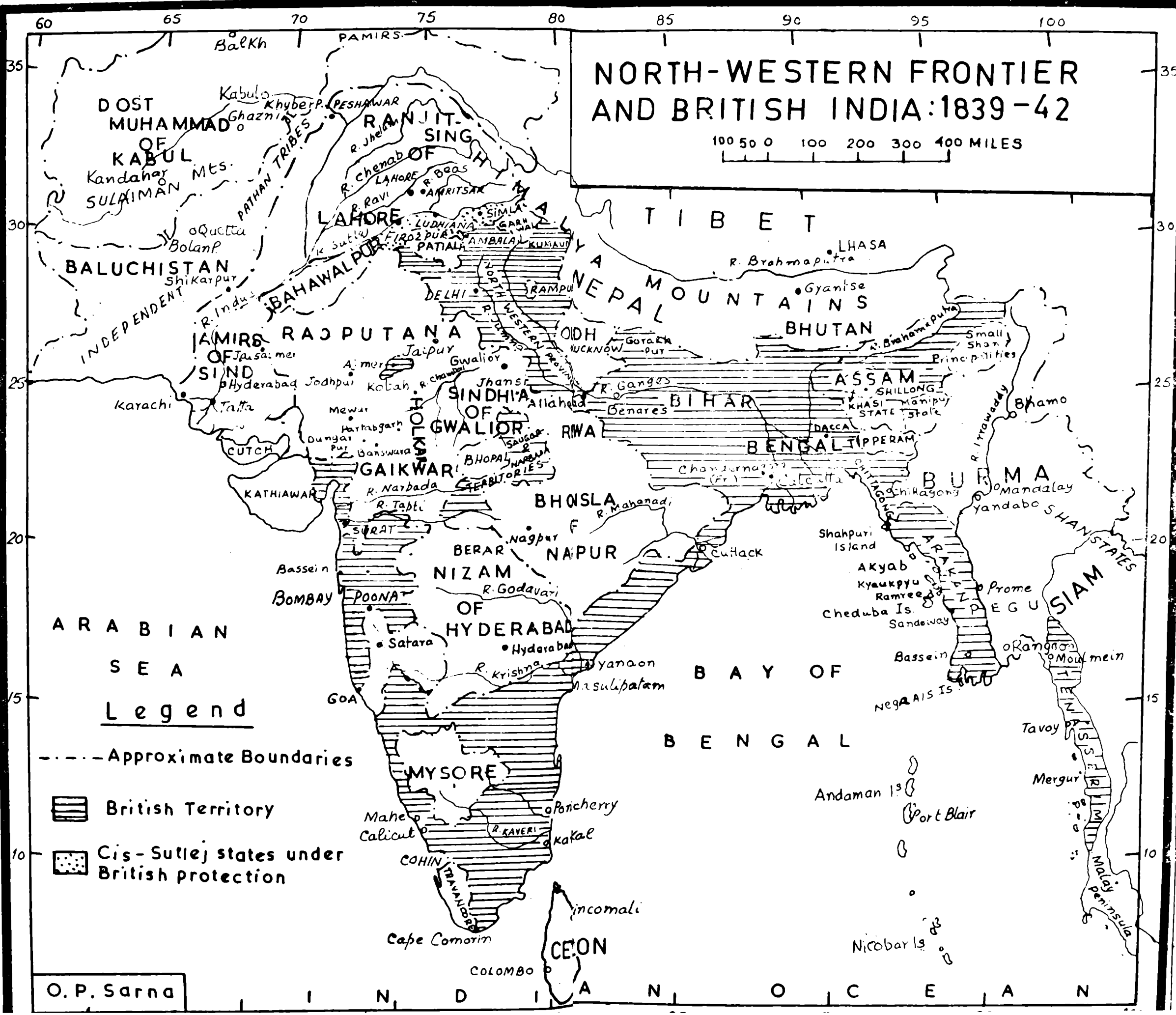
VOLUME I

Parshotam Mehra



PUBLICATION BUREAU
PANJAB UNIVERSITY
CHANDIGARH

NORTH-WESTERN FRONTIER AND BRITISH INDIA: 1839-42



Legend

- Approximate Boundaries
- ▨ British Territory
- ▤ Cis-Sutlej states under British protection

O. P. Sarna

By the same author

The Younghusband Expedition, an interpretation, Asia, 1968

The McMahon Line and After, Macmillan, 1974

Tibetan Polity, 1904-37, Otto Harrassowitz, 1976

In collaboration

Marathas and Panipat, Panjab University, Chandigarh, 1961

North-Western Frontier and British India 1839-42

Being text of Newsletters from the
Foreign Department, Government of
India, with an introduction, annotations,
biographical sketches and a glossary

VOLUME I

Parshotam Mehra



PUBLICATION BUREAU
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To my great
alma mater
which has,
over the years,
nurtured me both
as an alumnus
and a member
& its faculty.

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in the series *Selections from English
Records* a collection of *Newsletters*
(1839-42).

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	ix
PREFACE	xi
INTRODUCTION	1
Newsletter 1 : April 1, 1839	51
Newsletter 2 : April 12, 1839	60
Newsletter 3 : April 22, 1839	68
Newsletter 4 : May 2, 1839	76
Newsletter 5 : May 11, 1839	88
Newsletter 6 : May 20, 1839	99
Newsletter 7 : May 30, 1839	107
Newsletter 8 : June 10, 1839	117
Newsletter 9 : June 20, 1839	125
Newsletter 10 : July 1, 1839	136
Newsletter 11 : July 10, 1839	146
Newsletter 12 : July 20, 1839	158
Newsletter 13 : July 30, 1839	167
Newsletter 14 : August 10, 1839	178

	<i>Page</i>
Newsletter 15 :	August 20, 1839 192
Newsletter 16 :	August 30, 1839 200
Newsletter 17 :	September 10, 1839 212
Newsletter 18 :	September 23, 1839 231
Newsletter 19 :	October 5, 1839 246
Newsletter 20 :	October 15, 1839 255
Newsletter 21 :	October 25, 1839 267
Newsletter 22 :	November 8, 1839 284
Newsletter 23 :	November 18, 1839 297
Newsletter 24 :	November 30, 1839 315
Newsletter 25 :	December 10, 1839 323
Newsletter 26 :	December 20, 1839 331
Newsletter 27 :	January 1, 1840 338
Newsletter 28 :	January 11, 1840 346
Newsletter 29 :	January 25, 1840 353
Newsletter 30 :	January 1, 1841 359
Newsletter 31 :	January 10, 1841 364
Newsletter 32 :	January 22, 1841 374
Newsletter 33 :	February 1, 1841 386
Newsletter 34 :	February 10, 1841 396
Newsletter 35 :	February 19, 1841 406
INDEX	415

MAPS

Panjab in 1838 Facing page No. 166

Sind in 1838 Facing page No. 304

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to append a few words to this edition of *Newsletters 1839-42*. This project which the University took upon itself a little more than fifteen years ago has, for a variety of reasons, not seen the light of day until now. Initially, in 1960, the Government of India, through the Director, National Archives, approached us to edit this large bulk of primary source-material—the text alone runs into nearly 1400 pages of type-script. The Department of History accepted an onerous responsibility as also an uphill task. It was only after 1970 that the work of salvaging what remained of the original manuscript was taken in hand. For some years Professor Mehra's other commitments kept him from taking this one on with all the attention and application that was called for. I am glad that over the past year or two he and two other young scholars, Dr J L Mehta and Dr Raja Ram, have worked hard, and with great dedication, to put this large volume into shape.

I am happy that the work is being presented to a larger public in the hope that they find it of some use in reconstructing that traumatic period, on the eve of the annexation of Sind and the Panjab, in the chequered annals of British rule in India.

Panjab University
Chandigarh

Ram Chand Paul
Vice-Chancellor

P R E F A C E

Publication of 'Newsletters' forms part of Scheme III (B) of the publication programme of the National Archives of India which, in turn, envisaged the publication of five volumes of Selections from English Records. The present volume, covering the years 1839-42, is the last in the series.

The origin of the *Newsletters* may be traced to Lord Auckland's confidential despatch of May 2, 1839 to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors. Herein he explained how the exigencies of the political situation impelled him to adopt this arrangement for the preparation of 'digests of general intelligence in the form of newsletters'. The Governor-General, it is obvious, valued such newsletters far more than formal, official letters as a convenient mode of acquainting the Court of Directors, subordinate Presidency governments and other senior diplomatic officers with the general trend of political events. The practice of preparing newsletters appears to have been abandoned soon after Auckland's departure, though no reason for this is adduced in the records in the custody of the National Archives.

To the great chagrin of the researcher, the newsletters do not contain any references to the letters of Residents/Political Agents etc. on which they were based. A search among Foreign Department records has, however, revealed the fact that these documents are available for most part in the Political and Secret Consultations and Proceedings including the year (January 1840—January 1841) for which the newsletters are missing.

A word on the one-year gap alluded to. It is difficult to believe that no newsletters were prepared or issued during this period. What seems more likely is that the newsletters in question had been misplaced by the Foreign Department before it transferred its records to the National Archives.

The Foreign Department Miscellaneous series, Volumes 331-35, re-produced in the body of this treatise contain newsletters on both Indian as well as foreign developments. In fact, both types of items form part of the same newsletters. The foreign items have been separated and constitute the collection now presented.

The 'Miscellaneous' records fall outside the regular series of proceedings, though they do occasionally include papers or copies of papers which are mentioned or embodied in the letters. They treat of particular subjects

and have been kept separately for convenience of reference. Demi-official and private correspondence as well as notes and documents which could not properly be put into the proceedings find a place among them.

Any work of serious scholarship is the end-product of a long, time-consuming process of hard application and cooperative endeavour. The *Newsletters* have been no exception. In the initial stages, under Professor Hari Ram Gupta's supervision, work was undertaken by two of my colleagues in the Department, Dr S P Sangar and Shri P D Verma. That was more than 15 years ago. As ill-luck would have it, their interest was not sustained over a long period. Again, during Professor R R Sethi's tenure, for a variety of reasons, the manuscript unfortunately remained in virtual neglect—an easy prey to the ravages of nature which claimed a heavy toll.

The first initiative to reclaim it was taken by one of my students, Miss Rajni Chugh who, in 1971, helped me to identify the large gaps that had developed: sizeable chunks had been eaten away or purloined by white ants or their dread companions, the rodents. For the first time I had a measure of some of the major problems involved in this work. However, for the next 3-4 years the pace of attending to them was unbelievably slow owing to some other pressing commitments that needed more immediate attention. It was only a couple of years ago that I was able to pick up the old threads in a little more sustained and systematic manner. In this enormous, frightfully difficult and long-suffering task, I was kept going by the help and cooperation of two of my young friends. Dr Raja Ram is an old student of the Department at Chandigarh now working in our Directorate of Correspondence Courses. Through the good offices of Professor S S Bal, I was able to obtain his help and assistance which he gave in his characteristically ungrudging, yet equally generous manner. Associated with Dr Raja Ram was another young colleague of mine, Dr J L Mehta who, despite his own hard-pressed schedule, was able to assist me in this endeavour. It would be no exaggeration to say that his honest, sincere and continuous work alone has made it possible for me to knock this manuscript into some sort of shape.

It was under the late Dr A C Joshi's momentous stewardship of this great seat of learning that the undertaking to edit this volume was solemnly given. His two distinguished successors, Shri Suraj Bhan and the present Vice-Chancellor Professor R C Paul, have honoured that commitment both in letter and in spirit. Professor Paul, a great scientist, met a humanist's problems with an extremely helpful attitude for which I am deeply beholden. I should also record my indebtedness to the university authorities in general and its finance wing in particular for all the cooperation I have received.

It is pleasant to place on record my special thanks to Professor Satish Chandra and the University Grants Commission for their graciously acceding to our urgent request for financial support to publish the *Newsletters*. This is in the best traditions of a body that has in many ways been a great help in encouraging higher education and research.

My debt of gratitude to my friend and colleague, Shri D P Verma, the University's Registrar, bears no emphasis. His background as a teacher has given him a breadth of vision that is not always associated with hard-headed (and -hearted !) administrators. He was a constant source of encouragement and help.

Dr D D Jyoti, Secretary to Vice-Chancellor came on the scene much later. Yet his understanding nature and helpful attitude have been a fount of great strength in tying many a loose end.

Most of the work on the introduction and the annotations had necessarily to be undertaken at the National Archives and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi. I should like to take this opportunity to place on record my warm appreciation of the help given by the authorities in both cases. At the Archives my friends Dr S N Prasad, Dr S A I Tirmizi and their colleagues Shri D L Kaka, Dr T R Sareen, and a host of the staff in the Research Room, went out of the way to meet my own and my colleagues' numerous requests with a helpful, smiling face. At Teenmurti House my task was made easier by an excellent Library manned by a knowledgeable staff and the willing help and cooperation given us by almost everyone we asked. In particular, apart from Shri B R Nanda and Dr D N Panigrahi their junior colleagues, the late Shri Dharam Vir Shastri, Mrs Kamal Verma, Dr S R Bakshi and Shri S K Sharma deserve my warm and sincere thanks.

Apart from the Library facilities, my work in Delhi was made possible by the courtesy and consideration which I have always received at the India International Centre. In particular, its Director Dr John Lal has been friendly and made me feel very much at home.

At Chandigarh, my friend Professor Jagdish Saran Sharma, the University Librarian, and his younger colleagues, Harcharan Singh and G S Thakur in the Reference Room were at once understanding and helpful. They not only accommodated us out of turn but made us feel so much at ease.

The not-always pleasant task of typing out my hand-written scribbles fell principally on Sudarshan Kumar and to an extent on my assistant in the Department, Vishwa Mohini Dogra. Both of them did their work with great patience and efficiency.

For the sketch-maps my colleague Shri O P Sarna in the Department of Geography has worked hard and I am deeply indebted. The index has been compiled by Shri O P Gupta who works in the Panjab University Evening College. He did his job under great pressure but I have no doubt, conscientiously.

The task of printing a volume of this size is no child's play. It calls for the skill of an expert and in Shri Panna Lal we have a man of knowledge, understanding and great competence. I am deeply beholden to him for all the help he has given us in this task.

In India, university publishing has failed hitherto to make a mark. In our case however under the stewardship of a young and imaginative new Secretary, Shri R K Malhotra, it is forging ahead. He and his colleague, Shri Kumar Vikal in the Bureau have been at once my philosophers as well as friends. I have pleasure in acknowledging their help and understanding in making this publication possible.

To my wife who has borne with me and this work over the past many years my debt is too deep for words. A happy home is the necessary prerequisite to any worth-while endeavour.

A word on the title. The *Newsletters* in this collection are at best, a miscellany replete with all bits of information on all sorts of men and affairs. There are to list only a few, chosen at random—Nepal and its Kala Pandey; Jodhpur and its ruler, Maun Singh; Oudh and its decrepit Nawab; Bithoor and the last Peshwa; Kurnool and its wayward master and in the outer periphery: the court of Ava and its woodducks; Bokhara and its luckless British prisoner; the Shah of Iran; Bushire & Muscat and the Persian Gulf. All important, in a manner of speaking, yet disparate and with a singular lack of any linkage or cohesion. It is only in the context of the North-West Frontier: Punjab in the tumultuous years following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh; Sind with its retinue of Amirs, both in the Upper and the Lower parts and Afghanistan with Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni loosely hanging together under its Barakzai Amir Dost Muhammad on the run—that there is a certain unity, an integral bond that holds the parts together. That unity is fostered further by the John Company's fateful decision to invest Afghanistan, in conjunction with the Sikhs, through the territory of the Amirs and thereby help put the discredited Shah Shuja on the masnad. It would thus appear that albeit seemingly selective the title 'North-Western Frontier and British India, 1839-42' does, in fact, represent a theme that holds many of the narrative threads together.

A word on the arrangement. The *Introduction* seeks to provide a broad framework of reference in which the narrative is set. There is a savour of the genuine stuff, but no more. The seventy-four *News-letters* (thirty-five in Vol. I and the rest in Vol. II) that come next give the text in extenso. There are annotations all through which are designed to explain nearly all that could clarify, elucidate, interpret. The *biographical sketches* that come at the end of volume two deal with the principal characters who flit through the pages of the text; the *Glossary* is an attempt to render words and expressions which may not always be easily intelligible; the *sketch-maps* help to identify the names of major towns which figure in the body of the narrative.

All in all, an effort has been made to make it possible for the lay reader to recapture those momentous years when India's north-west, and not the north-west alone, was in turmoil. How far short of the ideal it has fallen is for the reader to say; the editor, for his part, is acutely conscious of his own serious limitations—of knowledge, of time, of space.

PARSHOTAM MEHRA

INTRODUCTION

The present volume of *Newsletters*, part of a larger series at the National Archives in New Delhi, broadly covers the period April 1839 to March 1842, with a gap of about one year, from January to December 1840. The events surveyed are, in certain respects, perhaps the most momentous in the history of British rule in India. For then it was that the John Company went beyond India's landward periphery and started meddling, in a big way, in the affairs of the kingdom of Kabul; earlier, in the mid-twenties, it had launched into Burma. Within the Indian perimeter, the British had on their hands the Amirs of Sind and the post-Ranjit Singh Punjab. The *Newsletters*, inaptly so-called, are in fact no more than summaries of intelligence reports which were sent from time to time both by the regular as well as irregularly paid, and sometimes even unpaid, spies and informers. There were also the more formal Residents and Political Agents whom the Company had stationed at their various outposts in India and other far-flung lands. In the Governor-General's secretariat at Calcutta these reports were put together in the form of a summary or a digest, and retailed to various functionaries so as to keep them *au fait* with affairs which were of vital concern to them.

Intelligence, at the best of times, is a difficult task and depends for its success upon the competence as well as calibre of the agent, the means he can or does employ and the milieu in which he functions. In conjunction with the times, the agents were a mixed lot. The intelligence they gathered was, in most cases, no more than bazaar gossip, full of unverified reports, often-times based on nothing more substantial than flights of imagination; intelligent yet, at best, speculative guess-work. It follows that reliance on them for veracity could only be marginal in most cases, the less or the more of it dependent upon the source from which they emanated.

For intelligence *per se*, more typical than exceptional of the genre, so far as the present collection is concerned, is the following entry :

A report has reached Loodianah that the ex-chiefs of Candahar had arrived in the Peshawar territory and that they had been treated with every mark of hospitality. The report is evidently false—though it may be true that some members of the family have been found an asylum with Sultan Mahomed.¹

In their totality, the *Newsletters* in this collection throw a flood of light on happenings in the Punjab and the north-west frontier, then still

1 *Newsletter* 29 : January 25, 1840

part of the post-Ranjit Singh domain. Besides they provide an important, and useful, source of information for developments in Sind on the eve of the final act in the drama, its annexation in 1843. There is the backdrop too of the first Afghan war and the events leading to its tragic finale.

Apart from the major themes briefly touched upon in the preceding paragraph, there are any variety of subjects alluded to, ranging all the way from 'disturbances' in Kolhapur to the civil war then raging at white heat in Bhutan; from British representations to the Portuguese authorities in Lisbon concerning transfer of Goa, to the discovery of a vaccine for small-pox by a Bombay-based medico; from the goings-on on the China coast preceding the first Opium War, to Russian intrigue in Afghanistan centring around the better-known Vikovitch.

The introductory pages make an attempt at comprehending the entire canvass, in distinct parts, within the larger frame-work of a broad general review. Herein a sustained effort has been mounted to savour, if partly, the stuff of which the *Newsletters* are made; to partake of the larger whole it is but fair that the reader should go to the text itself.

II

Afghanistan, strategically located at the cross-roads of Central Asia's men and movements, emerged as an independent sovereign state in the middle of the 18th century. Its founder, 'Baba-i-Afghan' as he is aptly known, was Ahmad Khan of the Abdali or Durrani tribe. After the death of Persia's great scourge Nadir Shah, the Durrani chief who had earlier emerged as his political mentor and military commander, brought under his sway the principalities of Kabul and Kandahar in the main and united them into a viable political unit. Partly with a view to consolidating his position at home, Ahmed Shah invaded India several times. Thanks to the then chaotic state of political affairs in the northern part of the country, for a brief span at any rate, Afghanistan's vague sovereignty or suzerainty extended over the Punjab as well as Kashmir, Sind, Baluchistan and the Persian province of Khorasan.

This phenomenal expansion of the Afghan kingdom beyond its own legitimate bounds, physical as well as ethnic, alarmed the authorities of the East India Company. For obvious reasons they feared lest such incursions into the then politically unstable and weak fabric of northern India should lead to the revival of Maratha or even Mughal power in an area where they had suffered reverses. Or, may be the re-establishment of a rickety Afghan rule in the Punjab ! Understandably therefore any attempt of

Zaman Shah (1793-1800), the then Afghan Amir and the Durrani's grandson, to advance into the heart of northern India was thwarted by Lord Wellesley, then British India's powerful potentate. Inter alia, he invoked Persian intervention in Herat which proved to be a powerful deterrent on the adventurous impulses of the ruler of Afghanistan. Nor was that all. For the efforts of the British Agent in Persia, Mehdi Ali Khan, combined with the political ambitions and expansionist zeal of its ruler, led to a well-armed expedition by the Shah into Khorasan. Even though abortive, it had a sobering effect on Zaman Shah's grandiose designs and compelled him ultimately to retrace his steps from the outskirts of Lahore. And with his retreat, the immediate danger had passed away.

The first known *official* contact between the British authorities in India and Afghanistan was established in 1809. In that year a British mission under Mountstuart Elphinstone² was despatched to Peshawar to discuss with Shah Shuja, the then Amir of Kabul, the best means of thwarting what was widely believed to be an impending French threat, aided by Afghanistan, and launched through it to undo the fledgling British empire in India. Two other missions under John Malcolm and Charles Metcalfe were sent about the same time to the courts of Persia and Lahore respectively with a view to stifling European intrigue and stemming the tide of a combined Franco-Russian assault through these lands into the heart of the sub-continent. As a result of these missions, treaties were concluded with Persia, Afghanistan and the Sikhs. By the treaty of Amritsar with Ranjit Singh (1809), the latter inter, agreed alia, to recognise the cis-Sutlej states as falling outside his purview and under the protection of the British, thereby setting clear-cut geographical limits to his own political ambitions. Meanwhile the Napoleonic danger receded appreciably after the treaty of Chanak (June, 1809) between Turkey and England barred Napoleon and for that matter Russia, his ally after Tilsit (1807), from entering the straits of Dardanelles and thereby using the Porte as a tool for his political aggrandisement.

Subsequent to Napoleon's decisive military debacle at Waterloo and the settlement of Vienna that followed, the British did not show any marked interest in the affairs of Afghanistan for many a long summer. This was due, if partly, to geographic compulsions. The stark fact was that the British frontier line was on the Sutlej beyond which lay the kingdom of Ranjit Singh; again, the John Company clearly viewed the Maharaja's domain as a buffer state against invaders from beyond the Indus. To the south-west of the Sikh state, and along the Sutlej was the desert of Bahawalpur and the still more barren territories of the Amirs of Sind. Being relatively weak, in sharp contrast to their powerful neighbour, apart from the fact that they were mortally afraid of the Sikh ruler, both the Nawab of Bahawalpur as well

² Mountstuart Elphinstone, *An Account of the Kingdom of Cabul*, new edition, Introduction by Sir Olaf Caroe, (Oxford, 1974), 2 vols.

as the Talpurs of Sind looked to the British for protection.

To the north-west of the Maharaja's dominion stretched the bare, rugged hills of Afghanistan. Here a coup in Kabul in 1809 had led to the expulsion of its Sadazoi ruler, Shah Shuja, a brother of Zaman Shah who appears earlier in the text. With his exit from the Afghan scene, for the next fifteen years at any rate that country was in the throes of a tragic civil war that bordered on near-anarchy. It emerged from these internecine convulsions in 1826 when Dost Mohammad of the Barakzais stood forth as the undisputed Amir of Afghanistan.

Ranjit Singh taking full advantage of the internal squabbles in Kabul had, by 1819, conquered with varying degrees of success, the provinces of Multan, Kashmir and Peshawar. Even as he did so, the domain ruled by the East India Company had inched closer to Sind by virtue of British hegemony over the states of Rajputana. The latter process was a direct result of the Marquis of Hastings' defeat of the Maratha confederacy in 1818. Consequent thereupon, the Rajput princes, hitherto proteges of the Marathas, now emerged as 'protected' states under British suzerainty.

Broadly, from 1809 to 1829, the British attitude towards countries on India's north-western frontier was one of studied 'non-interference'.³ The threat of an expansionist France having vanished into thin air, the British were mostly busy in the internal affairs of India. There was the short, as indeed decisive, Gurkha War (1814-16) against Nepal, followed exactly a decade later by the first war against Burma (1824-26). Each, in turn, helped to secure a frontier—the northern, against a possibly aggressive China, through Tibet; the eastern, by robbing Burma of its hold over Assam and its own sea-frontage. Meantime the Maratha confederacy waged its last war (1817-18) against the British in which much like a house divided against itself, it suffered a shattering blow. With the mighty successors of the great Mughals now virtually routed, the John Company's paramountcy in India became an accepted fact of life.

In the decade following Waterloo (1815), British relations with Russia were not unfriendly. Even though Czarist influence in Central Asia was gradually on the uptake, the rumblings of the distant storm were yet far from clearly audible. In Europe, both the powers were ostensibly cooperating with each other in the intractable ramifications of the Eastern question and one would deduce that the Russian potentate harboured no ill-will to the possessions of a 'friendly power' in the East.

3 Lajpat Rai Nair (Ed.) *Sir William Macnaghten's Correspondence relating to the Tripartite Treaty*, Monograph No. 20, Punjab Government Record Office Publications (Lahore, 1942), p. 4.

The treaty of Tukomanchai (1828) however marks the opening of a new phase. Its harsh terms, dictated by a victorious Russia to a badly-mauled Persia, resulted in St. Petersburg exercising a predominant influence in shaping the policies of the hapless Tehran ruler.⁴

In sharp contrast, either through their indifference or lack of will, the British lost their once-powerful hold at the court of the Persian ruler. On the other hand, having established a foot-hold, the Russians now encouraged the Persians to seek expansion towards the east. Taking a realistic view of these developments, the British in India decided to revise their earlier policy and determined to stem the tide of a joint Russo-Persian advance based on or mounted through Afghanistan. With this end in view, the John Company made a big effort to strengthen further its relations with Ranjit Singh and the Amirs of Sind. In pursuance of the new policy, the Indian Governor-General now despatched two missions under Captains Connolly and Alexander Burnes to Afghanistan and Central Asia respectively with a view to keeping himself informed of day-to-day developments in those regions.⁵

It may be noted here that until then, the British had been somewhat chary of spelling out their position vis-a-vis the Amirs of Afghanistan on the one hand and the Sikh ruler of the Punjab on the other. Dost Mohammad, the Barakzai ruler of Afghanistan, had tried to be friendly with the authorities in India owing to his fear of Persia or, more accurately, a strong Russia working through a weak Persian regime. Yet very little effort was made in Calcutta to win his affection.⁶

Nor was that all. Dost Mohammad's feelers on the question of Peshawar, which was then under the suzerainty of Ranjit Singh and on which both the Dost as well as his Afghan compatriots felt rather strongly, were treated lightly. The plea trotted forth was a specious one namely, that the Government of India would not interfere in the affairs of an independent state. The position which the British faced in Central Asia was in fact both uneasy and uncomfortable even as Auckland took over as Governor General in succession to William Bentinck in 1835. Briefly, on the western frontier of Afghanistan the combined threat of Russia and Persia posed a challenge to the tranquillity of the country; on the eastern, the Afghan-Sikh conflict was a running sore. As if that were not bad enough, the question of navigation on the Indus, had assumed a distinctly political over-tone.

In 1836 the inordinately ambitious policy of Persia under its new Qajar ruler, Mohammad Shah (1834-48), who enjoyed the active support of Russia,

4 Asghar H Bilgrami, *Afghanistan and British India, 1873-1907* (New Delhi, 1972), p. 64.

5 *Ibid.*, pp. 69-70.

6 Bisheshwar Prasad, *The Foundations of India's Foreign Policy, 1860-1882* (New Delhi, 1955), vol. 1, p. 7.

led him to claim the sovereignty of Afghanistan. Partly with a view to enforcing that claim he was preparing to attack Herat. It was at this juncture (1837), that the British thought of active interference in the affairs of Kabul and with this end in view, despatched a mission thither under Captain Alexander Burnes. Its ostensible aim was commercial, in historian Kaye's words: 'to work out the possibility of opening the river Indus to commerce';^{6a} its real, underlying motive was to check a possible Russo-Persian advance as far away from the Indian gulf as possible. The commercial facade served as a front for his real mission; to bring about a rapprochement between Ranjit Singh and Dost Mohammad and to conclude a mutual security agreement with the Amir based on the Shah Shuja-Elphinstone treaty of 1809.^{6b} In retrospect, the mission failed in its desired objective, for Burnes had no authority to make any firm promises of substantial assistance beyond assurances of lip sympathy. On the other hand, the Dost wanted some tangible proof of friendship for in a crisis that threatened the very existence of his country, he refused to be content with mere professions of good-will. Besides, by March 1838 when the British envoy delivered what was his veritable ultimatum to the Amir, it was clear to the latter that the British would 'do nothing to upset' their alliance with the Sikhs.

Disappointed with the British, the Amir now lent a ready ear to the Russian adventurer (he was actually of Polish-Lithuanian origin) Captain Ivan Viktorovich Vitkevich (also spelt Vicovich, Vickovich, Viktievitch) who, in sharp contrast to the British envoy, was profuse in his promises.⁷

Meanwhile the Persians, egged on by the Russians had laid siege to Herat. The British, on their part, demanded the dismissal of the Russian agent and the renunciation by Dost Mohammad of his claims to the former Afghan provinces, then in the possession of Ranjit Singh. These conditions they now listed as necessary pre-requisites to their entering into any formal treaty relations with the Amir. Not unnaturally, the latter refused to oblige while Burnes was asked to withdraw from Kabul. As if in retaliation, Auckland decided to despatch a British expedition to relieve Herat and place Shuja-ul-Mulk on the masnad at Kabul. The latter, it may be recalled, had since 1809 been discredited and disowned by his own people. As a British pensioner at Ludhiana for many years, it was clear that he would be more amenable to their (viz. British) influence than Dost Mohammad who had over the years, and more particularly in the course of his negotiations with Burnes, shown a strain of sturdy independence.

With a view to placing Shah Shuja on the throne a treaty was entered

6a John Kaye, *History of the War in Afghanistan*, third edition, (London, 1874), 3 vols, I, p. 181.

6b Louis Dupree, *Afghanistan* (Princeton, 1974), p. 370.

7. Bisheshwar Prasad, *op. cit.*, pp. 7-8.

into between the British, Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the ex-Afghan Amir, known as the Tripartite treaty (June 26, 1838). Initially, the British role was to be somewhat peripheral, being limited to the supply of treasure for the venture; later, it assumed a more important if also pivotal character. Consequent thereupon the Governor-General directed that a force be assembled at Karnal for launching a determined invasion of Afghanistan, the actual state of war itself being declared in October, 1838.

It may be added, if only in parenthesis, that blame for the Afghan disaster has been traditionally saddled on to the shoulders of Auckland, his own and his advisers' 'misunderstandings and miscalculations'. Recent researches however, tend to show that a great deal of responsibility for the policy pursued must be shared by Auckland's political superiors at home. Inter alia, according to a keen student of this episode in Afghan history, it was the British government's determination

to avoid European war at all costs that disguised the truth and doctored the record of events in Persia and Afghanistan in 1838. The disguise has hampered historians ever since.^{7a}

In spite of his Treaty of Friendship and Amity, Ranjit Singh eventually declined to let the British expedition cross his territories. A Sikh force however was placed at the disposal of Captain (later Colonel Sir) Claude Wade who with a small British detachment, advanced through the Khyber pass.

↳ The army of the Indus numbering 21,000 men which had initially assembled at Ferozepore^{7b} in November (1838) moved through Sind and Baluchistan and reached Quetta in March (1839). Under the command of Sir John Keane it marched through the Bolan pass. Kandahar was occupied in April 1839 and Shah Shuja crowned in his father's mosque. Later Dost Mohammad finding that his troops were fast deserting him, crossed the Hindu Kush while Shah Shuja entered Kabul on August 7 (1839).⁸ To all appearances, the war was at an end and its ostensible proof lay in the fact that Keane returned to India leaving behind him at Kabul 8,000 men besides Shah Shuja's own force. There was Sir William Macnaghten too,

7a J A Norris, *The First Anglo-Afghan War* (Cambridge, 1967), p. 173.

7b The breakdown given is : Bengal contingent: 9,500 men; Bombay contingent : 5,600; Shah Shuja's force: 6,000 men; camp followers : 38,000; camels: 30,000. In addition there was the baggage of the officers—one brigadier, for instance, had 60 camels for his baggage and Sir John Keane used 260 for himself and his staff. Cited in Louis Dupree, *op. cit.*, n. 11, p. 377.

8 For a detailed account see 'Marching to Kandhar' and 'A King Restored', Chapters 11 and 12 respectively in Norris, *op. cit.*, pp. 247-302.

See also *The Imperial Gazetteer of India*, New Edition, (Oxford, 1907-9), 26 vols, V, p. 38.

now Envoy to the restored Shah, assisted by Sir Alexander Burnes as Resident.⁹ Not long afterwards, Dost Mohammad surrendered, was taken prisoner and sent to Calcutta under escort.

The British idea in sending an army to Kabul was to put Shah Shuja on the Afghan throne and having accomplished that objective leave him to his devices and withdraw. Yet, after the actual occupation, it soon came to be realised that Shah Shuja was incapable of standing on his own without the support of British arms—a contingency for which no previous planning had been done. The fact was that the newly-installed Afghan ruler proved to be a mere puppet in the hands of the British, was not acceptable to his own people who believed, and rightly too, that he had been foisted on them by an alien, and therefore necessarily hostile, power.

The first year (1839-40) passed in comparative peace, but with the death of Ranjit Singh (June 1839) there was instability in the Panjab with the result that British relations with the Sikh state deteriorated precipitately. This unhappy state of affairs synchronised with a growing lack of stability in the Afghan situation resulting from a change of rulers at Kabul. Towards the fag-end of 1841 an upsurge of a truly national dimension, markedly anti-British in shape and form, ended the rule of Shah Shuja's proteges followed soon afterwards by the gruesome murder of the Shah himself.

Owing to the incompetence of the British military commanders and the amazing short-sightedness of their envoys, Macnaghten and Burnes, the uprising almost completely destroyed the Anglo-Indian army, which was then in occupation at Kabul. And thus ended, in bloodshed and disaster, the first attempt of the British to gain control of the Hindu Kush.^{9a}

The news of the Afghan debacle with its melodramatic overtones produced a shock of horror in Britain and was an important contributory factor in the collapse of the decrepit Melbourne administration. After a general election the new government promptly informed Auckland that he was to be replaced and that his successor Ellenborough would arrive in the spring of 1842. On assuming office the new Governor-General called for a reversal of the old policy but was nonetheless determined on the 're-establishment of our military reputation by the infliction of some signal and decisive blow' upon the Afghans.¹⁰

The preceding pages help furnish a broad framework of reference in

9 *Loc. cit.*

9a For a vivid account of the disaster see *Rising at Kabul* Chapter 15 in Norris, *op. cit.* pp.361-90; Dupree, *op. cit.* pp.383-94; 'Khurd Kabul' being Chapter VIII, pp.102-18 in Arnold Fletcher, *Afghanistan: Highway of Conquest* (New York, 1966) and G P Gate, *The Kingdom of Afghanistan* (London, 1911), Reprint (New Delhi, 1963), pp.145-46.

10 Arnold Fletcher, *op. cit.*, p. 113.

which to view the growing British interest in the kingdom of Afghanistan. The *Newsletters* begin about the time the army of the Indus marches towards Kabul and draw to a close with the restoration of Dost Mohammad. The four years covered afford, among other things, an insight into the trials and tribulations through which the British passed in that area. The following section which illustrates this graphically draws heavily upon the bits and pieces of news-items relating to the ebb and flow of the Afghan tide as viewed from the vantage-point of Peshawar.

As spelt out earlier, within the parameters sketched out in the preceding pages the *Newsletters* provide some revealing glimpses of men and affairs in and around Afghanistan. Thus early in 1839 and possibly in anticipation of a British assault, we learn that the Kandahar chiefs were 'fortifying their town' and 'getting together' their troops.¹¹ For his part, Dost Mohammad too had levied 'forced contributions' on the people of Kandahar who, understandably, complained of 'this oppression'. Meanwhile the British Agent Wade, then stationed at Peshawar, was trying 'to detach' the Khyber chiefs from loyalty towards Dost Mohammad.¹²

Of the Pathan chiefs, the better-known Sultan Mohammad Khan had furnished an assurance, 'in writing', to the Lahore Durbar that he would 'not correspond' with the Afghan Amir.¹³ Wade though a little less than happy with the dilatoriness of the (Sikh) Durbar in fulfilling its commitment for the supply of 5,000 Muhammadan troops was keen to avail of the Maharaja's armed forces and his French officers stationed at Peshawar. The Khyber chiefs however

continue to remain (in) a virtually neutral position although they showed their willingness to join Shahzada.¹⁴

A little later, we are told that the

employment of the Afghans would be very encouraging to the Shah's adherents and the Agents sent on with leave to make distribution of money would be sure to gain over affections of the bulk of the population in the Cohistan and Zurmat.¹⁵

Not that Dost Mohammad was averse to inciting the 'religious feelings' of his people against Shah Shuja and the English or to excite mob fury for a

11 *Newsletter* 1 : April 1, 1839.

12 *Newsletter* 2 : April 12, 1839.

13 *Newsletter* 3 : April 22, 1839.

Wade had done his 'utmost to discourage the practice of some Sikh officers corresponding with parties in Afghanistan'. For details see *Newsletter* 6 : May 20, 1839.

14 *Newsletter* 3 : April 22, 1839.

'Shahzada was Prince Taimur, son of Shah Shuja.

15 *Newsletter* 5 : May 11, 1839.

'holy war'.¹⁶ As May advanced, it was reported that the Afghan Amir and his men had

given up all hope of being able to meet the Shahzada in the field (for) they have neither money, nor troops.¹⁷

Later, with news of Shah Shuja's arrival at Kandahar the

inhabitants of the country between Ali Musjid and Cabool (were) thrown into a state of great excitement and they were on the point of making an open outbreak against Dost Mohammed.¹⁸

The Kabul ruler and his friends were understandably 'much dispirited and alarmed' and there were reports that they contemplated 'flying' on the Shah's approach.¹⁹

Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's grandson along with the redoubtable Italian commander, General Avitabile, who had been appointed Governor of Peshawar in 1837, had been cooperating fully with Captain Wade. In July (1839) the Durbar had requested withdrawal of the 'Khas' troops who had been 'long on service'. To this Wade agreed, provided some relief was promised.²⁰ Later, the Kanwar despite General Ventura's known displeasure, lent help with men and munitions when the British launched an attack on the frontier post of Ali Masjid.²¹

Wade had taken measures to 'secure' the safety of communications

16 *Loc. cit.*

Later we are told that the Syed of Thira with 'other persons of holy character' had defected from Amir Dost Mohammad.

17 *Newsletter* 6 : May 20, 1839.

The people of Kabul, we are told, rather than be 'exposed to the horrors of war on his account' would be prepared to 'seize and depose him (Dost Mohammad) themselves'. *Loc. cit.*

18 *Newsletter* 6 : May 20, 1839.

Ali Masjid, a few miles west of the fort of Jamrud and just short of the Khyber, was an important military post.

19 *Loc. cit.*

There were reports too of the Amir sending 5,000 of his men to Ghazni for 'its defence' and 'a small body' to Jalalabad. *Newsletter*, June 10, 1839.

20 When Wade asked Nau Nihal Singh to send troops towards Gudhee against Saadat Khan, the latter, we are told, 'did so'. *Newsletter* 12 : July 20, 1839.

21 *Newsletter* 13 : July 30, 1839.

Later difficulties were to develop as to the letter of the treaty and Sikh commitments under its terms. *Newsletter* 14 : August 10, 1839.

through the Khyber territory. He noted that the

road between Lalla Beg and Lundi Khana is one of extreme difficulty for artillery. There is also a difficult place for guns to pass immediately below the fort of Ali Musjid.²²

On Shahzada Taimur's arrival at Jalalabad, he was 'greeted' by the inhabitants who assembled in large numbers to receive him. Akbar Khan's rule^{22a} in this area had been oppressive for

in his endeavours to support an army disproportionate in extent to the territory subject to his authority (he) was obliged to make exactions and levy contributions on them (local inhabitants).²³

Peshawar, we are told, was an extremely unhealthy place for the troops. It was calculated that out of 35,000 men stationed there, only 500 were declared 'fit for duty' at Ali Masjid. This was largely due to the fact that the country all around Peshawar was low 'with the water close to the surface.' Later the troops' sickness provoked an attack from 'the Khyberees'^{23a} as a result of which the pass remained temporarily closed.²⁴

With Nau Nihal Singh's departure for Lahore (September 1839) the law and order situation in Peshawar is said to have improved a great deal, for the time being at any rate. Avitabile was a strong man with the result that the number of murders dropped steeply.²⁵ Yet the Khyber chiefs under Sultan Mohammad Khan were upto their own game

pursuing a course of their own and paid little attention to his (General Avitabile's) authority owing to the changes which have

22 *Newsletter* 15 : August 20, 1839.

22a Mohammad Akbar Khan was the son of Dost Mohammad, the Amir of Afghanistan. He played a leading role in the insurrection, in 1841, against British forces and their protege, Shah Shuja. Seven years after his father's restoration, he died at Kabul in 1849.

23 *Newsletter* 17 : September 10, 1839.

While escaping, Akbar Khan was left with 'only a few' of his followers. Wade was thus able to capture 'part of his (Akbar Khan's) camp equipage, a few horses, draft bullocks, jezzails'. For details, *Loc. cit.*

23a Literally the inhabitants of the Khyber pass. The principal tribes who lived under their chieftains called maliks, were the Afridis in the eastern hill-areas near Peshawar, the Shinwaris near the western hills around Jalalabad and the Orakzais, to the southwest of Peshawar. The 'Khyberees' received a sizeable allowance from the Afghan rulers to help keep traffic through the pass open and secure.

24 *Newsletters* 20, 21 : October 15 and 25, 1839.

Troops including Sikh regiments were moved from Jalalabad into the (Khyber) pass with a view 'to coerce' the Khyber chiefs. Peace returned with the chiefs agreeing 'to keep road free of robbers', *Newsletters*, November 30 and December 10, 1839.

25 *Newsletters* 20 : October 15, 1839.

taken place at Lahore and their direct influence at the court.²⁶

Later we are informed that the Khyber chiefs and their brothers were 'determined intriguers' who were trying to get the tribal leaders of Sawat and Banur to acknowledge Sikh 'supremacy'. Additionally they had been trying 'to insinuate' themselves with the rulers of Dir,^{26a} a territory to which, we are assured, they did not have the 'faintest title.'²⁷

In 1840 Kabul was quiet, a fact which synchronises with a virtual black-out of *Newsletters*. This would partly explain a news-item of January 23 (1841) that Khan Bahadur Khan

agrees to perform all he stands pledged to as regards his allegiance to Shah Shuja.²⁸

The Khyber too was peaceful. A report in March (1841) stated that it was 'free from danger' and that the punishment inflicted on the Jungoo Kheil had a 'good effect' on the people in the Khyber pass.²⁹ The British had apparently dug in for in April (1841) Captain Mackeson was

contemplating the erection of certain buildings in Aly Musjeed to protect the troops and others from the effects of the weather.³⁰

Meantime the state of lawlessness in Peshawar consequent upon the civil war, then rampant at Lahore, made the Governor General's Agent on the North West Frontier advise Captain Mackeson

as to the practicability of withdrawing with his establishment from Peshawar to any station within the Cabool frontier where the duties of his office can best be transacted.³¹

This was reinforced by General Avitabile's reported intention 'to abdicate' the government of Peshawar and 'retire' to Kabul.³² Later, we are told, the

26 *Newsletter* 23 : November 18, 1839.

26a Dir (now in Pakistan) is a territory adjacent to Sawat, Banur and Chitral and close to the Afghan frontier. It is a hilly country inhabited for most part, by the Yusafzais; its principal source of revenue derived largely from the export of timber.

27 *Newsletter* 26 : December 20, 1839.

28 *Newsletter* 36 : March 1, 1841.

29 *Newsletters* 40, 42 : April 12 and May 3, 1841.

30 *Newsletter* 43 : May 10, 1841.

31 *Newsletter* 44 : May 24, 1841.

32 *Newsletter* 46 : June 9, 1841.

The General's decision, we are told, was due among others to the 'sad state of disorganisation' at Peshawar. A little later there was news that the mutinous Sikh troops at Peshawar were 'contemplating' a march on Lahore. *Newsletter* 47 : June 22, 1841.

General had taken measures 'for his own protection' by recruiting a 'personal guard' of 200 Afghans.³³ He staggered the date but did not alter his intent of quitting for in July (1841)

he wishes to go round by Candahar and Shikarpur to Loodeeanah and then to apply for his final dismissal from the Lahore durbar.³⁴

In the meantime there was a lot of in-fighting in the Punjab for a report in September intimated that the future government of Peshawar 'vested' in Raja Gulab Singh.³⁵

News of the disaster in Afghanistan were not slow in coming. On December 25 (1841) Major Pottinger

writes.....briefly confirming the melancholy intelligence of the murder of Sir William Macnaghten and the capture of our officers and men that at the time of writing the cantonment was being attacked.³⁶

In the Punjab, Maharaja Sher Singh was trying to assert his full measure of control for in February (1842) there were news of Kanwar Partap Singh (son of Maharaja Sher Singh) accompanied by Raja Gulab Singh arriving at Peshawar 'with their troops'. The British on their own were retrieving what they could from their military debacle for their Commander-in-Chief had

sent forward powerful reinforcements of forces to support General Pollock at Peshawar.³⁷

At Kabul, however, Shah Shuja seemed strangely oblivious of the fate that awaited him for he

appears to hold Durbar regularly to which all the chiefs attend. Nawab Zoman Khan, the Prime Minister professes great anxiety to secure the friendship of the British and the king himself professes to be attached to our interests.³⁸

33 *Newsletter* 48 : July 1, 1841.

34 *Newsletter* 49 : July 10, 1841.

Inter alia, Avitabile wanted to secure the 'favourable season' for the overland journey to Europe, through Egypt. Later, however, he changed his plans for Maharaja Sher Singh promised he would 'shortly' send for him to (repair to) Lahore.

35 *Newsletter* 57 : October 1, 1841.

36 *Newsletter* 68 : January 22, 1842.

37 *Newsletter* 73 : March 10, 1842.

38 *Loc. cit.*

III

Broadly the years 1839-42 (covered in the *Newsletters*) so far as the Panjab is concerned, fall into four distinct phases. There is the short and eventful reign of Maharaja Kharak Singh who on the death (in June 1839) of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, succeeds his father without any known opposition. A few months later (September 1839) when his youthful son, Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh repairs to Lahore, an uneasy duumvirate of a sort is established with the young prince as the de facto ruler while his father, the Maharaja, reigns as the titular chief, a state of affairs none too satisfactory to either. With the death of Maharaja Kharak Singh in November 1840, a new chapter is opened in the history of the disturbed province. As ill-luck would have it, the Kanwar, a youth of great promise and proven ability dies within less than twenty-four hours, victim of a ghastly tragedy. With his premature demise, the dream of a strong and vigorous Sikh monarchy under a youngman of some imagination and drive proves singularly unavailing.

The Kanwar's death is followed by a brief, and violently disturbed, interregnum in which Mai Chand Kaur, his widowed mother, wields the sceptre. Her reign was short-lived, lasting for less than three months (November 1840-January 1841), and was sustained by her partisans, the Sandawalias, on the plea that she was acting as Regent for the child-to-be-born to Nau Nihal Singh's youthful widow.

Chand Kaur's deposition in January 1841 brought Maharaja Sher Singh to the gaddi, at Lahore. His rule of a little less than three years, until September 1843, was marked by large-scale disturbances both in the army as well as the civil polity. With his assassination, Maharaja Dalip Singh, a child and a minor, with his mother Rani Jind Kaur as Regent, assumed the masnad.

Afghanistan alone was not in a disturbed state in the years surveyed here, for the post-Ranjit Singh Punjab was in no better shape either. The fact is that just as the rise of the Sikh power had been rapid and even meteoric, its fall was equally sudden and inglorious. Osborne truly prophesied perhaps beyond his ken when, in 1838, he wrote that the future 'probable' state of 'this beautiful country' was a 'melancholy thing' to contemplate.¹ To be sure long before the old Maharaja breathed his last, a number of important forces had already emerged and in a manner of speaking made themselves starkly manifest. There was, to start with, the evertightening noose of British power and influence around the Sikh dominion. Additionally there were the rival factions fighting for supremacy at the court while the Khalsa

1 W G Osborne, *The Court and Camp of Runjeet Singh* (London, 1840), p. 52.

army was becoming ever more powerful, if at the same time increasingly difficult to control. To cap it all, there was the notorious incapacity of the heir-apparent to exercise a firm hold on the administration. In sum, here were unmistakable portents of the ugly shape of things to come.

To be sure, soon after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Sikh rule in the Panjab degenerated into a state of near-chaos with real power slipping into the hands of the Khalsa army. The soldiers, in order to reimburse themselves, resorted to loot and daylight plunder and were soon out in the market place to sell their loyalty, and allegiance, to the highest bidder. The men elected their own 'panches' who negotiated conditions of service with the rival claimants to the throne and left their units to attend to such domestic chores as the gathering of harvest. Understandably discipline was at a discount and the officers, unsure of themselves, felt insecure, even nervous. This was particularly marked, as we would notice presently, in the case of foreign officers many of whom left the service of the Durbar; the few that remained sent away their money and belongings. With their loyalty increasingly under strain, some of these soldiers of fortune were not averse to helping the British in their known covetous designs on the independent state of the Punjab.

As discipline in the ranks of the Khalsa army loosened, the provincial governors became recalcitrant. Typical of the genre was Gulab Singh Dogra of Jammu who now embarked upon a career of considerable territorial expansion at the cost of the Durbar. Pathan tribes, more particularly the Yusufzais around Hazara and the Baluchis between the Jhelum and the Indus, became restive. As the Durbar's authority weakened and the state of anarchy in the Panjab threatened to become chronic, the British began to mature their plans to step in to fill the political vacuum.

One of the major factors in the struggle for power was growing rivalry between the Dogras and some prominent members of the Sikh landed aristocracy. Of the latter, three families, the Sandhwalias, the Attariwalas and the Majithias, in that order, were the more important. Not that the rivals were closely knit as among themselves; as a matter of fact, the interests of the Sikh aristocracy were disparate and did not always work in unison while among the Dogra brothers there were strong differences too. All this notwithstanding, one of the brothers invariably managed to stay at Lahore and manipulated the levers of power. Gulab Singh on the other hand functioned in a manner as to keep away from Lahore and thereby consolidate his fief at Jammu into a strong, autonomous kingdom.

To put it mildly, the state of affairs in the post-Ranjit Singh Punjab, was a grim one. At its crudest, the rival factions were the brains behind the coups and the intrigues which were endemic; the Khalsa army, the power behind the throne; the claimants to the masnad, pawns on the political chess-board.

And even as this high-power drama was being played, the John Company was not unlike the hungry wolf at the door, ever ready, and indeed eager, to pounce on its prey.

Briefly, not long after the Maharaja's death, government in the Panjab degenerated into a state of near-anarchy with real power passing into the hands of the Khalsa army. The latter, in turn, overawed the nominal rulers at Lahore through its delegates known as the panches. A grim series of revolutions and assassinations followed, the army in turn setting up and then withdrawing support, from members of the royal family who, in keen competition, made the highest bids for its favours. Towards the end, these unfortunate developments culminated in a fatal clash with the English which was to spell the doom of the independent Sikh state of the Punjab.

A graphic description of how the army functioned during these tumultuous years may be gauged from Professor Hari Ram Gupta's classic account of this period. Inter alia, he has expressed the view that having assumed the role of the 'king-maker, the minister-maker and General-maker', the army assigned a lower position to the Maharaja and the Prime Minister. More, it

began to consider itself the master of the state. Individually the Sikh soldiery looked after their own personal interests. Collectively the army considered itself the guardians of Sikhism as well as the state. With this object in view, they began to control the executive government at the capital and other important places. No officer came forward to command the troops. On the contrary they obeyed the army orders.²

As for the panchayats, every

battalion, every regiment created its own panchayats or committees of five prominent men. They elected a superior panchayat for the whole army. The military panchayats were created on the model of panchayats in villages. . . . Its decisions were conveyed to every panchayat on the lower level and their orders were implicitly obeyed. Thus these panchayats controlled the Sikh army. They conveyed their decisions to the Prime Minister and compelled him to abide by them³

It is possible to argue that Maharaja Ranjit Singh could perhaps to an extent visualise the civil strife that followed his death. This may if partly

2 Hari Ram Gupta, *Panjab on the Eve of the First Sikh War*, second revised edition, (Chandigarh, 1975), p. 45.

3 *Loc. cit.*

explain how a guiding principle of his policy towards the English, as well as domestic squabbles, was to provide against such contingencies as, in his opinion, might threaten the stability of the kingdom. Thus he tried to win the goodwill of the British as well as the allegiance and devotion of the Dogra chiefs of Jammu. Both, he felt certain, would remain loyal to his weak successors.

To get a clearer picture of the whole, it may be useful at this stage to piece the bits together. To start with, the signs were propitious. Thus Maharaja Kharak Singh's accession to the throne was peaceful⁴ for Kanwar Sher Singh's bid did not muster much support and, in fact, proved still-born. The real problem was different, namely that Kharak Singh, a childhood addict to opium and drugs was, as contemporary accounts stressed, at once suspicious, unforgiving and vindictive. It has been maintained that his intellect, intelligence and will-power were 'below normal', that, at best, he was a 'mediocre'.⁵ Such a ruler was totally unfit to manage the affairs of state. . worse, he was little better than an imbecile.⁶

Luckily, the day-to-day administration was in the firm and competent hands of Dogra Raja Dhian Singh who along with his son Hira Singh (soon put in charge of the Deorhi) wielded absolute authority. Observers noted that the reins of government were 'in reality' in the grasp of the Jammu Rajas and everyone, great or small, 'fears' the Rajas only. Of them all, Dhian Singh, diligent in the discharge of his duties, guarded scrupulously against any encroachment on his authority.⁷

Unmindful of the true interests of the state, the ill-advised and feeble-witted Maharaja fell out with his Wazir, the one man who could, in the prevalent post-Ranjit Singh uncertainty, effectively control the administration. Even before the latter died, keen observers of the contemporary scene had commended Raja Dhian Singh's 'honesty, ability and public spirit'

4 According to one Edgeworth, a British military officer at Lahore (who probably was an eye-witness), Kanwar Kharak Singh 'appears to have quietly' succeeded to the throne. *Newsletter* 11 : July 10, 1839.

5 Hari Ram Gupta, *Supra*, n. 2, p. 22.

Charles Masson, a contemporary observer noted :

He is esteemed imbecile, but, I suspect, is merely of a mild, placid disposition; averse to cruelty, as to exertion. Masson, *infra*, n. 8, p. 441.

6 Burnes noted that Kharak Singh's imbecility was 'such that he can scarcely return an answer to the most simple question'. Alexander Burnes, *Cabool* (London, 1843), pp. 122-123.

7 *Newsletter* 12 : July 20, 1839.

and noted that he had the knowledge of politics 'as practised' by Ranjit Singh.⁸ Contemporary accounts rated him as the 'most outstanding' figure in the Durbar, the 'shrewdest and wisest' administrator, a 'good soldier' who was 'popular' with the army.⁹ A keen observer of the scene noted that he was 'active, clever and intelligent' and possessed of 'great influence' over the Khalsa army;¹⁰ another that he was 'one of the best men' and the 'finest fellow' in the Punjab.¹¹

A recent biographer of Gulab Singh has remarked that his British contemporaries who encountered Raja Dhian Singh near the end of Ranjit Singh's reign 'raved about his physical appearance and elegant manners' but failed to perceive that 'he too, like his elder brother (viz. Gulab Singh)', was 'rapacious, scheming, and on occasions unmerciful.'^{11a}

Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh, the Maharaja Kharak Singh's youthful, intelligent, and extremely ambitious son was stationed at Peshawar at the time of his grandfather's death. Besides holding the difficult if at the same time unrewarding charge of that troubled frontier province, he had been acting as the Durbar's principal agent in implementing the terms of the tri-partite treaty with the British and Shah Shuja.

A contemporary noted that the Kanwar

was popular with the army for he had been a soldier from his boyhood, and was of a brave and indomitable spirit, united at the time to great caution, discretion and forethought. Ranjit Singh was very proud of Nao Nihal Singh and fondly anticipated that in him

8 *Newsletter 2* : April 12, 1839.

It was noted that even before Maharaja Ranjit Singh breathed his last, Kharak Singh had made 'common cause' with Raja Dhian Singh and had even 'already' made him his Wazir.

Masson, an American adventurer, relates that 'Mir Dhaiyan Singh' who had been found 'a stripling' in the jungle on some ravaging expedition caught the Maharaja's fancy owing to his 'personal attractions'; that his (Dhian Singh's) subservience to 'his (Maharaja's) impure desires' had brought about his own and his family's rapid rise. He nonetheless concedes that the Wazir 'has not proved deficient in talent, although much so in moral excellence'. Charles Masson, *Narrative of Various Journeys in Balochistan, Afghanistan and the Panjab*, 3 vols, (Richard Bentley, London, 1842), Reprint, Introduction by Gavin Hambly, (Oxford, 1974), I, pp. 440-41.

9 Hari Ram Gupta, *Supra*, n. 2, p. 41.

10 Osborne, *Supra*, n. 1, p. 74.

11 G.T. Vigne, *A Personal Narrative of a Visit to Ghuzni, Kabul and Afghanistan etc. etc.* second edition (London, 1843), p. 250. Vigne noted, inter alia, that Maharaja Ranjit Singh had conferred on Dhian Singh the title of 'Rajah Rajghan' and always called him 'Rajah Sahib' or the 'Rajah'. He noted too that Dhian Singh filled his office with 'ability and distinction.'

11a Bawa Satinder Singh, *The Jammu Fox: A biography of Maharaja Gulab Singh of Kashmir, 1792-1857* (Southern Illinois University Press, 1974), p. 39.

the Sikhs would find a successor worthy of filling the throne of Lahore and preserving his entire kingdom.¹²

If only in parenthesis, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's astute sense of loyalty to the British coupled with his anxiety to fulfil the terms of the tri-partite treaty may be worth a brief mention here. Thus as early as April (1839), the Maharaja is said to have remarked in open Durbar that 'had he not been ill', he would 'gladly' have headed the Kabul war himself whereupon his courtiers assured him that Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh would be 'an able substitute'.

In May, Raja Dhian Singh had told Clerk that at Peshawar nothing would be done but 'in concert' with Captain Wade. Later in the month, the old Maharaja had ordered Sikh forces to be stationed at the fort of Fatehgarh 'for aid and support' of Prince Taimur. He had further directed that the Durbar 'execute the terms of recent treaty and send supplies of grain' to Captain Wade. In June, Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh had reported that he was 'attending' to 'every request' made by the British representative.¹³

The *Newsletters* reveal that on the morrow of his grandfather's death the Kanwar had made the Sardars, in and around Peshawar, sign and seal documents confirming the succession of his father, Maharaja Kharak Singh, besides his (Nau Nihal Singh) own 'Mukhtaree'.¹⁴ It has been suggested that while many a chief conformed, Raja Gulab Singh 'however tactfully refused by declaring that he was faithful to Ranjit Singh's whole family'.^{14a} This fact however did not deter the Prince for presently, leaving Peshawar in the hands of General Avitabile,¹⁵ Nau Nihal Singh repaired to Lahore arriving there in the third week of September (1839).¹⁶

Even as he did so, the Durbar was an ungainly sight, a hot-bed of faction fights, of intrigue and counter-intrigue. The Maharaja leaned heavily on Chet Singh Bajwa who was related to him, being married to the niece of Mangal Singh Sindhu, his (Maharaja's) brother-in-law. Chet Singh, a raw

12 W L M'Gregor, *The History of the Sikhs* (London, 1846) 2 vols., II, p. 5.

13 For details, *Newsletters* 3, 6, 8, 10: April 22, May 20, June 10 and July 1, 1839

14 The Afghan chiefs of Peshawar had assured Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh that 'so long' as he was loyal to Kharak Singh they will 'adhere' to him but 'not otherwise'. *Newsletter* 12: July 20, 1839.

14a Wade to Maddock, June 27, 1839, *Political Consultations*, cited in Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

15 A Peshawar news-writer noted that Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh had reached Khairabad, on his way to Lahore, while Avitabile 'had been ordered to remain at Peshawar'. *Newsletter* 17: September 10, 1839.

16 Hearing that the Kanwar was nearing the capital, the Maharaja is said to have ordered that 'a salute of guns' be fired from all the artillery units when the Kanwar arrived at Lahore. *Newsletter* 18: September 23, 1839.

youth in his early twenties whose chief qualities were listed by contemporaries as 'arrogance' and 'sycophancy',¹⁷ was inimical to Raja Dhian Singh whom he publicly avowed to unseat.¹⁸ In turn, the Jammu Rajas drew nearer to the Kanwar who had organised his own group of supporters in Bhais Ram Singh and Govind Ram and Missars Beli Ram and Ram Krishan.

Raja Dhian Singh who understandably resented the Maharaja's lack of trust in him and was averse to the latter's close alliance with Chet Singh made a big effort to bring the two into public contempt. It was thus widely rumoured that Chet Singh was in the pay of the British and had, with the Maharaja's connivance, leagued to place the Panjab under their control. The net result was that, in the public view, Chet Singh was dubbed a traitor while Kharak Singh's advances were rebuffed and he was viewed as unworthy of being a king.¹⁹ The historian Latif noted that the civil and military 'freely vented their indignation' at Kharak Singh's alleged treachery, that the Maharaja was 'openly caluminated, that the soldiery began to look upon him 'as a traitor, unworthy of his position'.^{19a} At a hurriedly convened secret conference to which all important members of the royal family had been invited, including Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh and Mai Chand Kaur, Dhian Singh is said to have produced two letters allegedly written by Chet Singh and bearing the seal and signatures of Kharak Singh. Herein the Maharaja had reportedly invited British help and offered 'to pawn the Panjab at 38% of the revenues'.²⁰

Earlier Kanwar Nau Nihal's arrival at Lahore had helped to crystallise the situation. The Kanwar, conscious of Dhian Singh's ability and great administrative acumen, counselled his father against Chet Singh. The Maharaja however was adamant and directed the Wazir to carry on the administration 'in concert' with his favourite. This was a patently unpalatable position and one that the Wazir would not accept. His refusal to comply was blunt, unqualified :

I am the servant of Maharaja and of Kanwar Nao Nihal Singh but cannot serve Cheyt Singh.²¹

Matters came to a head in October (1839) when Chet Singh let it be

17 M'Gregor, *Supra*, n. 12, II, p. 5.

18 We are told that on October 7 (1839) Missar Beli Ram 'began to concert measures' for the apprehension of Raja Dhian Singh. *Newsletter* 21 : October 25, 1839.

19 B R Chopra, *Kingdom of the Panjab, 1839-45* (Hoshiarpur, 1969), cited *et. seq.* as Chopra.

19a Latif, 'History', p. 497, cited in Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 41.

20 Cited in Hari Ram Gupta, *Supra*, n. 2, p. 30.

21 *Newsletter* 20 : October 15, 1839.

known in open Durbar that he intended to have the Minister killed.²² The actual words used are said to have been : 'Dhian Singh, we must show our hand within a week. I tell you'.²³ The Wazir had prior knowledge of this dastardly plot and, to anticipate it, planned his rival's assassination. Both the Kanwar as well as Chand Kaur were privy to the crime for it was part of a larger design which embraced inter alia the retirement from active public life of Maharaja Kharak Singh, a role for which he was known to be unfit, and the regency of his son, Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh.²⁴

On the night of October 8-9, in the early hours of the morning,²⁵ and in the presence of his terrified master, Chet Singh was hacked to pieces.²⁶ Historians differ as to who was the more active of the two Dogra brothers. Thus Cunningham has expressed the view that Gulab Singh was 'perhaps the most resolute actor in this tragedy', while Latif is emphatic that Chet Singh was actually murdered by the Wazir.^{26a} The controversy notwithstanding, it is apparent that his (Chet Singh's) removal from the scene appeared to provide a temporary relief; in retrospect, it had, far-reaching consequences. Contemporary observers expressed the fear that it would lead to more, not less, open dissensions;²⁷ others, with a prophetic prescience, saw it as the

first of the political murders which in a few years removed most of the men holding in place the Punjab at the time of the signing of the tripartite treaty.²⁸

Not that it turned out to be untrue. On the morrow of his murder, Chet Singh's brother Gurdial Singh was done to death while another brother Hardit Singh and his cousins, Wazir Singh and Fatteh Singh, were removed to the fort of Kangra.²⁹ Not long afterwards another group comprising Missar Beli Ram, incharge of the Toshakhana, and his five brothers (one of whom Megh Raj was in charge of the treasure in the Gobindgarh fort at Amritsar), became increasingly suspect. Presently they were all put in fetters on the plea that 'he (Beli Ram) had refused to show the heir-apparent the treasury'.³⁰

22 Hugh Pearse, 'Memoirs of Alexander Gardner,' p. 215, cited in *Chopra*, p. 28.

23 Cited in Hari Ram Gupta, *Supra*, n. 2, p. 30.

24 *Newsletter* 21 : October 25, 1839.

25 According to Khushwant Singh, *A History of the Sikhs* (Princeton, 1966), 2 vols, II, p. 9, the plot was carried out on October 9 (1839).

26 According to Professor Gupta, 'all the eleven members of the secret conference led by Dhian Singh' had marched towards the fort. *Supra*, n. 2, p. 30.

26a Cited in Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 42.

27 Wade to Maddock, December 11, 1839, cited in *Chopra*, p. 30.

28 S S Thorburn, 'The Panjab in Peace and War', p. 26, cited in *Chopra*, p. 30.

29 'Panjab Akhbarat', 1830-41, cited in *Chopra*, p. 31.

30 *Loc. cit.*

To all outward appearances, the situation had cleared as a result of the murders and detentions retailed above. Out of the melee, Nau Nihal Singh emerged supreme with his authority unquestioned while the Maharaja had been reduced to the position of a titular head. Besides, there now seemed to be complete understanding among the powerful coterie led by the Kanwar which included Rajas Dhian Singh and Gulab Singh, Jamedar Khushal Singh and Sardar Ajit Singh Sandhawalia.

On the morrow of the coup, Nau Nihal Singh occupied the palace inside the fort and became the administrative head of the Punjab in all but name; Maharaja Kharak Singh had been taken into the town and confined to his own mansion inside Lohari Gate. With his assumption of responsibility the Kanwar's

attitude to his father changed from obstreperousness to filial propriety. He let all the ceremonial functions remain the prerogative of his father while he attended to administrative matters. He had it conveyed to the Ministers, governors of provinces, and generals. . . . that he meant to govern the Panjab personally and effectively. They soon began to chafe under the prince's iron rule. . . . Within a couple of months the Panjab felt as if the spirit of Ranjit Singh had been restored in the person of his grandson, Nau Nihal Singh.³¹

Among the Kanwar's principal acts were : to attend the daily military parades; despatch an expedition against Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu and realise the arrears of tribute due from him; establish cantonments at Poonch, Sialkot, Kangra and Mandi; suppress the revolt of Raja Balbir Sen of Mandi and confine him to the Gobindgarh fort at Amritsar.³²

Soon however a number of schisms broke out afresh. The Maharaja's health became a cause for anxiety; his extreme despondency and gloom, consequent upon most of his favourites having been removed from their positions, took the form of outbursts of abuse and rage against the powers-that-be. There were fears that he might give expression to his feelings when the enemies of the state were around. An opportunity was not slow to present itself when Captain Wade, the British Agent at Ludhiana who had been temporarily stationed at Peshawar, reached Lahore on November 11. It was widely rumoured that the Maharaja wanted to see him if only to implore with him for the appointment of a British Resident at his court who would help maintain his (Maharaja's) authority.³³ Further credence is lent to this

31 Khushwant Singh, *Supra*, n. 25, pp. 10-11.

32 Hari Ram Gupta, *Supra*, n. 2, pp. 31-32.

33 *Chopra*, p. 35.

report for Wade was known to be well-disposed towards the proposition that the Maharaja recover his lost power and rightful position.³⁴

Not unnaturally, the Kanwar viewed the British Agent as being in intent hostile, holding him additionally to be responsible for all the state's ills. Among these the one he rated most important was that of circumscribing the Punjab's boundaries and therefore its growth and expansion in all directions, more particularly towards Sind and Afghanistan. With the Maharaja openly seeking British support for his own nefarious ends, the Kanwar made up his mind that Wade's continuance at Ludhiana would be suicidal to the state's true interests.

An opportunity to strike soon offered itself. In return for Clerk's combined mission of condolence as well as congratulations to Lahore in September (1839), a deputation from the Durbar led by Faqir Azizuddin and Sardar Lehna Singh waited upon the (British) Governor General at Simla. Inter alia they explained to the latter the Durbar's studied aversion to Wade and demanded his transfer from Ludhiana.³⁵ In reply, Auckland was scrupulously non-committal hoping no doubt that the prevalent storm would soon blow over. Later when General Keane, Commander-in-Chief of British forces in Kabul whose initial Afghan successes had earned him a peerage, visited Lahore sometime in December (1839), he too was approached by the Durbar to much the same effect.

Nor was that all. Pressure had been mounted on the John Company by keeping a number of outstanding questions in cold storage. Thus such urgent (viz. to the British) issues as the return of British troops from Afghanistan, the passage of their convoys of supplies, stores and ammunition through the Punjab and the intrigues of the Barkzai Sardars of Peshawar, Sultan Mohammad Khan and his brothers, were kept in abeyance and deliberately soft-pedalled by the Durbar. The British saw through the game, withdrew Wade, and put Clerk incharge of the Ludhiana Agency as from April 1 (1840). Before long the new Agent visited the Durbar at Amritsar and after protracted negotiations between the two governments sorted out matters, with the Sikh state yielding ground on most.³⁶

Meanwhile, to placate the Maharaja, the Kanwar, despite the known opposition of Raja Dhian Singh, released the Missars; earlier, in January (1840), their fetters had been removed, enabling them to attend the Durbar.³⁷

34 *Ibid.*, p. 41

It may be noted that Dr Chopra has cited no authority in support of his view-point.

35 *Chopra*, pp. 41-42.

36 *Ibid.*, pp. 42-43.

37 *Newsletter* 29 : January 25, 1840.

In the bargain, Nau Nihal Singh is said to have received a 'nazrana' of five lakhs of rupees.³⁸

A recent study suggests that in the aftermath of Chet Singh's murder, the Kanwar's 'expedient alliance' with the Jammu Rajas 'soon began to crumble' which fact improved his relations 'somewhat' with his father. This 'probably' helped Kharak Singh regain his freedom of action and he is said to have 'promptly' resumed his crusade against the Dogras. Nonetheless the author bemoans the fact that while he (Kharak Singh) continued 'to berate and persecute' the Dogras, he 'deliberately refrained' from meting out similar punishment to his 'impetuous son.'^{38a}

During all these months, the Wazir was getting increasingly disillusioned. Thus he is known to have disapproved of the liberation of the Missars all the more as a fresh rival to his authority had emerged in the person of Tej Singh, a nephew of Jamadar Khushal Singh who was designated the new chief commander of the regular army. It was widely rumoured that the Kanwar was planning to place him incharge of the Deorhi, thereby replacing Dhian Singh from an important and strategic position.³⁹ Nor was that all. With the explicit, if not implicit, consent and connivance of the Kanwar, the Bhaïs began to interfere more and more in the affairs of the state. In what was largely a situation of considerable political flux, two groups seemed to emerge clearly. On the one hand was the Kanwar with the two Bhaïs, and Jamedar Khushal Singh, Tej Singh and Ajit Singh Sandhawalia; on the other were Dhian Singh, his brother Gulab Singh and Faqir Azizuddin. Kanwar Sher Singh had kept out, and was more or less neutral in these factional fracas.⁴⁰

In January (1840) Raja Dhian Singh obtained leave of absence and retired temporarily to Jammu. Consequent upon his departure there was a rash of disorders and disturbances all over the state; murders, mostly of a political character; defection of the fort of Kangra; an uprising caused by the zamindars of Muzaffarabad; depredations of Paenda Khan of Darhand; disturbance of the public peace in Poonch; defalcation of state money by provincial governors and kardars⁴¹. Some positively adverse effects of this state of lawlessness on the economy were noticeable too. As if that were not bad enough, the British demanded the opening of the road between Ferozpur and Peshawar.⁴² There is no doubt that even as he saw his administrative grip visibly loosening, the Kanwar invited Dhian Singh to return and resume his Ministry 'under the promise of absolute power'.⁴³

38 Chopra, p. 45.

38a Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, pp. 42-43.

39 Newsletter 29 : January 25, 1840.

40 Chopra, pp. 49-50.

41 *Ibid.*, pp. 54-58.

42 *Ibid.*, p. 59.

43 *Ibid.*, p. 61.

At the end of June (1840), the district of Minawar in Jammu was taken over from Rajas Gulab Singh and Dhian Singh who were ordered to pay its revenues into the treasury. Maharaja Kharak Singh's studiously anti-Dogra stance annoyed the Wazir a great deal while the Kanwar, realising the usefulness of Raja Dhian Singh, tried to assuage the latter's injured feelings.

Maharaja Kharak Singh who had not been keeping good health was taken almost continuously ill from July onwards until his death in November (1840). It has been held that among the causes, apart from the Maharaja's own indulgence in opium and drugs, was the Kanwar's lack of filial piety, his studied neglect of his father and even the latter's slow food poisoning. More by accident than design, it would appear, he was not present by the Maharaja's side at the time of the latter's death.

A word about Kharak Singh's place in the post-Ranjit Singh period. A recent biographer of Gulab Singh has charged that he (Kharak Singh) continues to remain 'one of the most vilified figures' in Sikh annals. While conceding that some of the judgements made against him were 'perhaps justified', others, he contends, were 'grossly exaggerated' and even 'utterly god-less'. *Inter alia*, he has expressed the view that 'unflinchingly' Kharak Singh

attempted to reduce the influence of the Dogras, strengthen his own position, and reign over the Sikh kingdom to the best of his ability... But the odds against Kharak Singh's efforts to establish his rule on a firm footing were too great. He was repeatedly frustrated by the intrigues of the powerful Dogras and the aspirations of his own unfaithful son. Even his wife all but abandoned him. The Khalsa too seemed more loyal to the Wazir than to the Maharaja.⁴⁴

While returning from his father's last rites, Nau Nihal Singh met his own tragic end when the portal of the northern gate of Hazuribagh gave way while the Kanwar was entering it. He succumbed to his injuries a few hours later. This grim tragedy had long been attributed to Raja Dhian Singh who, it is alleged, had conspired to bring about the Prince's death. A detailed examination of the evidence does however seem to suggest convincingly enough that the calamity was 'God-made and *not* man-made'. As another authority has put it, the Kanwar's death was no 'dastardly conspiracy' but a pure 'accident and nothing else'; clearly, 'an act of God'.⁴⁵ Man-made or not, Nau Nihal's tragic end struck at the very root of the Sikh kingdom for with it ended the last scion of the legitimate line of Maharaja Ranjit Singh; none was now left with an unquestioned claim to the throne.

44 Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 45.

45 Khushwant Singh, *The Fall of the Kingdom of the Punjab* (Bombay, 1962), pp. 24-25.

After the death of Nau Nihal Singh, Mai Chand Kaur, the mother of the Kanwar, staked her claims to the Regency on the plea that Nau Nihal Singh's widow, Sahib Kaur, was pregnant. Meanwhile, Kanwar Sher Singh too made a strong bid for the throne and Raja Dhian Singh was known to favour him. The Sandhawalias nonetheless lent their full support to the Mai with the result that, reluctantly, Sher Singh retired to his jagir at Batala and Dhian Singh to Jammu. Additionally, to buttress her strength, Chand Kaur made a big effort to enlist British support for her cause.

Nonetheless, the Mai's rule was not destined to last long. Its duration of less than 70 days proved at best an interregnum which

exposed the Achilles' heel of the Sikh Kingdom, the vulnerable point in its body-politics which the British were to discover and turn to their own advantage.⁴⁶

On January 14 (1841), Kanwar Sher Singh marched to Lahore and rapidly won over the allegiance of the troops. The Kanwar's action (viz. in marching to Lahore, independent of Dhian Singh) 'astounded' Gulab Singh who had now cast his fortune with Mai Chand Kaur. Understandably the Jammu Rajas' greatest fear now lay in the possibility that the Kanwar might become the Maharaja 'without the help of Dhian Singh'. To forestall this he did 'his utmost to hold the Kanwar at bay', until his brother could return to Lahore. Additionally, he re-affirmed his faith in Chand Kaur who, in turn, assigned to Gulab Singh the responsibility of defending the fort.^{46a}

It has been suggested that the army commanders who 'disdained a loose woman's rule' were won over by Dhian Singh through promises of increase in their salary.⁴⁷ Nor did they, it is apparent, distinguish between what was legitimate and what was not. For love

of gold had so corrupted the Khalsa soldiers that they abandoned any attempt at discrimination between right and wrong and sold their blood to the highest bidder, sometimes showing allegiance to each side in turn. By the evening of 15th January, Sher Singh had a force of 60,000 infantry, 8,000 cavalry and a park of artillery comprising 45 guns, also Generals Ventura, Court and Mehtab Singh Majithia in his train.⁴⁸

46 Khushwant Singh (Editor) *Sita Ram Kohli ; Sunset of the Sikh Empire* (New Delhi, 1967), p. 37.

For a graphic description of Mai Chand Kaur's reign see 'The Heel of Achilles', being Chapter 3, pp. 31-38, in *Ibid.*

46a Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 49.

47 Hari Ram Gupta, *Supra*, n. 2, p. 37.

48 Sita Ram Kohli, *Supra*, n. 46, p. 34

Meanwhile on January 17 Dhian Singh returned from Jammu. The tide had, by now, turned decisively in favour of the Kanwar and, to avoid further bloodshed, the two rivals and their protagonists agreed to make peace. Thus the

Dogra strategy was crowned with success. The ruler occupied the throne only with the Jammu Rajas' (Gulab Singh & Dhian Singh) aid and, as future events were to reveal, the power of the Maharajas had been significantly curtailed.^{48a}

Sher Singh now accorded Dhian Singh a big welcome and, on January 20, ascended the throne, in open Durbar.⁴⁹

Not long after the new Maharaja came to the masnad, there were large-scale disorders in the Army. To start with, the Sandhawalias refused to accept the new ruler's legitimacy. This may have been due, if partly, to 'impolitic' decree of the new Maharaja confirming the Dogras in their possessions and permitting them 'to maintain their own troops'. In sum, this was

tantamount to the recognition of a Dogra state within the Sikh state, a Dogra army within the Sikh army.^{49a}

Soon enough there were disturbances all over the state and a large number of cases of insubordination of the army at Lahore.⁵⁰ Maharaja Sher Singh too belied the hopes of many of his admirers ; instead of facing the grim challenges with which the state was beset, he tried to ignore, even by-pass them. Thus we are told that in the

first six months of his rule he parted with nearly 95 lakhs of rupees to the soldiers. Even this did not appease the men... Instead of facing them resolutely, Sher Singh sought escape in the cup, the company of courtesans and the Mai.⁵¹

So bad and uncertain was the state of affairs that at one time it was widely rumoured that the British had threatened to intervene in the Panjab unless law and order were fully restored. Towards the end of March (1841), however, there was a marked improvement in the situation. Dhian Singh,

48a Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

49 Chopra, p. 139. Thursday, Jan. 20 (1841) was Basant Panchmi, an auspicious day both for the Hindus and the Sikhs.

49a Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 52.

50 Chopra, pp. 146-150.

51 Khushwant Singh, *Supra*, n. 25, p. 19.

Sher Singh's alleged infatuation with Mai Chand Kaur appears to be misplaced for it is well-known that she had sternly, and often contemptuously, rejected his repeated advances.

we are told strongly dissuaded the Maharaja from calling in external aid and pursuant thereto British offers at mediation were resolutely spurned.

Nor was Lahore alone disturbed. For mutinies broke out as far apart as Mandi, Kulu, Multan, Derajat, the Hazara country, Peshawar and Kashmir.⁵² In fact there was hardly a part of the state which was not infected by this rash. Meanwhile a growing lack of discipline in the army manifested itself. The Khalsa no longer considered itself responsible to the government but regarded itself as the true agents of the people. The panches, acting 'in concert' were most powerful, a virtual law unto themselves. Thus the Khalsa alone considered itself patriotic, feared a British occupation of the Punjab and wished to preserve the sovereignty of the Sikh state. This dichotomy between its lack of organisation and discipline on the one hand and its laudable, if high-blown aim on the other was 'potentially dangerous' and was one of the major causes of the 'disintegration' of the Sikh kingdom.^{52a}

To be sure there was now virtual anarchy all over the state,

A general feeling of insecurity of life and property continued. The roads became insecure. Besides the troops, other classes had also begun to get infected. . . . The soliders' lawlessness spread throughout the dominions. Bands of armed robbers and the ever-unruly Akalis robbed and roamed everywhere. Local feuds were revived and settled by armed strife, each side hiring as many hooligans as it could afford. . . . Robbery, assassination and murder existed everywhere and the will of the strongest was becoming the law.⁵³

An important result of this state of lawlessness was that foreign officers serving in the Khalsa army felt increasingly unsafe, insecure. Thus both Court and Ventura left Lahore in March (1841). Avitabile, at Peshawar, despite repeated requests was, however, not relieved until April 1843. Meanwhile the Sikh solidery's disorderly conduct at Peshawar had become a standing joke and a shame.

Thanks to a dastardly plot by the Sandhawalias, Maharaja Sher Singh was done to death in September, 1843. Later that day, the Maharaja's assassins managed to outwit the unsuspecting Dhian Singh who, invited to the fort, was slain in cold blood. Thus ended the tumultous four years (1839-43) in which the two Dogra brothers had demonstrated to perfection 'their skill in the arts of intrigue and diplomacy', and emerged for all practical purposes as the 'king-makers of the Sikh state'.^{53a}

⁵² Chopra, pp. 160-72.

^{52a} Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.* p. 53.

⁵³ Chopra, pp. 170-171.

εξξ Bawa Satinder Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

In the broad framework of developments sketched out in the preceding pages, the bits and pieces of the *Newsletters* provide revealing facets, intimate vignettes of life at the raw and even some rare insights. Thus one of the earlier letters spells out a view, then widely held, that having practically become masters of the whole of India, the British aim now was to annex Peshawar. For this purpose they wanted assistance of the Lahore Durbar and fortunately for them got it, for the Maharaja had ordered Dhian Singh to send 5,000 troops for Captain Wade's support.⁵⁴

Another interesting sidelight is afforded by the fact that being 'very much concerned' with all that was happening at Lahore, and just before Maharaja Ranjit Singh breathed his last the British were busy ingratiating themselves with Kharak Singh and Dhian Singh 'who were likely to succeed' to the Lahore throne. We are told that after Kharak Singh had been proclaimed ruler 'quietly' with Dhian Singh as Wazir,⁵⁵ Bhai Govind Ram, Jamedar Khushal Singh and Raja Dina Nath had conferred and 'were unanimous' that 'no confidence' could be placed either in the Maharaja or the Kanwar with regard to their 'continuance in possession of the Jagirs which the late Sikh ruler had conferred upon them'.⁵⁶

There is mention too of Chet Singh's growing estrangement-'diminishing confidence' as the *Newsletters* put it crudely-with Raja Dhian Singh. But the latter, along with Hira Singh, was 'all powerful', administered affairs of state 'in an energetic manner', and 'was feared' by all civil and military officials.⁵⁷ If only as a counterweight, the Kanwar was creating his own group of supporters. Thus it is known that Bhais Ram Singh and Govind Ram and Missar Beli Ram while 'keeping up appearances' with Dhian Singh were 'in reality' attached to the Kanwar.⁵⁸

Relations with the British continued to be cordial, on the surface at any rate. Thus one Captain Nathau who arrived in Lahore on July 30 (1839) noted that

Nothing could exceed the kindness and attention with which our party had been treated from the moment of our arrival.⁵⁹

In September (1839) the Kanwar left Peshawar for Lahore while General Avitabile was 'ordered' to hold charge there. A British mission that

54 *Newsletter* 2 : April 12, 1839.

55 *Newsletters* 10, 11 : July 1 & 10, 1839.

56 *Newsletter* 12 : July 20, 1839.

57 *Loc. cit.*

58 *Newsletter* 13 : July 30, 1839.

59 *Newsletter* 14 : August 10, 1839.

was in Lahore on September 5 placed on record its gratitude for the 'assistance' which Kanwar Nau Nihal Singh had rendered to Captain Wade.⁶⁰

Contemporary accounts noted that the Kanwar treated his father with the 'least semblance' of respect. What was worse, the

Durbar was a melancholy sight without order and nothing but noise and wrangle.⁶¹

Nor were relations between the father and son happy. There was 'ill-feeling' between the two on the question of the jagir which the Kanwar had demanded. Meanwhile the Maharaja was making things difficult for the Wazir whom he had ordered to work 'in concert' with Chet Singh.⁶²

This set the stage for Chet Singh's murder. Dhian Singh had confided in the Kanwar that 'as long as' Chet Singh and Beli Ram lived there 'could be no stability' in the government and 'no security' for any person.⁶³

The conspirators, we are told, 'somehow' managed to enter the fort where they found the Maharaja 'binding on his turban' and Chet Singh 'cleaning his teeth'. After the Sardar had been hacked to pieces they

proclaimed through the city that the Maharaja was the 'Badshah', the Kanwar, the 'Mooktear' and Raja Dhian Singh 'Vizier' of the state.⁶⁴

After the murder of his principal confidante, the Maharaja showed a complete lack of interest in the affairs of state 'leaving everything' to the Kanwar and the Wazir. Inter alia, he expressed a desire to proceed on a pilgrimage to Jawalamukhi but later relented and let it be known that if the Kanwar and the sardars 'wished to please' him, they should produce Hardit Singh, the brother of the late Chet Singh, as well as release Missar Beli Ram 'from confinement.'⁶⁵

While Dhian Singh was assiduously working for the weal of the state, 'engaged day and night' in this arduous task, he seems to have lost confidence in the Kanwar because Tej Singh had acquired 'great influence' on him. This fact, we are informed, was responsible for Dhian Singh's 'unsettled state of mind'.⁶⁶ Meanwhile although the fetters were removed from Missar

⁶⁰ *Newsletter* 18 : September 23, 1839.

⁶¹ *Loc. cit.*

⁶² *Newsletter* 20 : October 15, 1843.

⁶³ *Newsletter* 21 : October 25, 1839.

⁶⁴ *Loc. cit.*

⁶⁵ *Newsletter* 27 : January 1, 1840.

⁶⁶ *Loc. cit.*

Beli Ram and his family, they were kept 'under strict confinement', while the Maharaja's applications for their full release were 'not attended to'. Later, however, the Missars were set at liberty and 'restored to their old situations'.⁶⁷

Presently, Hardit Singh, brother of Chet Singh and Sardar Wazir Singh who were held captives in the fort of Kangra 'raised a conspiracy' and effected their escape. The administration of affairs at the Court was 'much neglected' while Tej Singh's influence was 'daily increasing'. The Kanwar

in concert with the Bhais is trying secretly to get everything under his own hand and is appointing his own men to every department.⁶⁸

IV

In relation to Sind, the years 1838-42 in their essence were a traumatic experience. That the Mirs were cruel, rapacious and far from being ideal rulers may be conceded without much ado; that they were, at the same time, sovereign and independent in their respective dominions may not be seriously contested either. Again, it is obvious that the (British) imperialist steam-roller would have pulverised them into submission sooner or later and perhaps sooner, than later. All this notwithstanding, during the five years under study here, insofar as the Mirs were concerned, it were developments in relation to Afghanistan which queered their pitch. Truly it has been said that Sind was the tail of the Afghan storm.

The trouble started with the infatuation of the British, for it was no less, for the restoration of Shah Shuja, the ex-Amir of Kabul. For a number of years, and more particularly since 1816, he had lived at Ludhiana as the John Company's near-permanent pensioner. Over the decades since his inglorious expulsion (1809), Shah Shuja's repeated bids for his ancestral throne had proved singularly unavailing. It is interesting to recall that the Mirs were not a party to the tri-partite treaty of June 1838 and yet the latter had stipulated that they were required to pay to Shah Shuja 'such a sum as may be determined' under British mediation, and of which 15 lakhs were to be given to Maharaja Ranjit Singh.¹ It may be relevant to mention here that another article of the tripartite treaty had stipulated that the British were to dispose the claims of the Sikh ruler to Shikarpur 'and the territory of Sindh lying on

67 *Newsletters* 28, 29: January 11 & 25, 1840.

68 *Newsletter* 29: January 25, 1840.

1 Reference is to Article XVI of the tri-partite treaty between the British Government, Shah Shuja and Maharaja Ranjit Singh. For the text see P N Khera, *British Policy Towards Sind upto the Annexation, 1843* (Lahore, 1941) Apper.dix VIII, p. 72. The above work is cited, et seq., as *Khera*.

the right bank of the Indus'.^{1a} As a recent writer has put it, the whole thing was 'an outrage', largely inspired by the British 'need for money' to meet the expenses of the expedition.^{1b}

Money apart, what was much more disturbing to the Mirs was the decision to make Sind a base of operations to be mounted shortly in Afghanistan. As finally sketched out, the campaign envisaged a two-pronged attack. There was the army of the Indus which was to gather at Karnal, and another, under Sir John Keane, that was to proceed via Bombay and Sind. Shah Shuja's own troops were to proceed via Shikarpur while the Khalsa force was to repair via Peshawar. It was clear that for the Shah as well as the British, Sind lay athwart an important line of communication, indeed a vital life-line, for the success of the projected invasion.

As early as September 27 (1838), the newly-appointed Resident of Sind, Colonel Henry Pottinger, had reached Hyderabad to negotiate with the Mirs for the passage of the British army through their territories; to Khairpur had repaired Alexander Burnes 'to arrange' matters with Mir Rustam. Pottinger lost no time in telling the Mirs that 'a number of steps were contemplated which were not open to further consideration; but have been finally resolved upon and that any hesitation on their part to comply.... must be deemed to be a refusal'. Additionally, immediate steps were to be taken to remedy any lack of cooperation at their end. And this, it was obvious, could only be done by calling in such troops as were already positioned in the Bengal and Bombay territories.² The Mirs had thus, at best, a Hobson's choice to make: either surrender unconditionally to British dictates or, in the alternate, face certain annihilation at their hands.

Coaxed and cajoled into submission, the treaty which Mir Rustam of Khairpur was compelled to sign on January 10 (1839) contained a separate article stipulating that since the British had 'neither coveted any portion of his possessions nor fortresses on this side or that of the Indus', the Mir agreed that

if the Governor General in time of war should seek to occupy the fortress of Bukkur as a depot for treasure and munitions, the Mir

1a Reference is to Article IV which laid down that the Shah would 'agree to abide by whatever may be settled as right and proper in conformity with the happy relations of friendship subsisting between the British government and the Maharaja through Captain Wade'. *Loc. cit.*

1b Kala Thairani, *British Missions to Sind* (New Delhi, 1973), pp. 105-6.

2 Memorandum given by the Resident in Sind to the Amirs, dated 27 September 1838 containing specific information regarding the signing of the tripartite treaty and intimating to them the benefits which they will secure by making the payment to Shah Shuja. *Khera*, Appendix IX, p. 73.

shall not object to it.³

On January 30 (1839), Bukkur passed quietly into British hands and despite Auckland's solemn assurances that the occupation was a purely 'temporary' measure became, under his successor, a 'permanent' British possession.^{3a}

As for the new treaty, while Rustam complied, the Mirs of Hyderabad proved recalcitrant and for doing so did have ultimately to pay a much higher price. The 21-article treaty which they eventually signed stipulated the stationing of a force whose strength was not to exceed 5000 men, and for whose upkeep they were to pay rupees three lakhs annually 'in part of the expense' thus incurred. To sow the seeds of further discord among them—and the Governor-General had made up his mind, at the instance of Colonel Pottinger, to break up their confederacy—Mir Sobdar Khan, whose loyalty and devotion to the imperial cause was well-known, was sought to be rewarded 'for services rendered' by being declared exempt from subsidiary payment.⁴ It is thus obvious that as between June (1838) and January (1839), Sind had been reduced to well-nigh complete submission and its Mirs to the status of the John Company's political dependents.

What transpired between 1839 and 1842 was the inevitable sequel to the above and may now be briefly summed up. It relates largely to the small, petty intrigues of the Mirs against the unwelcome British, tribal skirmishes on a large scale inspired directly or indirectly by their agents and the efforts of the British Political officers 'to contain' Sind. As to the 'politicals', in Upper Sind, there was the young and irascible Ross Bell; in Lower Sind, on the other hand, as Pottinger's successor, the more mature and understanding, Captain James Outram. Insofar as Kelat, Baluchistan and the Kachhi country were disturbed, Ross Bell's initial efforts were directed towards reducing them to some semblance of order. He was equally determined to make sure that the Mirs were so riven by differences, mutual jealousies and mistrust that they would not be able to pull together.

In sharp contrast to Bell, Outram was a different kettle of fish. His task, as he saw it, was to pour oil over troubled waters; to smoothen ruffled feelings. It was a measure of his success in these endeavours that the Talpur Mirs were by and large reconciled to their new and admittedly uncomfortable position; that even when the British encountered disasters in Afghanistan, they remained generally quiescent; that their intrigues were of small moment, and childish at best, and did certainly never assume dangerous

3 'Separate Article' of the treaty with the Knairpur State, January 10, 1839. For the text, *Khera*, p. 75.

3 a Thairani, *op. cit.*, pp. 117-18.

4 Article XX of the treaty of February 5, 1839 with the Amirs of Sind had stipulated that Article III of the treaty (relating to the payment for the subsidiary force) would not apply to 'His Highness Mir Sobdar Khan of Hyderabad'. For the text of the treaty see Appendix XI in *Khera*, pp. 76-78.

dimensions. The *Newsletters* provide insights into these developments, with their bits and pieces fitting into the larger whole of a jigsaw puzzle.

Before being overwhelmed by a host of names of its rulers and their petty, internecine jealousies, a word about the principal Mirs may not be out of place here. At the outset, it may help to underscore the fact that the two major seats of power during these years were the Talpurs of Hyderabad in Lower Sind and a collateral branch of the family at Khairpur in Upper (Sind).

When Mir Murad Ali of Hyderabad died in 1833, power passed into the hands of his two sons, Mirs Nur Mahomed and Nasir Khan, with the former having a slight edge over the latter. Between them the two were instrumental in treating Mir Sobdar Khan, son of Mir Fatehali, and Mir Nur Mahomed, son of Mir Ghulam Ali, with great consideration and affection. Nur Mahomed's personal ascendancy notwithstanding, each of the four Mirs was supreme in his respective dominions.

Nur Mahomed was said to be a man of 'suspicious and calculating' nature, reputedly 'not popular' with the Baluchis. In sharp contrast, his brother Nasir Khan got along famously with the tribes and, what is more, was a 'universal favourite' of British officers.

Sobdar Khan had the reputation of being a man of 'judgment and tenacity' and was a great friend of Mir Sher Mahomed of Mirpur. Mir Mahomed was 'quiet and unambitious', being always ready to mediate in the quarrels of the family.

After the death of Mir Sohrab of Khairpur in 1830, three of his sons came up to be his successors. They were Mirs Rustam, Mubarak and Ali Murad. Even though each was master in his own dominion, Mir Rustam was a sort of 'primus inter pares' exercising the functions of the titular head of state.

Rustam tended to be generous to the Baluchi chiefs so as to win and sustain their loyalty; Mubarak was reputed to be a 'fussy, old, conceited' man. Ali Murad, the youngest of them all, was said to nurse a grouse against his two brothers for having been given a raw deal at their hands.

Rated to be at par with the three brothers was Mir Mahomed, whose father was the second son of Mir Sohrab. He was a 'quiet' man, unambitious and, understandably, lacking in influence.^{4a}

A word about the rule of the Mirs. The oft-expressed view that theirs was 'a pure, unmixed military despotism of the most arbitrary and oppressive

4a In this, as in the preceding few paragraphs, the author has drawn on H T Lambrick, *Sir Charles Napier and Sind* (Oxford, 1952). In particular, reference may be made to pp. 30-31.

nature' has been stoutly refuted. Professor Lambrick, a well-known authority on the subject, believes that that verdict is 'far more appropriate' to the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, General Avitabile and the Khalsa Misl than to that of the Mirs and their Baluchi chieftains.^{4b}

In the summer of 1838, on the eve of British negotiations with the Mirs, Nur Mahomed, son of Mir Murad Ali and the principal Mir in Lower Sind was understandably uncomfortable. He entertained a grave suspicion that there was something as yet undisclosed in what Pottinger had told him about the abrogation of the relevant provision (Article III) in the treaty of 1833 which forbade the passage of British troops through Sind. It was equally obvious to him that with a view to implementing the tripartite treaty of June 1838, both in letter and spirit, British troops would have to pass through Sind on their way to restoring Shah Shuja to the masnad in Kabul.

Mir Mubarak of Khairpur, brother of Mir Rustam and a fussy, old man took upon himself the task of encouraging Nur Mahomed in resisting further demands from the British. It may be relevant to mention here that, as one of the *Newsletters* puts it, Colonel Henry Pottinger, the British Resident under the subsidiary treaty of 1838, interfered too much⁵ in the affairs both of Upper and Lower Sind. Nor was it news any longer that the British aimed at capturing Kabul.

As a necessary corollary to their larger, more ambitious venture, an effective control both over Upper and Lower Sind seemed inevitable. While negotiations with the Mirs were in train, there appeared, no doubt as a god-send to the harassed Pottinger, a letter intercepted on its way from Mir Nur Mahomed to the Shah of Persia whose army was then besieging Herat. The British found no difficulty in mis-construing the oriental phraseology and flowery language (by which the Mir or a fervent Shia Muslim would normally ingratiate himself with the 'Defender of the Faith' and temporal head of his sect) of the Mir's letter as implied treachery to their (British) cause. Meanwhile negotiations for the passage of the armies destined for Afghanistan continued, while the troops earmarked for the purpose were being put into shape. It may be noted here that all the Sind Mirs, barring Sobdar Khan, were Shias; the latter alone being a Sunni.^{6a}

On October 1 (1838) the Governor General, Lord Auckland, issued a manifesto outlining the objective for which a British army was to march into Afghanistan. This, shorn of all verbiage and other outer frills, was to pull out Amir Dost Mohammad and place Shah Shuja on the throne instead. Meanwhile the Resident at Hyderabad, by now an adept at the art of beating

4b *Ibid.*, p. 27.

5 *Newsletter* 2 : April 12, 1839.

6a Pottinger to the Secretary with Governor General, October 13, 1838, cited in Thairani, *op. cit.*, n. 61, p. 111.

down all the Mirs' protests, arguments, evasions, was stunned when in reply to a claim for arrears of tribute, allegedly due to the deposed Afghan ruler, they adduced powerful documentary evidence to the contrary. The fact was that Shah Shuja had solemnly affirmed that he had no sort of titles or pretensions to Sind or Shikarpur and would stake none in future. The British envoy Burnes nonetheless interpreted the Persian words and expressions used in the text of the treaty to signify that the Mirs of Talpur were to hold their territories, as they had formerly, in return for the payment of tribute. Auckland too adopted this tendentious view for he was by now far too committed to his point of view to beat a retreat.

The British took the position that whatever the Afghan ruler may have said or done, 'present circumstances' or, more appopriately, the imperatives of the moment, made Shah Shuja's previous promises, much like the treaty articles prohibiting the passage of troops, 'inapplicable'. Furthermore the Governor-General would be compelled by the force of those very circumstances to insist on the establishment of a British garrison in Sind so as to secure it as a base of operations for an invasion. It should not perhaps be out of place to mention here that Lt. Eastwick had reported about the existence of 'extreme anarchy and disorder' around Shikarpur. The prevalence of this state of affairs was borne out by the fact that men had to be employed on police duty for the maintenance of communications between Shikarpur and Bukkur.

It would be obvious that a demand for the garrisoning of British troops in Sind could not be made by Pottinger unless the troops themselves were at hand to reinforce his eloquence. The Resident noted that Nur Mahomed had no inkling whatever of the fact that the ultimate aim of the British was to station a company of sepoys in Sind. As it was, the Mir considered that his friendship and forbearance had been put to the last test by the requisition of a passage for British troops through his territory.

The Bombay division of the army of the Indus had landed in the delta and was for the time being immobilised for want of transport animals which the Mirs had promised to supply while at the same time secretly countermanding their initial orders. However the postponed demand regarding the stationing of troops was revealed prematurely by Burnes in his negotiations with Mir Rustam at Khairpur. Pottinger therefore ordered the Bombay Reserve force to move up for the occupation of Karachi as a means of persuading the Mirs to see the British point of view.

By the time General Keane had advanced within three marches of Hyderabad, the Resident felt strong enough to present to the Mirs the Governor General's new treaty. Among its principal articles was one stipulating that Mir Nur Mahomed, and others, should pay an annual sum of rupees three lakhs in part payment for a force, *not* exceeding 5000 men, which was to be stationed in their territories. From its presence, they were assured, 'such

vast advantages' would accrue.⁶ Nur Mahomed produced before Lt W J Eastwick, Pottinger's emissary, all the previous treaties the Mir had concluded with the British and enquired, in agonising tones, as to what became of them. In reply, the British negotiator seriously argued that the new treaty confirmed everything it did not specifically cancel. The Mir retorted with a measure of exasperation that since the day Sind had come into contact with the English there had always been something new. 'Your government is never satisfied', he is reported to have burst out adding that while the Mirs were 'anxious for your friendship', they would refuse to be 'continually persecuted'.⁷

In reply, the Mir was brusquely informed that all that he complained of was due to the Talpur Mir's own 'want of friendship'; that had a road for the troops not been granted, it would have been taken by force. The fact was, and the British made no bones about it, that no state could be permitted to assume a 'doubtful attitude' when the paramount power in India required its cooperation.

Nor did Nur Mahomed's angry rejoinders help matters. He had been agitated and emotionally exercised :

You tell us that money will find its way into our treasury; it does not appear so. . . . Hindustan was rich and that is the reason it is under your subjection. No, give us our hunting preserves and our own enjoyments free from interference and that is all we require.⁸

With the above as a back-drop, the Mir refused to sign the new compact while the Baluchi tribes kept flocking towards his capital. Meanwhile Sher Mahomed marched in with a contingent from Mirpur. Even as he did so, Eastwick was informed that the Mirs would not be answerable for his safety whereupon he withdrew to the British camp.

In his report on the negotiations, the British envoy delivered a veritable homily on what he called the crass obtuseness of a ruler like Nur Mahomed. The harsh truth was that the light which now dawned on the latter as well as his brother Mirs was not the one they could easily see or reason about; more than most it was reflected from the gleaming bayonets of advancing British troops. As it was, the Bombay division had drawn yet closer to Hyderabad, while a strong column of the Bengal division was on its way southwards from Rohri.

6 Article II of the Treaty between the British and the Hyderabad Government as concluded by the Resident in Sind on February 5, 1839. For the text, *Khera*, pp. 76-78.

7 Cited in Lambrick, *Supra*, n. 4a, p. 39.

8 *Ibid.*, p. 40.

For a summary of the exchanges between Nur Mahomed and the British 'politicals' see Robert A Huttenback, *British Relations with Sind 1799-1893* (California, 1962), pp. 48-50.

The Talpurs' courage failed them when they learnt that the Company's armies were ready and indeed poised for action; they were, as we have noticed, converging on their domain from all quarters. What was worse was that Mir Rustam of Khairpur had already made his peace, submitting, as has been noticed earlier, even to the disgrace of surrendering his island fortress of Bukkur. This he did in order, as he affirmed, 'to save his children and his tribe from ruin'.^{8a} With his knuckling down, the Hyderabad rulers too gave up the ghost; their protest demonstrations had ostensibly misfired. In sum, on February 5 (1839), they signed the treaty of twenty-three articles and paid ten lakhs of rupees. In consequence, the British armies wended their way to the Bolan pass to escort Shah Shuja to his throne. Not a shot had been fired in Sind save at Karachi where a man-of-war battered down the harbour fortress of Manora on the refusal, as was alleged, of its chief to surrender on British command.

In actual fact, the fort at Karachi, then in a sad state of repair, had fired a shot or two as a 'customary salutation' to the British flotilla as it neared the harbour. The British naval commander, however, mistook it as a signal for resistance and ordered that the fort be levelled with the dust. A day later (February 3, 1839) the British took possession of the fort and the town of Karachi,⁹ which was now added to the list of places where their garrisons had already been stationed—at Jherruk and Tatta in the south, Sukkur and Shikarpur in the north.

A word may not be out of place here about the impressions of Eastwick, Pottinger's emissary, during his early days at Hyderabad. Thus, as one of the *Newsletters* emphasises, he noticed that although the Mirs were all Muslims

their intercourse is nearly as divided as their tenets of religion
They pass much of their time in the Durbar and in the society
. . . . admiring swords, daggers and matchlocks. . . .¹⁰

Eastwick's initial reception by the Mirs, on his arrival in October (1839), was 'very favourable' too, a fact which convinced him that a 'better feeling' for the British was emerging in the hearts of the people.¹¹ A little later he noted that the Mirs were 'every day' becoming 'more sensible' of their position and 'more willing' to draw closer the links of alliance. This, however, did

^{8a} Cited in Huttenback, *op. cit.*, p. 55.

⁹ Thairani, *op. cit.*, p. 124; Huttenback, *op. cit.*, p. 51.

A Colonel Spiller had reported that Karachi was not a 'desirable situation' for troops and that Thatta had 'every advantage' over it. *Newsletter*, September 10, 1839.

¹⁰ *Newsletter* 18 : September 23, 1839.

¹¹ It was reported in June (1839) that the Mirs had by their acts not 'evinced the least degree of hostility' towards the British troops in Sind. *Newsletter* 12 : July 20, 1839. Also see *Newsletter* 21 : October 25, 1839.

not apply to the Baluchi chieftains many of whom persisted in their tone of 'insolence and presumption.'¹²

The treaty agreed to by the Mirs of Hyderabad in their extremity and referred to in the preceding section, was not eventually ratified by Auckland who exacted one somewhat more stringent in its terms.

As briefly alluded to earlier, acting on a suggestion of the Resident (Henry Pottinger), the British Governor General broke up the confederacy of the Hyderabad rulers of whom Nur Mahomed had been the chief, and entered into separate, individual agreements with each of them.

Actually, in ratifying Pottinger's 23-article treaty, which he now telescoped into 16, Auckland forwarded to his envoy four separate documents for each of the Mirs. Nor was the meaning of all this lost on him for as he put it

under the operation of the present treaties, (we shall find) more strength in their differences, or at least from a lack of unity among them, than could be expected from an adherence to our former course of policy.^{12a}

Under the new compact, the independence of each of the Mirs in his own dominions was recognised. A promise was also held forth of non-interference in their internal administration, and of refusing to entertain complaints preferred against them by their subjects. Navigation of the Indus was to be free from all tolls and the Mirs were not allowed to correspond with foreign powers without the prior knowledge of the Political Agent at their court.¹³ This policy of recognising each Mir independently enabled Auckland to make a distinction in favour of Mir Sobdar Khan (son of Mir Fateh Ali and a staunch friend of Mir Sher Mahomed of Mirpur)¹⁴ whose conduct had been uniformly friendly towards the British. He was, as has been briefly noticed, now declared specifically exempt from making any contributions for the British garrisons while, in sharp contrast, Mir Nur Mahomed, Mir Nasir Khan and Mir Mahomed Khan were each made to pay a lakh of rupees annually. It was reasonable enough, from their own narrow selfish point of view, that the British government should seek to reward friendship and punish hostility. Yet the policy inevitably sowed dissensions among the

12 *Newsletter* 23 : November 18, 1839.

12a Cited in Thairani, *op. cit.*, p. 127.

13 In a private letter, Lt Leckie had reported to Ross Bell that the Mirs had 'at length' agreed to the terms of the treaty of 14 articles which had been signed and forwarded to Colonel Pottinger. Bell in forwarding the above noted that 'Meer Morad Ali is the only man in this country at all likely to run counter now'. *Newsletter* 13 : July 30, 1839.

14 The Resident noted that while the two Mirs were hostile to the British covertly, if not overtly, Mir Sobdar Khan 'must always be excepted from inimical feelings'. *Newsletter* 18 : September 23, 1839.

Hyderabad rulers, whose family unity had, for well-nigh half a century, been a matter of the utmost political significance.

With Pottinger's departure, an Upper Sind Political Agency was added to the one already operating at Hyderabad. The principal objective the British political authorities in Sind now kept before themselves was to mediate between individual Mirs in their disputes with a view to ensuring that the commercial provisions of the treaty were fully implemented. This apart, it was imperative to adjust, and adjudicate, any differences arising between the inhabitants of Sind and resident British troops.

Captain James Outram, briefly alluded to earlier in the narrative, succeeded Colonel Pottinger in January 1840. Conscious that the Company had ridden rough-shod over their known scruples, and susceptibilities, and treated them in an humiliating manner he did his utmost to obtain some relief for the harassed Mirs. Inter alia, he pleaded with his political masters for a more liberal interpretation of the treaties with the clear conviction that trade could not be fostered by use of brute force.

Understandably the Mirs persisted in evading, so far as they could, the obnoxious regulations imposed by the new treaties, convinced that Outram was their best friend. Indeed the value of improved relations with the Mirs which the new Political Agent assiduously fostered was evidenced by the fact, as retailed below, that the Hyderabad chiefs remained passive when British prestige was badly shaken by disasters which their forces had met in Baluchistan in the earlier campaigns of 1840-41.¹⁵

That the Talpurs of Upper Sind made no effort to embarrass their unwelcome guests in the same crisis was not due to any goodwill built by the Political Agent, Ross Bell. As briefly noticed, compared with the sympathetic, humane and understanding Outram in Lower Sind, Bell, much younger in years, was arrogant, dictatorial, unscrupulous. He had a personality 'calculated to grate' against those with whom he came in touch. What was worse, his two principal help-mates, Lieutenant Brown at Sukkur and Captain Kennedy at Khairpur, were 'cut from the same cloth.'^{15a}

One of Bell's first encounters was with Mir Ali Murad, the younger brother of Mirs Rustam and Mubarak. Inter alia, Ali Murad desired the Political Agent's assistance in recovering certain villages which he claimed were his birthright but of which he had been wrongfully deprived by his nephew Mir Nasir Khan aided by Mir Rustam, during his (Ali Murad's) minority. It appears that he had already, by threatening his opponents with opening hostilities, extorted a promise of their restoration, which had not been fulfilled. Thereafter, he seems to have occupied the area by force

15. *Infra*, p. 43.

15a. Huttenback, *op. cit.*, p. 57.

majeure. After enquiry, Ross Bell tendered a verdict in Ali Murad's favour. Nasir Khan and Rustam, however, never ceased to hope that this decision would be reviewed, perhaps revised. Another source of friction was Rustam's minister Fateh Mahomed Ghori. The British Agent treated the old nobleman, whom Rustam regarded as a brother, with open contumely.^{15b}

Ross Bell, to be sure, had expressed the view that he had 'not the slightest reason to doubt' Mir Rustam's good faith. At the same time he had found out that the Mirs of Hyderabad were 'in communication' with Mehrab Khan of Kelat,¹⁶ and engaged in intrigues that were 'hostile to the British government'. What was more

if Mehrab Khan was to take the field [he (Bell) believed that] he would be immediately supported by the Ameers of Hyderabad.¹⁷

Earlier, Bell whose charge included Baluchistan, had reported that the country of Kelat was 'extremely rugged' and 'not capable of defence'. Its roads were 'bad and difficult', especially for guns, nor was the town itself capable of being defended 'against disciplined troops'.¹⁸ Later, in December (1839), the fall of Kelat and the death of Mehrab Khan¹⁹ produced a great sensation throughout the country of Kachhi and had the effect of 'preventing any coalition' among its different tribes of marauders. Not unnaturally, this made the Agent 'very happy'.²⁰

The youthful Political Agent's charge extended over the whole of Baluchistan as well as Upper Sind and in this vast area he was determined to make his will supreme. One of the initial lessons he learnt, and a harsh one, was that the climate was an important factor in this part of the country. This was forcefully brought home to him as a result of the fearful losses sustained by the troops employed in their first encounters in the hot weather

15b *Ibid.*, pp. 57-58.

16 *Newsletter* 12 : July 20, 1839.

17 *Loc. cit.*

18 *Newsletter* 14 : August 10, 1839.

19 The news of British success against Kelat followed by the death of Mehrab Khan was received by a salute of 21 guns from the Mirs of Hyderabad. Inter alia, Nur Mahomed lauded his own 'prudence and foresight' in having saved Sind from the English whose grasp it was evident to all, he noted, was 'irresistible'. *Newsletter* 27 : January 1, 1840.

20. A report of December 6, 1839 made the point that Ross Bell had taken measures for putting down the plundering Baluchis by maintaining the line of posts between Kanhur and Lehree. Moreover he wanted to take possession of the forts of Kahul, Peer Chutr and Kotie. *Newsletter* 27 : January 1, 1840.

of 1839.²¹ An expedition undertaken at the end of the year however achieved, as has been briefly noticed, almost complete success. Thus on October 25 (1839) Ross Bell had reported that the

high road to Daddur is as safe as that between Delhi and Karnal
that part of the country (is) now free from plunderers
 and water provisions are to be had in sufficient quantities for a large
 camp.

A couple of weeks later, things had improved further, for

although thieving is still carried on to some extent yet the country
 is no longer infested with gangs of plunderers and the high roads
 are safe to people travelling.

A report of November 17 noted that Ross Bell

in concert with Brigadier Scott have (sic) made arrangements
 for preventing the plains of Kutchee from being again ravaged and
 to bring these tribes under subjection.

A couple of months later, on January 11 (1840) to be precise, the Political officer in Upper Sind had reported 'very favourably' regarding the 'progress' of 'proceedings' in Kachhi.²² To consolidate peace in the area, Major Billamore was sent to subdue the Dombki and Jakhrani tribes and did inflict severe punishments on them. When opposed by the Bugtis he worsted them in battle and captured their chief Bibarak. He next penetrated the Marri country where he encountered almost no opposition from the tribals.

Since he loomed so large, and portentously, on the Sind horizon, Ross Bell comes out prominently in the *Newsletters*. In June (1839) he had reported that the plunderers between Sukkur and Daddur had become very daring,²³ and that to ensure peace 'properly qualified Assistants' should be posted, among other places, at Sukkur, Shikarpur, Khairpur, Bagh and Daddur.²⁴

General Keane, the British Commander in Kabul on his return from

21 A report of July 14 (1839) noted inter alia that

Mr Bell thinks there would be a general stir throughout Scinde and Kutchee. Mr Bell advocated that Meer Rustam makes many professions of assisting him.

Mr Bell seems to think that there is a strong war party in Scinde and that hostilities although unlikely to occur without some extraordinary exciting cause might yet be precipitated by any actual or even rumoured revolts in Afghanistan. The Ameer are jealous, credulous and faithless.

Newsletter 13 : July 30, 1839. Also see those of July 1 and July 20 (1839).

22 *Newsletters* 21, 22, 23 : October 25, November 8 and 18 (1839) respectively. Also see *Newsletter* 28 : January 11, 1840.

23 *Newsletter* 8 : June 10, 1839.

24 *Newsletter* 10 : July 1, 1839.

Afghanistan, towards the close of 1839, had ordered a sharp reduction in the troops stationed in Sind, and these much below the strength desired by Bell. How precarious the actual situation was may be gauged from the following : a garrison was with some difficulty established in Kahan under Captain Lewis Brown and immediately besieged; a detachment under Walpole Clarke sent to strengthen his position was annihilated by the Marris; a force under Major Clibbom also suffered a repulse. Kahan was later evacuated under an agreement loyally observed by the Marris.²⁵ The insurrection however left many a tribe in doubt as to whether they should not switch their loyalties. Thus, as one of the *Newsletters* put it, the

Brahoe and Belloch chiefs of Nuseer Khan were represented to be still hesitating whether to attempt continued resistance or to submit at once to such terms as our Government might propose.²⁶

Even as debate was in progress among the chiefs, disaffection spread among their flock and further reverses took place. Above the Bolan pass, the Kakkar tribe attacked Quetta, and the Brahuis of Kelat rose against the pretender installed by the British government as their Khan. Kelat was now lost and the insurrection spread to the plains of Kachhi.

In a situation they could easily have exploited to their advantage, some of the Hyderabad Talpurs bewailed their utter helplessness in so doing. This was no doubt due to disunity in their ranks, and Nur Mahomed took the opportunity to remind his colleagues that they had been fined twenty-two lakhs for corresponding with the Shah of Persia.²⁷ Unable to unite and fearing for the worst, not to mention Outram's sobering influence, all of them including Sher Mahomed of Mirpur, co-operated in facilitating the passage of British reinforcements through their country. The result was that before the end of the year (1840), the situation in Baluchistan was reported to be normal and the Mirs received the thanks of the Governor-General for their assistance in establishing peace.

It may be noted here that as soon as the province of Kachhi was reported 'perfectly tranquil' the

whole of the Kujjuck chiefs arrived in the Agent's camp and threw themselves on the mercy of the British Government.²⁸

Thanks to the depletion of British forces in Upper Sind in the first half

25 Lambrick, *Supra*, n. 4a, p. 45.

26 *Newsletter* 34 : February 10, 1841.

27 Lambrick, *Supra*, n. 4a, p. 45. It is interesting to note that later when Mir Nasir Khan received a Persian letter from one Abdulla Luteef, the rebel, 'conveying sentiments prejudicial to British interests', he pronounced it 'was quite' 'uncalled for' and 'not acceptable' to his government. *Newsletter* 29 : January 25, 1840.

28 *Newsletter* 41 : April 22, 1841.

of 1840, even a small demonstration of hostility by the Talpur princes may have turned the scales against the Company Bahadur. The fact was that the garrisons of Sukkur and Shikarpur had been reduced to a mere skeleton strength and practically immobilised. This reduction in the forces deployed was evidently not advisable (viz. from the British point of view) for Nasir Khan was 'still creating problems' on the frontiers of Kelat and

therefore it was useless to reduce the number of troops in Upper Scinde untill the affairs of Kelat are finally arranged.²⁹

Nor was it any secret that the Mir was determined not to submit unless the British posts should be withdrawn from Kelat and Moostung.³⁰

As may be evident, the policy of 'divide et impera' adopted by Ross Bell had served to prevent any groupings or combinations among the Mirs. Besides, one may allow something for Rustam's genuine desire to cling to his alliance with the British. Surely he must have reckoned that his services would be re-paid when there was a more favourable turn of events. Off his own bat, Eastwick had refused to recognise Rustam's much-trusted minister for he considered Fateh Mahomed a bad influence inimical to the British besides being the principal cause of bitter dissensions in the Talpur family.³¹

The right to the villages in dispute between Mirs Nasir Khan and Ali Murad having been pronounced in favour of the latter, the transfer was so arranged as to give the least possible offence to Rustam. But Ali Murad's appetite was only whetted further and for the rest feelings in the Talpur family were more ruffled than ever.

By June (1841) it was clear that the 'state of affairs' in all parts of Baluchistan was 'satisfactory' and that Kelat too was 'perfectly peaceful'. In Kachhi and Upper Sind too matters were reported to be perfectly quiet.³²

At the end of July (1841) Ross Bell died at Quetta³³ and Outram was appointed to hold his charge in addition to his own. It may be mentioned, if only in parenthesis, that Bell's conduct had earned him the not ill-merited opprobrium of his political superiors both in India and in England. Thus the Secret Committee of the Board of Control had dubbed his appointment to be 'highly inexpedient' while the Governor General had on his own deplored his 'defects of character and temper'. It is indeed revealing that Outram had been directed 'to make arrangements' to replace Bell, a contingency avoided just at the nick of the moment by the latter's death.^{33a}

29 *Newsletter* 47: June 22, 1841.

30 *Loc. cit.*

31 Lambrick, *Supra*, n. 4a, p. 46.

32 *Newsletter* 51: August 2, 1841.

33 Thairani *op. cit.*, p. 30 mentions that Bell died in August, 1840. This is an obvious error. Apart from the *Newsletters* see Huttenback, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

33a Huttenback, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

After the long drawn-out agony of the land dispute between the Mirpur and Hyderabad families had been sorted out, Outram was able, in July 1841, to conclude an agreement with Sher Mahomed of Mirpur. He thereby completed the treaty structure in Sind as it was to operate during the entire Afghan interlude. The agreement was similar to the one drawn up with Rustam Khan and stipulated an annual payment of Rs 50,000 in return for 'advantages secured', the principal one being a British guarantee of the Mir's possessions.³⁴

The British Agent also brought about some reconciliation between the Mirpur ruler, Mir Ali Murad and Mir Nasir Khan by bringing their disputes 'at length' under arbitration.³⁵ Before Nur Mahomed's death, Outram had been fully won over by the Mir's 'friendly' disposition and the 'sincerity' of his friendship for the British Government.^{35a} He now intervened effectively to secure a peaceable division of the late Mir Nur Mahomed's principality between his two sons, Shahdad and Hussein Ali Khan.³⁶ Earlier in June, he had brought about a reconciliation between Mirs Nasir Khan and Sher Mahomed Khan.³⁷ The extent to which Outram was thus able to gain the goodwill of the Hyderabad Talpurs was shown convincingly when a little later they agreed to allow all country supplies for the British camp at Karachi to be admitted free of the usual duties. A lease of Shikarpur, in return for an annual payment, was also agreed upon.

Understandably, the death of Ross Bell produced 'considerable excitement' in the British camp. Matters however were soon sorted out 'satisfactorily' for Nasir Khan promised to remain at Moostung until a successor (to the late Bell) had been appointed.³⁸ The local British commander Colonel Stacy affirmed that

no fears need be entertained of the Khan going back (on his plighted word).³⁹

34 With this, Huttenback notes, the diplomatic negotiations required by the Afghan war were at an end :

The Amirs of Hyderabad were still technically independent but their activities and jurisdiction over their own affairs had been greatly circumscribed while Khairpur was essentially a British protectorate.

Huttenback, *op. cit.*, p. 56.

On June 16, the Political Agent stated that Mir Sher Mahomed's vakils had waited on him conveying 'his master's full consent' for the terms offered; a week later that the Mir had accepted the treaty. *Newsletters* 49 & 51 : July 10 and August 2, 1841.

35 *Newsletters* 52 & 57 : August 11 and October 1, 1841.

35a Thairani, *op. cit.*, pp. 133-34. Oddly the author mentions that the quotes are from Outram's despatch of December 6, 1840, an obvious error. Also see Huttenback, *op. cit.*, pp. 64-65.

36 *Newsletter* 55 : September 10, 1841. Also see *Newsletter* 57 : October 1, 1841.

37 *Newsletter* 51 : August 2, 1841.

38 *Newsletter* 55 : September 10, 1841.

39 *Loc. cit.*

Later, when he took over sole charge as Political Agent in Sind and Baluchistan,⁴⁰ Outram held out solemn assurances to Nasir Khan that

he will religiously fulfil the promises made to him by the late Mr Bell and act up to that gentleman's instructions in regard to the young Khan.⁴¹

In the second half of 1841, 'great lawlessness' prevailed in Kachhi particularly amongst the Bugtis, the Dombkis and the Jakhranis. The Khyberees made an earnest appeal to Captain Postans for preserving peace, a request he thought it advisable to 'comply with'.⁴²

As has been noticed earlier, no sooner had conditions in Afghanistan appeared to be peaceful (1840-41), than plans were set afoot to effect a reduction in expenditure. We are told that the new estimates submitted were designed to produce a 'saving of a lack a year', a figure that did not include the Indus flotilla establishment.⁴³

Towards the close of 1841, Mir Nasir Khan pledged to dismiss such troops as he had collected for the purpose of prosecuting his quarrel with Din Mahomed Khan, the Marri chief, on the clear understanding that the Political officer might be able to bring about a compromise.⁴⁴ This was later effected. Additionally, as has been noticed earlier, boundary disputes between Mirs Sher Mahomed Khan of Hyderabad and Nasir Khan of Mirpur were also 'adjusted'.^{44a}

Earlier the Mir had agreed to accept 'every article' of the treaty Outram had drawn, and signed both copies of it 'by his own hand'.⁴⁵ In ratifying it later the Governor General 'acceded' to the Khan's express 'solicitations'

for protection against foreign enemies which would be pledged in an additional article to the treaty.

40 Major Outram arrived in Quetta on September 2 (1841) to take over charge of his new office. *Newsletter* 57 : October 1, 1841.

41 *Newsletter* 55 : September 10, 1841.

42 It was reported that central Kachhi 'suffered considerably' and that the Political Agent 'mediated' about adopting 'necessary measures' for the protection of the people against 'further depredations'. *Newsletter* 58 : October 11, 1841.

43 *Newsletter* 67 : January 8, 1842.

44 The text of the treaty, referred to as a 'compact of allegiance', was arranged by Nasir Khan with Islam Khan, 'the oldest son of Bebarak Khan, the chief of the Bhogtee tribe' on behalf of his father.

Newsletter 68 : January 22, 1842.

44a *Supra*, n. 37.

45 *Newsletter* 60 : November 1, 1841.

In reply, the Khan expressed the

gratitude he felt for the kindness of the British government on this subject.⁴⁶

Not that Outram's task always proved to be an easy one. For we are told that early in 1842 Mirs Mir Mahomed, Nasir Mahomed and Shahdad Khan entered into a compact against Mirs Sobdar Khan, Hussein Ali Khan and Ahmed Khan. Allegedly, the latter had adopted a 'threatening bearing' towards the former chiefs while their 'mutual bickerings' had caused a 'feeling of uncertainty' among the people. Later, however, matters appear to have been sorted out and the 'Digest of Sind Intelligence' affirmed that towards the end of February (1842), 'perfect tranquillity' prevailed in Lower Sind.⁴⁷

Despite news of British reverses in Afghanistan, and to start with at any rate, it was a complete military debacle, 'everything was reported quiet' at Sukkur, Shikarpur and in Kachhi upto February 7 (1842).⁴⁸ What is even more significant is the fact that the Kakkar tribe and their chiefs had not only themselves refrained from plundering the Bolan pass but also prevented the Marris from committing 'similar depredations'.⁴⁹

The conduct of the Mirs towards the British during the dark days of 1841-42 was a subject of animated comment by the (British) politicals stationed in Sind. Thus Postans talked of the Mirs' 'cordial cooperation' and Eastwick of their remaining 'faithful to their engagements'. Again, Marshman underlined the fact that the force of Kandahar could neither have retired to the Indus much less advanced to Kabul 'without the assistance' of Sind, while Elphinstone stressed the fact that if the Mirs had 'been disposed for more enmity', General England's detachment would have been paralysed as indeed Nott's advance. The Sind Mirs' ill-fated reward for their pains did not take long to bear fruit.^{49a}

V

And now for a good savouring of the non-descript and the miscellaneous. In the paragraphs that follow all sorts of men and affairs find a mention with almost nothing to string them together into a whole. In fact each is disparate and all hang together, at best, loosely.

46 *Newsletter* 66 : January 1, 1842.

47 *Newsletter* 74 : March 22, 1842.

48 *Newsletter* 73 : March 10, 1842.

49 *Newsletter* 74 : March 22, 1842.

49a Thairani, *op. cit.*, pp. 134-35.

In April (1839) there was news of disturbances in the area around Kolhapur, in the neighbourhood of Goa. The rebel attack there, we are told, lasted three hours but was 'gallantly repelled'.⁵⁰ The stronghold of Kot with all its defences was taken after stiff resistance.⁵¹

Meantime, and nearly 20 years before the Rebellion (1857), the British, we are informed, were busy collecting

all the evidence in every quarter of the country as to the gist and extent of the Mussulman intrigues.⁵²

In May (1839) there were reports of the (Maratha) Raja of Satara being 'ill-advised enough' to continue intrigues for the purpose of referring his 'supposed grievances' to the Home Government. With this end in view he was 'maintaining and feeding' various persons, both 'European and native', to help him.⁵³ In that very month of May there was a spate of intrigues in the Nellore district of Madras in which the Raja of Jodhpur was alleged to be 'deeply implicated'.⁵⁴ Meanwhile the Resident at Hyderabad was

still engaged with watching the proceedings of the Emissaries of those infatuated malcontents who have conceived the design of attacking the paramount power of the British government.⁵⁵

There was news too that the civil war in Bhutan was 'on the point of breaking out' for the country continued to be in the same 'disordered state' in which it had been for the last 60 years.⁵⁶ In June (1839) we are told that Holkar's town of Banpoora was 'being attacked' by plunderers and freebooters.⁵⁷ With reference to a dispute about Sawunt Warea, the British had made representations in Lisbon and proposed to the Portugese government an arrangement transferring their possessions in India to the

50 *Newsletter* 3 : April 22, 1839.

51 We are told that 'upwards of 100 men' were killed on the side of the 'marauders' whereas British losses were 'very trifling'. *Newsletter* 3 : April 22, 1839.

52 The Muslim intrigues, so-called, were 'found to be so vague and visicnary' as rather to 'derive importance' from the notice which they might attract than from 'their intrinsic weight and value'. *Loc. cit.*

53 *Newsletter* 4 : May 2, 1839.

54 The person seized in Nellore made depositions 'confirmatory of the vague and extravagant' character of projects, entertained by the 'malcontents'. Colonel Sutherland, the British Resident, was affirmative on the point that Man Singh, the Jodhpur ruler was not a man 'of character so determined or daring' as to engage in such intrigues. For details see *Newsletters* 4, 5 : May 2 & 11, 1839.

55 *Newsletter* 6 : May 20, 1839.

56 Earlier reports had made it clear that there was 'no apparent chance' of a settlement of the 'existing anarchy'. *Newsletter* 7 : May 30, 1839.

57 *Newsletter* 9 : June 20, 1839.

British Crown.⁵⁸

A singular discovery was that of Dr Winchester of the Bombay Medical Service who had

evidence of a disease on the udder of the camel similar to the disorder which provides the vaccine preventive of small-pox.

The 'natives' however

do not appear to have applied the matter as a check on small-pox which is represented as being severely felt in Scinde.⁵⁹

There are echoes too of the much later Berlin-Baghdad link (and the Asian highway!).

The Danube Navigation Company have extended their steamers to the coast of Syria from the centre of Germany and Lieutenant Syrigh suggests that a line of steamers should be established there and thus connect India with Central Europe. He observes that everything is most favourable to our complete success.⁶⁰

And then there is the first Opium War and Captain Elliot. Inter alia, we are told that Sir Fredrick Maitland was to

remain at Bombay till he receives information of the view Her Majesty's Government has taken of the Chinese affair and he will be ready to act upon them.

Meantime from all that was happening on the China coast

and the threats the Chinese are holding out of sending fire-ships against our vessels if they do not either trade or depart he (Captain Elliot) much fears a collision will take place before any communication from home can arrive.⁶¹

There is also a juicy bit about Russian intrigue in Afghanistan for a

private letter from St Petersburg of the 3rd July mentions that Viccovitch the Russian Agent has actually shot himself and that a Colonel Bradenburg was on the point of starting for Khorasan and as far into Afghanistan as he might safely venture in order to

58 *Newsletter* 13 : July 30, 1839.

59 *Newsletter* 17 : September 10, 1839.

60 *Newsletter* 18 : September 22, 1839.

61 *Newsletter* 20 : October 15, 1839.

Earlier we are told that Admiral Maitland had ordered one of HM's ships 'to take station at Canton for awhile' and put itself 'under Captain Elliott's instructions'. For details. *Newsletter* 14 : August 10, 1839.

follow up Viccovitch proceedings.⁶²

A British mission to Siam led by Dr Richardson, had been 'very successful' in 'partially' restoring the intercourse with the Shan tribes.⁶³ Meanwhile the 'War and Peace parties' had been struggling for mastery at the Court of Ava.⁶⁴ In Afghanistan, in the wake of the arrival of British armed forces, a Captain Drummond went in for mine-prospecting. Inter alia he was sanguine about locating copper, iron, coal, antimony and lead deposits; and all these not far from the Afghan capital.⁶⁵

In southern India, there was the Wahabi outbreak allegedly under the leadership of Moobaruzud Daulah, brother of the Nizam of Hyderabad. It was said to be fanned by the Arabs and other emissaries of the 'malcountents'.⁶⁶

62 *Newsletter* 20 : October 15, 1839.

63 *Newsletter* 25 : December 10, 1839.

64 Since the antagonistic parties were so well-balanced the British in order 'to maintain appearances', had decided to send HM's ship 'Conway' up the Irrawaddy. *Newsletter* 27 : January 1, 1840.

65 Copper deposits were said to have been located in the vicinity of Moosye, 'about 14 miles' from Kabul; coal and iron in the Kurrum and Wazeeree districts. *Newsletter* 29 : January 25, 1840.

66 *Newsletter* 64 : December 10, 1841.

Newsletter 1 : April 1, 1839

Candahar¹

February 25

It is not known if the Ameers will stand the siege but they are storing grain, clearing the city of useless inhabitants and making preparations of a military nature. Still later intelligence without date, but transmitted by Major Wade on the 13th March, represents them as fortifying the town and getting together provisions. They declare, it is said, that they will lean to the English, but not to the Shah - they are, however, reported to be in great alarm, and their system of defence is said to be that of denuding the country of supplies. Sir A Burnes has forwarded to them a copy of the proclamation issued by Sir J Keane and W Macnaghten advising them to submit.

A report prevailed at Candahar that Shah Kamran² had submitted to the Shah of Persia, whose brother Kuhur Mirza was to advance and take possession of the town of Herat. This we, however, know to be an idle rumour. It is said that the Shah of Persia has ordered a train of 70 pieces of ordnance to be ready by the Nowroz, i.e., the Vernal Equinox, to proceed against Herat. The Russian Ambassador Count Simolitch's³ successor, is said to have presented the Shah with a splendid Jewel Crown from the Emperor of Russia on the day of his introduction.

N.B. For later intelligence vide army of the Indus.

Orders, Replies & Observations

- N. The very doubtful character of the intelligence received from the Native Newswriters at Kandahar should be noted.

Lahore

March 2nd

Maha Rajah much better—goes out in his glazed palanquin every morning. The impediment in his speech is still very much felt by him

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- 1 *Candahar* (variously spelt as Kandahar, Kandhar, Qandhar) one of the more important provinces of Afghanistan, with a capital of the same name, is of great strategic importance. It lies 467 kilometers south-west of Kabul, at a height of nearly 1000 meters above sea level. At the time of the first Afghan War (1838-42) the town was strongly fortified with a wall and bastions, and celebrated for its supply of fruit, wool and fine horses.
 - 2 *Shah Kamran*, who held independent charge of the principality of Herat, was the son of Muhammad Shah and belonged to the last of the line of Sadozai rulers of Afghanistan.
 - 3 *Count Simolitch*, (also Simonitch) the Russian Ambassador at the Court of the Shah of Persia, was succeeded by Count Meden in 1839.

but his medical advisers declare that it would be much better as the hot weather approaches. Dost Mahomed, it is said, has had a bad attack of Cholera, from which he recovered with difficulty. He was busily fortifying the town of Cabool. Grain was cheap there. Attah selling at 21 seers per Rupee.

The Maha Rajah has prophesied DM's⁴ submission on Major Wade's arrival in Peshawar—Jemadar Khoosaul Sing, and Sirdar Lanah Sing (the Rajah's Master Genl. of Ordance & Chief Engineer) had been sent on to Peshawar to organize measures of military preparation.

Koonwur Kurruck Sing, the Rajah's eldest son, has been appointed Governor of Cashmere⁵ to the great satisfaction of the Sikh nation.

N.B. This appointment is important as it goes to dismember the faction of Rajah Dhian Sing, Rajah Golaub Sing, and the other Rajpoot Chiefs of Jumboo,⁶ who are believed to have long entertained designs of making Cashmere their own, which their commanding position in the neighbouring mountain, and their military force would have enabled them to do, had Cashmere been left defenceless at the time of Runjeet's demise.

March 20

The Government of Peshawar is said to have been given to Sooltan Mahomed Khan, the brother of Dost Mahomed, on a tribute of 7,50,000 a year. Koonwur Kurruck Sing is said to have remonstrated against this arrangement in open Durbar. Martabhur Sing,⁷ the Goorkha General, wrote to Runjeet requesting to be allowed an interview, as if he left the Punjab without having been publicly received, he would be disgraced—The Maharajah returned no answer. Rajah Dhian Sing suggested to the Maha Raja the employment of a news writer with the Governor General. General Ventura has arrived at Umritser,⁸ and been received with distinction. It is believed as certain that he will be appointed to the General Command of the Troops in Peshawar.

Peshawar

Col Wade with Shahzada arrived near Peshawar on the . . . March (date

4 *D.M's* : (Amir) Dost Muhammad's.

5 i.e; Kashmir.

6 i.e; Jammu.

7 *Martabhur Singh* (Martauber, Martaban or Mataber Sing) a Gurkha military officer who was sent to the Punjab by the King of Nepal to sign a treaty of friendship with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He remained at Lahore for a number of years but, it is said, that due to the opposition of Captain Wade, the then British Resident, the Maharaja never granted him an interview. His stay in the Punjab was, however, made possible because of his access to Prince Nau Nihal Singh; after the latter's death Martabhur Singh returned to Nepal.

8 i.e; Amritsar.

missing). Monsr Avitabile, the Governor of the Province, had received no instructions from the Maha Rajah to do more than offer the Shahzada a Zeeafut and fire a salute. Col Wade writes that the Maha Rajah had done nothing towards providing the Mussulman Troops whom he engages to maintain in return for the subsidy of 2 lakhs from Shah Soojah as arranged in the Tripartite treaty. It would, however, appear by the Ukhbars that the Maha-rajah had given directions for raising these levies.

News of the 1st of March states that Mahomed Ukbar Khan had induced the Syud of Koonwur,⁹ a Chief friendly to the Shahzada, to visit Jellalabad and having detained him there, had marched to attack his residence. The two sons of the Syud, however, proposed to hold the place against him; this Mr Lord¹⁰ had encouraged them to do, and had sent them 6,000 Rs begging them to hold out for a month at any rate. Mr Lord urged the advance of the Shahzada as he declared the Khyber Chiefs were vacillating, owing to the delay in the Prince's arrival. This, it appears by subsequent information, was an erroneous impression. Mr Lord notes that Morad Beg, the Chief of Kundooz¹¹ had refused to ratify the treaty with Dost Mahomed Khan, and also that Col Stoddart¹² had arrived at Bokhara where there was no other emissary from any Foreign power. The Col had not been warmly received. The King of Bokhara had, however, sent a Mission to the Emperor of Russia 4 months previous to the Colonel's arrival, and was awaiting a reply. News without date from Cabool, but transmitted by Col Wade on the 13th March, announced that Dost Mahomed's son who had

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- 9 Reference is to Syed Bahauddin, the tribal chieftain of Koonwar (variously spelt Kuner or Kanar) who was called to Jalalabad and deceitfully taken prisoner by Prince Muhammad Akbar Khan because of his suspected collaboration with Shah Shuja. He was kept in confinement at Kabul but, on the flight of Amir Dost Muhammad Khan, secured his freedom. His territory was restored to him by Shah Shuja after he became Amir in 1839.
- 10 Lord was commander of the advance guard which preceded the main army of the Indus to Peshawar with the concurrence of the Lahore Darbar. The aim was to win over the tribal chieftains of the Khyber pass. He had informed Wade on January 31, 1839, that Dost Munammad, then Amir of Kabul, was inciting the Khyberis tribals to wage a *jihad* (holy war) against the English and the Sikhs.
- 11 Kundooz : (Kunduz) lies in a valley among the hills on the east of Balkh and has a very insalubrious climate. In 1830, it was ruled by Mir Murad Beg who extended the boundaries of his principality by the conquest of the whole valley of the Oxus and came to acquire control over all the countries immediately north of the Hindu Kush.
- 12 Col. Charles Stoddart : born 1806, entered the Royal Staff Corps in 1823 and held many important political-cum-military assignments. In 1835 he was sent to Persia as Military Secretary to the British envoy; in 1838 he was British envoy to the court of Nasrullah Khan, the Amir of Bukhara. His mission was to counter Russian influence at the Persaian court and persuade the Shah to sign a treaty of friendship with the British. The Shah however was unhappy with him and he was thrown into prison. British pressure to secure his release failed. On June 17, 1842, along with another English man he was beheaded by the Shah.

marched from Khullum¹³ and sent on an advanced party, was attacked by the Shea Hazaras¹⁴ near Bameean.¹⁵ Moorad Beg of Kundooz also mediated attacking him. He reports the Kandahar Chiefs as fortifying their Town, and getting together Troops. The people of Cabool had been taxed indiscriminately by Dost Mahomed in the way of a forced contribution, and were complaining much of this oppression.

Herat

Intelligence has been received that Lt Pottinger was unfortunately got engaged with some quarrel with Yar Mohamed Khan¹⁶ (The Vizier's Brother) which had brought on a personal scuffle—matters had, however, been accommodated and Lt Pottinger still maintained his influence over the Heratees.¹⁷ The official accounts from Herat had been lost on the road as only private notice of these events had been received.

Muscat

February 7th

Humood bin Azan of Shahar has reported to the Imam the subjugation of Nejd¹⁸ by the Turks and asked him how he, the Imam, is inclined to act towards them. Sooltan Bin Suffur of Sharga¹⁹ has made a like reference to Humood Bin Azan saying he would follow Humood's line of conduct. News has been received that the chief of Bahrein in dread of the aggression of the Pasha of Egypt, consequent of his success in Nejd, intends to place himself under the protection of Persia. This is considered merely an idle scheme

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- 13 *Khullum* (or Tashkurgan) was a populous town of Central Asia, situated at a distance of about 50 miles from Balkh. Famous for its silk, caravans from Bukhara and Kabul passed through it in the summer adding to its prosperity. A great majority of its inhabitants were Tajaks.
- 14 *Shea Hazaras* : The Hazara tribes lived in the mountainous country between Kabul and Herat. A few were Sunnis while most professed the Shia faith, being known as Shea Hazaras. Subjugated by Mir Murad Beg of Kunduz, they detested the Sunni Afghans and spoke a Persian dialect.
- 15 *Bameean* (or Bamian) : A little above 2000 metres above sea-level, through which lay the old commercial route from Kabul to Turkistan. Its narrow valley, hardly a mile in width, is bounded by nearly perpendicular steeps. Both the town and the valley have proved to be of great interest to archaeologists for some fascinating relics.
- 16 *Yar Mohamed Khan*, Vizier (Prime Minister) of Shah Kamran, the Sadozai ruler of Herat was known to be a great crook—'one of the vilest of the wretches in Asia'. As the ruler happened to be a weak man, the royal sceptre was actually wielded by him.
- 17 i.e.; the inhabitants of Herat.
- 18 *Nejd* occupies nearly the centre of Arabia and is its largest province. As then constituted, it included the long strip of El-Hassa on the east, a part of the Arabian desert, called Tauf, on the north, the Hijaz, on the west, a part of Yemen on the south and the desert of Ahkof on the southeast.
- 19 *Sharga* (Sharja) capital of Trucial Oman, in southeast Arabia, situated on the Persian Gulf coast.

by the Resident—Sooltan Bin Suffur of Sharga who is chief of the Jaosmee tribes has recently renounced certain hostilities meditated by him against some of his neighbours and has compounded his quarrels with them in alarm at the approach of the Turks—he has also applied through the Resident at Bushire²⁰ to know what he should do, and whether the British Govt. would support the Arab tribes against the Pasha's aggression. Capt'n Hennell,²¹ the Resident, advised all the chiefs with whom he had any communication to unite in resisting the invaders. The Govr. in Cl.²² of Bombay having referred the question of policy to be observed to the Governor General was informed that the voyage of Hms.²³ Wellesley and her stay at Burhi as arranged by the Govr. in Cl. with the naval commander in chief, would in His Lordship's opinion give the Arab tribes confidence and perhaps deter the Pasha's officers from continuing their aggression.

Bushire

The Resident reports that Bahir Khan, chief of Tengistan, under alleged orders from the Prince of Shiraz, has got possession of Bushire by an able strategem—The town's people manned the walls and made a show of resistance, firing much to intimidate the enemy, who had not yet approached the town, but a flank tower was seized by Bahir Khan's people who intimated their success to their friends outside by signal and the place surrendered without resistance.

News from the Army of the Indus

The latest news received is March the 18th from Mr Macnaghten, and March the 16th from Sir W Cotton. Sir Willoughby had penetrated one march into the Boolan Pass all well—although the Army had met with very severe marches and had suffered much from want of water before entering the Pass; the men, however, were in excellent health and spirits, and all parties united in the desire to do their duty cheerfully and thoroughly. Sir A Burnes is three marches in advance of Sir W Cotton's Division. He found no one in the Pass, having gone on with the advanced guard under Major Cureton;²⁴ rumors, however, had reached him operating the determination of the Candahar Chiefs to oppose the British advance by Force and that opposition would have been offered in the Boolan Pass had it not been for the rapid advance made by Sir W Cotton. Mr Macnaghten had also heard though

20 *Bushire* : a Persian Gulf island; Sheikh Nusseer, then its Arabian chieftain, was known for his pronouncedly anti-British stance.

21 *Capt Hennell* then in charge of British Residency in Bushire and other Persian Gulf sheikhdoms; in June 1838 he was appointed to the political charge of the military expedition sent to the island of Karrack.

22 i.e., the Governor-in-Council.

23 His (Her) Majesty's ship.

24 *Major Cureton*, attached to the forces of Shah Shuja and recipient of the insignia of Durrani empire in November 1839.

he attached no credit to the report that Kohun dil Khan²⁵ of Candahar had been proclaimed King and that Hajee Khan Kakur²⁶ had been made Prime Minister. The Heratees also are said to have made up matters with Persia that Mahomed Shah's Brother Kaharmaun Mirza is marching on Meshid²⁷ with 20,000 men. Sir A Burnes was on his way to Kelat, the Khan of which place has been most backward in giving aid of any sort to our Troops. The Brother and the Vizier of the Khan were in Mr. Macnaghten's Camp in attendance on Shah Soojah, complaining much in an exaggerated and unfounded manner of the injury done to their Country by the march of the Army. They desired to leave the Camp; but it was not intended to dispense with their attendance. The Beloochees had been plundering Convoys accompanying the Army and had killed and wounded several of the people with them, but the loss they sustained in this respect has been at least as much as they inflicted. Mr. Macnaghten expected to be joined by Sir John Keane at Dadur.²⁸

Accounts from Sir John Keane of the 16th of March notes that he had moved on Gundava,²⁹ and was getting on by that route very well. He speaks of the desert nature of the country between Lar Kana³⁰ and Richi whence he writes, and states that he never moved with Troops in a Country which puts real discipline more to the test. The march made by Sir J³¹ on the evening of the 15th was 30 miles, which was accomplished 'surprisingly well'. The route by Gundava taken by Sir John Keane's troops, appears to be more abundant in forage, than that followed by Sir W Cotton's division. On the 4th of March Sir John Keane published a general order at Lar Kana, in which the Command of the united army of the Indus were remodelled, Sir W Cotton receiving the Command of the whole of the Infantry of the Bengal Division, formed in three Brigades, to be called the 1st Division. Major

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- 25 *Kohundil Khan*, one of the Afghan chieftains among whom the province of Qandhar had been parcelled out by Amir Dost Muhammad. On the approach of the British army, he fled to the hills but was apprehended and taken prisoner.
- 26 *Hajee Khan Kakur*, one of the Afghan nobles of Qandhar under Amir Dost Muhammad who deserted his master on the approach of the British army and offered allegiance to Shah Shuja. He was sent by the Shah with some European officers and a party of cavalry to pursue Dost Muhammad; but was subsequently put in confinement and sent as a prisoner to India on a charge of conniving at the escape of the ex-Amir.
- 27 *Meshid* (Mashad or Meshed) capital of the Persian province of Khurasan, and famous for the holy shrine of Imam Raza. Its manufactures included shawls, silks, velvets and armaments.
- 28 *Dadur* (Dadar) situated on the bank of the Bolan river at a distance of about five miles from the eastern entrance of the (Bolan) pass; has a very hot summer.
- 29 *Gundava* (or Gandava), a town in Baluchistan, situated on the Moola pass route. The country around it was a 'level track', inhabited by the Jats, Rinds (including the Maghazzis) and the Brahui tribes.
- 30 *Lar Kana* (or Larkana) disirict headquarters of the famous archaeologicl find, Mohenjo-daro in Sind (now in Pakistan).
- 31 i.e; Sir John Keane.

Genl Wiltshire³² to command the whole of the Infantry of the Bombay Dn., in two Brigades, to be called the 2nd Division. The Bombay and Bengal Cavalry to be under the Command of Major Genl Thackwell, in two Brigades, the Bombay and Bengal Artillery to be commanded by Brigadier Stevenson³³ of the Bombay Arty. The Brigade ordered as a reserve from Bombay, to remain under Bigr Valliant at Curachee.³⁴

The Estimate of Expense of the Bengal Division of the Army for March was 9,23,000 Rs., the drafts on Indian Treasuries for February drawn thro' the Pay Master was 2,14,000 Rs. It was expected that in spite of the amount of the Estimate, the real expenditure for March would not exceed 7,02,000 Rs. The Pay Master with Shah Soojah's Army was by the latest accounts receiving by Bill transactions, nearly as much as he paid away, including all expenses civil and military—he had with him about 12,00,000 Rs.—the Pay Master with the Bengal Dn. had about 17,00,000 Rs.—12 lacks chiefly in Bullion was on its way from Hyderabad to Shikarpur, and 30 laks in corn from Ferozepore to Shikarpur.

Sattarah

A deputation of two native gentlemen with 6 servants has been dispatched in the French ship "George Currier" to England by the Rajah of Sattarah for the purpose of appealing to the Home Authorities against the Indian Govt.—The Rajah has declared these persons to be his emissaries, but nothing has been done beyond writing to the Home Govt. requesting it not to acknowledge the deputation—The Bombay Advocate General opined that this was the only course to be adopped.

Nipal

The proceedings of this Durbar are marked by decided hostility to the British Govt. Various missions dispatched to different Rajpoot states and chiefs as Odyore, Joudpore, Jyepore, Rewa, Pattun and others have been discovered to have been really employed in the furtherance of a design of inimical combination against this Govt. Several of these emissaries had been arrested and their papers seized, but these are either couched in words which may bear some hidden meaning or the intent of the mission has not been successful, as regards engaging the Hindoo chiefs of the plains in the combination against this Govt. The Durbar at Katmandhoo has, although it is

32 *Major General Willtshire*, commandant of the infantry division of the Bombay column of the Army of Indus, conquered Kelat in December 1839, and awarded insignia of the Durrani empire.

33 *Brigadier C B Stevenson* (Stephenson or Stefenson) appointed to the command of the artillery division of the Army of Indus. He was later awarded an insignia of the Durrani empire.

34 *Curachee* (or Karachi) variously spelt as Curachee, Kurachee, Kurachee etc. ; now in Pakistan.

aware of the arrest of its emissaries, nevertheless, applied to the Resident for passports for a mission on a larger and more magnificent scale that has yet been sent to the states of Rajwarra—this passport the Govr. Genl. has directed the Resident to refuse. As regards the internal politics, the Durbar in Nipal appears to be very much divided by party feelings and the persecution of General Bheem Sen³⁵ seems to have been recommended.

Ava³⁶

The latest intelligence from the Burmese Empire which reaches to the 5th March represents the feeling of the usurper Tharawaddy³⁷ and his immediate adherents as decidedly hostile to the British Govt. —Col. Benson³⁸ was still at Umreepoora,³⁹ but subjected to much annoyance and not having had any communication with the officers of the Govt. for a month save once, when he was treated with incivility on a matter of no importance. The rebellion which had broken out near Rangoon had been perfectly quelled by the military leader of the Province and several of the leading persons who had seceded to. The rebels had been imprisoned, enslaved, tortured or put to death. The person who headed the insurrection pretending to be the late Heir Apparent had escaped and a party of the more considerable persons among the rebels had fled to Moolmein. The Woonduck⁴⁰ of Rangoon had declared publicly that it only now remains to fight with the English—Military preparations were going on with great spirit at Rangoon—the Great Pagoda was placed in a state of defence and 12 pieces of cannon mounted on it. The Taliens and Karens and the people generally of the lower country appear to be generally dissatisfied with the Govt. of Tharawaddy and are supposed as likely to join the British interest in the event of hostilities breaking out. It was reported that Tharawaddy had expressed his intention in the event of a war of wasting the country before the British Troops and maintaining himself in the Mountains.

35 *General Bheem Sen* (or Bhimsen) Thappa became Prime Minister of Nepal in 1803 and usurped royal powers. This led to the birth of a hostile court party under the personal patronage of the Queen; Bheem Sen was soon overthrown and met 'a pitiable end' at the hands of his enemies.

36 *Ava* : (founded c. 1364 AD) served as capital of the Burmese empire for several centuries and gave its name to the state itself.

37 *Tharawaddy* : younger brother of Bagyidaw who became Burma's ruler in 1819. The Prince was appointed senior military commander of Burmese forces. In 1837, taking advantage of the king's insanity, Tharawaddy usurped the throne, began to modernise his armed forces and turned out Barney (the first British Resident envoy at Ava) from his kingdom in 1840. It is said that he celebrated the closure of the residency, was bitterly opposed to the establishment of British influence and, in order to safeguard the kingdom, shifted his capital to Amarapura.

38 *Col R Benson* acted as British Resident at the court of Ava during 1838-39.

39 *Umreepoora* (or Amarapura) literally, 'city of the immortals', is situated in the province of Mandalay in Upper Burma. Initially founded as capital of Burma in 1783, it was temporarily deserted in 1822. Later Tharawaddy made it his capital; the town was finally abandoned by Burmese rulers after 1857.

40 *Woonduck* was a sort of courtier or minister of an inferior rank in Burma.

Items of General Intelligence

A combination among certain persons, principally Wahabees⁴¹ of southern India for the purpose of leaguening against the British Govt. has been attempted as is discovered by means of parties arrested at Nellore⁴² and investigations made in Hyderabad for sometime past. Moobaraz ud Dowlah⁴³, brother of the Nizam of Hyderabad, is said to be the leading person in this confederacy. One or two of the petty chiefs in the neighbourhood have also been suspected of being engaged in these operations in connection with Arabs and other emissaries of malcontents. The character of the combination appears to be the attempt to excite a religious war—the outbreak to be made so soon as the Persian Army should arrive in Kabul aided by the Russians. The arrests of some of the emissaries in Nellore and the recent success which has attended our operations in Sinde have, it is understood on good authority, greatly dispirited the confederates at Hyderabad and seem to have made them for the present suspend their hopes of success.

H Torrens

Simla,
1 April 1839

Dy Secretary to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 2-36)

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- 41 *Wahabees* : The founder was Muhammed ibn Abd-ul-Wahab, b. 1691, a native of the province of Nejd who belonged to the pastoral tribe of Temin. The sect, though severe and puritanical, spread with amazing rapidity amongst the Muslims. Its followers in India were accused of organising a conspiracy against the British.
- 42 *Nellore* : situated on the right bank of the Pennar river, was acquired by the East India Company in 1801 and became its first settlement on the Coromandal coast.
- 43 *Moobaraz ud Dowlah* (or Mubariz-ud-Daulah) subsequently became Nizam of Hyderabad and actively conspired against the British. He was later captured and deposed for his treasonable activities.

Newsletter 2 : April 12, 1839

Labore

Intelligence gathered from the Lahore Ukhbars 22 d. March. The Maharaja better—Rajah Dhyan Sing ordered to assemble 5,000 Mussulman troops for Col Wade in execution of the provisions of the Tripartite Treaty. 2,000 Rs. a month Jagheer ordered to be assigned to Sooltan Mahomed Khan's¹ mother, who has come to Peshawur from Cabool. War like preparations on foot—and Sirdar Lanah Sing, the Maharaja's Master General of Ordnance, hurried on.

March 25th

Copy of the Tripartite Treaty sent to Monsr. Avitabile, and he is told to execute its provisions. The Maharaja enquires of Rajah Dhyan Sing for Sooltan Mahomed Khan, and is answered that he is gone to Peshawur. More Mussulman Soowars are ordered to be enlisted—5,000 Khyberees are said to be at the Durrah or entrance to the Pass—they are said to desire the Prince's approach at the proper time, but all declare their good-will to him. Reports seem to have been received at Lahore exaggerating the difficulties attending the march of the British Army of the Indus.*

*A letter of good authority has been received detailing a recent change in the political aspect of parties in the Punjab—It declares that Koonwur Kurruck Sing has made common cause with Rajah Dhyan Singh, and that he has even already named him his Vizier. It delates much upon the honesty, ability, and public spirit of Dhyan Sing, and states that he and Kurruck Sing are busy now in maintaining order and good governance in the Punjab, and even in improving upon the Maharajah's system of rule. The writer observes that Rajah Dhyan Sing has been trained up from his earliest youth in a knowledge of politics as practised by the Maharajah, and insists much upon his general capability. Opposed to the party above-named are Now Nehal Sing, the son of Koonwur Kurruck Sing, and Bhy Govind Ram, one of the three principal Gooroos or spiritual advisers who have always exercised considerable influence in the Court of the Maharajah. But both are looking forward with anxiety to the support of the British Govt. which according to the common opinion is understood to be favourable to the Koonwur's interests. The writer describes the Maharaja as in a moribund state unable to articulate, surrounded by Fuqeers and Gooroos, who interpret the signs which he is able to make according to their understanding of his intentions.

1 *Sooltan Mahomed Khan* (Sultan Muhammad Khan) one of the fifty odd brothers of Amir Dost Muhammad; regarded a typical representative of Kabul sartorial fashion in the forties with its brocade garments, long shawl and a turban. He was nicknamed 'Sultan Bibi' by his colleagues and courtiers, being notorious for his lewdness and the bevy of females who surrounded him.

March 28th

The Maharaja desires to know why the Mussulman troops had not been assembled as constantly urged by Major Wade—he is answered that it should be attended to immediately. The detail of Horse Artillery which has arrived at Attok is ordered to act under Naw Nehal Sing's order, and that of Col Wade.

2 d. April

The Maharaja complains of difficulty of articulation, but his bodily health is not bad—Monsr. Avitabile is ordered to furnish Col Wade with powder. War-like preparations continue to be made with vigor. General Ventura is confirmed in the command of all the troops as held by the late Genl Allard. The Maharaja has expressed in open Durbar, his high opinion of that officer's military talents and Genl Ventura has proceeded by horse dawk to Peshawar. The writer describes the Mussulman troops had not been assembled as constantly urged by Major Wade—he is answered that it should be attended to immediately—the detail of Horse Artillery which has arrived at Attok is ordered to act under Now Nehal Sing's order and that of the Col Wade.

Peshawur

March 1st

Lieut Col Wade has organised his Camp and the many parties of which it is composed, so as to guard against surprize—he continues to receive communications of a favourable nature from the various Afghan Chiefs about the Khyber Pass. He has received a letter from Nuwab Jabbur Khan² of a character deprecatory of the present policy pursued by the British, and particularly complaining of Sooltan Mohomed Khan's 'having been placed out of the sphere of action'. In reply to this Lt Col Wade reports on the 28th

Orders, Replies & Observations

A private letter from Shikarpore under date 29th Ultt. mentions that the Camels intended for the use of the Shah's forces left at Shikarpore, had arrived at Bukker—also that the 30 Lakhs of Rs. dispatched from Ferozepore had reached that place, and that the writer expected the Shah's Troops would be employed to escort it to the Army.

News has also been received that the Belooche plunderers had been very daring in attacking Camels loaded with supplies within 3 marches of Shikarpore on their way to the Army—Means have been taken to impress upon the Meers of Khyrpoor & Hyderabad and the Khan of Kelat, that a continuance of these aggressive acts on the part of persons whom they should have power to coerce, must be looked on as contrary to treaty and professed friendship to the British Govt. and arrangements have been directed for the purpose of gaining the influence of the miner Belooche Chiefs on the side of the British Government and preserving the safety of the communications through their means.

² *Nuwab Jabbur Khan*, the eldest brother of Amir Dost Muhammad. Born of a slave girl, he was a man of easy habits and almost universally known as the 'Farangi's friend'.

of March, his having invited the Nuwab to join him, intending thereby to test his willingness to detach himself from the interests of Dost Mahomed.

News has been received from Cabool, but it is little better than rumour, that a battle had been fought between Mahomed Ikram Khan, the son of Dost Mahomed, and Meer Morad Beg of Koondooz, in which about 300 men were slain on either side; but the victory remained doubtful. Shah Kamran is said, on the same authority, to have sent troops to co-operate with Shah Sooja-ool-Moolk before Candahar. The Syed of Koonwur who was mentioned as under detention in the last news-letter, has been released, March 25th, by express order of Dost Mahomed Khan. The Khybarees are reported on that date as intending to delay their declaration in the Shahzada's³ favour, until he should have advanced to the mouth of the Pass.

Sinde

7th March

The Resident in Sinde reports at great length the protestations of the Ameers, and their friendship and goodwill to the British Govt. The Ameers appear to have been much impressed with a feeling of gratitude at the mode in which they have been treated—They say they now know our power, as well as good faith and forbearance, and trust to be forgiven for their former folly. The Resident reports a remarkable alteration in the bearing of the lower orders of Sindeans towards the members of his Mission—all ranks seem to desire to be affable and courteous—Great surprize is expressed at our efficiency in marching off the troops from Shikarpore at so early a date, and much satisfaction is expressed at this. The Ameers have furnished Col Pottinger with a copy of the treaty made by the Candahar Chiefs with the King of Persia, and the original letter they received inviting them to cooperate in the intentions of the Shah. They also sent their letter declining the alliance proffered to them. The Resident states the Ameers have put at his disposal the whole of the crops now on the ground in Sinde, which he reports as being excessively plentiful.

Candahar

23rd March

Rahum Dil Khan⁴ is reported inclined to come over to the Shah on condition of receiving the British guarantee of personal safety and future maintenance—The Moolahs of Candahar have however inflamed the religious feelings of the people against the Shah and his partizans—The Envoy and Minister remarks at length upon the policy of securing Candahar without resorting to force—Col Stoddart lately attached to the Persian Mission,

³ *Timur Shah*, son of Shah Shuja, usually referred to as Shahzada or Prince.

⁴ *Rahum Dil Khan* (or Rahim-dil-Khan) a brother of Kohun-dil Khan, a powerful Afghan chieftain of Qandhar who espoused the cause of Amir Dost Muhammad with the result that he had to undergo untold sufferings.

is said to have been murdered at Bokhara, the grounds of this act do not appear but is believed to be not improbable—Grain at Candahar is : wheat 1 Ree. p. md.⁵, and Rice 1/4.⁶

Kelat

18th March

The Envoy and Minister notes having secured the services of Mahomed Hossein Khan, the Naib as he is called, or Minister of the Khan, on condition of his receiving not less than Rs. 5,000 a year from this Govt. in the event of his services being useful, and if his requiring an asylum in our territories—The Khan of Kelat offered allegiance to the Shah and his cooperation with our Troops—the offer is accepted by the Envoy in conciliatory language, who refers him to Sir A Burnes, then on his way to Kelat, for arrangements regarding the reward for his services. The envoy reports the Khan as having been placed in a very difficult position between the Sindeans and the Candaharees, which last have been exciting disturbances in his country—The whole of his territory is represented as being in a state of anarchy, in proof of which the Envoy cites, the plunder of the property of his Vizier at noon day but a very short time ago—The re-establishment of the Shah's power will, in the Envoy's opinion, lead to a remedy of all these grievances.

Herat

February 3 & 4

Lieut Pottinger becomes unfortunately engaged in a dispute with the brother of the Vizier of Shah Kamran--some warm language having been used, Lt Pottinger mistook the application of a term, and conceiving himself to have been insulted, proceeded to turn the Vizier's brother out of the house—other parties present interposed, but the Vizier's brother having left the house in some disorder, a tumult ensued, a number of soldiers came down to plunder Lieut Pottinger's house, the gates were closed, but he appears to have been in some danger, when the Syeds of Pishing⁷ interposed to save him, and by their influence and the sanctity of their character, succeeded in putting a stop to the tumult, in so much that matters were made up the day after its occurrence—and Lt P⁸ appears to have maintained his influence unimpaired at this unfortunate disagreement.—He reports that the Persians have been intriguing with the Toorkomans of Khiva, and preparations are said to be on foot in

5 i.e., at the rate of one rupee per maund (approx. 38 kilograms).

6 i.e., at the rate of a rupee and a quarter per maund.

7 *Pishing* (variously spelt Pisheen or Pecheen or Pishin) an elevated valley, a table-land in southern Afghanistan, lying between the Tobe and Khojeh Amran mountains, athwart the main route from Sind to Afghanistan, through the Bolan and Kojuck passes.

8 i.e., Lieutenant Pottinger.

Khorassan of a hostile nature towards Herat—The people, however, are generally averse to the Shah's warlike designs, and are unwilling to render their aid.—Only two places are now held by the Persians in Afghanistan viz.—Lash⁹ and Kila-i-Koh, both of which he anticipates will be given up to Shah Sooja without a shot fired—Grain is scarce and dear at Herat, and Lt P anxiously requests supplies from Candahar, these the Envoy in his reply, promises him.

Army of the Indus

18th March

Sir John Keane is marching on by the Gundava Road—no difficulty anticipated upto Daddur. A Brigade of Bombay Infy. will be posted at Bukker & Sukker, and a Brigade of Bengal Infy. at Shikarpore—when carriage is available, Divisions of these Troops will move on to Daddur & Gundava. The remainder of the Shah's Troops will move first from Shikarpore. Sir J Keane remarks upon the capabilities of Sinde to furnish much assistance in grain.—The Envoy writes on the 22nd of March from Bagh stating that he had not received intelligence of Sir W Cotton's Division, therefore, supposed, that all is going on smoothly—he intended to march so as to let Sir J Keane get to Daddur before him, where he trusted it might be judged expedient to let the Shah take the lead. He writes thus of the country, "This is a wretched country in every respect. It may be said to produce little else but plunderers; but with the knowledge we now have of it, we may bid of defiance to the Russian hosts as far as this route is concerned. Any army might be annihilated in an hour, by giving it either too much or too little water. The few wells that exist might easily be rendered unavailable, and by just cutting the Sewee Bund the whole country might be deluged." Sir J Keane writes from Gundava, March 21st that he is on the point of starting for Daddur with a light escort, that he does not doubt but that certain instructions issued by the Envoy to Captn Watt of the Commissariat, would enable him to get carriage to bring on the Bombay Troops. He says, addressing Mr Macnaghten, "I am very glad to perceive by your letter to Outram that plundering is stopt."¹⁰ Mr Macnaghten says in writing to Sir Burnes, "I hope by the latest we shall put His Majesty into motion through the Boolan Pass by the 28th leaving a portion of his rag-tag and bob-tail to follow". By news received from Pallampore,¹¹ under date 11th March, about 1600 camels had been dispatched by the Pol. Agent there for Sir J Keane's force via Bukker—The distance from Pallampore to Bukker is about 300 miles.

9 *Lash*, a small principality to the north of Seistan, adjoining Herat. The town itself was a powerful stronghold defended by a massive fort on a scarped hill which resisted all attempts of Shah Kamran, the Sadozai ruler of Herat, to subdue it.

10 i. e. stopped.

11 *Pallampore* (Palampur) a princely state in Gujarat which had a British Resident stationed. Its ruling family belonged to the Lohani Afghans who are said to have migrated from Bihar during the reign of Emperor Humayun.

Ava

News has been received so late as the 8th of March from Rangoon—The same spirit is shewn by the local authorities—more troops are collected in the Town—and hostile preparations persisted in—Hms. ship “Conway” having arrived in the Harbour, fired a gun which was answered by Hms. ship “Favorite”, and the sentry on board the first named vessel having, according to ordinary custom, fired his musquet at Sun-down, the matter was taken up by the Rangoon authorities, and something like threat held out to the Resident in case these “irregular proceedings” as they were called, should be reported to the King. Under the circumstances, however, the ordinary customs as regards the discharge of fire arms on board Hm. ships, were given up in order to prevent misunderstanding—The people of Rangoon were much alarmed at the “Conway’s” arrival—M Bayfield¹² states that his secret Intelligencer, a writer in the employ of the Woonduck of Rangoon, informed him, that an express had been dispatched to the King earnestly engaging him to see the Residt. & conciliate him, as the English were collecting ships of war, and preparing for the chance of hostilities—the Woonduck advised moreover that if the Residt. were not received he should be detained at Umreepoora to give time for warlike preparation on the part of the Burmese. According to M Bayfield’s informant, the detention of the Residt. was much insisted on—The messenger bearing this despatch was sent in a 60 oared boat, & desired at the risk of his life to submit the letter, the main point of which has been above noted—11 rebels were crucified on the 8th of March at Rangoon and others awaited a similar fate.

Nipal

A conversation occurred on the 25th of March between the Rajah & Resident in which the Rajah reiterated his desire to send missions into Rajwarra and Rewah—Hodsson states that the same unsettled and vacillating tone as regards internal policy continued to prevail in Nipal, but that the same spirit of intrigue & ill-will towards our Govt. prevails—many secret emissaries having been very recently dispatched into our provinces.

Bushire

2nd March

The Resident reports all well at Karrack¹³— but advocates the

12 *G T Bayfield*, appointed Assistant Resident at the court of Ava (Burma) in 1837. Later he was promoted Resident and posted at Rangoon. The Burmese objected to his appointment at the latter place as he was suspected of being engaged in espionage activities for his masters.

13 *Karrack* (Kharak or Kurruck) a small island, (4.5 miles in length) situated a 100 miles from the Persian Gulf. Here pilots were hired for taking boats up the river Euphrates to Basra. The British occupied the island for a few years (1838-41).

maintenance of the force on that island, altho' he anticipates the possible contingency of its maintenance there, inducing the Home Ministry to expect remonstrances from Foreign Courts—Khoorshed Pasha, comdg. the Egyptian Forces, is resolute in his intention to attack Bahrein, but the Arab Sheikhs on the Oman Coast, are averse to the Egyptian supremacy and desire to place themselves under British protection—The Mission in Persia is breaking up—Col Shee¹⁴ & four other gentlemen arrived at Bagdad on the 1st of Feby.—On the 3rd of Jany. Mr N Neill,¹⁵ Sir H Bethune¹⁶ & Major Fanant¹⁷ were to leave Tabreez¹⁸ for England via Russia—the remainder of the Mission,¹⁹ Col Sheil, Dr Riach & Messrs Thomson & Saville were to proceed to Erzeoome²⁰ on the 5th of Jany.

N. B. The voyage of the "Wellesley" to Bahrein and the nature of the instructions given to Sir F Maitland by the Govr. Genl. will in all probability have put a stop to Khoorshed Pasha's aggressive movements upon the island.

5th March

Lieut Edmunds,²¹ Asst. to Resdt. at Bushire, speaks of Khoorshed Pasha's attempt in Bahrein as a first step to the possession of Bussorah—the ultimate design being to lay hold of the whole Pashalic²² of Bagdad with the aid of what are called vessels of war, believed to be only armed transports from the Red Sea—all the Arab Sheiks on the Oman Coast are spoken of as warmly attached to the British—A Frenchman named Arton, an Apothecary by profession has

14 *Col Shee* belonged to the 35th Native Infantry and acted as one of the subordinate commanders of the British detachment in Persia. In 1839 he was appointed British Envoy and Resident Minister to the Persian court.

15 *J McNeill* was British envoy to the court of Persia, 1837-39.

16 *Sir Henry Lindesay Bethune* (1787-1851), of the Madras Artillery; in 1810, was a member of Sir John Malcolm's Mission to Persia. Here he won the confidence of the Persian ruler by training his defence personnel. In 1821, he severed his links with the East India Company and took service with the Shah. Died at Tabriz in 1851.

17 *Major Fanant* (or Farrant) was posted as second in command with the British detachment in Persia in 1837. Later his services were placed at the disposal of McNeill, local British envoy, whom he accompanied to England in June 1839.

18 *Tabreez* (Tabriz) capital of the province of Azerbaijan in north-west Persia, a commercial town, standing among fruit orchards on the Aji Chai mountain, at the foot of a volcano, the Sahand Dug.

19 A British military mission was sent to Persia from India in 1834. The Shah was hostile, with the result that McNeill, the British envoy, had to close down the embassy in 1838; the military mission too left with him.

20 *Erzeoome* (mod. Erzurum), capital of the pashalic of the same name built on an elevated plain, about 6,000 feet above sea level. It was on the high road from Persia to Constantinople and a favourite resort of many merchants and caravans. In 1829, it was conquered by the Russians.

21 Lt Edmunds of the 3rd Bombay Native Infantry, appointed (1838) Assistant to the British Resident, Persian Gulf countries; later (June 1839) he brought about a settlement between the British and the ruler of Bahrein.

22 The chieftainship of Bagdad (Baghdad) whose rulers styled themselves as 'Pashas'.

arrived at Bushire from Khoorshed Pasha's Army with letters to Col Sheriff²³ and the Resident—he is not said to appear to be much in the confidence of his Employer, but it is understood from him that the Egyptians have got a most exaggerated idea of the extent of Treasure stored at Bahrein, particularly in Dollars, carried thither by the Vizier of Katiph²⁴—the district lately subdued by them—Lieut Edmunds says that he thinks Khoorshed Pasha is awaiting with anxiety a declaration on the part of the British, as to the part they will take in remonstrating against, or permitting his advances.

Items of General Intelligence

Some disturbance has occurred on the borders of the Colapore²⁵ Country, and in the neighbourhood of the Goa frontier towards Sownt-waree, owing to the attacks of bands of depredators whom scarcity and some ill-grounded idea of the defenceless state of our Bombay Possessions, seems to have excited to actions. A formidable party of these marauders who are ascertained to have assembled in the Colapore Country received on the 23rd of March a severe check in an attack upon the Treasury of our Mamlutdar at Malwan,²⁶ which was gallantly repelled by a Havildar's party of the 18th Madras N.I. The attack lasted 3 hours—16 of the assailants were killed, & a number wounded, & upwards of 70 taken the next day by the district police having attempted to conceal themselves in the jungle, the whole party consisted of upwards of 150 men, & a body of 500 were said to have collected not far off, who dispersed upon learning the defeat of their comrades.

Simla,
the 12th April 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India

Executed by
Charnaclead
Confidl. Clerk

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 37—62).

23 *Col Sheriff* was appointed to the command of the British expedition to the Persian Gulf in June 1838. He came into conflict with Capt Hennell on the question of the Resident's functions and was removed from his command a year later.

24 *Katiph* (or Al-Katif), an important town on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf.

25 i.e. Kohlapur, capital of the princely Maratha state of the same name.

26 *Malwan* (Malvan), chief town of Malwan sub-division of Ratangiri district in Bombay presidency; situated on an island, seventy miles off the Konkan coast.

Newsletter 3: April 22, 1839

Lahore

6th to 12th April

Raja Soocheyt Sing ordered to send his troops to Dera Ghazi Khan. The nephew of Dewan Sauvan Mull of Mooltan is asked if his uncle had sent his Troops to Peshawur, answers, he knows nothing of the matter. Bhy Soorjun Sing is appointed in the Government of the Fort of Attok, vice Koonwur Peshwara Sing, and Col Wade is apprized of the appointment.—Mahomed Akbar Khan reported to be at Ali Musjid¹ and Dost Mahomed as about to march on Candahar, (this is an idle rumour). The Maharaja says he would gladly have headed the Cabool war himself had he not been ill—the Courtiers observe that Now Nehal Sing would be an able substitute. Military preparations, viz. the preparation of large quantities of powder, the crowding troops to the Bank of the Indus, and urging the advance of the Sirdars of note who are to be employed on the Frontier—are prosecuted with great vigor.

The Maharaja, on the 8th, desired to have some medicine from a European Doctor, but is now anxiously looking for the arrival of a native Physician of Anoopshehur², in whom he inclines to place great confidence. Mussulman Sawars are ordered to be furnished from the Irregular Troops of several of the leading Sirdars, and to join Colonel Wade in Peshawur with the least possible delay.

Orders, replies and observations

The alteration made in the Government of the important Fort of Attock, is a striking proof of the Maharaja's desire to meet the wishes of Col Wade, for it may be remembered that this Koonwur Peshawara Sing was the person who was almost unfavorable to the advance of Capt Ferris with his two Howitzers to Join Coll. Wade, and who was in consequence reported by that officer to the Maharaja.

- 1 *Ali Musjid* (Ali Masjid), a fort in the Khyber pass, about eight miles from its eastern entrance, takes its name from a small ruined mosque in its neighbourhood. The width of the pass here is about 150 yards, its elevation above the sea, 2433 feet. The fort is built on a peaked oblong rock, about 600 feet high, nearly isolated and with perpendicular sides.
- 2 *Anoopshehur* (Anoopshahr), a town founded in the reign of Jahangir, in the Bulandshahr district (U.P.) on the western bank of the Ganges; a place of pilgrimage for the Hindus.

Peshawur

4th April

Sooltan Mahomed Khan has given in a solemn bond of allegiance to the Maharaja with an assurance in writing that he will not correspond with Dost Mahomed Khan. Copy of this was furnished to Colonel Wade by the Sikh Govt. Col Wade still complains of the dilatoriness in the levy of the 5,000 Mussulman Troops whom the Maharaja is bound by the provisions of the tripartite treaty to maintain but it would appear that this delay has proceeded solely from the Maharaja's illness, for strong efforts are made to collect Mussulman Soldiers and march them on Peshawur. As an additional proof of the Maharaja's goodwill, the advance of the Sikh army has been checked at the instance of Colonel Wade, and the whole of the force directed to halt on the left bank of the Indus until further orders. Colonel Wade has taken measures for raising, with the assistance of the French officers in Peshawur, a Mussulman Battalion, composed of drafts from Ventura's and Court's Regiments, to be considered as one of those due from the Maharaja under the provisions of the treaty. The present strength of the Shahzada's levies is 150 Musketeers, 2,500 matchlock men, about 5,000 Horse, being 500 of the Shazada's & 500 Duranees. The Maharaja has also supplied Colonel Wade, on his requisition, with Genl Court's 2 mountain Guns, which will increase the artillery with Colonel Wade to eight pieces of all calibres. The Khyber Chiefs continue to maintain a virtually neutral position, altho' declaring their readiness to join the Shahzada when he has once advanced to the gorges of the Pass. Colonel Wade has done no more than secured the allegiance of the Zemindars right & left of the road to Ali Musjid. The Khyber Chiefs themselves have been obliged to furnish hostages in many instances to Dost Mahomed. Mr Lord had assembled a large body of Khybrees to meet the Shahzada on his arrival at Peshawur, but Colonel Wade considering the measure premature has dismissed them.

Cabool

The news from this quarter is derived from the reports of newswriters whose intelligence is in a great measure vague and dubious—Dost Mahomed is said to declare that the advance of the British Army is the result of an arrangement between him and Sir A Burnes, by which we are to seize on Peshawur, Kelat and Candahar, to be made over to him as the price of his aid against the Russians and Persians—as to military dispositions, the following are the proposed measures.

Sheer Jaun, Dost Mahomed's son, with 4,000 Cavy. & 8,000 Infantry, to march on Jellalabad.

Mahomed Afzal & Mahomed Hyder, sons of-do-, with 5,000 Cavalry
6,000 foot near Ghazni.

Dost Mahomed with Campbell & Harlan to remain at Cabool, & Mahomed Akbar with 3,000 Horse, & 4,000 foot to shut up the Khyber Pass.

These propositions would appear to be mere idle notes of Armies on paper, as the real body of his army is known to be with Mahomed Akram³ in Toorkistan, and the news-writer who makes this report says, that "Dost Mahd. sends emissaries in every direction to collect troops, *but none are to be got*"—On the whole it would appear that he is very much dispirited, and is said to place dependence only upon the adventurers Campbell and Harlan, and to be so distrustful of the Gholam Khana that he dare not venture out of Cabool—Letters are said to have been received from Vicovitch and Sayad Mahomed Khan, the Agent who accompanied him on the part of Dost Mahd. Khan, announcing their arrival at Sash, and promising men and money if the Ameer would hold out for three months.

Scinde

By private letters from Col Pottinger, 27th March, it is understood that the band of robbers who recently murdered Capt Hand of the Bombay Grenadier Regt. near Kurrachee, have been all indentified. One of their accomplices having been taken, who has named all the parties concerned in this cruel outrage—the execution of all these persons has been insisted on. Col Pottinger is of opinion that his departure from Hyderabad will not interfere with the ratification of the amended treaty with the Ameers, as his absence from their Court will enable him to assume a tone calculated to prevent protracted negotiation, which personal communications might enable the Ameers to keep up. He says that the examination of the modes of communication between Kurachee and Tatta⁴ have led to the discovery of the navigable nature of the Creek of Ghisree which, with a very little labor, might be made practicable for large boats to within 5 miles of Tatta. The west bank of the Creek is held in independent sovereignty by the Jam of the Jakhyas⁵, and may be purchased, as also the Town of Ganak. The military occupation of Kurrachee is reported complete.

24th March

By a public letter Col Pottinger reports the decidedly friendly conduct

3 *Mahomed Akram*, one of the Durrani rebels and a close associate of Akbar Khan, the favourite son of Amir Dost Muhammad.

4 *Tatta* (Thatta), in Sind.

5 *Jam of the Jakhyas* : According to Col Tod, 'Jam' represented a Hindu title, derived from the Sambu of Alexandria. It was borne by leaders of some tribal communities in India even when they had been converted to Islam. The Jakyas or Jakhyas were a nomadic Samma tribe who had made settlements in Sind, towards the west of Tatta.

of Meer Sheer Mohd of Meerpore, and his cordial participation in the general amicable feeling of the Ameers towards this government—he states that this Chief had been misled by his extreme ignorance of the world, and of the political relations and power of the British, into the shew of hostility, which induced this Govt. to believe him to be in the first instance wholly unfriendly.—Col P had an interview with the Minister of Noor Mahomed Khan, who is also Chief of the powerful tribe of Saghrees—he had exerted himself to conciliate this individual who is an influential and intelligent person, by explaining to him in a friendly manner the gist of our policy, the extent of our power, and the nature of our operations. It would appear that it is only the ignorance of the Scindeans upon all these points which has induced for a time the shew of unfriendly feelings towards this Govt. among them.

4th April

The disposition of Troops in Upper Scinde is as follows—2d. Infy. Brigade Bombay Division in Sukker & Bukker, & Dennies' Brigade Bengal Native Infy. at Shikarpore—but the 36th NS had moved on under the Brigadier's command for particular service.

Grain of all kinds daily arriving in great quantities—large Convoys had been sent on—1,100 camels had arrived from Jessalmere—supplies and stores sufficient for the Bombay Dn of the Army for a twelve month were on the river above Kurrachee. Brigadier Gordon, however, who gives this information states that the Kelat Belooches have interrupted the communication between Daddur & Shikarpore for very small escorts and weakly protected convoys. He reports the Fort of Bukker as not worth repairing as a military position, it being commanded from the Sukker side, and the walls being also in a very ruinous condition.

7th April

Lieut Eastwick reports the existence of extreme anarchy and disorder about Shikarpore, which territory being a sort of debateable ground, very destitute of water and forage, thinly peopled and much overrun with jungle, affords great cover to marauders well-acquainted with its passes—and these people again being members of Tribes, virtually independent of all sovereignty, secure the connivance of the headmen of villages, and conduct their forays with equal daring and success. Meer Roostum Khan of Khyrpore⁶ declares his inability to coerce these people, but has sent out 500 horse under his Vizier to sweep the country of them. Lt E⁷ proposes to raise a Contingent of

6 *Khyrpore* (or Khairpur), one of the states of Sind held by the Talpur Amirs. Barring a fertile strip watered by the Indus, the remainder was a continuous series of sandhill ridges covered with brushwood. The British entered into a treaty relationship with Mir Rustam Khan, a local chief.

7 i.e., Lt Eastwick.

Horse & Foot from among these plunderers as the best way of relieving the regular Troops from the harassing duty of guarding small convoys and states that footmen may be hired from 7 to 8 Rs per m. and any number of Horse from 15 to 20.

The Ameers are on the point of sending a Vakeel on a mission to the Govr. Genl., who, Col Pottinger requires, may be received with kindness and distinction.

Orders, replies and observations

The Governor General has taken the subject of these excessively marauding parties in the neighborhood of Shikarpore into serious consideration before the receipt of these communications, and he has determined, judging that all these outrages proceeded from the want of an established system of supervision over the state of the country maintained by one officer of high authority permanently fixed at Shikarpore, to depute a Political Officer of energy and ability and in the possession of his confidence in order that strenuous & energetic measures be set on foot and persevered in for the suppression of this state of things which cannot be allowed to exist. Mr Ross Bell⁸ of the Bengal Civil Service has been appointed to this duty, and letters had been addressed to the Nuwab of Bhawalpore, Meer Rcsstum Khan of Khyrcpre, and the Khan of Kelat, desiring them as they value their relations with this Government, to co-operate with Mr Bell in the manner which he shall point out. Mr Bell will act under the instructions which have been referred to in a former news-letter and Lt Eastwick has been authorised to raise a local Belooche levy of 1000 men in equal proportions of horse and foot.

Army of the Indus

26th March

Mr Macnaghten writes from Nowshera to state that Sir John Keane had joined him on that day—he had come in with a light escort, and had intended to push on to Daddur the next day. No news had been received from Sir Willoughby Cotton, but he was believed to have got through the Pass. The reason of the interception of the communications from the Force in advance was sufficiently given in the following words of Mr Macnaghten's letter.

“The country is in a dreadfully disorganised state, and our dawks have been intercepted by the plunderers. The Khan of Kelat, were he ever so well disposed towards us, has not the means of keeping these rascals in order. There are various tribes of them inhabiting the mountains—hereditary robbers. Sir John Keane caught & hanged two of them yesterday evening; but so little effect does this example seem to have had on their brethren, that an hour or two after the execution, a Camel was carried off almost from under

⁸ *Ross Bell* was appointed Political Agent at Shikarpur in July 1839. He could not pull on amicably with the Bombay officers, particularly Brig Gordon and preferred many compliants against them. Later he was censured and had to tender an apology.

the gallows. We have made proper arrangements now for bringing on the rest of the Bombay Army, and I hope they will not be long after us.”

Mr Macnaghten states that the Belooche Chiefs, nominally dependant on the Khan of Kelat, are now, he trusts, friends in all sincerity, and he fully expects that the Khan will come down to meet the Shah, a point which he considers of the first importance in the present crisis.

Muscat

15th April

The “Wellesley” sailed on that day for the Persian Gulf—The news is from Persia that Ismail Khan has been appointed Governor of Bushire, and that the Shah was determined to march on Herat after the 21st of March.

Baroda

6th April

The Guicowar⁹ having failed to meet the demands of the British Govt. in spite of the temporary confiscation of the district of Pitlaud that Territory has been declared protected as regards the present Guicowar and placed under the British administration. The Guicowar still under the fatal influence of his favourite Venal Ram, persists in his untoward course of obstinate disregard with the demands of this Government which however he attempts to evade by excuses and subterfuge, rather than in any manly mode of remonstrance or shew of positive hostility.

Nipal

Our relations with this Durbar continue to be an unsatisfactory and unsettled nature—The Majhila Gooroo, the Agent for British affairs on the part of the Durbar, after having resigned his appointment, reassumed it on the 10th inst., and altho’ he deprecates the senseless policy of his Durbar in endeavoring to procure passports from this Govt. for missions to be sent on alleged matrimonial negotiations to various courts in Rajwarra, yet presented on the part of that Durbar, and the requisition for a passport of this nature on the day he announced that circumstances prevented his resignation as above noted taking place.

Ava

9th April

Col Benson has arrived in Calcutta from Burmah in ill health, without

⁹ *Guicowar* (Gaekwar or Gaekwad), a prominent Maratha community which comprised the ruling family of Baroda. Here the reference is to Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad (1875-1939).

having seen the King, and leaving matters in the same unsettled state in which they have been for some time past. The king was not however inclined, as it would appear, to treat Col Benson personally with harshness or any evidence of dislike, on the contrary, hearing he was ill, he offered him a garden in which to take exercise and elephants and horses to ride—But there is an evident desire to assume great degree of dignity and superiority in small matters, in token of which may be cited the Ministers having sent a dispatch avowedly in reply to what addressed to them by Mr Prinsep, which when opened was found to be to the address of Lord Auckland from the Ministers themselves—Capt McLeod¹⁰ and all the Escort with the exception of 10 men have been left at Umreepora to conduct the duties of the Residency.—Col Benson's impression is that there is no intention on the part of the Burmese of venturing on aggressive movements, unless some signal check in our operations to the Northwest, or disorganisation in our general & political relations should enable them to strike a blow with advantage.—The dispatches reporting Col B's¹¹ arrival officially with his Diary and Dr Bayfield's, have not yet been received.—The above note of intelligence from private letters.

Items of General Intelligence

The stronghold of Kot¹² and its dependencies in Marwar had been taken by the Mainvarra Batta¹³ and the Joudhpore Region, under the command of Capt Dixon, after effecting a simultaneous junction of Force by a march in the one case of 100 and the other of 50 miles. The marauders who held the place were however prepared for the attack, and offered very determined resistance. Upwards of 100 men however were killed on their side, with very trifling loss to our troops, who completely dispersed and discomfited the Bandits, destroying their fortresses, among the killed was the noted Chumun Sing formerly a Ressaldar in Skinner's horse, who had long been the actual leader of the Kot plunders with signal daring and success, having effected the object for which they had marched, the Troops returned to their Cantonnments—Kot reverting to the Joudhpore State, of which it is held in feudal dependency.

An Arabic letter inciting the person to whom it was addressed, evidently

10 *Capt McLeod* appointed British Resident at Ava in May 1839. In September he moved with the British Residency, from Ava to Rangoon where he was put in charge of the British warship—'Enterprise'. Later in November he had to withdraw from Burma.

11 i.e., Col Bensen.

12 *Kot* refers to Kotah, a princely state of Rajputana, situated on the upper basin of the Chambal river.

13 i.e., Mewar Battalion.

some one of rank and power, to invade this Country and eject the English, and found upon a Turk of the name of Meer Morad, who was arrested at Nellore, has been traced to Khan-i-Alum Khan, the grandson of Nuwab Mufooz Khan, elder Brother of Nawab Wallajah, his daughter is married to Azimjah Bahadoor Naib-i-Mookhtar, and now he is believed to live apart from the family. This Khan-i-Alum Khan is a Wahabee, and it would appear that, excited by the wild and extravagant ideas professed by other persons of the same sect in Southern India, had been ill-advised enough to trust the bearer of this missive, a wandering adventurer, with it under the impression that it would be taken to Ibrahim Pasha, son of Mahomed Pasha of Egypt. The course of the intrigues indulged in by the Wahabees and some few other Mussulmans of southern India, has now been traced with considerable accuracy—with perhaps one or two exceptions; None of those in any way concerned in these intrigues, would appear to have gone (to) the length of mediating open acts of treasonable violence, and of preparing for the period when these acts might be commenced on. Indeed the whole of these intrigues having objects wild and extravagant in the extreme, would appear to rest for their completion on the hope of the arrival of a Persian Army on the Indus.

Simla,
the 22d April, 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

Orders, replies & Observations

It is sufficient to remark that much pains have been taken to collate all the evidence collected in every quarter of the country as to the gist and extent of the Mussulman intrigues alluded to in the annexed note—They have been found to be so vague and visionary as rather to derive importance from the notice which they may attract than from their intrinsic weight and value. It is not considered expedient to follow up investigation upon such parts of these wild plots as may come to light, nor to consider the propriety of questioning any of the parties supposed to be concerned in them, save and unless it should appear that individuals have actually compromised themselves by preparations for a disturbance of the public peace.

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 63—98).

Newsletter 4 : May 2, 1839

Lahore

The Maharaja's Newswriter in Cabool states that Dost Mahomed Khan is in the same state at Cabool as formerly, but since the arrival of the Army at Peshawur, has been restless. He also states that Shahzada Jehangire, son of Shahzada Kamran of Herat, has marched with an Army towards Candahar, to afford assistance to the authorities of that place.* It was represented to the Maharaja that goods exported to Bombay, via Scinde, were entitled to a remission by the authorities of that place and those of the British Govt. to a moiety of the proper duties on the commodities—Sirdar Lanah Sing has been ordered to station 1,000 Hill Sepoys in attendance on the camp of Prince Teymoor in pursuance with the advice of Col Wade. The newswriter at Lahore states that Now Nehal Sing has been ordered to take with him only 1,000 Horsemen to Peshawur, and Jamadar Koshal Sing 300; Sirdar Uttar Sing, Raja Golab Sing and Sirdar Lanah Sing 200 each and 3000 Khasgees,¹ leaving the rest on this side of Attok and authorizing them to send for additional forces when required and to act in accordance with the advice of Col Wade. The arrival of the Native Physician of Anoopshehur was brought to the notice of the Maharaja, and he was ordered to be taken to the Shalemar Garden. An order has been issued to the guardians of the ports of the Sutledge and Beas to safely cross over the river whatever Articles may arrive belonging to British Gentlemen.

*This is an idle and unfounded rumour.

Candahar

26th March

Major Leech² news from Candahar that it was that Dost Mahomed

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- 1 *Khasgees* : (Khas or Khasgee soldiers) belonged to the Fauj-i-Khas of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, raised in 1822 by Generals Ventura and Allard. Its normal strength was four battalions of infantry, two regiments of cavalry and one troop of artillery, comprising 24 guns. In due course it came to be the best organised section of the regular army of the Maharaja. The Fauj-i-Khas had, as its emblems, the eagle and the tri-colour flag, with an inscription of Guru Gobind Singh embroidered upon it. It used French words of command. In the result, it was sometimes referred to as the French Brigade, the French Legion or the 'Franscese' troops of the Durbar.
 - 2 *Major R Leech* was political assistant to the British Envoy and Minister at the court of Shah Shuja in Kabul. In October 1839 he was appointed Political Agent at Kandahar. He was a linguist and had compiled Punjabi, Baluchi and Pushto grammars and an account of the Durrani empire.

Khan Noarzia had arrived there with letters from the Emperor of Russia addressed to Sirdar Kohun Dil Khan, encouraging him and telling him to be under no apprehensions about the British, and stating "that if British took Candahar, the Emperor, who considered them his servants, would reward and recompense them ten-fold—that Mahomed Shah would send them 1,000 Tomauns—and that things would take a novel aspect after the Nouroz of the 17th March"—(Reports current of a religious war being stirred up).

Cabool

Dost Mahomed is said to have referred to Atta Mahomed Khan³ to learn from him his opinion of the course he should adopt, he was told that he had better propose terms, this Dost Md. replied honor forbade his doing. The news at Cabool regarding Persia is that the Shah has called upon his uncle the Governor of Terrah for his Treasure and his guns, and that after some negotiation, he had been content to take half the Treasure and half the guns with one of his uncle's sons as hostage.

Peshawur

19th April

Col Wade states his having received a letter from Ahmed Khan, alias Golam Khan Popalzai, urging the expediency of dispatching Agents to the Kohistan,⁴ and Zurmat for the purpose of raising the people in those parts. Col W states that as yet in spite of the Maharaja's reiterated orders, very few of the Infy. Mussulman contingent have arrived and only 150 Sawars; that he would however desire to get up about 2,000 Mussulmans in drafts from the Sikh force now assembled at Attock, as these men would have the advantage of discipline and enable him to move on at once to Ali Musjid in case of need. Now Nehal Sing had joined the Army & requested to know what Col Wade advised him to do. Col W had recommended his halting the Force at Attok and coming on himself with the prince and Sardars to Peshawur. The letters from Ahmed Khan, alias Golam Khan Popalzai, are urgent both to Mr Lord and Col Wade in insisting on the advisability of entertaining recruits from the Afghan nation alone, stating that the employment of the Afghans would be very encouraging to the Shah's adherents and that Agents sent on with leave to make distributions of money would be sure to gain

3 *Atta Mahomed Khan* (Atta Muhammad Khan) had seen service under Shah Shuja. When Dost Muhammad assumed the sceptre, he was blinded but allowed to stay in Kabul without further discomfiture. On the return of Shah Shuja (1838), Atta Muhammad acted as a liaison between the two rivals for a short while.

4 *Cohistan* (Kohistan), literally a hilly country or highlands. In India, the term was applied to the mountainous tracts on the north-western frontier. The Afghan Kohistan, comprised the valleys of Ghorbund, Punjir, Nijrou, Tagow, Alishang, Alighur and the Lower Kuner.

over the affections of the bulk of the population in the Cohistan & Zurmat. (He states that considerable disappointment had been created by the reports of certain Afghans who had gone to Shikarpore to join the Shah and whose services were not made available). He states that the army of Dost Md. Khan returned to Cabool from Koordooz⁵ on the 25th March in such a state, that they can be of little use for 3 months to come. He insists much on the importance of taking Ali Musjid, which Fort is, he states thought very much of by Dost Md. & his partizans, and the capture of which would ensure the fall of Jellalabad, which is weakly garrisoned and defenceless. Col Wade also states in another letter dated the 19th of April his intention of moving against Ali Musjid, so soon as he has concerted measures with Lt Mackeson,⁶ who he expects to join him via Kohat. Dr Lord has received notice from Col W⁷ to hold himself in readiness to move from Peshawur at day's notice for the purpose of effecting a diversion towards Bajour when the Shahzada shall move on the Khyber Pass.

Army of the Indus

27th March

Mr Macnaghten writes from Daddur stating that he hopes to commence his march thro' the Boolan Pass on the 29th—forwards letters from Sir A Burnes stating that they had headed the Pass on the 16th March without an accident—that the conduct of the officers of the Kelat Chief had been most praiseworthy—two of them having accompanied him the whole way with a Beloochee Escort. The only Residents in the pass are the Beloochees of Khirta under Futteh Khan whom Sir A Burnes conciliated by presents. Sir A B⁸ says “the defile of Boolan is the most practicable Mountain Pass I have ever seen, tho' the latter part has great military strength”—states that Mr Nock's⁹ survey and description of it is so accurate as to deserve the fullest reliance. Sir A B states that reports have been industriously circulated in Candahar to the prejudice of the British, saying that they carried off women, were infidels etc., etc., and that he had been warned against personal danger to himself from assassination—that great stress is laid upon the pretended nonentity of the Shah in the hands of the British—and the alleged

5 i.e. Kunduz.

6 *Lt Frederick Mackeson* (1807-53), entered the Indian army in 1825, was assistant to the Political Agent at Ludhiana when asked to accompany Alexander Burnes to Kabul in 1837. He distinguished himself in a number of military as well as political assignments and, after the annexation of the Punjab, was appointed (1851) Commissioner of Peshawar Division. Later (1853) he was assassinated by a religious fanatic.

7 i.e. Col Wade.

8 i.e. Sir Alexander Burnes.

9 *J Nock*, a draftsman who had prepared the first survey report on the Bolan pass in 1839.

repulsive manner in which the Shah has received the Afghans who have already joined him. It is needless to observe that the whole of these statements are groundless; to counteract them Mr M¹⁰ has taken care to give additional encouragement to all Afghans who may join the Shah. Rahim Dil Khan has made serious overtures of joining the Shah and the British to Mahomed Tahir, the Newswriter at Candahar, who has joined Sir A Burnes—that Chief was of course warmly encouraged in his professed intention of joining the Shah. Sir A B has little doubt about supplies, as the country becomes richer, the nearer the approach to Candahar and the crop is the most plentiful that has been known for 25 years.

31st March

Mr Macnaghten forwards letters from Rahum Dil Khan withdrawing from his engagement or offer to engage himself to Shah Sooja, stating that he has made common cause with his brothers and that the body of the people is in arms against Shah Sooja & the English—at the same time he desires to know what exact terms will be made with him & his brothers in the event of their surrendering—Mr M in his reply has with the concurrence of Sir John Keane stated that it is absurd to speak of the Candahar Brothers being independent of the protection of the British Govt., while at the same breath Rahum Dil Khan offers to serve the British for 5 lakhs of Rs.—that if an insurrection has been excited against the lawful sovereign of Afghanistan, the instigators of it will be the sufferers. Mr M goes on to say “if you and your brothers unconditionally surrender the Govt. of Candahar to its lawful owner, I will guarantee your safety and honorable treatment and such provision for your future support that the Govr. Genl. may see fit to assign you” with reservation of a place of residence being assigned, and that the provision to be made will not exceed one lakh of rupees a year. Mr M says in conclusion, that this submission must be immediate, as the Army is in march for Candahar, and the consequences of delay will fall upon the Brothers. It may be observed that Mahomed Tahir, the newswriter states that he himself has witnessed something like popular movement against the British, but says “that if these three Brothers receive some assurances, the whole country will be yours without firing a shot”. He goes on to say that they will not serve the Shah, but will resign the administration of Candahar, “and be content with 3 lakhs of rupees a year.”

25th March

By a letter from Sir Willoughby Cotton he reports that the Cavy., Horse

10 i.e. Mr Macnaghten.

Arty, Camel Batty.¹¹ 1st and 4th Brig were at Sirial, and the former and 1st Brig move to Schall, 9 miles, the following day. He states that notwithstanding the cordial and friendly interview he had with the Chiefs, they have as yet furnished nothing—it was reported to him that the shops were shut, and he has written most urgently to Major Seech¹² to obviate this inconvenience, and to get the villagers to sell their grain. He expected that Sir Burnes would reach Kelat with a Commt. Officer on the following day, and hopes that he will not only procure grain, but bring the Khan to meet the Shah. Sir Willoughby remarks that grain is to be got in the Vale of Pecheen, 3 marches in advance of Quetta, but the people would not bring it the distance to Schall. The dawk communication is reported to be shut, and he has sent back Major Craigie¹³ to open it. The Troops of all descriptions are most healthy, and the Camel Battery went through the Pass far better than the Horse Artillery. Sir Willoughby Cotton states that Capt Drummond¹⁴ of the 3d Cavy. has shewn him some very promising specimens of Coal which he discovered in the Boolan Pass between Abergour and Siri Kijour, and he infers from the stratification of the country that it may be traced to a more tangible locality for the Indus navigation.

6th April

Mr Macnaghten writes from Quetta that he has, in communication with Sir J Keane, appointed Capt Beane¹⁵ to the charge of the Province of Schall with instructions to raise a Contingent force of Afghans @ 5 Rs. pr. md. from among the tribes in the neighbourhood of Schall. This levy was not to exceed 800 men. Capt B is selected for his temper and knowledge of Native habits.—(Sir A Burnes having gone on to Kelat concluded a treaty with the Khan of that place in which he agreed for a subsidy of one Lakh & a half of Rs. to maintain the Pass and forward supplies to the British Army. He however did not give any immediate assistance in grain and carriage. The conduct of the Khan has been throughout most suspicious and unfriendly – intercepted letters from him to his governors give intelligence of his having

11 Explanation for abbreviations used

Cavy :	Cavalry
Arty :	Artillery
Batty :	Battery
Brig :	Brigade

12 Probably refers to Major Leech.

13 *Major J H Craigie* of the 20th Native Infantry, was appointed to the command of the 3rd Regiment of Shah Shuja's force when the latter was re-installed as Amir of Afghanistan.

14 *Capt J G Drummond* was asked to survey a road alignment from Agra to Bombay.

15 *Capt J D D Beane* of the 23rd Native Infantry was appointed to Shah Shuja's force, and later (July 1839) given political charge of Shawl. He played an important role in conciliating the Baluch tribes to British rule.

issued strict injunctions to them to give no aid whatsoever, but in fact to oppose with every effort the advance of the British. Mr M has in consequence advised the Govr. Ganl. not to ratify the treaty, but to declare the provinces of Schall, Moostung, & Kuchee annexed to the dominions of Shah Sooja, forwarding a statement to the Khan, declaratory of our feeling as to his treacherous conduct, and leaving the final disposal of that Chief for future adjustment) Sir John Keane, Mr M and the Shah were at Quetah on the 6th Inst.—Depredations from Beloochees still continued near Shikarpore, but Lieut Eastwick, Offg. Pol. Agent, had called out Troops and intended proceeding for the purpose of taking strong measures against these marauders.

Upper Scinde

28th April

Lieut Eastwick reports from Shikarpore the march of the 31st Regt. Bengal N I with Treasure from Shikarpore for the army amtg.¹⁶ to 22 Lakhs of Rs. and stating that he had suggested to Brigadier Gordon¹⁷ Comdg. at Sukker, and also to His Excellency Sir J Keane, the posting of a Detachment at Bagh and also at Daddur, for the purpose of maintaining the line of communication from Shikarpore to the Army which is now unoccupied. He states that he has been unable for want of carriage to forward more than a month's supplies for the consumption of the Escort with the Treasure, but that 3,000 camels laden with grain are daily expected from Khanpore which place they are known to have left on the 1st Inst. He states that supplies are plentiful, but carriage very deficient. Arrangements are now in progress for the purchase of good camels below the Smt. standard for the use of the army. These are now procured for Capt Hades in Humairah, and sent on to Ferozepur. The Bombay Government have proposed that the Reserve Force in Lower Scinde shall now be considered as the Scinde Subsidiary Force, and as such be made independent of the Command of Sir John Keane, reporting to Govt. through the Resident in Scinde. The arrangement is in abeyance.*

*Brig. Gordon Comr. in Upper Scinde has noted the arrival of 4,500 camels for the use of the army at Roree.¹⁸

Kundooz

25th Decr. 1828

A letter has been received from Meer Morad Beg of Kundooz stating that the son of Dost Mahd Khan had invaded his Kingdom and taken Tashkoorghan, and applying for some guns and Troops—Col Wade in

16 i.e.; amounting

17 *Brigadier Gordon* was the Officer Commanding of British forces in Upper Sind. His treatment of the 'natives' was said to be harsh while complaints were received from his own subordinate officers that he was both tyrannical and oppressive.

18 *Roree* (Rori or Lohri) in Shikarpur, a town on the left bank of the Indus, built on an ancient mound.

forwarding this letter dated the 19th April states that with the destruction of Dost Md Khan's power, the conquest made by his son in Kundooz will of course cease, and that he will endeavor to assist the Uzbek Chief—the diversions by Bajour and the Cohistan of Cabool will no doubt have a beneficial effect on his interests.

Bokhara

Intelligence has been received from Bokhara dated 11th February 1839 of the arrival of Col Stoddart at that place, but that owing to some disagreement between him and the King, the Col had been put in confinement, since which it was not known what had become of him. It is stated that the King of Bokhara has lately dispatched a Mission to Russia*--The news-writer who gives the above intelligence to Mr Lord says that in the Court of the King's palace, he observed 9 pieces of Cannon mounted and 10 mortars, and that he understood there were even 100 pieces in another building, and that carriages were ready for several of them. There were also 130 Shahins Camel swivels—The writer next went to Naib Sumud who was turned out of Cabool sometime ago, whom he found exercising 2 guns, 6 more lay on the ground and, were being polished—The Naib has about 400 Infantry under his command and is enrolling recruits.

*This is the same mission which has been before noted. No Russians, nor agent for Russia were at Bokhara on the date above-noted.

Herat

6th Feby.

Lieut Pottinger writes to Mr Macnaghten that a Kafilah arrived from Mushud¹⁹ bringing intelligence that the Kujar authorities are assembling Troops from Western Khorassan with the intension of attacking Herat after the Equinox—He has heard from private sources that Yar Mahomed Khan's brother and the Jumghydy chiefs have, unknown to Shah Kamran, invited the Persians to act with them against Shah Sooja and the British—Lt P considers that this is a mere intrigue on the part of the Vizier's brother to extort higher gratuities from him, and believes that if this person endeavors to push his way over to Mushud, the Vizier will prevent him from prosecuting his journey—states that matters are becoming more settled as the Army of the Indus advances—that he has redeemed a number of persons sold by Yar Mahd. Khan for slaves to raise money.—states that Ghorian is still held by the Russians in a manner decidedly hostile to the British—that when Kohun Dil Khan retreated from Turrah, it was immediately occupied in Kamran's name—that on his retreat the Garrison of Kila-i-Koh also fled—the Papolzyes tendered their submission, and in fact the only place now held in the Herat country for the Persian interest is Ghorian.—(The Russian Agent

19 i.e.; Meshed,

Vicovitch has been "straining every nerve to oppose and thwart the British Government."). Ali Yar Khan sent a Messenger to Yar Mahomed Khan offering to give up Ghorian, pay 20,000 Toman²⁰ and 10,000 Kurwala²¹ of Grain if he would give up the English alliance—Yar Mahd. Khan stated in reply that the offer came too late—states that he hears that some fighting had been going on between the Russians and Oorgunjis and further mentions a report that Col Stoddart had been imprisoned in Bokhara—The Khan of Oorgunj²² is said to have murdered 4 Russian travellers and their servants at Khiva in the autumn.

Persia

4th Dec. 1838

H M Envoy to the Court of Persia, Mr Mc Neill, announced the Shah's having refused to grant reparation for the attack upon a Gholam attached to the Residency and who bearing dispatches, was stopped and mal-treated many months ago; he had in consequence determined upon withdrawing the Embassy from Persia.

Bushire

30th March

Hms "Wellesley" touched at Muscat where she was received with the strongest demonstrations of friendship, and the offer by the Imaum of his troops and ships in aid of any operation meditated by the British Govt. Passed on to Bushire where she was received with less cordiality, and Sir Imitland had reason to think that Mirza Ufsid, the Govr. of Bushire did not treat him with that degree of consideration which his rank and position required. Opposition was made by the Govr. to Sir T M's taking off stock for his private use from the Residency landing place, and it was insisted upon that the stock in question should be removed from the Custom House Wharf, and that all persons landing from British Vessels should do so at that Wharf, instead of at the Residency as was formerly the case. Sir T M having referred to Commodore Brucks²³ of the Indian Navy as to the custom previously observed in this respect, and being informed that this was a total innovation, and having also observed while this matter was under discussion

20 *Toman* (Toman) : a Persian gold coin.

21 *Kurwal* or *Kharvar* was a measure of 100 *Tabriz* maunds roughly equivalent to six maunds and ten seers in Indian weight.

22 *Oorgunj* : the delta of the Oxus or Amu river before falling into the Aral. It formed the old state of Khiva, generally known as *Organge* or *Oorgunj*, about 200 miles west-north-west of Bukhara. A small fertile valley, surrounded on all sides by deserts, *Oorgunj* was situated about six miles from the Oxus, and had a population of about 12,000. The town of Khiva, lying between the then southern boundary of Russia and Bukhara, was an important entrepot of commerce between these two kingdoms.

23 *Commodore Brucks* was commander of the British naval squadron in the Persian gulf.

as respected himself, a boat from the "Elphinstone" communicating unmolested with the Residency, determined to resist this attempt to discredit Her Majesty's flag. He accordingly on the 28th informed the Governor that he was about to leave the Residency by the usual landing place; but having observed a Guard posted in a tower so as to command the Wharf, and a second party placed behind a breastwork of sand bags covering the landing place in another direction, he as a measure of precaution, ordered the "Wellesley's" Boats manned and armed to come off the landing place to protect his embarkation, apprizing the Govr. at the same time that armed men would not be attempted to be landed at that place. The Captn of the Wellesley having proceeded in his gig and an armed boat in advance of the armed craft, and approached the shore where the Admiral and some of his officers were standing. A man armed with a musket ran from behind the breastwork and threatened to fire if the gig approached the shore, having as he raised his piece to his shoulder, he was seized from behind by some of the officers and disarmed. The mob who had collected in considerable numbers began to pelt the English Gentlemen with stones, when the fire was opened from the two posts upon the boats—several shots struck and passed through them, but no persons suffered alth' a Serjt. of Marines received a ball thro' his belt and accoutrements—Several shots were then fired from the boats before the Adml. could prevent it, but having silenced the British fire, and Captn Hennell having done the same with regard to the Persians by the intervention of a follower of the Kazi of Bushire, the Adml. proceeded to embark, having as he conceived vindicated the honor due to himself and HM's flag.

On the 29th the Persians commenced marking out the foundation of a tower so as completely to command the Residency and Captn Hennel having recd. no apology or explanation for this insulting and unfriendly act, and finding that as he thought, the Persian authorities were generally unfriendly determined to embark on board the Wellesley for Karrack where he arrived on the 30th of March.

Captn Hawkin²⁴ with the H C Schooner "Clive" remained in the Harbour in friendly communication with the Persians—Bakkir Khan the Chief of Tengistan who had come into the Town with several of his followers to impress Captn H with the sense of his friendly feelings towards the British Govt.—The property of the Resident and the Residency Buildings were respected and even declared by Sheik Hoosein, the Chief Moola of the Town, under his own protection. The Govr. desired on the 4th of April that the disturbance which had occurred might be looked upon as of a purely local nature as between himself and the Resident, and in no way affecting the peace

24 *Capt Hawkin* was earlier in attendance upon the Raja of Bikaner when (1837) the latter proceeded on a pilgrimage to the holy places situated within British India.

and alliance between the two nations.—Trade continued undisturbed, but the Garrison of the Town had been increased by an influx of armed men from the neighbourhood, and a Gun was so placed as to command the landing place. Captn Hennell in giving general news states that 2 Regts. of Surbars and some guns were ordered; it was said to move on Bushire to garrison that place, but he believed that the Persians would find it impossible to march these troops supposing even the order were given. The Shah is said to have reviewed his army 40,000 strong on the 21st of March, the Nouroz or vernal equinox, and ordered it to march on Herat under Kamran Mirza—Reports stated that the Garrison of Herat was reduced to a pitiable condition for want of Grain and that the country had been devastated by excursions from the Garrison of Ghorian.*

*This is merely an exaggerated form of the news given by Lt Pottinger of scarcity in the Town.

Joudhpore

By a private letter from Col Sutherland²⁵ of the 10th April he states that on his having assumed a high tone, the Maharaja has given a written engagement to pay up all arrears of tribute before the Col returns to Ajmere, as also the rest of what is due before the expiration of the year. The future administration of the country remains unsettled, but the Col fears there will be no hope of reconciling the bitter spirit of faction.

By another letter from Col Sutherland dated the 10th April he states that when he found no progress made in forming a respectable administration he sent Captn Ludlow²⁶ to the Maharaja with a long letter setting forth the conduct of the Durbar, and requiring the dismissal of the Naths and the formation of an administration on whose wisdom and honesty all could rely—He states that he was resolved on marching the next morning if these demands were not conceded. At last the Maharaja declared that he would abdicate accompanying the Naths into retirement, leave his infant son as his representative and form an administration of Chiefs—This declaration caused an immense sensation about Joudhpore—He states that it was afterwards publicly announced to him that the dismissal of the Naths was determined on, and that the recall and reinstatement in their places of his several Thakoors would immediately take place, in concert with whom he would form an efficient administration.

25 *Col Sutherland* belonged to the 3rd Bombay Cavalry. He was appointed Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana in February 1835. Two years later he took charge as officiating Political Agent at Kotah and, in February 1838, was associated with the 1st Infantry, Oudh Auxiliary Force as its second in command.

26 *Capt J Ludlow* (also Ludhlow) of 6th Native Infantry was appointed Assistant to the Political Agent of the Governor General in Rajputana in February 1835. Two years later, he took charge as officiating Political Agent at Kotah and in February 1838, was associated with the 1st Infantry, Oudh Auxiliary Force, as its 2nd in command.

Lucknow

His Majesty at the instance of the Resident has taken effectual measures to open the navigation of the Goomtee, which for some months has been very much interrupted by exactions in the shape of illegal tolls by powerful Zemindars on the bank of the river. H M has also directed his attention to a reformation of the Intelligence Dept. in which great abuses, and much extortion had appeared to have prevailed for many years past.

Nipal

14th April

In a public letter from the Resident, he states that Rang Nath Pande²⁷ who became ostensible Minister on the fall of Bhim Sen and who was superseded in the administration of the whole hills by Pushker Shah²⁸ and Ram Jung Pande²⁹ last autumn, has just resigned the administration of the lowlands or Terrai into the hands of Ram Jung—The great families in Nipal greatly dread Ram Jung's ascendancy as what, if confirmed, must be the prelude to all sorts of retaliatory violence in requital of the murder of his father.—The Senior Ranees's irregular and violent ambition* is said to find a

*The intelligence herewith noted as to the state of factions at Cathmandoo is principally given on the authority only of a news-writer, and is not to be implicitly relied on, and were it been true to the letter the constant fluctuation of party feeling at that court does not allow of the formation of definite conclusion as to the effect which the present aspect of things at the Durbar may have on its future policy.

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- 27 About this time Nepal Darbar was torn by mutual dissensions and political intrigues. The courtiers were divided into as many as seven factions, the Brahmin party being one of them, headed by Raghunath Pandey or Pandit, who has been referred to here as *Rang Nath Pande*, this party emerged powerful on the downfall of the Prime Minister Bhim Sen. Raghunath Pandit acted as Prime Minister for a short while, but being a man of peace and straightforward character, he was unable to bring the various warring factions under his effective control and tendered his resignation. The latter notwithstanding, he was called upon, time and again, to act as chief of a coalition ministry in the 1840s. He made it a point not to come into conflict with the 'harem party' and was content to retire to the safe seclusion of a religious life whenever possible.
- 28 *Pushker Shah* belonged to one of the collateral branches of the royal family of Nepal. He was opposed to the excessive political influence of Bhim Sen, the Prime Minister. Much against the latter's will, he was sent at the head of a political mission to Peking by the chief queen in July 1837. In his absence, Bhim Sen suffered a downfall and was replaced by Raghunath Pandey as Prime Minister. The latter, however, soon resigned his office and in September 1838, on his return from China, Pushker Pandey was asked to share power with Ram Jang (Jung) Pandey.
- 29 *Ram Jung Pande* was the son of Damodar Pandey, the Nepalese Prime Minister, murdered by his rivals in the beginning of the nineteenth century. His eclipse led to the emergence of Bhim Sen as Prime Minister. The latter virtually held the reins of government in his hands and persecuted the Pandeys and their sympathisers for over thirty years. After 1834 the Pandeys re-emerged as a powerful court faction as a result of the patronage of the chief queen. More than once, Ram Jang Pandey secured the Prime Ministership and, after many murders through court intrigue, perished in the general slaughter and exile of the Pandeys in 1843.

ready tool in Rana Jung for the accomplishment of her particular purposes on condition she prove herself as she professes to be equally pliant in regard to his particular ends. She wants the Raja to resign in favour of her son, and he wants revenge on his numerous enemies, and the Raja tho' he dreads with reason both the one and the other and thus continues to withhold the Premiership from Ram Jung yet gradually gives way before the Raneé induced by extravagant promises of the mighty things which Ram Jung is to achieve against the company when once he has the complete direction of affairs—All persons of rank now look to the Company's Govt., and earnestly hope that the Govr. Gen. will ere long be led to address the Raja in such terms as may frighten him into justice at home and abroad and redeem him from the toils of the Raneé and Pande. He states all persons of rank have their eyes at this moment turned towards the Company in the hope that themselves and their country may be saved from ruin by the renewal of the Raja's recent alarms at the Company's anticipated wrath.

It is reported that Bhém Sen's brother has turned fugueer to escape from perpetual renewed alarms, and Bhém Sen considers himself safe only because his Nephew Martabar Sen is beyond the Durbar's power, and would join the English and open the way for their armies to Cathmandoo if Bhém Sen were presently made away with. The Resident states the Durbar wishes to get back Martabar Sen and also Ranoodat Sen to Nipal, but he recommends them to be detained below, as the Durbar will never dare to come to extremities with the company.—(Secret intrigues in the plains are going on actively as ever—The Resident reports that there are secret Envoys at Cathmandoo from the following states, Gwalior, Satharah,³⁰ Baroda, Joudhpore, Jeypore, Kotah, Boondee, Rewah, Panna, and the Punjab/Dhyan Singh)—He says hostile preparations of all sorts continue to be actively made—2 captains are employed in stockading and other arrangements upon the range of Hills next the plains.—Cannon of brass and of leather are being made to the extent of 200 pieces and 10,000 maunds of Powder and one lakh of cannon balls are ordered to be prepared as soon as possible, so that the arsenals and magazines are in high activity whilst a census of all males between 15 and 60 is in progress, in order to ascertain the utmost extent of the military power of the Kingdom.

Sikkim

The boundary disputes so long pending between the Sikkim state and Nipal have been at last settled by arrangements entered into by Lt Col

³⁰ i.e.; Satara, one of the Maratha states ruled by Shivaji's descendants.

Lloyd,³¹ Pol. Agt. in the Sikkim frontier, and Dr Campbell,³² Agt. to the Resident in Nipal—The Resident in Council has suggested that Col Lloyd's services may be now dispensed with, and in the event of its being found necessary to employ any officer specially for the arrangement of the sanatorium at Darjelling, that some officer may be employed of inferior rank to that gentleman.

Items of General Intelligence

The Raja of Sattarah by advices upto the 18th April would appear to be still ill-advised enough to continue intrigues for the purpose of referring his supposed grievances to the Home Govt. He would appear to be now expending large sums in maintaining and feeing various persons both European and Native, who profess their ability to forward his wishes.

Two or three individuals have been seized at Nellore on suspicion of being emissaries employed for the purpose of intriguing against our Govt. in Southern India—Their depositions would appear to be confirmatory of the vague and extravagant character of the projects entertained by a few disaffected persons in that part of the Peninsula.

Simla,
the 2nd May, 1839.

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 99—150)

31 *Lt Col Lloyd* was British Political envoy in Sikkim.

32 *John Campbell*, Surgeon Major, entered the Bengal Medical Service in 1840, served in the first Afghan War in the Khyber region and with Pollock's force; later with Sir Charles Napier in Sind. During the Rebellion of 1857, he rendered great service to the British units in Lucknow.

News`etter 5 : May 11, 1839

Peshawur

25th April

Since the return of Meer Akbar Khan from Koondooz with the residue of Dost Mahomed's Army, and of Mahomed Ufzal Khan from Kurrum, the Candahar Brothers have been trying to prevail on Dost Mahomed to detach a thousand men to their aid, but his advisers are against the scheme. Mahomed Ufzal Khan was obliged to abandon the Kurrum Country without even collecting the Tribute, and the people having risen against him—the country may be said to be wholly free from the Meer's troops. Dost Mohd. is employed in removing his Horses and property to the Fort of Ghuzni—he has forbidden Meer Akbar Khan from moving on Khyber until further orders, saying that they had no longer Hurry Singh¹ and the Sikhs to deal with.* The Cabool Merchants are in great anxiety lest Dost Md. plunder them before he leaves the Country. Lt Mackeson is moving through Mooltan upon Kohat raising levies as he comes along, but not choosing to pledge himself to entertain men for a long period, has not engaged many—He represents Mooltan as very bare of Sikh troops, all now available being employed against Alladad Khan, who is holding out the Fort of Tonk. Col Wade continues to gain over the Khyberees, and is in communication with all the neighbouring Chiefs of influence.

*Hurry Sing was a distinguished officer of the Maharaja who was killed in 1837 at Jamrood in the last engagement between the Sikhs and Afghans.

27th April

Col Wade reports the arrival of Koonwur Now Nahal Sing, Sirdars Golab Sing, Uttur Sing, Lanah Sing and Jemadar Koshaul Sing at Peshawur on the 26th with 5 Regular Battalions, 5,000 Goorcherra Cavalry and 20 Guns, being altogether about 10,000 men. The main body of the Sikh Army, consisting of 14 Regular Battns., 2 or 3 Cavy. Regts. and 60 guns, remains halted at Attok. Now Nehal Sing having asked Sooltan Mohomed Khan to make himself useful by obtaining intelligence from Candahar, that Chief answered that to do so, would be a violation of his engagement to the Maharaja not to communicate with his friends & relations in Afghanistan. Col Wade coincided in Sooltan Mahod's opinion, and takes measures him-

¹ Hurry Sing (Hari Singh Nalwa), the famous military commander of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who had struck terror in the hearts of the Afghans and the tribals in the north-west frontier was, for a time, Governor of Peshawar.

self for procuring Intelligence by sending trusty Cossids on the Ghuzni. Sirdar Tej Sing, in command of the main body of the Sikh army, has received orders to draft Mussulman Soldiers from his Battn. to form the Contingent required by the tripartite treaty to serve in Peshawur, and Col Wade has applied for Mons Lafont,² one of the Maharaja's most intelligent officers to command that Contingent, no answer has yet been received; in the meantime Col W has been supplied by the Koonwur with 2 Guns, and has asked for 2 more with some Swivel Artillery from the Maharaja. The formation of the Mussulman Contingent advances slowly. (Col W is of opinion that the Sirdars generally are much dissatisfied with the Maharaja's present policy). A mutiny had taken place in the Battn. of Nujeeb,³ escorting the Shahzada, but had been put down without much difficulty.*

***1st May :**

Dost Muhummud has been in vain endeavouring to incite the religious feelings of the people against Shah Shooja and the English by means of a man named Hafiz Zee. The Calif's misuse of religion to serve his own ends on previous occasions has foiled this attempt.

Army of the Indus

9th April

The Army arrived at Hy-Kulzie⁴ on the above date when Mr Macnaghten was visited by Syed Myheen Shah on the part of the Sirdars of Candahar, whose pretensions continue to be pressed with much confidence and pertinacity. Mr M did not conceive that they would dare to make any shew of resistance to the Shah's advance with the few adherents they have, he answered Myheen Shah's offers of the terms on which the Sirdars would compound with the Shah after consultation with H M by declaring that if the Sirdars would serve the Shah as true and good Subjects, His Maj. was ready to continue to them their ancestral jaghires, but that if they were averse to take this course, the British Govt. would arrange for a suitable provision for them in Hindostan. Mr Macnaghten states in a private letter that the Sirdars are in a state of despair, and that Kohun Dil Khan had in a fit of desperation

2 *Mons Lafont* (Lafayette or Lafcet or Laput) : two different persons bearing the name La Font, in the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, have been mis-spelt and confused in official records so often that it is not always easy to distinguish between them. Judging from their salary and other emoluments, they were Captains or Majors who commanded small armies.

3 *Battn. of Nujeeb* : one of the famous Muhammadan regiments of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. It was part of the escort of Prince Timur, the son of Shah Shuja, through the Khyber to Kabul. Later the troopers revolted because of non-payment of their salaries for over three months. Their mutiny was suppressed by British troops.

4 *Hy-Kulzie* was a large fortified village in Afghanistan, situated on the route from Qandhar to Shawl, at a height of 5,063 feet above sea level. It had a generous supply of water. Here, on 28 March 1842, a British army under General England, met with a severe repulse in attempting to force its way to Qandhar; and here too, the same commander, with his army reinforced, totally routed the enemy exactly a month later.

entertained some idea of making a night attack upon the camp with 2,000 followers, which Mr M believes to be a mere bravado. He expects to be in Candahar in about a week. The Shah's followers he represents as difficult to manage in connection with Regular Troops, their habits of license being so strongly opposed to the orderly principle of a British Camp—however, the Shah has most readily imposed upon his followers restrictive orders, similar to those in force among British Troops. He states that supplies are coming in daily, but they are yet dear. He however expects the price to fall. All the villages in the Khan of Kelat's Territory were deserted at the approach of the Army, and not a soul came near the Camp except with the view of plundering and murdering the followers. He states the instant the Army crossed the "Frontier the scene was entirely changed. The inhabitants remained in their villages and have manifested the greatest possible confidence in our justice and good faith."

By a letter from Brig Gordon, Com. G. in Upper Scinde, dated 28th April, the advance force was, on the 11th, within 5 marches of Candahar.

The religious feeling against the English in Candahar has wholly subsided, and the priesthood are now in favour of the Shah.

Upper Scinde

Lieut Laughton⁵ of the Engrs. reports from Bukker the arrival of 3,000 camels laden with grain under a Lohanee Chief, escorted by his own followers, in number 600. Lt L strongly recommends the employment of men of this class in Police duties for the maintenance of the communication between Shikarpore & Bukker. He represents these persons as being admirably calculated for military duty, and suggests that a few 6 pounders drawn by Camels or Horses to be detached to work with this levy and make it perfectly efficient.

28th April

Brigr Gordon, Com. G. in Upper Scinde, reports his having placed Lt Sinclair⁶ of the 23rd Regt. at the disposal of Lt Eastwick, on his requisition, to act as an Agent or General Superintendent. He states that a monthly communication is going on by Boats between Sukker and Ferozepore, also to Tatta, that the harvest is now getting in, and considering the supply of grain in hand and on its way up, he thinks it unnecessary that more should be sent from the upper part of the river. He hopes to be able to add 11 or

5 Lt J Laughton had been employed as Executive Engineer at Burdwan in August 1838 when he was detailed for duty in Afghanistan. In June 1839, he was put in military control of the Bukkur (or Bhakkar) fort.

6 Lt Sinclair was deputed to carry presents for Maharaja Kharak Singh in November 1839.

1200 Camels to the 3,000 on the other side of the river, and push them on with all possible dispatch for the Army. The Treasure he reports as amounting to 72 Lakhs, 26 of which is now on the river in charge of Capt Corsells, the Pay Mr. and is expected early, and 24 Lakhs, or near it, proceeded with the Convoy under Lt Col Thomson⁷. He reports of having ordered a Detachment to be stationed at Rajhan and another at Bagh⁸, and hopes it will be the means of securing the road and by getting possession of the water, drive the Beloochees to their homes.

Orders, Replies & Observations

Despatches have been since received from Sir J Keane, dated 12 April. The advance of the army was at the Kojuk Pass, 70 miles from Candahar though the Sappers and Miners were clearing a way for the troops, on operation which would take three days. H S expected to be in Candahar by the 21st Ultimo. "I have been to the crown of the Kojuk Pass today myself (says Sir John) and I cannot help noticing to your Lordship my admiration of the way in which Captains Thomson, and Sonden and those under them have worked yesterday and to day by which means an excellent road has been completed so far as they have gone, and I hope the rest will be completed in another day. It is my intention to push a Reg. of Infantry and the Sappers to the North side of the pass to-morrow if the road is completed, and to halt here myself with the main body for a day. I shall begin to send the Troops across next morning". Sir J Keane joined the Bengal Divn. on the 6th and issued a Gen. Order complimentary to Sir W Cotton and the Troops under him. Major Parsons had been making purchases of grain in the surrounding villages. The crops were on the ground and newly ripe and Lt Palmer had come up with his convoy of provisions for 15 days for the whole Army. The Kojuk Pass was occupied by about 30 well-mounted men, who fired on the advance party of officers but were thrown back instantly; several men killed by a detachment of Sappers. A party of the 35 B.N.I. escorting Lt Palmer's convoy had an affair with the Belocches in which the invaders were driven back with the loss of their leader and the havildar, of the 35 killed.

27th April

Lieut Eastwick advises the Comg. Officer at Daddur of the dispatch of 22 Lakhs of Rs. on the 19th under escort of 6 Cos. of the 31st Regt. Bengal N I, and 400 of the Shah's Cavy., and also apprizes him of an agreement entered into with Jyth Sing, merchant of Shikarpore, to convey to Daddur the grain at present stored at Shikarpore @ 2/8 per md., he insuring all losses. Lieut Eastwick has pointed out to Brigr Gordon the advantages of maintain-

7 Lt Col Thomson (1799-1886) joined the Bengal Army in 1818 as an Engineer and saw action in Burma (1824-26). He constructed many important public works as Executive Engineer, PWD. In 1838, he was deputed Chief Engineer of the Army of the Indus, and is said to have bridged that river at Rohri-Sukkur in eleven days. Having rendered commendable service to British forces at Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni, he returned to India in November 1839 and retired from service two years later. He has given an eye-witness account of the conquest of Ghazni by the British in his book, *The Storming of Ghazni* (1840).

8 Bagh was a big town in Afghanistan which lay on the route from Shikarpur (Sind) to Dadhar close to the entrance of the Bolan pass. It had a considerable transit trade while the country surrounding it was very fertile.

ing a detachment at Rajhan which is the second dawk stage from Shikarpore on the edge of the desert in consequence of the advantage it affords in water, and the fact that the plundering Beloochees are in the habit on that account of making that place a main post of rendezvous. Lt Eastwick has been enabled to strengthen the Infantry Detachment at Rajhan by a party of Irregular Cavalry composed of details from the Poona and Bhapawar Horse and 50 Koosa Beloochees in the pay of Govt. It appears that the Beloochees have already proved their fidelity when employed in Govt. pay, by bringing in plundered Camels to Shi karpore, but accidents have in one or two instances occurred in consequence of parties of these friendly Beloochees having been fired on by Guards taking them for enemies.

Persian Gulf

Captn Hawkins of the H C Schooner "Clive"⁹ having visited the Coast of the Gulf, reports on the 18th Feby. that the Arabs were anxious to continue the truce established by Captn Hennell's intervention during the present season of the Pearl Fishery, and states that they are in great dread of Khoorshed Pasha, the Commandant of the Egyptian Forces and desire earnestly to place themselves under the Protection of the British flag, and declared themselves subjects of our Govt.

Bushire

9th March

Captn Hennell reports the departure to Baherein of Hajee Kassim, formerly super-cargo of a trading vessel, who has been selected by the Governor of Bushire, as Envoy from the Prince of Shiraz to Abdoolah ben Ahmed, the Chief of Bahrein. This individual is accompanied by 10 Persian Sirbaz or soldiers as an Escort, and carries with him dress of honor for the Uttobee Sheik from His Royal Highness, together with a Ruckum, the contents of which is not known. (Captn H is informed that Hajee Kassim is instructed to remain at Bahrein as Persian Agent, and is to be the medium of receiving and transmitting the annual tribute, which the Persian authorities already flatter themselves the Bahrein chief is disposed to pay for their countenance and protection).

Aden

The Govr. in Council of Bombay resolved on the 16th of April after consulting with Sir H Fane to send reinforcements to the Troops at Aden, which addition to the Force there was to consist solely of the Bombay European Regt. and 24th Regt. N I, the Hd Qr of which two Corps were ready in Garrison at that port. The total European Rank and file at Aden with these reinforcements will be 417, and the Native Rank and file 846. The men

⁹ Name of a British steamer belonging to the Honble Company (Hc).

having been much harassed by heavy duties pending the preparation and repair of the defences at Aden, this reinforcement will be very reasonable.

Joudhpore

By a private letter from Lt Col Sutherland under dated 23rd April, Intelligence has been received of the death of Maun Sing's¹⁰ infant son, a circumstance which has plunged him in very great grief, and has put an entire stop to business for the present. This unfortunate event has left Maun Sing childless, and he being now an old man, there is but very little hope of issue to him. The Thakoors who had not for 33 years exchanged civilities with their sovereign waited on him to pay a visit of condolence—these are mostly the sons and grandsons of the Thakoors whom Maun Sing put to death in 1806 and 1819. Col S remains at Joudhpore for the present. The next claimant to the Raj of Joudhpore is Dhokul Sing, a posthumous son of the late Raja Bhem Sing.

Jhansi

Baboo Gungadhur Rao¹¹ has had his right to succeed to the chiefship of Jhansi in succession of his brother formally acknowledged, altho' the administration of the affairs of that State will not be entrusted to him until they shall have been retrieved from their present state of confusion.

Bithoor¹²

The Commr. with Bajee Rao¹³ reports on the 29th of April the discovery of another of those wild plots which have so frequently come to light having

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- 10 *Maun Sing* (Man Singh): at the commencement of the Maratha war in 1803, was chief of Jodhpur and negotiated at first with the British and then with Holkar. Trouble followed owing to court intrigue regarding succession (after the death of his only son Chhattar Singh) and a disastrous war with Jaipur. With the connivance of some of his courtiers, Jodhpur was taken under British protection in 1818. Man Singh pretended insanity for a while to save his life, but soon resumed the administration and took revenge on the traitors. In 1839, the state was thrown into disorder because of a large-scale insurrection by the nobles, leading to another military intervention by the British. Four years later when Man Singh died childless, the state was handed over to Takht Singh, chief of Ahmednagar.
 - 11 *Baboo Gungadhur Rao*, ruler of the state of Jhansi and husband of the illustrious Lakshmi Bai, who died childless in 1853 when his state was declared forfeit to the British. Dalhousie refused to recognize the adopted son of the Maharani as the rightful successor to the throne. Later, the Maharani played a heroic role in the Rebellion of 1857.
 - 12 *Bithoor* (Bithur), a town in Kanpur district, the then North Western Province (now UP), situated a bare twelve miles from the district headquarters. The last Peshwa, Baji Rao II, was interned here after the Maratha debacle in 1818.
 - 13 *Bajee Rao* (Baji Rao II) the last Maratha Peshwa deposed in May 1818 and granted an annual pension of Rs. 8 lakhs; died in Bithur, near Kanpur, in 1852. His adopted son and successor, Dhondu Pant, better known as Nana Sahib, was refused pension and later played an important role in the Rebellion of 1857.

for their object the release of Bajee Rao from his present position under surveillance and his removal to the Dekkan. On this occasion men, both Horse and Foot, are said to have been engaged for the furtherance of the intrigue at Suffeepore Oude, whence they were to cross to Bithoor. It appears that Bajee Rao himself was aware of the project. A man named Peerajee Raja, a great favorite of his, and who commands his bodyguard, having been detected as the Head Agent in the conspiracy. Subadar Ram Chander Rao was as usual active in preventing this absurd plot from being carried but, thereby, consulting his Master's real interests. One or two Dekkan Brahmins and other persons concerned in a plot of a similar nature to this about two years ago, are implicated in this design and have been apprehended by Subadar Ram Chander for the purpose of being punished as their offences may deserve. There appears reason to believe that the credulity of Bajee Rao has been again imposed on by the designing persons about him, who continue to amuse him with the hopes of his being ultimately enabled to return to Poona, and get up plots of the description above-noted as a means of extorting money from him.

Nepal

No news to report

Orders, Replies & Observations

29th April

The resident intimated to the Maharaja the intention of the Govr. Gen. to refuse passports to persons proceeding on embassies to Rajwarra and elsewhere under pretence of matrimonial negotiations, the bad faith of the Durbar in making these missions the cloak of secret intrigue having been frequently and fully proved. At the same time the release of Ram Raj's party and the decision of the Sikkim boundary question in favour of Nepal were announced as proofs of the even handed justice of this Govt. The Resident reports the effect produced by the above announcement as satisfactory.

Ava

Dr Bayfield states on the 20th March that the Yewoon¹⁴ mentioned in his court that Colonel Benson had left Umreepoora and was bringing the public presents away with him; consequent on this report a general movement has taken place amongst the Troops, Inspections, Musters etc. etc. Orders have been issued to build additional Barracks for a force of at least from 8 to 10,000 men, which are being erected near the base of the great Pagoda—a good number of them having been already finished. The Frenchman John Saib, the adventurer who came to Burmah to take service, left Rangoon for Umreepoora—states that a party of Troops are being drilled after the English mode, and with English words of command that a detachment of Troops amounting to 6,670 strong have been ordered down to Rangoon without delay. They are to arrive by the 9th of April—states that on the 28th March the coolies, working on board the Merchant Vessels loading in the Port, were removed to work upon the new Barracks—that the upper

14 *Yewoon*—literally, 'Governor of Water', or officer incharge of the coastal areas and harbours, a deputy of the Myo-Woon or the Provincial Governor of Pegu in Burma.

part of the Town is being removed, and every Burman ordered to quit the stockade, and reside near the Great Pagoda—Rangoon is consequently nearly deserted of its native population, and, it is said, the Woonduck has expressed his full determination to destroy the town by fire, on the first appearance of two or three ships entering the Port together; fully expecting that the Resident's departure would be followed by war. It is said that the Custom House is to be removed to the Chokey about 8 miles below Rangoon. The Pretender¹⁵ is reported to have died of fever and gangrene of the hands on his way to court. Dr Bayfield states that Woonduck has sold a very large quantity of Timber to Mr Staig, and prohibited any more from being brought into the Market, until the difference between the two Governments is settled. For some months past British Merchants, excepting Mr Staig¹⁶, have been prohibited from purchasing timber up the country as formerly, and obliged to receive it at an advanced price thro' the Woonduck's Agent at Rangoon. The present order, if preserved (persevered ?/Ed.) in, will of course stop all trade except thro' Mr Staig and the Woonduck, the chief holders of timber, and who are supposed to be in co-partnership.

A supply of Bullocks having arrived for Hms' "Fovourite", Dr Bayfield applied to the Ye Woon for a pass for 8 of them to be put on board that vessel. The Ye Woon referred the application to the Woonduck, who instead of issuing the necessary orders, desired to know from whence the cattle had been supplied. Dr B declined to mention from whence he procured them and merely stated that they had been bought by his own men of different people whose names he did not know. The Woonduck would not grant permission, and was determined to discover and punish the offender. It was pointed out to him that there had been no obstruction to their exportation for years; several instances were adduced, but to no purpose. The Woonduck had no objection, he said, to the buying and selling of cattle amongst Merchants, but he would not allow them to be supplied to Govt. vessels or officers.*

*Mr Prinsep in a private letter reports the arrival of HMS Convoy from Rangoon—the King Tharawaddy is said to have sent a person to sound Capt'n Macleod about an audience. He asked if he should not like to see the King's new palace, and put the question in such a way as to shew he desired an audience to be sought of the King. Capt'n M accordingly stated that there was nothing he more desired than an audience of the King, and it was accordingly promptly settled for the following day, when Capt'n M went by the straight road/not that by which Col Benson was taken, to the Tivot Pan, and thence accompanied by Woonducks and Woongees¹⁷ to the King's presence. The earthquake and the mints of the Kings' palaces were the whole subject of conversation. Capt'n M gave a small present out of Col Benson's store, and received in return one of much greater value. The above particulars are from a private letter from Capt'n Macleod to Col Benson. It is said the Earthquake has left no pukka building standing in Umreepora, and the number of persons killed is stated by some to be 300, and by others 700.

15 *The Pretender*: Probably a candidate for the throne, put up by the Padshah Begum, the Dowager Queen of Oudh, after the death of its ruler in July 1837.

16 *Staig*, a British merchant who traded in timber.

17 *Woongees*: a Burmese word that literally signifies burden; also an office of importance.

Items of General Intelligence

The Emissaries of Secret Intrigues arrested in the Nellore District of the Madras Presidency were prodigal, it will be remembered, of assurances of Maun Sing's co-operation with the malcontents whose object it was to combine for the overthrow of the British Govt. Col Sutherland having been recently referred to for his opinion as to the participation of the Raja of Joudhpore in these wild schemes, declares that Maun Sing is not a man of a character so determined or daring as to allow him, even if his position permitted, to engage in such intrigues. The Naths or priesthood about the Raja, in whose hands the whole administration of Joudhpore has for many years been concentrated, and who are extremely unpopular in the State may, Col S thinks, have been very ready to enter into the intrigues proffered to them by Agents from any State as giving them a sort of importance in the eyes of their Master, and fixing their influence as persons of great sagacity with the people of Joudhpore. The sanctuary which they have established at the Mahamunder¹⁸ in Joudhpore enable them to collect bad characters of every description, adventurers and political intriguers whom the presence of the Ex-Raja of Nagpore, Appa Sahib, induces to frequent that place. This is, Col S believes, the interpretation of the alleged designs and conspiracies in which the intriguers in politics would represent the Raja of Joudhpore as being deeply implicated.

Separate Finance

Mr Prinsep in a letter to the Governor General of 2 May states that, notwithstanding the 'unnatural' price of the Opium, the Treasury is filling—15 lakhs of Revenue Balances arrived on Wednesday and the Enterprize has brought from Madras between 11 & 12 lakhs—states there is no fear of any present distress, and if the Govt. were to be overdrawn upon from England or from Bombay, the Bank of Bengal has a balance of 50 lakhs unemployed, and would readily take off 10 lakhs of Treasury notes. But if any difficulty is anticipated of a check in Afghanistan, Mr P advises to anticipate it by a resort to the public. He says the expense of getting up the supplies from a base of operations separated by the Desert and 60 miles, pass from the field of war, with the apparent certainty of having to keep the Army in Afghanistan beyond the present year, and perhaps reinforce it with a second, besides making possibly a demonstration in the Punjab in case of Ranjeet Sing's demise, seem to be the circumstances to be financially provided for, and if they warrant the apprehension that the changes next year will be greater than this, and if the balance of probability be against a conclusive settlement by next April, Mr Prinsep says the sooner we resort to save our balances the better. But he recommends to wait to see the effect of the advance to Candahar. Mr P also states his having heard from Mr Parker that the Salt Receipts, to the 30 April, amount to a Crore and 97 lakhs besides the

¹⁸ The great temple of Jodhpur.

customs levy @ 3 Rs. p.m. and the retail sales at the border of the manufacturing Districts that this resource has never been so flourishing by 20 lakhs.

**Simla,
the 11 May 1839**

**H Torrens
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General**

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 151—182)

Newsletter 6 : May 20, 1839

Lahore

10th May

There are only 6 Battns. and 4,000 Horse at this place. Koonwur Kurruck Sing is at Ramnugger, 20 miles off on the road to Peshawur. Raja Dhyan Sing is paramount in the ministry. The Maharaja is very weak in body, but the vigor of his mind seems unimpaired. Mr Clerk is of opinion that Raja Dhyan Sing will certainly succeed to the ministry in the event of Kurruck Sing's obtaining the Sovereignty on the Maharaja's death, on the certainty of which all parties in the Punjab seem to speculate. Raja Dhyan Sing declared to Mr Clerk "That the Sikhs at Peshawur would do nothing but in concert with Col Wade," and that the delay in furnishing the Contingent of Mussulman troops would be fully made up. The Maharaja declared that peremptory orders would be issued on a suggestion of Col Wade against the practice of correspondence between Sikh Sirdars and parties beyond the frontier. The Maharaja has reduced his river duties as low, says Mr Clerk, "as our Traders would allow me to go." The Umritsar Merchants having been informed by Mr Clerk that a fleet of Boats would be shortly dispatched from Ferozepur for the convenience of traders desired to engage for the whole freight.

By a private letter from Mr Clerk it appears that the desire of the Maharaja and all his advisers is that the Sikh Troops at Peshawur should be kept back, and by no means pushed forward until urgent necessity for their advance should exist. The maharaja is even nervous at Col Wade's preparations and desires much that he should be advised not to move on Ali Musjid, until there is certain indication of an impression having been made on Dost Mahomed's power towards the side of Candahar. Mr Clerk reports that the Maharaja is prevented from riding by a pain on his knee but that he is out in his open Palanquin twice a day for 2 or 3 hours. Mr C¹ had made arrangements to pay the Maharaja 5 lakhs of the bonus due to him from the Ameers of Scinde at Ferozepur.

Peshawur

3rd May

Col Wade forwards letters from Golam Khan² at Cabool applying for money without which he says, nothing can be done. His application had

1 i.e. Mr Clerk.

2 Probably refers to Ahmed Khan, alias Golam Khan Popalzai (*Newsletter* 4).

been anticipated, it will be remembered, by an advance of 10,000 Rs. and Col W³ had taken measures for bringing about the escape of the Khan's son from Jellalabad by means of certain Khybarees. Col W has sent Moola Jabbar to the Kohistan⁴ of Cabool together with Shazada Yahea, cousin of Prince Tymoor, who joined his relative at Peshawur. The Kohistan sic. declare that they only desire the presence of one of Royal blood to rally round him. He will proceed to Malik Shadad of Tagoo,⁵ whose father Dost Mahomed cruelly murdered, and who with various parties in the same part of the Country is hostile to the present ruler. The Kohistanees are decidedly favourable to the change of rule. Col Wade has done his utmost to discourage a practice said to have prevailed among certain of the Sikh officers on the Frontier, of corresponding with parties in Afghanistan. Jamadar Koshaul Sing and Sirdar Uttar Sing⁶ are said to have been the parties principally implicated.* Golam Khan reports that Dost Mahomed and his people have given up all hope of being able to meet the Shahzada in the field. "They have neither money nor troops, all that he has done is to put Ghuzni in order, and send⁷ a thousand Jezzailchees there".** He further states that the forces mustered by the return of Mahomed Ufzal Hyer Khan⁸ and Ukram Khan are insignificant.*** Harlan,⁹ the American in Dost Mahomed's service is imprisoned on a charge of having attempted to poison his master. The news is that the Shah was within 4 Marches of Candahar. Great care is taken to cut off communications by Cassid. There are 25 Guns in Cabool itself, 7 beneath

*This Intelligence is by no means new as it has been ascertained with almost certainty that the former of these Chiefs has been long in the habit of corresponding with dependents of Dost Mahmod.

**The Jezzail is the heavy rifled matchlock of Afghanistan, the favorite weapon of the mountaineers.

***This fully corroborates the truth of former reports to this effect.

3 i.e. Col Wade.

4 Should be 'Kohistanies' or people of the Afghan province of Kohistan.

5 *Tagoo* (or *Tagow*), a small valley in the Kohistan province of Afghanistan. It is rich in ancient monuments and is of great interest to the archaeologists and the historians alike.

6 *Uttar Sing* : (Attar Singh Sandhawalia) well-known for his bravery; in 1837, on the death of Hari Singh Nalwa, he was regarded as the most powerful Sikh chief. He was a close relative of the murderers of Maharaja Sher Singh and Raja Dhian Singh. When Hira Singh, son of the late Dhian Singh, emerged victorious in the power politics of the Lahore Durbar, Attar Singh and his son Kehar Singh took flight across the Sutlej and there came under the influence of the British.

7 Should read 'sent'.

8 Refers to Muhammad Afzal Hyder Khan (*Newsletter* 5).

9 *Josiah Harlan*, an American adventurer who having served as a military general under Maharaja Ranjit Singh and agent for the exiled Shah Shuja, tried to find suitable employment under Amir Dost Muhammad as well. He is said to have been the first American to visit Afghanistan, and has described his exploits in a book entitled, *A Memoir of India and Afghanistan*.

the Bala Hissar,¹⁰ and 5 in the train newly returned from Toorkistan. Dost Mohd. has in vain attempted to excite a Holy War.

4th May

Col Wade has sent correspondence of an interesting nature from Lieut Mackeson describing the Country between Dera Ismael Khan and Peshawur—he (Lt M) has raised 500 Horse and 200 Matchlock men, good soldiers, and well-officered, and has taken measures for opening a communication with Mr Macnaghten. Col Wade reports that the arrival of the Shah at Candahar was confidently announced, and he expects very shortly to hear confirmation of it via Ghuzni. Nawab Jabbar Khan¹¹ has renewed his correspondence with Col W desiring to know what arrangements will be made for him. Dost Md. appears ready to acknowledge the authority of the Shah on terms however that are quite inadmissible, viz., that the Shah should remain at Shikarpore attended by deputies from Afghanistan.

5th May

It appears by letter of this date that Dost Mahomed is almost desperate and after going about in person to every learned man and cajoling them into espousing his part by exciting the people to a Holy War after haranguing the people at the Madrussa in person and after selling his jewellery to raise 3 months' pay @10 Rs. a Sawar and 5 for a Foot Soldier for the Troops about him, he sees the danger of his position and thinks only of how he may escape quietly so as to preclude the possibility of his being seized by the people about him. All his efforts to excite religious feeling have been treated with neglect and he has not many people to realize the smallest sum from any of the Afghans as contribution. It is said that the people of Cabool rather than see themselves exposed to the horrors of a War on his account are prepared to seize and depose him themselves.

6th May

Col Wade writes that a report has arrived on which every reliance can be placed of Shah Sooja having arrived in Candahar and of the Candahar Brothers having fled on the 26th of April, (the 11th of the Mahomedan Month

10 *Bala Hissar*, a famous citadel built in the vicinity of Kabul at the eastern end of the rocky hills under which the Afghan capital has been constructed. The complex comprises two parts—the Bala Hissar Bala or upper citadel, and the Bala Hissar Pahin, the lower fortress. The defences of Bala Hissar are an integral part of the city it dominates. It has a large open space in the centre, containing the Amir Mahal and other buildings for the residence of the Chief and his entourage.

11 *Nawab Jabbar Khan*: eldest brother of Fateh Khan and Azim Khan, two prominent Vizirs of Kabul. He was made Governor of the Ghilzai country by Amir Dost Muhammad, held charge of the royal family at the time of the Amir's flight but under compulsion of circumstances, surrendered to the British in July 1840. A sober and unambitious character, and older than Dost Muhammad in age, Jabbar Khan, rendered invaluable service to the former as his friend and counsellor.

Saffar). It would appear from letters from Native correspondents that the Sirdars entertained the intention of resisting to the last but that they found all their hopes of making an impression frustrated by the constant vigilance of the British Troops. A few Rohillas seem to have deserted from the Shah to the Sirdars but they were not trusted, their desertion being looked upon as a stratagem. Hajee Khan Kakur having joined the Shah, completely dispirited the Sirdars—there is every expectation that Dost Mahomed will also fly through the Hazara Country to Persia, and his Son Mohd. Ukbar Khan having begun to sell the grain he had collected, looks as if a flight were really in contemplation. Col Wade reports the Mussulman Contingent to be supplied by the Maharaja as complete, 3,000 Infy., 2,000 Nujeebs, 1,000 Cavy. and 10 Guns being available for service, On receiving intelligence of the Shah's success, a salute was fired by the Shahzada's orders, and answered by Koonwur Now Nehal Sing from his Sikh Arty.

Lt Mackeson was expected in a day or two at Peshawur and reported in his last letter to Col Wade that Alladad Khan, the ex-Chief of Tonk had expressed a desire to join him with a detail of Troops which design Lieut M had encouraged.

Col Wade in a private letter confirms the nature of a report recd. yesterday from an officer in his Camp to the effect that the Inhabitants of the Country between Ali Musjid and Cabool had been thrown into a state of great excitement by the Intelligence of the Shah's arrival at Candahar and that they were on the point of making an open outbreak against Dost Mahomed. This intelligence appears to bear a great semblance of truth especially when considered with reference to the recent account of Mahomed Ukbar Khan selling off his Stores at Jellalabad preparatory to quitting the Country.

Upper Scinde

10th May

Lieut Eastwick reports that Surwar Khan Lohanee,¹² with a Kafilah of 3098 Camels laden with supplies for the use of the Army of the Indus left Shikarpore on the 9th Instant en route to Candahar, and that he has advanced to him the sum of one lac, six thousand and sixty-three Rupees on account of hire of Camels, including wages of surwans and compensation for stolen Animals. The Lohanee has 700 Afghans wherewith to protect this Kafilah, able men but not mounted, to which disadvantage is ascribed the loss of 28 laden Camels at Roree. The excitement of the Afghans was very great at this loss and they contrived to seize 4 robbers, one of whom being notorious thief was forthwith hung by the Dewan of Shikarpore at the City

¹² *Surwar Khan Lohanee*: a rich merchant of Kabul, having business establishments at Bukhara as well. After the British occupation of Afghanistan in the name of Shah Shuja, he offered liberal financial advances to British officers and other ranks.

gates, but the three others have afforded very valuable information concerning haunts, names and tribes of the depredators—Lieut E is engaged in a train of enquiry as to the real originators of the outrage, and has reason to believe that Mihrab Khan of Kellat is the real instigator of these outrages, a belief already strongly countenanced by the tenor of intercepted letters from that Chief obtained by Mr Macnaghten. The Lohanee complained much of the delay caused in the Punjab by the son of Sawun Mull Dewan of Mooltan and by Luckmee Mull, Cardar of Dera Ghazi Khan, who, he says, delayed him a full month by vexatious obstacles, he at the same time spoke strongly of the assistance he received from the son of Futteh Muhamed Goree through Khyrpore. In order to render the equipment of the Afghan guard as complete as possible 50 Remount Horses from Bombay have been given to them to take on to the Army in advance and use themselves as occasion may require together with 100 stand of arms from the Bukker Stores and 33 matchlocks—Lieut E has strongly recommended the officers sent in advance to Rajhan to occupy the wells there as it is a watering place for plunderers—also to search the certain particular persons, notorious leaders of Banditti. The Detachment intended for Rajhan appears to have been attacked and to have lost many of its camels by Beloochee depredations on its way to that post, and Capt Smee, the Officer in command, seems to have followed up the assailing party to a fort called Subbea Ka Gurry where observing the Beloochees in strength, and being himself weakly manned, his party fatigued, he left the plunderers unmolested. Lieut Eastwick has desired him to beset the gurry with a sufficient force, recover the property, and send the Killadar a prisoner into Shikarpore.

Persian Gulf

Captn Smith, Comdg. HMS. "Volage" has been directed to repair to Bahrein for the purpose of assisting Sir F Maitland in the duty for which he was dispatched thither.

Intelligence has been received by a letter dated 3rd May from Sir F Maitland that he had had a conference with Arab Chiefs at Bahrein, and that they appeared fully able to maintain that Island against aggression, having as stated in a report by Commodore Brucks about 20 War Buggalows mounting from 8 to 14 Guns—their population being about 50 and 60 thousand/or about 10,000 fighting men/chiefly of warlike tribes, and the Island being naturally very strong and inapproachable by reason of the reefs about it. Sir Frederick however reports that Koorshed Pasha had decidedly no intention of venturing on the attack of the Island so that the further discretion of the British Naval force off Bahrein—the proposed representations to Koorshed Pasha seem for the present not to be necessary.

Bushire

From Bushire news upto the 16th April represents the Persian authorities

as very anxious for the return of Captn Hennel but unwilling to make such reparation for the recent outrage as might lead him to do so with credit. The horses and other property left at the Residency had been removed from the Town with the consent of the Persian Authorities, but an account had been conveyed to Mahomed Shah greatly exaggerating the nature of the recent tumult and the strength of the British, who are said to have come before Bushire with several ships of war, 5 or 6,000 men and 200 pieces of Cannon with the intention of subduing the Town and surrounding country. Mahomed Rezza, newswriter at Tehran Shiraz states on the 10th of April that the Shah was still engaged in his design of assembling an army for the purpose of marching against Herat, and that the nominal rating of the Force assembled was 40,000 Horse and foot.

Col Sheil, Secy. of Legation, writes on the 23rd of Feby. that Hootadad Khan had been appointed to command at Ghorian with the title of Sirdar which implies General in command of a Force between 15 and 20,000 men. He is described as a person singularly well-fitted for this important post. Col S reports Ghorian as a weak place, though possessing capabilities for being made defensible, and states that it wholly commands the resources of Herat. The intervening 40 miles of fertile country between it and that Town lying from its natural position at its mercy.

Captn Hennel in a letter under date 10th April notes a report sent in by his Asst., Lt Edmunds, of the failure of the Persian Mission to Bahrein noted in the news letter of the 11th Inst.—the chiefs declaring that they wish to have nothing whatsoever to do with Persia.

Karrack

10th April

Col Sheriff, Comdg. in that Island, and Captn Hennel after mature consideration determined upon the inexpediency of the British Resident, after leaving Bushire, placing himself as it were under the flag of Sheik Nassir, the Ex-Governor of that Town, and an avowed rebel to Perisa—as these officers entertained a strong opinion of the imperative expediency of maintaining friendly relations with Persia which might be materially affected by the questionable position in which the Resident would place himself were nothing done to remove the apparent connection between him and Sheik Nassir at Karrack, it was decided that Sheik Nassir should be invited to leave the Island for a time with his people and property and take refuge at Kobite. Captn Hannell offered him funds if he were in want of money to enable him to leave the Island and give him every assistance in launching his vessels and removing his property. Sheik Nassir did not of course quit the Island without remonstrance, but refusing the proffered aid in money he did leave it on the 16th of April and betake himself to Kobite as proposed. Col Sheriff has in consequence assumed for the present military command of the Island and

proclaimed martial law until further orders.

Joudhpore

Col Sutherland in a private letter reports that everything at Joudhpore assumed a most satisfactory aspect, in spite of the untoward event of the death of Maun Sing's child. A robbery has not been heard of for a month past, and altho' all the chiefs who had been driven by dispossession of their lands into taking to a plunderer's life are now either collected about Col S in expectation of restitution of their property on the ejection of the Naths from power or have actually received back their lands, resumed some of them 35 years ago; they will either take up their residence in their houses in the capital or reside at their own seats in the provinces. The advance of the Sirdar Maig Sing towards Jeypore had excited some anxiety, which, however, was easily set at rest on the Sirdar's abandoning his purpose.

Eastern Frontier

The Commr. in Assam in a private letter reports that the unfortunate affair at Suddya¹³ will not in its results have an unfavourable influence upon the general position of our relations on the Frontier. The Kamptee chiefs¹⁴ who were foremost in the attack, are now scattered in the Mishmee Hills,¹⁵ suffering great privations, and are generally disunited one with another. The common people of the tribes are daily returning to their villages and separating from their chiefs; and the son of the late Suddya Khowal who was obliged to leave the Missionary school after the outbreak, has now returned to our protection.

Items of General Intelligence

The Resident at Hyderabad is still engaged with watching the proceedings of the Emissaries of those infatuated malcontents who have conceived the design of attacking the paramount power of the British Government. The

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- 13 *Suddya* (Sadiya or Suddya Khowal) a village in Lakhimpur district of Assam, on the right bank of the Brahmaputra, a 100 miles above Dibrugarh. In 1839, the Khampti tribe revolted against the British and cut off their outpost, after killing Major White, the commandant and political agent, together with a detachment of sepoy. The revolt was crushed and the place finally annexed by the British in December 1843.
 - 14 *Kamptee chiefs* : (Kamptee, Kampti or Khamti) chiefs of a hill tribe of Shan origin in Burma. About the middle of the eighteenth century, owing to internal dissensions, a colony of the Khamtis migrated into Assam and established themselves in a tract of country on the extreme eastern frontier of Assam, bordering on Lakhimpur district.
 - 15 *Mishmee hills* : A section of mountain ranges, on the northern frontier of Assam, which shut in the eastern end of the valley of the Brahmaputra, between the Dibang and the river itself. These hills consist of steep ridges, covered with thick forests, with some of their peaks lying 15,000 feet above sea level.

more is known of the combination, the less formidable it does appear but the Resident has obtained a clue to certain documents the possession of which will fully elucidate the proceedings of these persons.

Herat

29th May

Lt Pottinger writes to Mr Macnaghten informing him that everything is going on smoothly—The price of grain having fallen very considerably as well as of the rest of the necessaries of life. He has received Intelligence from Bokhara that the Ameer had released Col Stoddart after having confined him 22 days, and had made him presents, and otherwise striven to efface his inhospitality. The Ameer is said to have crossed the Amoo with his army.

25th April

Mr Macnaghten in a private letter mentions that he is making efforts to supply Herat with grain from Seistan whence Envoys have come into the British Camp.

Simla,

the 20th May 1839

H Torrens

Dy. Secy. to the Government of India,
with the Governor General

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 183-222)

Newsletter 7 : May 30, 1839

Lahore

16th May

One of the most valuable results of Mr G Clerk's recent visit to the Maharaja has been a reduction of the duties imposed hitherto on all boats navigating the Indus without reference to size, which mode of collecting tolls had the effect of greatly checking the enterprize of Merchants desirous of engaging in trade on that river—an indiscriminate levy of about 570 Rs. upon each boat was, it is evident, a tax which would swallow up much of the Merchants' profit save in the case of the Freightage of Boats of the largest burden. Mr C has made an arrangement for a levy of duties on maundage, a specimen of the rates of which is given below :

Shawls	P. Mds. ¹	10 Rs.
Opium	”	7/8
Indigo	”	2/8
Cloths, velvets	”	4 as.
& Cotton cloths of sorts	”	4 as.
Surgar, molasses, oil, ghee & certain other commodities	”	1 Re.
Drugs, Fruits, Metals & Dyes	”	4 as.
Grain of all sorts	”	2 as.

Herat

29th March

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25th April

Mr Macnaghten in a private letter mentions that he is making efforts

1 *P. Mds.*, Per maund (a measure of weight, apprex. 38 kilogrammes).

2 *The Amoo* (or Amu) : The Oxus or Bactrus of the Greeks, the Jaihun or Ab-i-Balkh of Turkish and Persian writers and the Amu Darya of modern Afghanistan, originates in the Pamir ranges from two small lakes, one of which is called Sar-i-Kul. It empties into the Aral sea.

to supply Herat with grain from Seistan whence Envoys have come into the British Camp.

Cabool

10th May

Accounts contained in a Peshwar Ukhbar mention the news from Cabool is that the men of the Chendawul Muhal³ (quarter) of the Jewanshera tribe having got on the bastions of the Bala Hissar, beat the Kettle Drum and fired on Dost Mahomed's men, and broke out into open rebellion—and the men of the Muzar Kanah Muhal⁴ broke out in like manner—and that there was plunder going on in the city of Cabool. They state also that various outbreaks had taken place at Jallalabad and Ali Bagaun—the shops were closed in Jellalabad—and that Akbar Khan was moving off his heavy guns to Cabool—Dost Mahomed is swearing men by the Koran to stand by him—and he is said to have called for his Golam Hyder to Cabool, and ordered him to Jellalabad before hearing of the dispersion of the stores there. The son of Azoor-been, whose brother Dost Mahd. had formerly put to death, having taken to the road hearing of the dispersion carried off the Camels and their loads to Cabool, except the grain collected at Jellalabad, which Akbar Khan is selling cheap or dear.*

**Note*:—This head of Intelligence would be by rights occupied with the Accounts of the taking of Candahar already communicated to all the principal Political authorities of Govt.—In place therefore of leaving this head blank of repeating the above Intelligence, some heads from a private letter from Mr M⁵ recently received are inserted which possess much interest as bearing on Shah Sooja's present position.

25th April

Mr M⁵ in a private letter mentions that H M has not yet nominated a Prime Minister nor has he as yet determined his form of administration—He at the same time assures the G G that the best feeling is manifested towards the British officers by the entire population at Candahar—Mr M is making

3 *Chandawul Muhal* : The city of Kabul was divided into quarters or wards, known as muhals, and its streets, called kuchas. The Kizilbashis lived in the walled muhal of Chandawul, by the mouth of the Deh Mozang gorge.

4 *Muzar Kanah Muhal* : one of the wards or quarters of the city of Kabul.

5 Mr Macnaghten.

efforts to supply Herat with grain.*

*27th April

He says the country has been rackrented by exorbitant and multifarious taxes—and that the exactions of the Barakzyes were oppressive in the extreme—“No man could sell a joint of mutton without the Sirdar's stamp being placed upon it”—The country yielded a revenue of about 6 lakhs of Rs. per annum under the rule of the Sirdars—all the objectionable taxes are now to be abolished and Mr M expects the revenues of the country will improve. He continues to trust that a portion of the territory belonging to Mihrab Khan of Kelat will be taken and annexed to the Dominions of Shah Sooja as a punishment for that chief's rancorous hostility)—Upward of 2,000 most efficient Horsemen who were employed by the Barakzyes have come over to the Shah—Mr M rode with H M thro' the city which he says is in a most ruinous state and bears ample evidence of the misrule of the Sirdars—Mr M says “His M received very satisfactory letter from Herat last night—we are in daily expectation of the Envoy from that place—The Persians are said to be advancing upon Mushed, but our intelligence of the politics of that quarter is yet meagre and unsatisfactory”.

It is said that Col Stoddart is receiving honourable treatment at Bokhara.

N.B.—This is a most satisfactory report as rumours of a very contrary nature appear to have been rife in other quarters on less excellent⁶ authority than Mr M's.

Peshawur

14th May

Lt Mackeson joined Lieut Col Wade on this date.

Col Wade reports on the 17th⁷ of May the defection from Dost Mohd's cause of the Syed of Teira⁸ with other persons of holy character whom the Ameer had endeavoured to engage strongly in his favor, by working on their religious feelings. The proclamation issued for the purpose of stirring up Mussulman prejudices gainst the Shahzada appears to have been fully counteracted by the publication of a paper on the part of the Prince disabusing the Afghans on this subject. Col W having received official intimation of the fall of Candahar from Mr M with the advice that he should move in the direction of Khyber which was done, and the camp pitched at Takhal⁹. A letter from Golam Khan Popalzai received on the 17th of May

6 *Excellent* : means 'highly-placed', 'authentic'.

7 Probably 7th (not 17th) May.

8 *Teira* or *Tirah* was a fertile and well-peopled valley inhabited by Orakzais, intermingled with Afridis. Since the decay of the Mughal empire, this valley had been virtually independent, though at times accepting a nominal allegiance to Kabul. It was first entered by a British force in 1897 when the Orakzais and Afridis rose in the cause of a holy war (viz., *Jehad*) against them.

9 *Takhal* (or *Takal*) was the principal town of the Khalil tribe situated at a distance of about 8 miles from Peshawar on the left bank of the Kabul river. The Khyberis could not, with impunity, molest them having invariably to pass by Takal which was on the highway taking them (Khyberis) to the plains for a living. The tribal leaders who were called 'Arbabs' enjoyed handsome jagirs from the Lahore Darbar.

encouraged Col W in the expediency of this forward movement. The Khan represents Dost Md. and his party as much dispirited and alarmed and in particular the Kazilbash faction, who as well as the Ameer are moving their property into the Hazara Country with the intention of flying on the Shah's approach. He recommends letters of re-assurance being addressed to the chiefs of the Kazilabashees, and states that Dost Mahomed still keeps up the shew of desiring to defend Ghizni.

Bhawalopore

18th May

Mr Gordon writes that he has purchased and dispd.¹⁰ to Shikarpore 1,254 camels for the use of the Commt., and he states in reply to queries as to the feasibility of supplying the Army in Afghanistan through Dera Ismael Khan, that it is feasible by making purchases @ 20 Srs. per Rupee for wheat on the right bank of the Indus, where about 20,000 mds. could be collected at this price at once, and sent into Afghanistan through the Goloree Pass—He however points out that expence would be incurred where the predatory Afghans of the Khails inhabiting the Pass, bought over to prevent attack of the convoy, or in the event of its being escorted, a body of not less than a thousand men required to escort 4,000 camels.

Upper Scinde

Lieut Eastwick forwards letter from Capt Meik of the 31st Regt. Comg. at Daddur, reporting that great quantities of grain could be collected in that vicinity and thereby a portion of the enormous expence of transport from Shikarpore saved. Capt M says the Native Gomastah informs him that there will be no difficulty in purchasing any quantity which may be required, and that within 15 days he could collect 10,000 Mds. of last year's grain, and that people from the neighbouring villages have offered it to him for sale and expressed their willingness either to sell it there, or to forward it to the spot. The Harvest of the present year is said to be a very plentiful one.

20th April

By a private letter from Capt Beane, Pol. Agt. at Quetta, he mentions his having made no progress in procuring Kakurs¹¹ for his new Regt., nor does he expect to be able to do so until things are more quiet and the Khan of Kelat displaced, for he is supposed to be at the bottom of cutting off dawks and encouraging the marauders to molest the troops as much as possible. Wheat is selling @ 2½ Sr. per Ree. at Quetta—this, Capt B thinks is in consequence of a Comt.¹² Depot having been formed at that place, as

10 i.e. despatched.

11 *Kakurs* : Their leader Hajee Khan Kakur (*Newsletter* 6).

12 i.e; Commissariat.

prior to this it was selling at 5, and would have soon reached 8 Sr. per Rupee. He says, "all the villages were deserted on our arrival but by my conciliatory measures, I have induced nearly all of them to return already."

13th May

Lt Codrington¹³ in a private letter from Shikarpore mentions that Capt Anderson, Comg. Shah Sooja's arty. and the Treasure party entered the Pass on the 6th Inst., the artillery left Daddur on the 25th Dec. were through the Pass—a Detachment from the Bombay Corps at Shikarpore went out a few days ago to attack a small Fort in which a party of Beloochees had taken refuge with some stolen Camels. The marauders would not given in, and defended themselves well; but the place was soon taken. One of the officers was wounded in the leg—1 Subadar, 1 Havildar, & 2 Sepoys were Killed—4 or 5 Sepoys wounded—35 or 45 of the Beloochees were Killed—14 wounded, and the rest in the Fort taken prisoners—they were of the Koosa tribe of Beloochees, many of which tribe have been entertained in our Service—Lt C is building lines for the Corps.

20th May

A memo. has been addressed by Lieut Eastwick to Meer Mobarick Khan of Khyrpore on the subject of his portion of the tribute to Shah Sooja.

Lower Scinde

22nd April

Col Pottinger has forwarded a Survey Report on the Garrak Creek together with his own observations upon the capabilities of that important line of water communication towards Tatta. The Town of Garra under the farm of the Jokhya tribe is important as commanding the navigation of the Creek, and the Farm's principal revenue is derived from the duties levied at 4 Pet.¹⁴ on goods taken down his creek. He has charge of the communication between Kurrachee and Tatta, but is dissatisfied with the Ameers, and expressed himself strongly inclined to meet the wishes of the British Govt. as regards the facilitating their communications between Tatta and Kurrachee. Col P reports so favorably of his spirit and thinks so highly of the use of which he might be to us in Lower Scinde that he recommends insuring his services by the Grant of a yearly stipend, which act would, he says, have a very good effect generally in Lower Scinde on the minds of the people towards us.

13 Lt Codrington (also Lt Codmington or Capt C) belonged to the 49th Native Infantry. In May 1840, he escorted the treasure of the Army of Indus and later (January 1842) died of wounds.

14 i.e., four per cent.

Muscat

10th April

The Native Agent at Muscat writes that a letter has been received by a friend of his from Tehran, dt. 50 days back, in which it is stated that a new Russian Envoy had arrived at the court of Persia and proposed four demands to H M viz. 1st. That the coin should be struck in the name of the Emperor of Russia—2nd. That a crore should be paid annually to Russia—3rd. That the Russian uniform should be used throughout Persia—and 4th. That the Shah should fix out an expedition against Herat in which Russia would assist him. Mahomed Shah however did not return any reply, nor did he give any money, for at that time information had reached Tehran that a new English Ambassador had arrived in Turkey on his way to Persia, also one from Sultan Mahomed of Turkey—The Shah hailed this intelligence with great satisfaction, and sent a deputation in advance to receive the Mission.

Experimental Voyage of the “Euphrates”

Lieut Lynch¹⁵ writes from Bagdad, March 31st, reporting his return to that city on the “Euphrates” steamer, after a most interesting ascent up the Tigris to near the city of Mosoul¹⁶. He states that the most friendly intercourse was maintained with the chiefs of cities, villages and tribes on their route—The passage of the steamer up the boiling rapids when the floods were at their strongest, gave a high idea of the power of the British—and the little presents with which he rewarded any little service that all hastened to perform with alacrity, which will induce them to hail the return of the steamer with pleasure. On his arrival at Mosoul, he received a hearty welcome from Ali Pasha of Bagdad and Mahomed Pasha of that Pashalic, who were much pleased at the success of the trial. The information he gathered of the movement of the Turkish army under Hafiz Pasha against Syria, and the very unsettled state of affairs likely to ensue, induced him to return to Bagdad—while among the Arabs in the Mesopotamia Desert, he met the Custom Master or Finance Minister of this place, the most influential man in the Pasha’s councils who was on his way to join the Pasha at Mosoul—He mentioned that

15 *Lieut Lynch* (1807-73) joined the Indian Navy in 1823, and was employed in the survey of the Persian gulf, acting as interpreter in Persian and Arabic to the British squadron (1829-32). Subsequently he took part in many expeditions for the geographical exploration of lands and rivers including the Euphrates and the Tigris. He held charge of the Postal Service across Syria in 1840-42, commanded a flotilla to cooperate with Sir Charles Napier in Sind in 1843 and played an important role in the second Burmese War. Died, April 1873.

16 *Mosoul* (or Mosul), a walled city of Asiatic Turkey in the then Pashalic of Bagdad on the left bank of the Tigris. It enjoyed a great reputation for textile manufacture which derived its name from the town, known in French as ‘moussiline’; in English, ‘muslin’.

Lt Lynch's presence with him among the Arabs was very agreeable to him,—and on his joining the Pasha, prevailed on him to write to Lt L requesting he would take him in the steamer on a visit to the tribes of Bene Sam, Montifigne &c. on the Lower Tigris & Euphrates.—It is important, Lt L says, in the present juncture, that these powerful tribes, already tempered with by Mahd. Ali and Persia, should be kept in the interest of the Pasha, which, he believes, is the object of the Pasha's visit to them, he would therefore comply with this request and take advantage of the opportunities it offers to improve our acquaintance with those tribes and the countries they inhabit.

Bithoor

18th May

Captn Manson has put on record his opinion regarding the statements made by the Informer Surnewas Rao, whom he inclines to believe, has fabricated or falsified the statements set forth by him as regards his connection with the Ex-Peishwa.¹⁷ Captn M grounds his objections on the internal evidence of Surnewas's own depositions.

Nipal

5th May

Intelligence has been received from Nipal of the above date—It is said the Durbar under Pande's influence continues to prosecute measures of severity and suspicion so that alarm and discontent are becoming daily greater amongst the great body of the chiefs—of the family and relations of the Patan Baid,¹⁸ who was crucified last year, every individual without regard to sex or age has been seized—Ram Jung is so bent on revenge on the Goorkha Chiefs who were any way accessory to the destruction of his father and brother about 1802, that he cares not how it be attained—So often as he is invited by the Raja to assume openly the Premiership, he pleads the Universal prevalence of Thappa influence and intrigue. It is said that the Durbar earnestly desires to get back Martabar Sen and also Ranoodat Shah¹⁹—Two persons called Maimoo Khan and Supan Khan, Moslems, and natives of our provinces, tho' in the service of Nipal, have lately been sent by the Durbar to the North-West to ascertain what Martabar Sen is about and where, and if possible to seduce him into returning—also to gather news of the Govr. Genl.'s camp and the Army of the Indus. One of the men is to proceed for the last named purpose across the Sutledge—The Resident recommends that these men be arrested and remanded to their homes under engagement.

17 *Ex-Peishwa* : refers to the last Peshwa Baji Rao II who was a British pensioner, and died at Bithur in December 1852.

18 *Patan Baid* was the court physician of Nepal.

19 *Ranoodat Shah Chauntria*, an uncle of the then Maharaja of Nepal.

7th May

Internecine divisions appear still to prevail with great force—much alarm and discontent prevail among the chiefs—Bhem Sen, the Head of the Tappa interest is confined and his life is said to be despaired of—The whole of the male and female descendants of the Patan Baid are reported to have been mutilated and given into slavery to out-castes—Ram Jung is said still to refuse the Premiership, doubting his power to exercise it—He refuses all operation and authority tho' his influence be paramount. To judge by the Durbar's proceedings, he is alike inimical to the British Govt. and to the majority of the chiefs his compeers.

17th May

Mr Hodgson states that the system of conducting secret intrigues by the Nepalese Durbar appears to be still persisted in, altho' the agents employed in conducting these communications are of a different description from those whom the Durbar formerly employed. The persons who within the last 6 months have been sent into our provinces and to Native States of the plains are not Nepalese subjects, but men of other states, who adopt the precaution of travelling singly with little ostentation, avoiding direct routes, and defying detection owing to their rank in life which is usually below that of the middle classes. Mr H suggests whether it might be expedient to employ parties on the Frontier to intercept all suspicious persons without passports.

UPPER ASSAM

Intelligence has been received of the murder of the Pattghurry of the Frontier Mouza Urung of Chardwar²⁰ by a Bhootea Chief, subject either to the Tawang²¹ Raja or the Government of Lassa—The murder was committed in a treacherous manner during the stay of the Bhootea as a guest in the Pattghurry's house, and is supposed to have been caused by a jealousy on the part of the Bhootea regarding the Pattghurry's interference in an arrangement for the payment of the stipulated blackmail—Lt Scott, Majte.²² of Durrung²³ sent a party immediately after the murderers without effect. The occurrence is important insofar as may effect the minds of the inhabitants of Upper Assam, to quiet whose apprehensions the Presidt. in Cl has ordered a detail of regular Troops to proceed to Bishnauth²⁴ from

20 *Chardwar* (Chardvar), a forest reserve in the Darrang district of Assam, at the foot of Aka hills. The reserve with an area of 121 sq. miles, was best known for an artificial rubber plantation which, in 1903-4, covered 2872 acres.

21 *Tawang* a small principality, lying to the north of the Darrang district of Assam.

22 *Majte* : an abbreviation for Magistrate.

23 *Durrung* (or Darrang) district of Assam with an area of 3418 sq. miles, bounded on the north by Bhutan, Tawang, the Aka and Dafla hills; on the east, by Lakhimpur district; on the west, by Kamrup and on the south by the river Brahmaputra. Passed under British control in 1826.

24 *Bishnauth* (or Bishenath) a town in Assam where the headquarters of Assam Light Infantry were established by the British in 1831, and a British Political Agent stationed.

Jamalpore²⁵ and remain there until further orders. The Troops will be rapidly removed by steamers available for the purpose, and their presence will enable the Assam Sebundy Corps on the frontier to proceed on detached duty with greater freedom and effect. The payment of blackmail to the Sutrajea clan will be suspended, unless the murderer be given up.

Siam

By a demi-official letter from Dr Richardson²⁶ to M Bhundell, Commr. of the Tenasserin Provinces, he states his having had an interview with the King of Siam on the 17th of February, which he considered as very satisfactory. The King requested to know the terms on which the British Govt. at present stood with the court of Ava, which Dr R explained to him. H M said that so strong was his friendship for the English that any wish of the G G should be considered the same as if the wishes were his own. The most hearty assurances of friendship have been given by the King and every member of Govt., Dr Richardson however conceives that the sincerity of these professions depends upon the future nature of our relations with Burmah.

Burmah

17 to 31 March

It is said the Woonduck gale opposed a proposition of the Ministers of addressing a letter to the Resident prior to his departure, not only this, but also it is supposed a reply being given to the letter written to the Ministers on the 12th Inst. He appears to have urged the views of the Rangoon Woonduck as to an intention of invading the country, and now finding himself in error, is determined to throw every obstacle in the way to a friendly understanding being established. He has represented to His Majesty that the English are interfering with the Red Karengs; they are intriguing with the Shan states, making roads to draw all the trade from the capital to our provinces & c.—The Rangoon Woonduck's removal is still spoken of—Dispatches have been received from him and Mr Haig urging the court to send down more troops—The Ministers it is said are by no means pleased with H M's non-attendance to business—all his time is taken up with playing at Billiards with English merchants, and amusing himself with the new Fire Engines.

Captn Macleod states his having observed an unusual number of armed men coming towards the city, and has heard that 4,000 men are being collected here to proceed to Rangoon.

25 *Jamalpore*, headquarters of a sub-division of the same name in Mymensing district of Assam, situated on the west bank of the old course of the Brahmaputra.

26 *Dr Richardson*, a surgeon by profession, usually employed by the Foreign Department of the British Government in India for gathering intelligence from other countries. In March 1838 he compiled a map of southern Burmese territories and a year later was deputed to the court of Siam.

Finance

22nd May

Mr Clerk states that he has received positive assurances from the wealthiest merchants at Umritser and elsewhere that on the downfall of Dost Md's power, bills may be obtained on Cabool through them for any amount.

Items of General Intelligence

Capt Thoresby,²⁷ Supt. of the Bhuttee²⁸ Territory has made arrangements for laying a dawkh of Camels for the conveyance of the Mail via Hissar direct to Bhawalpore, at a cost of about 700 Rs. a month. He reports that little inconvenience would be incurred in this arrangement, but proposes that it should be rather done by contract than at direct cost, and that a contractor might be perhaps readily found in Jessalmere.

The Rana of Oodypore having been questioned on the subject of his correspondence with Nipal thro' Bunsraj, points out in justification that the tenor of the letters addressed to and by him was of a purely complimentary nature, and that the feeling which united Oodypore with Nipal as being sprung from a common stock had induced for many years past the habit of a complimentary interchange of correspondence which he had merely kept up on this occasion in compliance with established usage.

It would appear from the report submitted by Capt Jenkins,²⁹ Commr. in Assam, of the state of things in Bhootan that the Civil War anticipated as on the point of breaking out by Capt Pemberton while on his mission to that Country is raging with considerable virulence on both sides. The country continuing to be in the same disordered state in which it has been for the last 60 years, and there being no apparent chance of a settlement of the existing anarchy.

Simla,
the 30th May 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt., Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 223—266)

27 *Capt C Thoresby* was subsequently promoted Major and posted as Political Agent of the Governor General at Jaipur.

28 *Bhuttee* (Bhatti), a Rajput tribe of Yadav-Vanshi descent. They were the rulers of Jaisalmer which they founded in 1156 AD, and gave their name to the country between Hissar and Garah, called Bhatiana. The tract from Loui to Kasna was called Bhatner after them. Some of the Bhattis became converts to Islam after Amir Timur's invasion (1398).

29 *Capt Jenkins* was appointed Commissioner and Agent to the Governor General for Assam and the north-eastern parts of Rangpur in 1834.

Newsletter 8 : June 10, 1839

Lahore

25th May

Accounts transmitted by the newswriter at Lahore state that the Maharaja was much better—that his cough and expectoration have abated. Shokhuhs were issued to Sirdar Uttur Sing, Jemadar Koshaul Sing, Raja Golab Sing etc. to the effect that they should station some forces at the Fort of Futtehghurh for the aid and support of the Shahzada Tymoor, and execute the terms of the recent treaty and send supplies of grain to Col Wade.

News contained in a Punjab Ukhbar, received 9th June, mentions that Choonee Lall, Jemadar of Hurkauras reported from Tekhal that Col. Wade had often urged the officers of the Sikh troops to march to the Khyber Pass. From the Peshawur News it appears that some of the Khyberees and Furrædees had fallen upon the grass-cutters of Col Wade's Camp and killed 2, and wounded 7, and carried off about 40 of them prisoners, together with 30 mules. The Col in consequence of this outrage dismissed all the Khyberees he had recently engaged.

3rd June

The Maharaja complained to the Physicians by signs that he had suffered a great deal from cold in his head and coughing, and that he could not digest his food, and felt very weak in consequence of a looseness in his bowels. Raja Dhyan Sing reported that Peer Ibrahim Khan had arrived in progress to Dera Ismael Khan to make arrangements for a dawk to Candahar—a Harkara was accordingly directed to proceed with orders to the several Illakadars on the road to give Peer Ibrahim all the assistance in their power.

Peshawar

22nd May

Col Wade writing from Camp Kaulsar states that in consequence of reports of the advance of the Persians on Herat and the absence of any intelligence from Mr. Macnaghten, he had deemed it prudent to remain in his present position, adverting to the probability of the British Army not being able to move immediately towards Cabool.

Col W forwards substance of a letter addressed by Mahomed Akbar Khan to the Khaiberees announcing his intention of attacking the infidels and endeavoring to excite a religious War and stating that he expects

important assistance from his father, and that the Persian and Russian Armies had arrived at Ghorian.

In a letter dated the 27th May, Col Wade reports his having dispatched Shahzada Mahomed Saleh, the Son of Shahzada Nasib to Bajour with about 600 men on a particular Service and of his having attached Monsr. Perron to the Shahzada to co-operate with him to every way to secure the success of the expedition upon a salary of Rs. 250/- P.M. He at the same time forwards a letter in original from Monsr Perron* of Bajour, 17th May, informing the Col of his having received letters from the Lady of Syed Bahooden near Jellalabad who states that Mahomed Akbar Khan had sent his heavy artillery to Cabool, and has with him about 2,000 men, all ready to desert, and the Khan himself expected daily to fly to Cabool-Zugman Pegeman and all the surrounding tribes have refused to act against the Shahzada—Sadat Khan (son in law of Syed Bahooden) and Calat Khan of Lallpore have also refused their aid to the Sirdar. Some Chiefs of the Army of Dost Md. Khan and whose country lies on the way to Jellalabad have dispatched their cossid to Monsr Perron wishing to join the Shahzada if assured of support and protection. Monsr P forwarded a Copy of the Proclamation received from D Md. and referred them to it. He says a man of the name of Mirza Rhiheem being caught with letters for him was beheaded and his body cut to pieces.

The news from Peshawur contained in a newsletter represents Col Wade as intending to proceed to Khyber, Monsr Ventura however restrains him from going, saying that when the British Army has passed Ghuzni, his (Col W's) march on Khyber might be undertaken after coming to an understanding with the people of the place. It is also mentioned that Dost Md. Khan is at Cabool, and has sent 5,000 men to Ghizni¹ for its defence, and a small body of forces under his nephew Shumsooddeen Khan to Jellalabad.

Cabool

The news at Lahore from Cabool is that Dost Md. having heard of the collection of the British and Sikh forces has been much alarmed—and that his dependents and officers exhort him to conclude peace with the British Govt. and to acknowledge its subjection which he does not agree to.

30th May

Col Wade transmits copy of a letter from Cabool addressed

*This gentleman was formerly an officer in the Mahratha Service, he is a Frenchman and has been residing for some time in Afghanistan unattached to the service of any particular Chief; he is a military adventurer, but has not been without use in furnishing information to this Govt. from time to time of proceedings in Afghanistan in the hope of ultimately deriving some personal benefit from his proffered service.

1 e.g., Ghazni.

to a respectable merchant at Peshawur, whom the Col directed to write to obtain correct news from that quarter, from which it appears that Dost Mahomed recently wrote to the Khyber Chiefs, encouraging them not to be disheartened on account of the fall of Candahar, saying that reverse of fortune had produced no change in his resolution and that he was still willing to fight, and that they should not therefore desert him. He has also written to Mahd. Akbar Khan mentioning his intention of meeting the Shah at Ghuzni while he advised his son to advance to Ali Musjid and defend that place—that about 3000 Sowars had arrived to his assistance from Toorkistan and that other parties also were soon expected at Cabool from the same quarter—The letter also states that Dost Md lately collected the Kazilbash chiefs of the Jawansheri and Morad Khani tribes in the Badshahi Bagh, and harangued them, and asked if they intend assisting him—The chiefs declared on their solemn oaths that they would do so to the last moment.

Mooltan

Capt Thomson reports the arrival at Mithankote of 10,000 mds. o grain purchased some months ago by Col Wade—and the dispatch by him (Captn T) of 552 camels to Shikarpore.

Army of the Indus

Accounts contained in a private letter from an officer in Camp without date, mention that a Detacht. of a Regt. of NI² Cos³ of Europeans, 4 guns and a Regt. of the Shah's Cavy. were to leave Candahar on the 8th May to bring in the 3 Chiefs who had absconded, prisoners. Nine days had been given them to surrender themselves voluntarily, but they took no notice of our offers of treating with them. The above force had been ordered to proceed to the Fort 10 marches from Candahar. It is said all their followers had nearly deserted them, and they were treated as enemies by the populace among whom they had taken refuge, and it was thought that it would be an easy matter to bring them in. It was expected the Army would remain at Candahar till the end of the month on account of the Harvest.

8th May

Mr Macnaghten reports that the revenues of Candahar in money, after deducting the amount of the oppressive taxes which have been abolished, fall short of about six Lakhs of Rs. and that the revenues in kind are about two Lakhs more. Under a mild and beneficial Govt. the revenues will doubtless increase greatly. His Majesty himself is sanguine on this point. In one item alone an increase of 80,000 Rs. P. An. has been made. For the farm of the Mint, which in the time of the Sirdars was let

² e.g., Native Infantry- one of the East India Company's armies.

³ e.g., companies.

for 20,000 Rs. P.A., a tender has been preferred of one Lakh. His M in the presence of his Chiefs reviewed the whole of the Army on the morning of the 8th May. Royal Salutes were fired, and the ceremony passed off with the happiest effect. The Barakzye Sirdars, Mr M reports, as still at Girishk⁴—and of their having sent him a written communication through Mahomed Tahir to the effect that they felt under great obligations to him for having prevented their being pursued—that they had no cause of quarrel with the British Govt., and that it was the same to them whether they resided in Persia or India, but that they would feel much gratified if he would permit a respectable Merchant named Nujmoodeen to go out to them, as they wished through him to communicate some matters of importance. Mr M thought it fit to comply with this application, but on the return of the Individual, he produced so unsatisfactory a communication that it was accordingly resolved to send a force after them.

9th May

Mr M forwards Copy of instructions to Lieut Connolly⁵ proceeding on a mission to Seistan to procure grain for Herat. He is ordered to accompany Brig. Sale⁶ proceeding in command of a Detachment either to apprehend the ex-chiefs of Candahar or at least to take the fort of Girishk. The Envoy and Minister appears to be of opinion that the Forts of Girishk and Nag Ali shall be either garrisoned for the Shah or dismantled.

9th May

Captn Bygrave⁷, Pay Mr of the Army of the Indus, submitted his Cash Balance as it stood on the 1st of that month, being 12 Lakhs and 41,000 Rs.—the average estimate of Commt. expenses rating at 3 Lakhs and 43,000 a month, but expected to increase and total estimate of charges for May being set down as 7 Lakhs and 2000. It will be remembered that the dispatch of 22 Lakhs from Shikarpore was on the 13th Ulto. through the Pass and that Major Newport's Convoy with 10 Lakhs of Treasure for the Shah that left Shikarpore on the 24th Ulto.

4 *Girishk*: a fort and a village in western Afghanistan, situated on the Helmund river, on the high road from Kandahar to Herat. The British detachment which occupied it in 1839, passed the river on rafts made of empty casks. The place, though well-supplied by grain and forage, was found to be so unhealthy by British troops that it was evacuated soon afterwards.

5 *Lieut Connolly* (1807-42) joined the Bengal Cavalry in 1823. Once on leave in England, he returned to India through Central Asia, via St Petersburg, Tiflis, Tehran, Astrabad, Meshed, Herat, Kandahar and Sind and wrote an account of his journey. He joined Macnaghten's staff at Kabul in 1840; in September he was sent as envoy to Khiva, Khukand and Bukhara. Amir Nasirulla of Bukhara imprisoned him in October (or December) 1841 and put him to death along with another British prisoner, Stoddart, in June 1842.

6 *Brig Sir Robert Sale*, killed in the battle of Mudki.

7 *Capt Bygrave*, Pay Master of the Army of Indus.

Upper Scinde

25th May

A private letter mentions the arrival of 50 Boats laden with grain and supplies for the Army. A large convoy with Treasure and Grain started from Shikarpore for the Army in advance on the 23rd, escorted by a wing of the 23d Bombay, N I, the left wing of the 42d N I and Lt Codnington detach. of Cavy. Lt C is getting huts made for his Corps as fast as possible, and has a good many under comfortable shelter, states that he had not received any annoyance from the Beloochees lately, the attack on the Fort at Janee Dera⁸ having, it is supposed, kept them quiet. The men are said to be very healthy, only 33 out of about 800 being in Hospital. He says there is more grain etc. stored at Shikarpore, than the Commt. officers know what to do with, and great quantities, it is thought, must be spoilt.

26th May

Brigadier Gordon⁹ notes the dispatch of the whole of the Shah's Treasure in charge of the Convoy under Major Newport which left Shikarpore on the 24th. He has authorized the Commt. officer to supply the Merchants taking necessary supplies and comforts for the Army in advance, with 300 Camels, as the Merchants have had great trouble and risk in taking them so far, and being quite helpless with respect to carriage, the items of payment to be settled on arriving at Head Qrs. The articles to be sent, he has suggested, should be warm Clothing, Shoes for the Soldiers, Teas, Sugars, Brandies and Wine. "The Troops" he says, "remain healthy—The Europeans are now all under cover, and the Natives are comfortably quartered in date groves on the banks of the river."

27th May

In another letter from Brig Gordon he reports the safe arrival at Quetta on the 13th Inst. of the first Convoy with Treasure—and states that the Beloochees have been quiet since the punishment at Khanghur, and that the country is becoming settled and the people respectful since the acknowledgement of the Shah at Candahar.

Lt. Eastwick has insisted strongly upon the immense importance of establishing strong posts on the line of communication with the Army in a letter under date 24th Ult. to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. He is fully of opinion that the Chief of Kelat has been at the bottom of a system of annoyance and aggression adopted by the predatory Beloochee

⁸ *Janee Dera* (Jani Dera or Janehdurra), a small village in Sind, situated on the route from Shikarpur to Bagh, twenty miles north-west of the former. It had a considerable fort with its adjoining area well-cultivated but it suffered much from the devastations of the marauding Baluchis.

⁹ *Brig Gordon*, officer commanding in Upper Sind.

tribes, and has expressed to Mr Macnaghten his full concurrence in the opinion of that officer, that extreme measures are justifiable towards that Chief. He reports that the Kafilah under the Lohanee, Surbar Khan, passed Daddur on the 24th Ulto. It appears however to have suffered somewhat from want of water.

Gwalior

29th May

A demi-official correspondence has been carried on for some time past between the Resident of Gwalior, the Govr Genl's Agent, Benares, and the Resident in Nipal, touching the existence of intrigues between the Durbars of Nipal and Gwalior—An individual of the Cahar tribe having been intercepted by the G G Agt at Benares confessed that he was on his way from Nipal with a verbal message from certain persons there to one Bhow Saib, a Resident at Gwalior/a Dekkanee Brahmin by caste/employed about the Durbar. This individual was followed and traced to the Bhow Saib's residence, and the two letters of which he was the bearer on his return to Nipal intercepted. The tenor of the letters although very obscurely worded seems to corroborate the belief all along entertained that the Gwalior Durbar was in no way a party to Nepalese intrigue—The writer addressing his younger brother who resides at Nipal declares "that he can do nothing in this matter, and that he cannot understand the state of affairs here" viz. Gwalior. The writer Bhow Sahib was formerly a dependant of the ex-Peishwa Bajee Rao at Bithoor but having quarrelled with his patron he betook himself to Gwalior where he has resided for some time in the lines of one of the Cavalry Regts., but is unknown to the Durbar, and has never been employed by it in any capacity—The Comdt. of the Regt. in the lines of which he is residing is not of a character to engage in intrigue. The Resdt. of Gwalior however has taken the cause of informing the Durbar that this person Bhow Sahib has been concerned in intrigues prejudicial to the reputation of Scindea, and has recommended his being ejected from the country.*

Joudhpore

28th May

The Governor General's Agent in Rajpootana reported on the above

*It will be remembered that Col Sutherland in a recent note upon the state of politics at Joudhpore as regards communication had by the Govt. there with malcontent states in other parts of India remarks that the intriguers who had caused a belief to be excited of the hostility of Maun Sing to the British Govt. are parties not connected with the Durbar, but refugees, adventurers or parties of low and desparate characters who act for private advantage or under a vain hope of profiting themselves by effecting a change in the existing order of things—The account of the intrigues & Bhow Sahib's real position at Gwalior would go to prove that the intrigues alleged as being carried on by Native states at this critical juncture are not unfrequently excited like as at Joudhpore by persons acting wholly without authority from the Durbar or the Court at which they are residing, being either themselves the tools of real malcontents in other parts of India, or exerting their powers of intrigue for the purpose of playing on the feelings of those malcontent powers for their own advantage.

date that the ex-*raja* of Nagpore, Appa Sahib, after urgently requesting W Russell, the Asst. Surg. with the Agency to visit him, was at last attended professionally by that gentleman when he found the ex-*raja* in a state of great destitution and discomfort labouring under ascites or dropsy of the belly, but not to an extent likely to prove fatal if treated in a proper manner. The ex-*Raja* affirmed that he had during the 10 years of his residence in Joudhpore never been permitted to leave the place in which W R found him, a small Delaun with an open verandah, altogether 20 ft. by 10 ft. He complained the hardships he had latterly undergone under the predominant influence of the Naths, and stated that he had even of late procured the necessaries of life with difficulty—he desired much to be allowed the mere means of subsistence in the Co's territories, an arrangement which Col S¹⁰ has proposed for His Lordship's consideration.

Nipal

20th May

The Resident reports that on the 18th May Genl Bhem Sen was formally arraigned, & then suddenly and without any regular trial or sentence sent off in chains with all his family to Boom Kot, a malarious valley to the N. W. of Cathmandoo—A grand council was held in the palace at which all the chiefs, except Ram Jung Pande attended, presided over by Pushker Shah, and three copies of as many alleged statements to the Raja were produced charging Bhem Sen with repeated poisonings—The charges are said to be wholly false, and have been got up in a spirit of pure revenge. The feelings of insecurity and anxiety on the part of a large body of the most influential chiefs, are becoming daily deeper and more settled.

Items of General Intelligence

A large body of capitalists in Calcutta have come forward with an offer to engage extensively in the culture of the Tea Plant in Assam relieving Govt. of the whole of its present establishments there. Various Companies have been formed by leading mercantile parties in Calcutta with this intent pending the decision of Govt., the Subject will of course remain open for the orders of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors.

Considerable excitement has arisen in the Districts of Ghazee-pore, Jounpore, Benares and Bareilly as well as in the Country abt. Fyzabad. Oude and Delamow¹¹ by the proceedings of certain persons who have represented themselves as authorized to raise men to be paid at 6 Rs. P.M. to rendezvous at Ajodea or Fyzabad on the 14th of August next or the native

¹⁰ e.g., Col Sutherland.

¹¹ *Delamow* (Dalmau or Delamew) was a tehsil headquarters of the same name in the Rae Bareli district of North Western Province (now UP). The town stood on an elevation, overlooking the Ganges.

date Ananchowdas. Various accounts are given of the reasons of this levy in which higher rates of pay are frequently promised by some of the Agents than that above specified. One or two of them appear to declare that the many thousands who are to be assembled at Fyzabad on the above date, are to be supported by Troops from Nipal—another Agent says that he was deputed by Juggernath to raise these men who were to be paid by certain hidden treasures to be discovered in Oude. The excitement appears to be very general in the Districts above noted and Col Caulfield who has been in correspondence with the Authorities in our Territory is engaged in making further requisitions and assisted by the authorities in Oude, hopes to apprehend the emissaries engaged in this singular commotion.*

Her Majesty's 61st Regiment has been detained at Ceylon instead of embarking for England, and the Troop-Ship "Jupiter" which had the dispatch to take that Regiment home is also detained for service in the event of any outbreak to the Eastward.

Simla,
the 10th June, 1839.

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General.

(Ref:-Foreign Deptt; Misc. Vol. 331, pp. 267-306)

*Mahomedans as well as Hindoos are enlisted, and the main object seems to be that the Agent should receive two pice from each recruit.

Newsletter 9 : June 20, 1839

Lahore

17th June

It is stated in a Punjab Ukhbar received on the above date that the Maharaja's health continues the same, and that he was still troubled with a cough.

The Peshawur news-writer reported that Koonwur Now Nehal Sing with his Sirdars were still at Peshawur—and that matters were settled at Candahar—that in consequence of the relief and encouragement given to the Merchants and Corn dealers, the rate of grain had fallen to 8 Seers at Candahar; and also states that two British Officers sent on a Mission to Bokhara were very civilly received by the ruler of that place and received presents. He moreover reports that the British Forces had arrived near Ghuzni,* and that Dost Mahomed had sent his family to the Hills. Ram Chund, the nephew of Dewan Sawen Mull, was ordered to send for a number of Camels from Mooltan.

Army of the Indus

8th May

Dr Griffith in a private letter from Candahar gives a very interesting description of the nature and productions which characterize the country on entering Afghanistan. He notices at length the capabilities of the soil, and points out the Valley of Candahar as capable to a great degree, only a comparatively small portion being now under cultivation. Water is said to be very plentiful and may be procured by digging 6 feet below the surface—the crops consist of Barley and wheat and a species of Rye, all nearly ripe. The climate is very unequal—the nights, and the mornings (till 7 a.m.) are said to be cool, but the sun's heat during the day is very great—in tents the Therm. rises to 107°-110°. He states this heat is daily increasing, and the sick correspondingly so. Many of the Officers and all the European sick are now located in the deserted villages which are close in the rear of the Camp, and in these Houses the range of the Ther. is confined to 87°-88°. The price of grain he states as very exorbitant,† but as the Crops are now ripening

*N.B.—An idle rumour.

†The high price of Grain which obtained at Candahar in the early part of the past month was occasioned by an injudicious order given with the best possible motive by the Shah, but of course against the advice of the Envoy, that no grain should be sold in the City @ less than 8 Sr. per Ree. Grain at the time this order was given had been selling @ 6 & 7 Srs. p. Ree., but the consequence of its promulgation was an immediate rise in price to 3 Srs. per Ree. The mischievous effects having thus been sufficiently proved, His Majesty at once revoked the order, and prices are beginning to assume a more favourable rate.

fast, every thing is expected to become much cheaper. Grain is said to exist in abundance in the City, and Dr G says "I cannot help looking on the failure of the establishment of the Shah's Nirrick of 8 Sr. per Ree. as a public calamity". It is his opinion that with the exception of Candahar and the Valley of Pisheen and perhaps Quetta, nature could not well have supplied British India with a stronger frontier country—this strength by no means being confined to the mountainous tracts, but reaching nearly to Shikarpore itself.

15th May

A private letter from an officer in Camp of the annexed date states that it was expected the Troops would not march for Cabool till about the middle of June. The Sick are said to be numerous, but the cases are slight, and they have had few deaths. Notes the departure on the 12th Inst. of the Detachment under Brig. Sale for the capture of the ex-chiefs of Candahar.

10th May

Mr Macnaghten in a private letter notices the altered bearing of the people towards them and mentions his having made acquaintance with several of the leading Moolahs of Candahar, his chief friends were the two most fanatical preachers of the Crusade against the British. "The learned men of this place", he says, "conceived that the character of a Feringhee was neither more nor less than a compound of ignorance and intolerance," but they have now been undeceived. States that a paper was picked up the other day in the street purporting to be copy of a letter written to Dost Mahomed. The writer reluctantly confesses "that the Feringees have apparently been guilty of no excesses."

Upper Scinde

Accounts contained in private letters from Quetta of dates the 10th and 13th May represent great difficulties as having been experienced in the collection of supplies through the rulers and headmen of the districts, who are said to be both treacherous in politics and ready to cheat and plunder in the purchase of grain. The writer gives it as his opinion that a combination exists of two causes, i.e., a scarcity of grain, enhanced by the machinations of the Ameers to keep up the price which has prevented grain falling from the exorbitant rate of 3 sr. per Ree. The naib of Quetta, Rahimdad Khan, is reported to have absconded a short time ago to Kelat or to Moostung and considerable quantities of grain collected there have been seized and plundered. (In spite of every exertion among the natives of the district, the writer says he has not been able to procure more than 47 Camels).

18th May

A private letter from the same place mentions it was rumoured there

that Dost Mahomed had gone across the Hills in the direction of Balk, and that all his Chiefs were ready to support Sabzada Tymoor. The writer says that at Quetta the Salute in honour of the Shah's re-accession was freely taken up by the surrounding Forts, and with the exception of a very small portion of the Inhabitants who are closely attached to Mihrab Khan of Kelat, all appear delighted at their visit. He states Captn Bean has succeeded in engaging one of the Cauker Chiefs with 400 of the men of that tribe "who but one month back were daily butchering our followers, and we now walk about unarmed without a feeling of fear or danger." The natives are already in the constant habit of coming in to Captn Bean for the settlement of their private disputes, totally unconnected with him or his business. The Pass is said to be comparatively safe—the 31st Regt. and Captn Anderson's¹ Corps of the Shah's Horse having got through without suffering in the least. It appears an attempt was made to carry off the Treasure Camels when grazing within 1/2 a mile of Camp on the other side of Bagh, on the alarm being given, Captn A went with a party of Horse in pursuit but only he himself and his orderly were able to get up with the hindermost. After severing the heads of two in three cuts, he felt his sword loose in the hilt and unserviceable, when he took out his pistol and shot a third who was galloping off besides these; the orderly killed one with his sword, and another with Capt A's gun, the party also picked up a few stragglers, making in all a loss of about 11 or 12 men of the marauders.

26th May

Captn Bean, Pol. Agt. Shawl,² reports that an officer has been appointed by the Comdr. in Chief to form a Depot for Grain at Quetta, and to arrange the transit of such to the Head Qrs. of the Army now at Candahar. States having secured the good services of two Kaukar Chiefs (who have never before acknowledged allegiance to any crowned head) and which he considers a most important and prominent step towards tranquillizing the country and rendering the road through the pass secure and free from plunderers.

31st May

Brig Gordon writes from Sukker that the accounts received there from Candahar describe the Army as being comfortable and fast recovering from the fatigues of the march—provisions of all kinds were to be had, but very dear. The report in Camp was that the Army would be on the march to Cabool early in June. There had been great losses in Camels and Horses,

1 *Capt W Anderson* was attached to Shah Shuja's force, and had organised his artillery.

2 *Shawl*: a prominent town with a fortress in the valley of Quetta, also called the valley of Shawl. Situated at an elevation of 5,000 ft. above sea level it has a severe winter. During British operations in Afghanistan (1838-42), it was an important outpost on the line of communications between Sind and Kandahar.

Brig G reports that Surwan Khan's Kafilah has suffered much from the climate, a Simmoon having overtaken them in the desert and several lives were lost in consequence. Notes the arrival of Mr Bell on the 30th, and says, that he and Mr. Bell are of opinion, that the country can never be tranquil till the Beloochee bands are completely rooted out and as soon as the Climate is favourable for active operations he would move a light detachment against these marauders.

2nd June

Mr Ross Bell in a private letter mentions that the plunderers in the Pass have become very daring. On the 20th or 21st they came down in strength to Daddur and made an open attack on a large party of our Troops posted there for the protection of the granary—they were defeated with some loss and have taken up a position in a strong fort near Daddur. States that the most notorious plunderers in these parts and the men who have done us more injury than all the other robbers between Sukker and Daddur, have taken up their quarters in two Forts called Phyloojee and Chuter, which command the road between Rajhan and Daddur—they were said to be in force at these places. Mr Bell has accordingly made arrangements with Brig. Gordon to forward a Detachment with 2 twelve-pound Howitzers to punish these marauders, and dismantle their strongholds.

Persian Gulf

9th June

Captn Hennell in a private letter reports that affairs in that quarter remain quiet, and just the same as before reported—No movement having yet taken place among the Egyptian Troops—he thinks a check has been given to the encroachments of the Pasha, and that he will not attack Bahrein against the strong remonstrances made by him, and as a disposition appears to exist among the Chiefs of Oman to unite together to oppose him. Some apprehensions were still entertained at Bussorah of a hostile visit from the Egyptian Army. No further intelligence as to the ultimate destination of the Shah's army has been received, and opinions are much divided on the subject. The Pasha of Bagdad however is under no fears of an attack from the side of Persia—The Shah is said to be keeping up his connections with Candahar by giving his sister in marriage to Mahomed Omar Khan (the son of Kohun Dil Khan, the Chief) who joined him before Herat and returned with him to Tehran.

Captn Hennell mentions that it appears tolerably certain that whether a Force proceeds against Herat or not, the Shah does not accompany it, but will visit Tabreez and as some believe Ispahan and Shiraz—From communications received from a respectable Merchant of Bushire, and from the news-writer in Shiraz it is evident that Mirza Assood having committed himself so

deeply in his insulting proceedings which led to the removal of the Residency, is now by his report to Shiraz and his conduct in Bushire, endeavouring to produce such inimical feeling on both sides as to satisfy the Persian authorities that we entertain hostile designs upon the latter Port. By the dispatch of Troops and Guns from Shiraz to Bushire, it seems probable that His Royal Highness is disposed to give credence to Mirza Ussood's statement.—The latter, it is said, has been attempting to annoy us, as far as it lies in his power, by cutting off all supplies from the shipping, and preventing the Merchants from embarking Treasure or purchasing our Bills of Exchange.

In another letter, Captn Hennell reports having received information of an Agent of Khorshed Pasha being stationed at Kowheit, and rather assisted than impeded in his object of collecting large supplies of grain for the use of the Egyptian Army, by Sheik Jabir, the chief of that place. He considered it advisable to make a demonstration in that quarter by dispatching the H C Ship of War "Clive" to the above-mentioned Port—And trusts that the report of our interference having preserved the independence of Bahrein, and that the views of the British Govt. being adverse to the proceedings of the Egyptian Comdr. will be sufficient to induce the Chief of Kowheit to withdraw from a connexion so prejudicial to his real interests and independence.

Captn H states that in the event of the reports of a hostile collision having taken place between the armies of Ibrahim Pasha and Hafiz Pasha in Syria being founded in truth, it is exceedingly probable that Khorshed Pasha will turn his views from Bahrein against Bussorah—That he has some such object in contemplation may be presumed from the circumstance of his having an Agent in Kowheit³ or Grane⁴ where the Sheikh has given him large houses for granaries—and another agent at Mohumrah⁵ employed in purchasing supplies of provisions—Other emissaries have been sent by the Pasha to the Arabian Chiefs of the Coast of Oman to induce them to acknowledge the authority of Mahomed Ali without opposition, but of course, Captn H will try to counteract these schemes.

31st May

The War which appeared to be on the point of breaking out between the Abootabby tribe & the Chief of Bahrein has every appearance of being happily compounded. The parties having entered upon the preliminaries of a truce which Lt Edmunds, the Assistant to Captn Hennell, is busy in bringing to a conclusion.

³ *Kowheit* : now Kuwait.

⁴ *Grane* : grain

⁵ *Mohumrah* (or Mahumerah, Mahumarah), a town in the Persian gulf, where the British Indian army landed in 1855, while attacking Persia. It is situated near the junction of the Jerahi (or Tat) with the Karum river. All facilities for landing goods, without going up to Basra, are available here.

6th May

Captn Hawkins, Comr. of the Sloop⁶ "Clive" reports that everything is perfectly quiet at Bushire—and that he had paid a visit to Mahomed Hassan Khan, Bakir Khan and Mirza Ussood, & was treated with great civility—Mirza Ussood offered to do anything required of him, and begged Captn H to apply to him, should he find any difficulty in procuring what he might require. Captn H also mentions in another letter that it is his opinion that the Resident's terms will be acceded to by the Persian Govt. if they embrace merely the Governor's removal and the enjoyment of former privileges.*

Aden

4th May

Major Baillie,⁷ Comdg. at Aden, reports his having received a visit from the son of Sheik Sirjibee on the 15th April, who was the bearer of a letter from his father to the following effect, that his father was very anxious for assistance against the Egyptians either in men and guns or in money, that if these could not be granted, he begged the British Govt. would write in his behalf to the Pasha and prevent his country being taken from him. Major B. in reply told him it was totally out of his power to render him assistance, but that he would be most happy to forward any application of his to the Bombay Govt. Major B forwards *urzees* to Govr. in Council of Bombay from the Native Merchants at Aden; at the same time gives it as his opinion that the introduction of the Bombay Code of 1838, and the abolition or reduction of the heavy inland duties would set all minds at rest and give the greatest satisfaction.

Baroda

23rd May

The Guicowar on the receipt of a Khureeta from Lord Auckland pointing out to him that his refractory and unfriendly conduct had induced the con-

*N.B. This expedition has since been countermanded as the European soldiers suffered so much during the first march from Sukkur that it has been judged dangerous to expose them to the ruin in field service before September. Lt Commr. of H M's 17 and 10 men died of heat, they lost their way, halted under a tree and imprudently drank brandy to refresh themselves. The heat at the present occasion is too great to cause even the Belooches to avoid exposure. Lt Chalmeu of 43d. B N I and several Sepahrees died from the effects of the sun with Major Newport's, convoy to Dadur, as also Ensign Beaufort, Asstt. Surgeon Halloran, Comdr. Haviland & one or two native officers—By the last accounts the convoy had reached Bagh having passed the worst part of the way.

6 *Sloop*: A small, one-masted, fore-and-aft rigged vessel. A relatively small ship-of-war, carrying guns on the upper deck only.

7 *Major T. Baillie*, then acting Political Agent at Aden (1838).

fixation of the Pitland District, and that a persistence in such a line of policy must force the British to still harsher measures, answered the Resident in the same vague and unsatisfactory tone which he has so long held towards that Officer. He seemed still to look to aid and counsel from Nenai Ram, the Minister, in whose favor he is so infatuated, and promised that he would give an answer to His Lordship's Khureeta in the course of 12 or 15 days.

Hyderabad

29th May

The Offg. Resident reports the arrest of Moobaruz-ood-Dowlah by the Nizam in consequence of his perservering hostility to His Highness and the frequent instances of disobedience and rebellion in which he had been formerly engaged, and states that it was His Highness's intention of confining him in the Fort of Golconda. Sullim as well as other dangerous Moulavees have been also arrested and placed in confinement.

Bhopal

The temporary cessation of disputes between the Nuwab and his wife Secunder Begum, brought about by the mediation of Mr Wilkinson, Pol. Agent., has been interrupted by a violent dispute between the parties, in which the feelings of both appear to have been excited one against the other with greater virulence than has ever hitherto been the case. The Nuwab, after passing the night of the 17th April with his wife, seems to have wounded her either in self-defence, or in drawing his own sword upon her as she slept, or else with a premeditated design of either taking her life or doing her some grievous bodily injury, himself being the first assailant. Both parties give their own version of the matter; and as, of course, there are no witnesses to substantiate the assertions on either side, the matter remains in obscurity. So far is certain that the Begum has received a wound of rather a severe character on the left arm, and the Nuwab a slight cut across the right hand which he declares to have been inflicted in the act of struggling to recover the sword from the hands of the Begum. The result of this serious difference had, of course, been a total separation of the parties—the Begum and her mother having retired to Islamnugger. The matter is one in which the Pol. Agent can do no more than prevent in so far as he is able, the adoption of measures of more decided hostility between the parties. The Nawab's party has within the last 3 months obtained a decided ascendancy, and it only remains for the Pol. Agent so to use his powers of mediation as to prevent the use of that ascendancy to any evil purpose.

Joudhpore

1st June

Col Sutherland in a private letter mentions that, in consequence of

Maun Sing having failed to perform what he promised, the dismissal of the offending Ministers, and the restoration to the outside Thakoors all the possessions that he had resumed from them, Col S had resolved to quit Joudhpore, and accordingly left it on the morning of the above date. Out of 887 villages, the Maharaja had only restored 248 and no progress was being made in restoring the remainder, for the Maharaja hoped that in giving up the 248 villages belonging to the principal Chiefs, he might escape from the necessity of giving up those belonging to persons of inferior rank. Another important point was that altho' the Maharaja had ostensibly removed the Naths and those connected with them, who had the last 4 or 5 years set our power at defiance, yet we had no security that the removal was real or that it would be lasting. Col S had impressed upon all the parties that, as Govt. had been so often deceived and affairs had at last got so bad, that no half measures would do—that he would march away, and prepare to take measures for enforcing what we must demand before there could be any security that peace would be secured to the country.*

Gwalior

3rd Jnne

The offg. Resident reports that of suspected persons/Thugs were given up by orders of the Maharaja, and the Durbar Vakeel, in delivering over these men, informed the Residt. that the Durbar could not think that the men were guilty as they had served the State faithfully for 15 years. The Vakeel expressed an earnest hope on the part of His Highness that no delay might occur in putting these men on their trial, and if found innocent, that they should be speedily released.

The Gwalior Ukhbar states “that the Resident and suite visited the Durbar and had a public and private audience—at the former that gentleman delivered to the Maharaja, a Khurecta from the Governor General which was read and explained in full Durbar to His Highness. The Khureeta related to the “want of management in His M’s Malwa Districts, and the oppressive conduct of the local authorities, & recommended the adoption of measures for the suppression of the system of plunder, and that of the general protection of the Maharaja’s subjects.” The writer of the Ukhbar further observes that upon hearing the contents, read and explained, the oppressive Amildars and badly disposed Governors who were present, were alarmed and terrified while old and wise counsellors like the Mama Sahib and other Ministers, were rejoiced at its contents.

Ava

A despatch has been received from Umreepoora from Captn Macleod, dated the 30th May, conveying the intelligence of the Burmese Govt. moving

**N.B.* The Colonel has since left Jodhpore.

troops towards our frontiers. Captn M reports arrangements made by that Court for the Southern Provinces, viz. the Prince of Prome is to proceed to Bassein, and the Prince of Pukham to Rangoon, and the Fong-diven-gyon Prince to Toungoo—the measure is said to be generally unpopular at Court. The appointments proposed, if carried into effect, appear as if made with hostile intentions towards the British Govt. when the Prince's departure is fixed and placed beyond all doubt, Capt M intended pointing out to the Ministers in a friendly manner the suspicions which are likely to be engendered by such an unusual proceeding, and the collection of such a large force on our frontiers, and repeat to them the often given assurance of the sincere desire of our Govt. to continue on friendly terms with them. He states his health having suffered considerably since the setting in of the hot weather, of which the Court is aware; he had, therefore, been recommended a change of climate, but wishes to see matters in some train before leaving, and if there be grounds for believing that immediate hostilities are contemplated he would withdraw the Residency. It is his opinion that his presence at Rangoon will be of more service to Govt. in watching the proceedings of the Princes than in remaining at Umreepoora—States having received information from very good authority that the Prince of Pukhan is to proceed in advance with 3,000 men from Umreepoora, collecting men from each district on his way down. The other Princes are to follow in their respective turns—That warlike implements of every description are being prepared for transmission to Rangoon—and there is no question from the highest to the lowest person in the capital, but that hostilities would soon take place—That the King and princes have set their minds to repossess the Tenasserim Provinces by all the means in their power.*

Items of General Intelligence

In consequence of the 61st Regt. being ineffective for active service, owing to the length of time during which it has been on colonial duty, the 18th or Royal Irish Regt. will be available for service from Ceylon in the event of any emergency.

It is satisfactory to learn that the recent disturbances in the Rutnaghurry District of the Bombay Presidency have been checked and put down by the judicious and spirited conduct of the civil authorities and that the country is now quiet.

Arrangements have been made with the authorities of the Colapore state for stationing at all the Ghauts leading from that Territory into our

*The offg. Resident has been directed to shape his conduct as regards the removal of the Mission by the course of events, but not to delay for the purpose of demanding explanations in the event of decidedly hostile demonstrations on the part of the Burmese—W Bhundell, the Comr in the Tenasserim Provinces has been directed to apprise Brig Hillier of the necessity of taking necessary measures to repel aggression in the event of the assemblage of bodies of Burmese Troops towards Moulmein.

Provinces, strong and effective parties of the most active and soldier-like followers of the Colapore state for the purpose of preventing any incursion of misguided or turbulent individuals for the purpose of plundering in our Districts.

27th May

The Secy. to the Govt. of Madras reports the appointment of Mr G I Casamajor,⁸ of the Mls. as Comm. to examine into the treasonable practices of certain persons in the Nellore District including the Jageerdar of Woodygurry.

The Resident at Indore reports that, on the 14th of May, Holkar's Town of Banpoora, which was, some months ago, attacked by a body of free booters, has been again beset by a party of upwards of a hundred Benditti,⁹ headed by the four leaders who commanded at the former attack. It is satisfactory to learn that Holkar's Paega Horse & Sebundies beat the assailants off with the loss of two of the leaders, five privates killed, and four prisoners. The number of the wounded is not exactly known, but that it is very considerable is proved by the evidence of a Physician of Banpoora who was taken away into the Jungle by a syce of one of the surviving leaders, where he administered Medicines to 40 of the robbers, all but 9 of whom were severely wounded.

Lower Scinde

29th May

Col Pottinger, Resdt. in Scinde, reports on the expediency of publishing in the proceedings of some of the learned Societies at the Presidency of Bombay a Topographical Report of the City of Tatta and its environs, drawn by Asst. Secy. Winchester of the 26th N I, also a Meteorological Table kept by the same gentleman for March and April 1839. The following remarks appended to the Meteorol. Table for April, are highly satisfactory. "The climate of Tatta, tho' it has been hot during several days in the bygone months, has been far from unpleasant. In comparing this Cantonment with others in India in the month of April, the comparison is decidedly in favour of Tatta, for with the exception of one day, nothing like a hot wind has been experienced, and altho' one or two nights were hot, yet the others were uniformly cool. The mornings and evenings have been truly delicious. The station has been very healthy—our fevers were mild, and yielded easily to treatment."

8 *G I Casamajor* had been appointed British Resident at the courts of Travancore and Cochin in May 1834.

9 *Benditti* : mis-spelt for 'banditti' (bandits).

Upper Scinde

(The Pol. Agent in a letter under date 9th June, reports that Futteh Mahomed Khan, the Vizier of Meer Roostum Khan, waited on him and communicated as follows :—That the son of Meer Mahomed of Hyderabad arrived in Khyrpore, bearing presents and complimentary letters to Meer Roostum. In a private interview with the Meer, he informed him that he had been entrusted with secret instructions by the Meers of Hyderabad to this effect, that the British army having gone far beyond the Pass, the time had at length arrived for freeing themselves from English influence—that the British Troops left in Upper and Lower Scinde are unprovided with carriage, and that it would be easy to prevent any from reaching them—and that if Meer Roostum would join the confederacy, and simultaneously with the Ameers of Hyderabad commence operations in Upper Scinde, they might reckon on effectual support from Kelat. Meer Roostum immediately rejected the proposal and dismissed Jehan Khan from Khyrpore. Mr Bell states that on his arrival at Sukker he immediately wrote to Dr Gordon at Bhawulpore requesting him to use his utmost exertions to procure Camels, he has also written to Captn Thomson, the Commt. Officer at Mooltan, to the same effect. States that he would hold a sufficient number of boats in readiness to convey a body of Troops and Guns from Sukker to Hyderabad if this measure should become necessary. The emergency will not in all probability occur, but it is desirable that the few precautions which can be taken at present in that quarter, should not be neglected. Futteh Mahomed Khan also mentioned to Mr Bell of his having been told by the chiefs of the Beloochee tribes that strict and repeated injunctions had been sent to them by the Ameers of Hyderabad to harrass our advance and intercept our line of communication with Kandahar as much as possible.)

Simla,
the 20th June 1839.

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General.

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt., Misc. Vol. 331, pp. 307-354)

Newsletter 10 : July 1, 1839

Lahore

Intelligence contained in a Punjab Ukhbar received on the 25th June mentions that the Maharaja ordered Koonwur Kurruck Sing to hold Durbar and decide cases every day. Raja Dhyan Sing was ordered to regulate the affairs of the State with Koonwur Kurruck Sing and Bhee Govind Ram¹; and to report on important matters to the Maharaja. Koonwur Kurruck Sing, as desired by the Maharaja, holds Durbar every morning and evening, and though Raja Dhyan Sing attends the Durbar, the Koonwur is generally guided by his Minister Mungul Sing² in passing orders. He sits in court for an hour at a time; but his Court wants activity. On the evening of the 18th June, the Koonwur, acting on the advice of Mungul Sing and the counsels of Koonwur Shere Sing (received in a letter) appointed his guards on the Doudhee's office, Toshekhana, the Maharaja's Sleeping Room, cook-room and on the gates of the City and the Fort etc. "and affairs have worn a new aspect here the last two days," Raja Dhyan Sing wisely unites with the Koonwur tho' he is otherwise with his Ministers. Koonwur Now Nehal Sing reported that he was attending to every request of Col Wade's and Raja Ruheemoolah Khan of Ronjouree also reported that Col Wade was encamped near Futeh Gurh, only 2 Coss from the Khyber pass.

Raja Dhyan Sing reported that two British Officers had set out to Thibet & Ladak from Simla, and that he had appointed his Moonshee to accompany them—Raja Dhyan Sing suggested the enlistment of a few Hindustanee Sepoys, which was done accordingly. On Fuqueer Azeedoodeen's representation, a Title of "Vizarut" under Koonwur Kurruck Sing was granted to Raja Dhyan Sing, and all the officers of the State were apprized of it. The following is a copy of the title—"The second person in the great dominions, the hearty well-wisher of the great prosperity, the principal Minister, the Chief Vizier and the omnipotent manager Raja Dhyan Sing Bahadoor." The News from Vuttala³ reported that Koonwur Shere Sing had enlisted about

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- 1 *Bhaee Govind Ram* (Bhai) belonged to a celebrated family of saints, held in high esteem both by the Hindus and the Sikhs in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's time. He enjoyed the patronage of the Maharaja but did not interfere in the affairs of state, particularly after the Maharaja's death. Died 1845.
 - 2 *Mungul Sing* (Mangal Singh), a descendant of the Ramgarhia family, son of Sardar Dewan Singh; was born in 1800 and took military service under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. For his excellent record in the Jamrud campaign, he was granted a jagir at Dharamkot.
 - 3 Batala, in the Panjab (India).

1,500 men, and was enlisting more—A letter was addressed to him enquiring his object for raising Troops. On the night of the 20th the Maharaja became very ill, and Bhaees Ram Sing,⁴ Govind Ram, Fuqeer Azeezodeen, Dewan Dena Nath, Misser Beilee Ram, Raja Dhyan Sing and Heera Sing were greatly distressed at his condition. They all agreed that Koonwur Kurruck Sing should be proclaimed ruler (Raees) and Raja Dhyan Sing his minister (Vizier) early on the following day, and that the doors should be placed at the disposal of Raja Heera Sing. Agreeably to this plan Koonwur Kurruck Sing & Raja Dhyan Sing went on the following morning to parade and took Nuzzurs from all the officers and Comdts. of Troops, proclaiming that the Maharaja, while living, raised the Koonwur to the Guddhee, and nominated Dhyan Sing as his Vizier.

On the 22nd the Maharaja was seized with a violent fever, he lay down on his bed and no one was allowed to speak; in the afternoon he recovered a little, and in the presence of his Ministers signified to the Koonwur and Raja Dhyan Sing to carry on the affairs of the State. The Physicians were ordered to remain in attendance, and the officer at the Govindghur Fort to let no stranger enter. On the 23d it was reported that the Maharaja was so ill that every hope of his recovery was at an end, and he seemed to be breathing his last, he had therefore been laid down on the floor, according to the Hindoos and Sikhs the proper place to die upon.

27th June

The Offg. Pol. Agent, Loodianah, in forwarding the above states that since the 23d Inst. so strict were the orders to prevent the ingress to the Fort of Lahore of any person except the confidential Servants of the State that the news-writer found it impossible to obtain particulars of the Maharaja's State.

An official report has since been received by express from Mr. Edgeworth⁵, intimating the death of the Maharaja on the 27th. There is reason to believe that his death must have occurred on the 23d; but that the announcement of it was kept back for the purpose of gaining time. An express has been sent by the partizans of Now Nehal Sing to Peshawar for the purpose of recalling him. Raja Heera Sing's Regt. of Cavalry has been dispersed in various Detachments for the preservation of the peace and Mr Edgeworth reports that strict care has been taken to guard the Ghats of the Sutledge on the Sikh side, and prevent the passage of any persons in numbers across the river. Koonwur Kurruck Sing appears to have quietly succeeded to the throne.

4 *Bhaee Ram Singh* was the elder brother of Bhai Govind Ram. A holy man, he took an intelligent part in politics and acted as one of the counsellors of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in religious and political matters. Died 1846.

5 *M P Edgeworth* had served as Assistant to the Political Agent at Ambala (1833-36) and was assigned a similar duty under the Political Agent at Ludhiana in March 1839.

Peshawur

20th June

Col Wade in explaining the reasons which induced him to desire that he might be allowed to add a third Battn. to the Shahzada's levy, states that his principal reason is the distrust by which he regards the Mahomedan Troops supplied under the Treaty in aid of the Shahzada, and who have, some of them, been already recalled to Lahore, while all are disquieted in mind under the idea of the approaching dissolution of the Maharaja, and are not likely to stand by their colors especially as the French Officers are preparing to move on Lahore including Genl Ventura, who, it will be remembered, was appointed by the Maharaja to the command of his Sikh Troops with the Shahzada. Col W reports that the communication from Peshawur to Ghuzni is still blocked up by Dost Mohd., that he keeps his two sons Mhd. Akbar Khan, and Mhd. Ufzal on the road between Khyber and Cabool with orders to retreat if pressed, but he states that Ali Musjid, which must be taken before the road is open, is garrisoned by 1,000 men. He has suggested in a letter to Sir J Keane the formation of Depots in anticipation of the return of the Army, but Capt Nathall's⁶ deputation into the Punjab to effect this duty, will necessarily relieve Col Wade of it.

Army of the Indus

4th June

A private letter from Mr Macnaghten from Candahar of the above date states that he intended to advise Sir John Keane to leave a Brigade at Candahar, and says, "For all the fighting we are likely to have, half would be more than ample," and that part of the country would be all the better for having a large force temporarily stationed there, while there would be an efficient force ready to march upon Herat or Kelat as may be required. If it should be determined to leave a Brigade behind, Mr M thinks that the army may be able to move in about a week.* The country is reported to be tolerably quiet now. The news from Cabool received at Candhar mentions that Kohin Dil Khan and Brothers have fled in the direction of Kirman.

*A late semi-official account says not till the 26 June owing to the difficulty of getting grain ground into flour.

Upper Scinde

12th June

The Political Agent in Upper Scinde reports at length on his proceedings and the state of the country, and states his having entered into correspondence with the Boogties⁷ who occupy the country to the North of the Doomkies.⁸

6 *Capt T J Nathall* (T J Nathall) was in charge of commissariat arrangements for the Army of Indus.

7 *Boogties* : a wild Baluchi tribe which had its settlements on the western bank of the Indus, near Shikarpur, in the hills east of Lehrot. They were the subjects of the Khan of Kelat.

8 *Doomkies* : a brave and martial tribe of Baluchistan who inhabited eastern Kachi. A section was moved to Sind by Sir Charles Napier in 1845.

Roura Khan, the nephew of Bee Bush, Chief of that Tribe waited on Mr Bell on the 10th on the part of his Uncle, and expressed his willingness to furnish a Rissalah for the Service of Govt. This tribe is at open feud with Beeja Khan (the most notorious and ferocious chief of all the savage tribes) and as there is no evidence of the Boogies having harassed our advance or plundered our convoys, he sent a Syud to arrange with Beer Bush who will furnish 100 Sowars for our service under the command of his son Islam Khan.

13th June

Mr Bell also reports on the hostile spirit of the Ameers of Hyderabad and the weak state of the Brigade in Upper Scinde. From information obtained from very good authority it appears that movements of a questionable character are going on in the neighbourhood of Khyrpore. The Meerpore Chief has sent to Deeja between 3 or 4,000 of his followers; these united with the Troops of Meer Morad Ali were to meet at Khyrpore and there fix on their ulterior arrangements. Viewing the information given by Futteh Mohamed Goree, which Mr B reported on the 9th, in connection with the above report, it appears highly probable that intrigues are now being carried on in Upper Scinde, the nature and scope of which, and also whether Mihrab Khan of Kelat is a party remain to be ascertained and with this view, and to counteract, or, at all events, to prevent these intrigues taking effect, Mr Bell intended to proceed to Khyrpore, from whence he would report the result of his enquiries. The Major of Brigade has issued orders to the different posts cautioning them to be on their guard in case of an attack.

14th June

It is Mr Bell's opinion that great advantage would result from properly qualified Assistants being posted at Sukker, Shikarpore, Khyrpore, Gundava, Bagh and Daddur.

16th June

Arrangements have been made by the Pol. Agent for the enlistment, organization and employment of the Beloochee Contingent, and states that on his arrival at Shikarpore he found rather more than 600 men, horse and foot, had been enlisted by Lt Eastwick. The Sowars being paid at the rate of 15 Rs. P.M. and 7 to each foot-soldier. The former he says were wretchedly mounted on Tatoos of the Country, and seemed more "like an assemblage of grass-cutters than a body of Horse",—States that he had a long conversation with the leaders and told them that whenever any Sowar could produce a good serviceable Horse, his pay should be increased to 20 Rs. P.M. He also told them that in consideration of their poverty the new levy should be paid every 15 days for a few months, in order to enable them to avoid running in debt; with this arrangement, all the leaders as well as their

followers were quite delighted. They went from his Tent to that of Capt Sinclaire's under whose immediate orders they were placed, and on arriving there, embraced and congratulated each other on the advantageous terms secured to them. Mr Bell also states that the estimated expense of the Beloochee Corps is between 19 & 20,000 Rs., and other Estabts. connected with the Dawk Chokees; and would have raised the expenditure incurred in keeping up the communication with Daddur to 22,000 Rs. P. Mensem; whereas, by the arrangements now adopted by him, it will be under 11,000 and will prove perfectly efficient in keeping open the communication between Sukker and Daddur until the approach of the cold weather shall admit of effectual measures being adopted to suppress violence, and introduce some degree of order throughout that part of the country.

Mr Bell, on the 16th, states that the arrangements which he had been able to conclude for the employment of Beloochee levies to carry and protect the Dawk and maintain communications, have enabled him to recall the details of regular Troops from Rajhan and elsewhere, concentrating men at Shikarpore and Daddur. This is a highly advantageous measure both as regards the health of the Troops, and the additional strength it secures to the posts at the above-named Hd. Quarter stations. Major Griffiths' Force at Daddur will, by this arrangement and the reinforcement of 100 firelocks from Major Newport's Convoy Escort, be raised to an effective strength to 370 men.

In another letter of the same date, states that Intelligence having been received by him on that morning of Ahmed Khan Sugharee having been reinstated in his office as minister of Meer Noor Mahomed of Hyderabad. This Ahmed Khan Sugharee was the Minister who urged the Ameers to oppose our Govt. from the commencement, and by whose advice they assembled troops and encouraged the Beloochees throughout Scinde to harass our Army in its advance. He resigned office when Col Pottinger went to Hyderabad and declared his intention of never again mingling in public affairs so long as English influence should be tolerated in Scinde. Mr. Bell has ascertained that armed men in small parties from Hyderabad are in reality entering Shikarpore every day, he however questions whether any overt act will be committed by them unless reports continue to arrive of the determination of Dost Mahomed to maintain himself in power. The Beloochees are said to be very credulous. The report at present current in Upper Scinde and generally credited is that Dost Mahomed has assembled an Army of 25,000 men, and retired to the fastnesses of his country with the determination of defending himself to the last extremity.

21st June

In a private letter of the annexed date, Mr Bell states that the messenger whom he dispatched some days to Deaja Ka Kote returned that morning

with the information that between 4 & 5,000 of the followers of Ali Morad and the Meerpore Chief were encamped half-way between that place and Khyrpore. He however, has no apprehensions that any step will be taken by the Meers at present. They are said to be in communication with the chief of Kelat and with Dost Mahomed. Mr B intended going to Khyrpore where Ali Morad was to meet him, and as it was reported that great preparations have been made at Beeja Ka Kote, and that workmen were busy in improving the fortifications, he proposed to depute his Asst Lt Brown, of the Engrs., to accompany the Chief on his return, and to ascertain exactly what is going on at his Head Quarters.* Mr Bell at the same time submits a report from Lt Codrington (Comg. Detacht. of Shah Sooja's Horse at Shikarpore) shewing the strength of the Detachment under his command, and of the number of workmen and laborers employed in hutting them, together with amount of the expense incurred and states that, at present, he has completed building 85 Huts and 8 Sheds for the Arms (constructed of reed mats on a wooden frame) and expects in a few days to complete the number required.

A private letter from Bagh notes that Major Newport's Convoy is said to have marched into Daddur on the morning of the 15th June.

*In a letter of later date (private) Mr Bell has declared his conviction of the intention of the Ameers remain quiet.

Hyderabad

13th June

Moobaruz-ood-Dowlah still remains in confinement in his house, His Highness the Nizam determining to endeavour at removing him from Hyderabad without having recourse to force. The nature of his secret intrigues in which the nobleman above-named has been ill-advised enough to engage, has been further elucidated by the deposition of a person who has been for 15 months confidentially employed by him & who states with every appearance of truth that he, (M ood Dowlah) has positively been concerned in undermining the fidelity of the Nuwab of Kurnool to the British Govt., and using every means in his power to excite religious feeling in aid of his treasonable designs against the British Govt. and his own brother (Attempts appear to have been made to some extent, but with what success it is uncertain, to make proselytes to the Wahabee Sect among our Sepoys, under the idea that this would give Moobaruz ood Dowlah, a very strong hold upon our Native Army in the event of his finding himself in a position to take the field.)

16th June

On the 14th, Moobaruz ood Dowlah was, after 3 weeks' confinement in

his house, seized and sent off to the Fort of Golconda. This decisive measure was not taken without a reference to the Nizam, from the Resident; and a strong desire on the part of the Nizam to include the Resident as a direct party in the act. This Genl Fraser carefully avoided admitting, and the Nizam and his Minister were in the end perfectly content to act on their own responsibility. The delay appears to have occurred in consequence of Zenana intrigues by which the Nizam was urged to suspend active measures against his Brother. The capture of Moobaruz ood Dowlah was not effected without a shew of force. The Nizam's Troops broke down 2 or 3 Gates in effecting an entrance during which a fire was opened upon them, and 2 or 3 Arabs wounded. On reaching the courtyard of the House, M ood Dowlah was found there armed and surrounded by his suite. He begged for quarter, which was, of course, granted, and was immediately sent off to Golconda. Several Moulavees were taken in the House, but Genl Fraser is not certain if the turbulent Wahabeen teachers, whom he was anxious to secure as emissaries of sedition, are among the number.

Gwalior

13th June

An emissary from Dost Mahomed had arrived at Gwalior with a letter addressed to the Maharaja, who, after receiving and hearing the letter read, directed it to be immediately taken to the Resident, and the bearer of it to be given over to be kept in surveillance. The Resident in reporting this states, "the authorities here appear to be much pleased to have had an opportunity of thus affording so convincing a proof of their friendship and devotion to the British Genl. as they trust that this act of theirs will be considered by the Govr. Genl."

Allahabad

12th June

The Govr General's Agent, Allahabad, forwards a letter from the Beeza Bae* to the Governor Genl. together with a paper of requests, stating that she is willing to accept of the annuity of 4 Lakhs of Rs. assigned to her by the Joon Kojee Rao of Gwalior under the conditions that she should take up her residence at Jamgaun Choomargundy, and not engage in any design calculated to disturb the public tranquillity at Gwalior, with this proviso, that she be vested with exclusive authority and control in that Pergunnah. She at the same time requests that the British Govt. would make arrangements for her receiving by monthly instalments through the Treasury of the Resdt. of Gwalior the annuity of 4 Lakhs, and the 2 Lakhs allowed her by

*N.B. The Governor General has not seen fit to annoy Scindea's Durbar with further representations on account of the Baeza Bhaee.

the British Govt. on account of Koosee and Sheergurh, and that the rents of the Pergh be assigned to her without deduction from the aforesaid annuity.

Nipal

9th June

Intelligence from Nipal represents warlike preparations as continuing to be made—Beer Kishwar Pandey has orders to furnish 12 Lakhs of Musket Balls as soon as possible; and Soor Indra Thappa (the head of the new magazine) is required to put out of hand 5 new Muskets daily. Powder is manufacturing not only in the Arsenals, but in the private houses of the workmen; and the road from Bhatgaon to the City is now covered with Coolies bringing in Sulphur or Saltpetere. New 4 & 6 pounder Brass Cannon are now continually being proved—Nor is there less activity in amassing by every possible means, the other sinews of war or money—Discontent continues to spread —The Raja is said to be an imbecile, and completely under the influence of the Ranee—he is much conceited of his own power and importance, and openly talks of holding in his hands the fate of the Company. He will not believe the fall of Candahar, and asserts Ranjeet Sing has evaded assisting in the conquest of Cabool, and that the Mahrattas & Rajpoots are ready to rise at his signal, whilst China & Ava complete the coalition. The Kala Pandey,⁹ the Miser Gooroo¹⁰ and the blind Chountra, are the persons who inflame the Raja's arrogance. These individuals constantly urge upon him the expediency of treading in the steps of Ava and China. However, his timorous nature & a certain vague consciousness of the selfish and injurious aims of his advisers, hold him in restraint. He has lately met with a very unexpected rebuff from Lassa, the authorities of which place having refused to accept a special Mission which he was prepared to send there—Secret emissaries are continuing to be sent into our provinces—A Subadar with 9 soldiers in disguise, it is said, are traversing Rajpootana fomenting discontent against the Company—There are other Secret Agents of the Durbar in the plains who are mostly natives of the plains.

The Resident in forwarding the above at the same time reports his having communicated the Intelligence of the fall of Candahar to the Durbar through the Majhila Gooroo, and was waited upon by Kurbeer Pandey attended by

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- 9 The decendants and relations of Damodar Pandey, referred to earlier, came to acquire great political influence in the court of Nepal in about 1839-40. Ranjung (Ran Jar.g) Pandey, son of Damodar Pandey, became the Prime Minister; his brother, Randip Pandey, was the Governor of Palpa; while Kasbir Pandey, son of Ran Jang, was the keeper of the royal wardrobe. Many of their relations held important offices in the state. Collectively they were known as 'Kala Pandey.'
- 10 *The Miser Gooroo* or Misser Raj Gooroo was one of the prominent judicial officers of Nepal. He was known for his anti-British views and is said to have resorted to arbitrary proceedings in relation to British suitors in the court of Nepal. He was later ordered to Benares by the Maharaja of Nepal.

the ordinary guests of the Durbar with the Durbar's congratulations. Some surprize having been expressed at such rapid and decisive success at a moment when it was alleged to be understood that the British Troops were environed with difficulties of no common kind, Mr Hodgson took occasion quietly to intimate that it would be wise in the Durbar not too readily to give credence to vulgar and often mercenary reports; with what little effect, however, he threw out that caution will be seen when it appears that the very evening of this visit to him, a placard (prepared probably beforehand) was affixed by authority to the walls of the Palace, where the Raja resides, giving a very exaggerated detail of the past difficulties our troops have had to contend with, and wholly discrediting, by silence, their triumphal arrival at Candahar. The Chief, it was said, were sent for under idle pretexts to the Palace in order that they may read it. Most of them have done so, and not one amongst them, but believes that the placard is false entirely.

11th June

Mr Hodgson further reports that discontent is becoming general amongst the Chiefs, and is not unknown to the soldiery.

Assam

In consequence of the disturbed state of the wild tribes on the N E Frontier, and the great expediency of retaining within Upper and Lower Assam local means of coercing these savage tribes it has been determined to add a third Local Corps to the Force now stationed in those Provinces, a measure the more necessary in consequence of the annexation of Raja Poonunder Singh's¹¹ territory to that of the Company. This Third Corps will be chiefly composed by the absorption of certain small bodies of Militia, Pykes, and armed Police which had hitherto been stationed at various posts throughout the Provinces without any means of acting in concert or the advantage of discipline and sound military composition.

Items of General Intelligence

6th June

A private letter from Calcutta notes the intended disptach of the "Ganges" Steamer on the 10th of June for the Eastward with Capt Bogle,¹² and treasure for Chittagong. She was to proceed from thence to Arrakan to warn the authorities there of the turn affairs have taken to the Eastward and

11 *Raja Poonunder Sing* (Poorandar Singh) was the last Ahom ruler of Assam.

12 *Capt Bogle* had been appointed Assistant to the British Political Agent on the North-Eastern Frontier of India.

it was probable Captn B would afterwards go to Moulmain to concert measures with Mr Bhindell, in case the intelligence from Ava has been confirmed by any advance of the Burmese.

Simla,
the 1st July 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Governor General

(Ref. :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 355-394).

Newsletter 11 : July 10, 1839

Lahore

30th June

The ashes of the Maharaja and of the Ranees, & the slave girls who immolated themselves have, this day, been collected. It was at first reported that Sirdar Ajeet Sing had been appointed to accompany the ashes to the Ganges, but a doubt being raised in Raja Dhyan Sing's mind, that the Sirdar would not return, Sirdar Dhunna Sing¹, Bhaee Ram Sing, Ruttun Sing Gundavee, and Jowahur Sing Bustree² were afterwards ordered to prepare themselves for the journey. Raja Soocheyt Sing was ordered to prepare 200 Sowars from the Khas or Charyaree troops, and 200 sepoy's to serve as guards, that the remains of the late Maharaja may be carried in procession by short stages of 5 Coss a day as His Highness marched himself while living. The Raja also ordered Mungul Sing, Dewan Dilbagh Rae and others of K. Kurruck Sing's former Ministers to perform as usual their duties relating to the Koonwur's former estates, and not to attempt to interfere with the affairs of the Raja as every officer appointed by the Maharaja will continue to discharge his duty under the rule of the Koonwur. The writer says, "the former were very much dissatisfied at this". Jemadar Koshaul Sing observed that Koonwur Shere Sing, tho' repeatedly sent for had not yet joined the funeral of the Maharaja. Raja Dhyan Sing said that it would be as well for the Koonwur to come, otherwise he would have no future opportunity. Those present in the Durbar remarked that the Koonwur was afraid of being apprehended. The Raja observed that if he rebelled against the State, he could then expect no consideration. The Koonwur's news-writer added that the Koonwur would not come to Lahore unless permitted by the British Govt. or unless under some good assurances. The writer of the Ukhbar remarks that Koonwur Kurruck Sing "was attended by very few followers when going to the Huzzooree Garden where the Maharaja's corpse was burnt, while Rajas Dhyan Sing, Heera Sing, and Soocheyt Sing were attended by hundreds and

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- 1 *Dhunna Sing* (Dhanna Singh Malwai) was a Nabha subject in the service of the Lahore Darbar which had bestowed upon him his native village of Mowran Kalan, situated in the state's territory.
 - 2 *Jowahur Sing Bustree* came from Ram Nagar in Gujranwala district and was in the service of the Lahore Darbar. In January 1841 he was entrusted with the task of conveying the Barakzai families from Peshawar to Lahore. He performed this duty so well that later he was given charge of the Ghilzais in a similar capacity.

that the reins of the Govt. are now in reality in the hands of the Rajas, and every servant great or small fears the Rajas only". It is stated in an Ukhbar that a Fort is about being erected at Dera Ismael Khan by the orders of Koonwur Now Nehal Sing.

8th July

The Peshawur News received at Lahore mentions that Col Wade had dispatched Mirza Hussen Ulee Khan, Teerah Shah, and Muddud Shah of Teera to enlist troops in the Zilah of Kurrum, and with orders to move them in the direction of Jellalabad. Shahzadeh Mahomed Saleh was to March by Doaba, and the Colonel himself by Bajour. The services of the Mallucks or Chiefs of the Kokee Khyal³ Afghans have been secured. On the 27th June the Col. reviewed the following :—

Troops of Levies.....	3,900;
Effective B.I.	about 300
Shahzadeh's men.....	say 800
Sikh Troops.....	3,500
	8,500

It is also mentioned that the people of Lohgurh are siding with the British and Shah Sooja, and that Dost Mahomed had sent his sons against them.

10th July

Mehna Sing, the Thannadar of Sirdar Lanah Sing Mujeethia at Amritsar, reported that Koonwur Shere Sing had dispatched 250 armed men to take possession of the Kangra Fort, in consequence of which Koonwur Kurruck Singh deputed one of his Agents Bhaee Mahoan Sing⁴ to go with Bhaee Aflatoon to entreat his brother in the most earnest manner to come to Lahore, and to consider it as his own home, and Raja Dhyan Sing, Jemadar Koshal Sing, Bhaee Govind Ram, and others wrote also to the Koonwur of the obedience they were bound to pay to Kurruck Sing, and his son, and that it would be advisable for the Koonwur to avoid a rupture "while nothing yet was lost"; and to disregard the misrepresentations of interested parties, appealing at the same time to the wisdom and prudence of the Koonwur. The chiefs at Peshawur have all assured Now Nehal Sing that so long as he is loyal to his father Kurruck Sing, they will adhere to him but not otherwise.

3 *Kokee Khyal* (Kokee Khyal or Kuki Khel). They were a clan of the Afridi tribe, who held the entire Khyber pass from Jamrud to Landi Kotal and because of its strategic position thus were able to defy all others. They refused to be purchased by the British and, even after receiving huge bounties, broke their solemn engagements.

4 *Bhaee Mahoan Sing* (Mihan Singh, or Mehna Singh) was a distinguished army general of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who succeeded Jamadar Khushal Singh as Governor of Kashmir. He held this charge even after the death of the Maharaja, but was murdered by his own rebellious troops in 1841.

Koonwur Shere Sing has announced to his clerk by a Confidential Agent and a letter from himself that he has felt himself compelled to take refuge in the Fort of Kangra, of which it appears he has possessed himself, being in fear of the designs of Raja Dhyan Sing, and he declares believing that this Minister whom he conceives to possess a paramount influence over his brother, has no intention but to confine him, or in some way molest and injure him.

Peshawur

27th June

Col Wade states that the apprehension of the Maharaja's immediate death, together no doubt with the absence of the greatest part of the Army and the Sirdars from their Estates, seems to have encouraged the predatory classes of the population to revert to their old habits, and it was reported to him on very good authority that the roads throughout the Country are already beginning to be infested by plunderers to such a degree as to have induced the Merchants at Umritsar to prohibit their Agents in Cashmere and other places from dispatching any investments to them until affairs have assumed a more settled form.

Herat

18th May

Lieut. Pottinger in a letter to Mr Macnaghten reports that it has been resolved to send a deputation from Shah Kamran to the Camp of the Envoy and Minister of the following persons—Prince Sikander, one of the favorites of the Shah, Sirdar Shere Mod Khan, the Vizier Yar Md's brother, Mahomed Hossein Khan and Abdulla Sulatun Jemshudee with 500 excellent Horsemen.—And states he was informed by the Hindoos that their letters from Mushed mention that Asuf al Dowlut's⁵ son was about to march with a body of Troops on Ghorian and that an army is assembling at Tehran—Lt P has not attempted to open communications with the Chiefs of Persian Khorassan, who are all disaffected to the Kujurs⁶ and asks Mr Macnaghten's advice if he was to do so. He also states that the Aoemaks⁷ are the only ones amongst whom the practice of slave dealing is of long standing, and is of

5 *Asuf al Dowlut*: Alayar Khan, better known by his official title of Asuf al Dowlut or Asuf-u-Daulah was head of the Yakehaw-bash division of the Kajar tribe and a maternal uncle of Muhammad Shah, the Persian ruler. In 1837, at the battle of Herat, he was commander-in-chief of the Persian army. Later (1835-47) he was governor of Khurasan, with almost autonomous powers.

6 *Kujurs* (or *Kajars*) one of the Turkish tribes to which the reigning family of Persia belonged. Literally, 'Kajar' means a 'rebel' or 'deserter'. Like the Rajputs, the Kajars devoted themselves primarily to the profession of arms.

7 Most of the Aoemak tribe were notorious for plying a vigorous trade in slaves.

opinion that by breaking their tribes into separate chiefships or marching them amongst the Afghans, their propensities and power will both be ruined and that at once, and will sink from turbulent allies into obedient subjects. Mr Macnaghten in replying to the above suggests that as it would be very desirable that a good understanding should subsist between the families of Shah Sooja and Shah Kamran, & this end would doubtless be promoted by the respectable deputation which it is proposed to send from Herat, and which will produce besides a salutary effect upon the public mind, he hopes that the deputation will not object to following H M in the direction of Cabool, in case H M should have left Candhar before their arrival. With regard however to Ghorian no offensive operations should immediately be undertaken against that place but of the expediency or otherwise of his entering into communication with the Chiefs of Persian Khorassan who are said to be inimical to the Kujur rule. Mr M is of opinion that such communication on Lt P's part would be expedient only in the event of his ascertaining that the Persians are again advancing in force to the attack of Herat.

30th May

The Envoy & Minister reports that in consequence of information received from Nurroo Khan Topchee Bashee (the Envoy from Herat) the fact that there is now no scarcity of Grain at Herat—Abundance having been brought there from Orgunje and the Turkoman⁸ country, and more supplies from the Hazara tracts being daily expected—it seems therefore unnecessary and inexpedient that Lt Conolly should at present prosecute his intended journey into Seistan, and he has accordingly requested that officer to remain in his present position until the arrival of Major Todd⁹ in progress to Herat under whose orders he is to place himself, and whom he will accompany to that quarter.

Army of the Indus

9th June

Mr Macnaghten acquaints Col. Wade that it was the intention of His Ex., the Comdr. in Chief of the Army of the Indus, to move towards Cabool with H M Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk and the British Force on the 16th Inst.,

⁸ *Turkomans* inhabited the desert country bounded by a line drawn through Astrabad, Herat and Balkh on the south, the course of the Oxus from Balkh to the Aral on the east, the Caspian sea on the west and the elevated plateau called the Ust Urt, lying between the Caspian and the Aral seas on the north. They were divided into several tribes, branches and clans. Some of them were nomads while others lived in settlements in the river valleys.

⁹ *Major Todd* was an officer of the Bengal Artillery who remained on deputation in Persia for many years. Besides fulfilling a number of military-cum-political assignments on behalf of the Indian Government, he helped the Shah in training his artillerymen. He was, subsequently, sent by Macnaghten to Herat where he negotiated a friendly treaty with Shah Kamran.

and hopes that Col W has advanced at least as far as Jellalabad¹⁰ with the Shahzadeh, and to ask such Mahomedan levies as he has been able to raise before the Army reaches Ghuzni. Also states that some of the Ghiljiye Chiefs have tendered their allegiance to H M and as it was apprehended that distress would ensue from the influx of so many troops into Cabool, in consequence of the crops not being ripened by the time the Army reaches that place, he has urged Col W to lose no time in forwarding from the Punjab to Cabool as large a quantity of Flour and Rice as may be procurable.

7th June

In a letter to Sir J Keane, Mr M states that from the best information he has been able to obtain regarding the state of public feeling at Cabool, he does not anticipate any opposition to our Troops in that quarter, and therefore suggests that a considerable force should be stationed at Candahar until at least the possession of Cabool by H M. Circumstances too may occur to render military aid necessary at Herat or Kelat, and the presence of a strong force at Candahar may do much to check the designs of our enemies at both these places. In another letter he states that it was the intention of H M to leave one of his Infy. Corps at Girishk and another with a Cavy. Corps at Candahar.

6th May

Mr M reports at great length on the character of Shah Sooja-ool-Moolk and the Principal Chiefs of his Court, and on the present state of the country. His experience of the conduct of the Shah for a period of between 4 & 5 months has led him to form a most favourable opinion of H M's character. The repeated reverses which H M had sustained in his efforts to recover his Kingdom, have had the effect of inducing many to suppose either that his cause was unpopular or that he was deficient in spirit or ability. "From my observation of his character," says Mr M "I should pronounce him to be a mild, humane, intelligent, just and firm man". His faults are those of pride and parsimony. The former defect appears to the Chiefs in a more glaring light from its contrast with the behaviour of the Barakzye Usurpers, who in order to preserve their power, were compelled to place themselves more on a level with their adherents. With regards to the parsimony manifested by the Shah, it is certainly misplaced at the present crisis, tho' there is much to be urged in defence of it. His means are very limited, and the claims upon his liberality are very numerous. The Shah has taken into his service all such of the armed retainers of the Barakzye usurpers as have joined his

¹⁰ *Jellalabad* (or *Jalalabad*): an historic town in Afghanistan, situated on the banks of the river *Kabul*, at a distance of about 100 miles from the Afghan capital. It lay on the high road from *Peshawar* to *Kabul*, about 2000 ft. above sea level.

standard. Of the nobles who now attend HM's Court, by far the most powerful is Hajee Khan Kakur. He is famed for his valor and abilities, and his influence is extensive both at Cabool and Candahar. For the services he had rendered Shah Sooja, HM has honored him with the title of Nusseerood-Dowlah, and conferred upon him estates to the value of 3 lakhs P. An. The person next in rank and influence to the above is Hajee Dost Md. Khan Ishaqzye—This Chief possesses very extensive estates to the southward of Candahar on the right and left bank of the Hilmind¹¹—and was nearly independent of the Barakzyes' authority. Next in consequence are the Ghiljye Chiefs who occupy the country between Candahar and Cabool. They have not yet offered their allegiance, but measures have been taken to bring them in. The next in rank are the Chief of the Noorzyes,¹² and the Chief of the Achikzyes.¹³ Atta Mahd. Khan and his Brothers, sons of Sumunder Khan Popylzye are also people of much consideration in the Country, and they are devoted adherents to His Majesty. There are no Persians of any great consideration at Candahar with the exception of Kurrum Khan, grandson of the celebrated Nadir Shah, who is between 40 & 50 years of age. This person, very much against his will, gave his daughter in marriage to Kohun Dil Khan, from whom he derived means of support. He is at present in great distress, and has appealed to the Envoy & Ministers for charity, who recommends a small pension of about 50 Rs. monthly being settled on the individual in question. Mr M reports the nature of intelligence from Cabool to be very favorable to the disposition of the Royal Cause. And also reports that the town and Territory of Candahar are in a state of profound tranquillity. "It is really wonderful that", says Mr M "with such a dense and motley population in the Town, some serious disturbance should not have occurred." A Kafila of 2 or 300 persons, chiefly consisting of runaway or discharged servants left the camp with the intention of returning to India, via Dera Ismael Khan—they were attacked by some Ghiljyees, about 2 or 3 marches from Candahar, and plundered, and may be, it is feared, massacred. The matter is under enquiry. The country, it is said, is very wild between Candahar & Dera Ismael Khan and lawless habits having been suffered to

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- 11 *Hilmind* (Helmund): The river rises at Fazindaz, its 700-mile course generally to the sw debouching into the lake of Seistan. Its banks are fertile and well-wooded, and the people around industrious.
- 12 *Noorzyes* (Nurzais): Afghans were broadly classified into two confederacies—the Durrani and the Ghilzais. The Nurzais were a branch of the Barkzais, a tribe of the Durrani Afghans. Mostly shepherds by profession and martial and aggressive in spirit, they were scattered in hills in the western part of Afghanistan and along the borders of Seistan. They carried depredations in the adjoining countries.
- 13 *Achikzyes*: a branch of the Barkzais separated from them by Ahmed Shah Durrani so as to reduce their (Barkzais') formidable strength. Later the Achikzyes cut themselves away from the parent body from which they had sprung. They lived in the Khojeh Amraun range and were the wildest of the Durrani, their only avocation being plunder, and pasturage.

prevail so long with impunity, it will be work of time to eradicate them. Grant of Lands made by the ex-Sirdars out of favor and without requisition of service, have generally been resumed by HM. Lands, held on military tenure he has however allowed to remain with the occupants. Mr M further reports that HM has farmed out the whole of the land & miscellaneous revenue of the Town and Country to Mirza Md. Tuque,¹⁴ who has a perfect understanding of the resources of the country—and the Mint to Moola Jullal Achikzye, for 1 Lakh of Rs. P. An. Other candidates for farming the latter have since come forward offering to take it at 3 Lakhs; notwithstanding this great pecuniary temptation, HM has adhered to his engagement. He also reports the presentation of the Officers of the Army of the Indus to HM—they each offered Nuzzurs. The British officers in H M service stood behind the throne during the Ceremony. H M expressed himself as being exceedingly gratified at this mark of attention shewn him by the officers of the Army. “He now felt himself”, he said, “to be a King”, and he intimated his hope that on their arrival at Cabool, he should have many opportunities of returning to the officers the civility which they had that day shewn him. HM states the good effects of the efforts making by Lt Eastwick at Shikarpore, by Capt Bean at Quetta, and by Lt Bosanquet¹⁵ at Kila Abdoolah are now beginning to shew themselves—they receive their letters with tolerable regularity, and the road is reported to be perfectly safe.

Financial

Capt Bygrave, Pay Mr of the Army of the Indus, on the 7th of June reports his Cash Balance in the Military Chest on the 1st of June at 2,58,541 of which 2,06,000 Rajshahye Rs., 46,460 Jyepore Gd. Mr. & 6,081 Cos. & Kuldar Rs. He had however received from Shikarpore 22 Lakhs of Rs., whereof 3,90,000 had been left at Quetta for Comt. and Pol. charges, and to pay the Troops there. The Balance being in Gold—1,30,565 and in Silver—16,79,434 carried at Head Quarters on the 5th June, Disbursement to the troops in May for April's pay was 3,04,280 whereof was covered by receipts for Bills on Hindostan 2,82,631, so that the Disbursements exceeded the receipts by only little more than 21,000 Rs. Bills of Ex¹⁶ have not been taken up to any great extent by Bankers at Candahar—however Capt B has issued one draft of 40,000 and expects that business will increase on

14 *Tuquee* (Tokhee), one of the eight clans into which the Ghilzai Afghans had been divided. They were said to comprise 12,000 families from whom the ministers and other political officers of the Ghilzai ruling house were drawn. Kelat-i-Ghilzai was the nerve centre of their power and habitat albeit they were found scattered, along with other clans, in the valley of Turnuk and the hilly country on the edge of the Paropamison mountains.

15 *Lt F Bosanquet* was deputed to checkmate Achikzye raids on Baluchistan. Later he was appointed Political Assistant at Quetta.

16 *Ex*: *Exchange*.

this head. He has hitherto offered 2 Pct. premium for eleven Lakhs, and 1 Pct for $\frac{1}{2}$ Lakhs; but thinks that if 1 Pct. on $\frac{1}{4}$ Lakhs, 2 Pct. on $\frac{1}{2}$ Lakhs, 3 Pct. on $\frac{3}{4}$ Lakhs, and 4 Pct. on . . .¹⁷ lakhs were authorised on lodgments of unbroken sums, the business so done would become much greater. Comt. expenses have been a little more heavy—and estimate for the ensuing month is also above this average. Average of Comt. expense for past 6 months on 5th of June : 4,12,333—Actual advance to Comt. in the month of May : 8,07,000. Capt B reports that April's Disbts.¹⁸ will shortly be dispd. for audit when no arrears will stand in his office beyond what is allowed in pay Offices in the Provinces.

Upper Scinde

25th June

The Pol. Agt. Upper Scinde forwards in original intercepted letters addressed by the Chief Authorities of Scinde to Mihrab Khan¹⁹ and his Principal Officers. The messengers who carried the letters arrived at Shikarpore from Hyderabad via Jhyrpore on the night of the 24th. Among other letters, they were the bearers of, was one from Meer Roostum Khan to Mahomed Hossein Khan, the Minister of Mihrab Khan. This letter Mr Bell returned unopened to Meer Roostum, that he might not suppose to be mixed up with the intrigues of the other Ameers. Mr B states that he has not the slightest reason to doubt Roostum's good faith.

28th June

In a private letter Mr Bell notes his having had the most satisfactory accounts of the healthy state of the Troops at Tatta and Curachee Bunder.²⁰ A letter, which he received the day before, states the climate to be remarkably pleasant at the season, and at the same time very healthy. Both at Shikarpore and Sukker, notwithstanding the intense heat of the Sun, Mr Bell is of opinion, the climate is more healthful than in any part of Upper India at this season. "At the former place," he says, "Dr Gillanders has, including Camp-followers, about 2,700 men under his care, and there are only 111 men at this moment under medical treatment", of which a very large proportion

17 Some words appear to be missing.

18 *Disbts.* for disbursements.

19 *Mihrab Khan* (Mehrab Khan) was the Brahvi chief of Kelat and Gundava, a small Afghan principality situated along the borders of Sind. He was related by marriage to the Amirs of Hyderabad (Sind). Burnes was sent to placate and win him over as an ally of Shah Shuja. In the result, a treaty was signed by which he was to be paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakh rupees in return for supplies to the army of Indus. He became a friend of the British but criticized their policy towards Afghanistan prophesying that while they may restore Shah Shuja, the latter would fail to carry the Afghan people with him.

20 *Curachee Bunder* ; The seaport of Karachi.

are suffering from Sabre and Gun-Shot wounds. At Sukker the proportion of Sick is a little larger, but the cases are slight fevers, and the men recover immediately. He also mentions that during the three weeks he remained at Shikarpore only one Sepoy died, and he had been suffering during 7 months from dysentery. This is the only fatal case that has occurred during upwards of two months. The Cholera which was raging in the city and adjacent country during the whole time, carried off some of the Beloochee boys, but not a single case occurred among the Troops or Camp-followers, and the Epidemic has almost ceased.

Lower Scinde

19th June

Col Pottinger in a private letter to Mr. Bell of the annexed date corroborates the belief in support of Mr Bell's last expressed opinion as stated in the news-letter of the 1st Inst. of the little likelihood there is of an outbreak at present in Scinde. The Chiefs have now a perfect conception of our power, and he is of opinion that they have no intention of breaking with us, nor does he think that any of the Beloochee Chiefs of weight would join them in such a scheme, even supposing they were foolish enough to entertain it. He has the most entire reliance on the fidelity and adherence of Meer Sobdar²¹ to his engagements, and he is in Col P's estimation by far the most influential of the four Hyderabad Chiefs. They had, on the Col's requisition, removed the late Governor of Kurrachee, and have appointed a person named Syud Zynoolabkeen to that situation, "whom of all others in Scinde," the Col says, "I could have wished to see in it—because he has the most perfect notion of our military strength and has always impressed on the Ameers, the final ruin that would befall them and their families were they to go to war with us." He also adds the fact that the Ameers have not 100 armed men at any point (not even Tatta or Kurachee) in Lower Scinde, and that he had within the last ten days received the strongest assurances from the leading Chiefs in that quarter of Scinde of their devotion to us, and that some of them have fired salutes (as did also the Ameers at their Capital) and written to him congratulatory letters on the fall of Candahar—and hence concludes that Futteh Mahd's communications must be received with caution, especially as he has always shewn a strong inimical feeling towards Noor Mahomed Khan and his Brother.

Hyderabad

On the 19th June the Resident reports that 46 of the turbulent Wahabee Moulavees, who are all of them notorious for disaffection and seditious practices, have been seized in the House of Moobaruz-ood-Dowlah, and it is fortunate that these comprize the whole of the suspected inciters of sedition

²¹ *Meer Sobdar*, one of the four Sind chiefs.

with the exception of two, Meer Mahd. Hossein, and Elahee Buxsh Khan who have not been heard of. A Joint commission of European and native gentlemen have been appointed for the purpose of investigating the charges which may be brought against the 46 individuals above noted, and the Resident observes that this is a very proper and opportune occasion to indicate : 1stly, the close connection subsisting between the British Govt. and that of the Nizam. 2ndly, to establish the differences which our Govt. is desirous of marking between Mussulmans of high character who abstain from professing their religion as an adjunct to political designs and hostile feeling against their own or any other Govt. and those intriguing professors of Islam who make their peculiar tenets merely subservient to their ambitious designs and seditious practices. The Minister has fully entered into the Spirit of the Resdt.'s proposal for the mixed commission above noted, only 2 European officers have been appointed upon it who are both attached to His Highness' Army.

CHINA

16th April

The Chief Supdt. in reporting the present posture of affairs in China, and upon the violent measures adopted by the Chinese Govt. authorities towards HM's Supdt. and towards British Merchants residing in Canton to break up the foundations of the opium trade, expresses his conviction that no efforts of negotiation purely, or of negotiation supported by arms, could recover for trade to be carried on at Canton, such degree of confidence as would restore its late important extent. All sense of security is broken to pieces—He says, "The movement of a few hours has placed the lives, liberty, and property of the foreign community with all the vast interests, commercial and financial, contingent upon our security at the mercy of this Govt." The general measures to be taken require no doubt the sanction of HM's Govt., but immediate countenance and protection are necessary for the safety of life and property and Captn. Elliot²² recommends that as many ships of War as can be detached and armed vessels to be employed under the command of the Naval Officers (the whole to be instructed to conform to his requisitions) seem to him to be the most suitable means of protection available at this moment. He has publicly notified to all British subjects to place themselves under the command of His Ex. the Govr. of Macao, and requested them, and also Captn. Blake²³ of the "Larne" to render every assistance for the defence of the rights of Her Most Faithful Majesty, and the general protection of the lives, liberty, and property of all the subjects of Christian Govts. now or hereafter resorting to that Settle-

22 *Capt Elliot* (or Elliott) was appointed Adjutant of the Jodhpur Legion in December 1844. At a later stage, he played an important role in eradicating Thuggee from Azimgarh and its adjoining areas.

23 *Capt Blake* was sent on a special deputation to the Governor of Rangoon in 1838 from where he reported on political developments in Rangoon and Moulmein.

ment. To judge of the degree of protection to be looked for in that quarter, he says the condition of the settlement is feeble in every respect of amount and character of force, and in means of support for the inhabitants—the garrison consisting of about 400 Indian Troops of a poor description, & about 500 Coffree Slaves by far the best part of the force, he has accordingly offered His Ex the Governor facilities on HM's Treasury for placing the settlement and the neighbouring anchorage of the Taipa in the best attitude of defence, which circumstances may admit of. And he has also proposed the equipment of a sufficient number of small armed vessels to keep the coasts clear and an appeal to Manilla for a moderate reinforcement of Troops and the arrangement of a regular course of supply. In a dispatch to Lord Palmerston, Capt'n E expresses his anxious hope that HM's Govt. will see fit to make such a declaration immediately concerning its general intentions as will have the effect of upholding confidence—Reports that “the Chinese Govt. has committed an act of sudden and cruel war upon the persons of HM's officer and subjects; and the forced surrender of British property under the late circumstances is an aggression so dangerous in principle, and so intolerable in practice, as to render the full indemnity of every loss sustained a high duty to the cause of civilization; and continuous, “Incapable of violating the principles of just dealing amongst the nations of the Earth in respect of the most insignificant power on its surface, Her Gracious Majesty is the fit arbiter of this defiance of every obligation & truth and right towards the whole Christian world.—” The Chinese, he adds, “have not done these things in ignorance that they were evil, but in the ignorance of the power of HM's Govt. to resent them; and in both respects it is fit and needful that they should be set right.” He, therefore, points out that HM's Govt. will find its easiest relief in the immediate, forcible and permanent occupation of the Tehusan Islands and that object being effected in the simultaneous close blockade of the Ports of Canton, Ningpo and the Yangtse Keang river from the entrance to its junction with the Imperial Canal. He would then suggest that a declaration should be dispatched (but not before) to the Court from the mouth of the Pic Ho, demanding the disgrace and punishment of Sing & Tang, ample apology for the indignities heaped upon the Queen, the payment of a fixed sum of money in satisfaction of the heavy losses incurred by these outrageous proceedings, the formal cession of the Tehusan Islands to the British Crown, and the Imperial Edict in full and unreserved language permitting the people of his nation to trade with us at the Tehusan Islands—And further suggests that there should be no failure of sufficient force and most vigorous proceeding in this first measure of the kind directed against that Empire : A swift and heavy blow will prevent the recurrence of such disastrous alternatives for many years to come.

24th June

A letter has been addressed to the Naval Comdr. in Chief by the Govt.

of India remarking that if H Ex is of opinion, the occasion is one which will require his presence in China, the Presdt. in Col. would not wish that either HM's Ships "Wellesley" or "Conway" should be detained in the Bay of Bengal for any purposes connected with operations that may arise out of the present very doubtful position of our relations with the Court of Ava. The Secy. to the Govt. of India at the same time forwards a dispatch from the Offg. Secy. to the HM's Finl. Agents at Canton with copy of the minute of consultn. therein mentioned, determining in consequence of a Public Notification by H.M.'s Officer enjoining in the most urgent terms all British subjects to make immediate preparation for quitting Canton, and setting forth that so soon as circumstances admit of Captn Elliot's retiring to Macao he cannot be responsible for the safety of those who think fit to remain in that City, the Agents had accordingly resolved for moving the HM's Agency temporarily to Macao, until matters are placed upon a firmer and more respectable footing—and that they intended regulating their movements from time to time by those of the Chief Supt.

H Torrens

Simla,
the 10th July 1839.

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(Ref. : — Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 395—439).

Newsletter 12 : July 29, 1839

Lahore

27th June

From a newsletter, received at Peshawur and transmitted, by Lt Col Wade, of the annexed date, it appears that Bhaees Govind Ram and Ram Sing, the 2 Faqueers,¹ Jemadar Koshaul Sing, the two Rajahs² and Deena Nath held a meeting and were unanimous that no confidence could be placed in Koonwure Kurruck Sing and Now Nehal Sing, as regarded their Continuance in possession of the Jageers granted to them by the late Maharaja, determining in consequence to have a confirmatory deed containing the terms "Nussulun bad Nussulun and Botunun bad Botunun" (from Generation to generation & from loin to loin) should be taken from the Koonwurs in question under their seals, according to the regulations of the British Govt. The Aid de Camps of the Durbar acquiescing to the proposal, also had a similar deed prepared, and both parties have come to the determination of acting in concert with each other. The document was prepared to the above purport, but as it has not been sealed with the Seal of Koonwur Kurruck Sing, it was unanimously proposed by the Chiefs that after the burning of the corpse of the Maharaja, the paper should be impressed with the Seal of the Koonwur. All are entertaining fears, it is said, of Koonwur Shere Sing.

13th July

Intelligence contained in Punjabee Ukhbar mention that Raja Dhyan Sing requested permission to send for 500 Horses from Dunga on the Jelum, but the Maharaja observed that he would himself march in that direction after the rains. The Ministers represented that after the death of the late Maharaja, a number of thefts and robberies had been comitted in various parts of the Country, and the Maharaja observed that measures of prevention would be taken after the days of mourning, and that he himself intended to make a tour of his dominions as the late Maharaja used to do. Sirdar Chiet Sing, the Maharaja's borther-in-law, seems likely to diminish his confidence in Raja Dhyan Sing and the latter has been ordered to send for Koonwur Now Nehal Sing, the Raja has accordingly requested the Koonwur to come to Lahore, provided Col Wade permits him; but Bhaee Govind Ram has

1 2 *Fuqueers* : Reference is to Fakir Aziz-ud-Din and Fakir Imam-ud-Din, the two elder sons of Sayyid Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din.

2 *Two Rajahs* refer to Raja Dhian Singh, the Prime Minister, and his son Raja Hira Singh.

written to him to return forthwith to look after affairs at Lahore. The influence that Bhaee Ram Sing and Govind Ram enjoyed in the Durbar during the Maharaja's life time, seems now in wane. The Rajas (Dhyan Sing and Heera Sing) are all powerful. The Ministers in general believe K Now Nehal Sing to be possessed of superior qualifications to his father, for the duties of the State; but the Rajas propose to themselves to govern the Country through the imbecility of Kurruck Sing. Raja Dhyan Sing at present administers affairs in an energetic manner calculated to repress disturbances. He is feared by all the Civil and Military officers. Raja Heera Sing reported that Pertap Sing, son of Koonwur Shere Sing was at Amritsir, and wanted to come to Lahore.

R/15th July

It was reported that Koonwur Shere Sing had returned to Vuttala from Mookeireean³—that he was desirous to pay his respects to the Maharaja's ashes at Byrowal, and afterwards to go to Lahore, or, to return to Vattala. Mehan Sing Thanadar at Umritser also reported that the Koonwur had sent a few of his officers to meet the ashes, and was himself prepared to attend and observe the ceremonies.

R/16th July

On being announced that Koonwur Shere Sing was prepared to come to Lahore, Jemader Koshaul Sing enquired who would be deputed to conduct him in on his arrival, but received no answer. On the 9th July Bhia Aflatoon reported the arrival of the Koonwur at the Aubdhoreewala, and requested that Raja Soocheyt Sing or Dhyan Sing should be dispatched to conduct him in—Jemadar Koshaul Sing urged the propriety of this request, and after a consultation with the Ministers, Raja Soocheyt Sing was deputed for that purpose. On the Koonwur's arrival, he spoke in private with the Raja (Dhyan Sing) for a long time, and having taken some written documents, and solemn oaths from the Raja went with him into the Fort and joined in the ceremonies with the Maharaja Kurruck Sing. After the distribution of goods to Brahmins, the Maharaja returned with the Koonwur and held his durbar. The Koonwur was asked what were his motives in having proceeded towards Kangra, he replied that he only intended to make a tour towards Kothahur, that hearing of the late Maharaja's death, he had retraced his steps immediately, that misrepresentations should not be listened to, and that had he entertained adverse thoughts he would not have so freely appeared in the Durbar with his son. The Ministers testified the truth of the Koonwur's assertions.

Dera Ismael Khan

It is mentioned in an Ukhbar from this place that a person named Moolan

³ i. e., Mukerian.

Shadee had lately returned from Candahar who reported that all the Chief Dooranees have come over to Shah Sooja, that Yar Mahd Khan Barakzye (one of the relations of Dost Md Khan) having on a former expedition of the Shah's into Khorasam, sent his Brother Jalindur Khan to the King, had incurred the displeasure of the Cabool Chief and that Jalindur Khan happening to go to Cabool was killed by that Chief. It is also said that Prince Kamaran of Herat had sent his men to apprehend the Candahar Chiefs who fled from Girrishk on the approach of the British Troops, and are supposed to have fled to Persia and that Dost Mahomed has strengthened the Fort of Ghuzni, but he can do nothing, for his troops consisting principally of slaves, are expected to prove treacherous. This news conveyed by the Moolan was corroborated by another party of Merchants. The Ukhbar further states that there is an unfavorable report at Dera Ismael Khan regarding the Lahore Ruler and that Dewan Sawun Mull is going to raise troops, though his intentions are unknown. From reports communicated by travellers it appears that the roads are infested with robbers. A letter received from a Surburrally at Tonk mentions that people are much afraid of Illadad Khan, son of Sarwur Khan, who is engaged in plundering; and some collisions having taken place there between him and Now Nehal Sing's retainers.

Peshawur

The news from this quarter contained in Punjabee Ukhbars mention that Sirdar Lehna Sing Mujeethia was sent to request Col Wade to allow the relief of the Khas Troops who had been long on Service. The Col was with some difficulty prevailed upon to comply with this request, but ordered that these troops should not leave the ground before those to be substituted have joined from Sirdar Tej Sing's Camp on the Attock. Sirdar Tej Sing was therefore ordered to send the Troops immediately to relieve the Khas Troops. Col Wade requested Now Nehal Sing to send a reinforcement to Shahzadeh Mahomed Saleh⁴ at the Doaba which the Koonwur immediately ordered Peer Mahomed to do. Shahzadeh Timor with 200 Sowars & 500 Mahomedan Sepoys from Raja Golab Sing's Camp had been subsequently dispatched to assist the Shahzadeh Mahod. It is also stated that the Battalions of Rajas Golab Sing and Soocheyt Sing will soon enter the Jumrood Fort.

From the Peshawur news it appears that firing has commenced between Col Wade's Camp and the Afghans, apparently with some loss to the enemy. But Saadut Khan who had taken refuge under a rock by the river side, continued secure there. At sunrise on the 9th July Saadut Khan commenced firing again. The Col applied to Koonwur Now Nehal Sing to send some

⁴ *Mahomed Saleh*, son of Prince Hashim, was a member of the royal entourage of Shah Shuja. An enthusiastic youngman and an efficient military commander, he was of great help to the Shah in his restoration to the Kabul throne.

troops towards Gudhee against Saadut Khan⁵, the Koonwur instantly ordered Hookum Sing Mulvae⁶ & Futteh Sing Mujeethia with 2 guns and troops as desired by the Col to apprehend that personage.*

*N. B. Private intelligence confirms the rumour of Col Wade's being partially engaged.

Financial

The Resident in Scinde in a letter to Mr Bell dated the 19th June forwards Return of bullion and foreign coins now lying in the mint at Tatta—5,90,228, and tendering the whole or any portion of it he may think fit to call for in aid of his pecuniary transactions in Upper Scinde. Reports his having sent to Sukker 115 boxes consg. of Crs. Rs. 21,50,000, likewise 202 boxes of Syce Silver—Rs. 10,03,432. The above sums were exclusive of the 10,00,000 worth of Specie and Bullion belonging to H M Shah Sooja-ol-Moolk.

11th July

Mr Clerk in a private letter states there are 10,00,000 of Rs. lying at Ferozepore, provided sometime ago for the probable use of the Army of the Indus. There are besides 5 Lakhs to spare in the Loodianah Treasury. The Amritsar Merchants are prepared to remit any amount to Cabool at a fair rate of Exchange (100 Cabool Rs. against 72 Cos. Rs.) the moment Dost Mahomed Khan's influence has ceased in the Bazar of Cabool. Until then no man can pretend to give Bills in favor of the Army that any Merchant there dare to honor.

Upper Scinde

1st July

Brigr Gordon reports that the detachments are now comfortably in quarters, and as healthy as can be expected. Europeans and natives have been warned not to expose themselves in the Sun. In the event of operations taking place in that neighbourhood against the Beloochees in the ensuing cold weather, he is of opinion that an increase to the Force would be desirable, in a Regt. of N I, a Company of Golaundauz, and as many local cavalry as can be collected, the two former may perhaps, he thinks, be drawn from Lower Scinde. States being informed by Lt Eastwick that the Commt. Grain from Rajhan was attacked by the Beloochees and that the notorious Jukeaner Chief was killed by one of our Savars, and that another Chief, Joanee, had been carried off by the Cholera.

5 *Saadut Khan*, a nomad chief who held the fortress of Lalpura in the vicinity of the Khyber pass. He refused to cooperate with the British and showed active hostility towards Shah Shuja. Wade, therefore, drove him out of his castle into the remote hills, and handed over the chiefship of Lalpura to one of the rival nomadic leaders, Tura Baz Khan, from whose father Saadut Khan had usurped the leadership.

6 *Hookum Sing Mulvae* (or Malwai) son of Sardar Dhanna Singh, a resident of Mowran Kalan in Nabha state, which belonged to the so-called Malwa region of the Punjab.

25th June

Mr Bell expresses his conviction that no doubt whatever remains of the Ameers of Hyderabad being at present in communication with Mihrab Khan of Kelat and engaged in intrigues of a nature hostile to the British Govt. And if Mihrab Khan were to take the field, Mr Bell fully believes that he would be immediately supported by the Ameers of Hyderabad. Every item of intelligence regarding the proceedings of the Ameers which reaches him, affords some fresh proof of their hostile intentions. Ahmed Khan whose reappointment to the office of Minister, Mr Bell reported in his letter of the 18th June, arrived at Larkhana three days ago. The tribe of Beloochees to which he belongs, a very numerous and powerful one, occupies that district, and Ahmed Khan is said to be mustering as many of them as he can afford to keep together in a body.

Lower Scinde

15th June

The Asstt. Resident in Charge of Scinde Resdy. Hyderabad reports in a letter of the annexed date, that their Highness the Ameers have not to the best of his knowledge by their acts evinced the least degree of hostility towards the British Troops in Scinde, and assures that up to the present hour the Ameers have not forgotten themselves so far as to issue orders for their soldiery to harass our Troops whatever their former intentions may have been.

Muscat

8th June

The Native Agent at Muscat reports that a *Batell*⁷ belonging to one of the Sheikhs of Bahrein arrived on the 28th of May bringing intelligence that a messenger from Koorshed Pasha proceeded to Abdoola Bin Ahmed at Husan and thence to Bahrein, with which a communication had been opened and that Sheikh Abdoola Bin Ahmed had agreed to pay to Koorshed Pasha the tribute he used to give to Fysul.

On the 6th June messengers arrived from Saad Bin Mutluck bringing letters to the address of the Imaum and His Highness's sons—Amongst these there was a letter from Koorshaed Pasha to the Imaum. This letter stated that he (Koorshed Pasha) had sent Saad Bin Mutluck to remain in Bureim and govern Oman, and requested the Imaum to assist him to the utmost of his power. The answer returned by the sons of the Imaum was in substance that they could afford no assistance whatever to the individual in question.

2d. July

The Secy. to the Govt. of Bombay forwards translation of a letter from the Imaum of Muscat to the address of the Hon'ble the Governor, stating

⁷ *Batell*: a countrymade boat.

that he has received information that an army from Mahomet Ali Pasha⁸ has appeared in the Arab Country—and that it is his intention to demand some assistance from his Highness and requesting advice as to the course which he should adopt should such an application be made to him. In reply HH was advised to resist the Pasha's demands to the utmost and to do all in his power to preserve the integrity and independence of his dominions—but no hopes have been held out to H H of any assistance being afforded to him by the British Government.

Joudhpore

12th July

Col Sutherland in a private letter notes that preparations for the force against Joudhpore are progressing rapidly; the Ordnance would all be ready by the middle of next month and so he trusts will be Commissariat, and states that there is an unusual degree of tranquillity all over Rajpootana with the exception of some parts of the Jyepore territory which he attributes to certain parties agitating against that administration. The general tranquillity, says the Col., arises partly from our proceedings in the Joudhpore question, partly from a great number of the plunderers being with him calling on for Justice & partly from the manner in which the Kote plunderers were struck down, and from the very efficient manner in which Captns Dixon and Maling⁹ perform their duty.

Nipal

The conduct and spirit of the Durbar in regard both to internal and external affairs continues much as heretofore. In reference to Home Affairs the same disposition to prosecute old wrongs and to rake up old grievances still exists in conjunction with repacious schemes for the amassing of money—whilst in relation to external politics, neither the conviction of a coming crisis in our affairs nor the determination on the Durbar's part, hostilely to avail itself of this crisis, appears to have relaxed. Bhim Sen has been brought in again to Chathmandoo, as well as Ex-Deo the Raj Baid—The life of the former continues to be eagerly sought by the Kala Pandey's, it is feared he may now fall a victim to their jealousy and revenge. The Raja seems still to submit almost passively to the impulses of the Queen and of Ram Jung—the latter still evades all ostensible responsibility—but at the coming Panjancee his position must be rendered less equivocal.

Ava

25th May

Captn Macleod reports that no change has taken place in the opinion

⁸ *Mahomed Ali Pasha* was the Khedive (Governor) of Egypt under the Ottoman Turks.

⁹ *Captn Maling* of 68th Native Infantry, was in command of Jodhpur Legion in 1839.

of the public as to passing events. HM's mind continues in a state of high excitement, and he talks of being prepared to meet us and the Siamese together in the Field—He has been energetic in calling forth the Military resources of the country, arming the people, exercising his soldiers, teaching them to fire with precision and practising his Artillery in various ways and collecting large stores of warlike munitions. The official announcement for the Princes to proceed to Rangoon was publicly read on the 17th May, and as far as the etiquette and the regulation of the Court are concerned nothing further is required to enable them to take their departure. It is said that they are rather adverse to quit the Capital, but on what grounds, it is not known. The Prince of Prome held a consultation with the Ministers in consequence, determining to petition the King to cancel the orders for their proceeding to the Southward; but the result has not transpired. They are not at all anxious apparently to take the field. Since the promulgation of the order on the 17th, preparations have been making for the progress of the Princes to Rangoon and Bassein, and various officers have been dispatched from Umreepoora with bodies of men to make the requisite arrangements on the way and at the Towns for their reception. From information received from a Burman it appears that the Princes are not to go down immediately in consequence of the weather and the near approach of the Monsoon below. The postponement, although Capt'n M Places no reliance on it, he conceives to be made chiefly with the view of misguiding us, that Govt. may not take alarm, and take adequate measures to be prepared for them on all points. General Shine Dok, an old follower of HM, started in state on the 19th May for Rangoon, taking with him a large body of men. He is said to be detached on various duties, amongst others that to block up the entrance of the Rangoon river. It is said that the King is having a number of Gun boats built—and it was also reported to Capt'n M that great preparations have been made at Rangoon for war, and a very large force collected in Pegu.

In consequence of the nature of Capt'n. Macleod's reports regarding Burmese movements rendering it desirable that the sanctioned addition to the floating Estabt. of the Province should be prepared as expeditiously as possible. Mr Blundell, the Commr. reports his having authorised an advance of Rs. 500 beyond the sum last given for building Gun Boats. He has accordingly been able to obtain 2 excellent large strongly built boats, well adapted for carrying a heavy Gun, and conveying Troops. He has also thought it necessary to retain on hand the armed Schooner "Geo. Swinton"—and in order to keep up the communication with the Southern Provinces, a small vessel called the "Brilliant" has been engaged. On the suggestion of Brigr Hillier, Mr Blundell reports having sanctioned the construction of a strong palisade round the premises recently purchased for the Coml. Dept. as he thinks it expedient that every care should be taken for the security of the extensive Govt. Stores collected at Moulmein in the now apparently probable event of a Burmese Force assembling on that Frontier. Conceiving that in the above event

some light fast pulling armed Canoes may be found very useful, states having authorized the purchase of two, which he intends to arm with a small Brass Gun each, and attach them to the Talain Corps, now complete in its strength and ready for any service. Mr B at the same time assures Govt. of allowing no parade being made of the means collected at Moulmein for offensive or defensive measures against the Burmese.*

Simla,
the 20th July 1839.

H. Torrens
Depy. Secretary to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref :—Foreign Department, Miscellaneous, Volume 331, pp. 440-468)

***Orders, Replies & Observations**

The disposition of the Govt. of Ava is to violate its engagements and to try the issue of renewed hostilities with us on the instant at which it finds an opportunity which appears favourable. No efforts have been omitted which could conciliate confidence, or give undoubted proof of our good faith and regard for Peace. Yet from the first, the Burmese Govt. has been unfriendly, and it has in several cases withheld from us the ordinary justice which, as a neighbouring nation, we had the clearest right to demand—Latterly its measures have been of the most equivocal character; the intended appt. of the three Princes, with considerable armies, to the command of the Frontier Provinces, is a step which, according to all the usages of the country and in the universal belief, is connected only with hostile motives and objects. We ought now at once to prepare ourselves against the utmost efforts of their mingled presumption and hatred. While however the necessity for preparation is admitted it is equally the Govr. Genl's decided conviction not only on general grounds of policy, but also looking particularly to the emergencies which at present press on the Govt. of India that we should employ every effort to escape the occasion for a resort to hostilities with Ava in the coming season. Timely preparation will indeed be so far from interfering with the pursuit of this object that it may prove the most effectual means of promoting it.

*Now at Moulmein	2	With regard to our General Military means we could not
From Ceylon	1	at present furnish above 7* European Corps, and at the most
From Madras	3	13** comparatively weak Battns. & measures have been
From Bengal	1	taken to concentrate the 6 disposable Genl. Service Corps
	7	at convenient stations in Bengal. The Presdt. in Cl. has been
**Now at Moulmein	2	desired to provide whatever more may be necessary &
From Madras	5	expedient & it has been suggested that the Govt. of Madras
From Bengal		be authorised to prepare the necessary equipments, and be in
(General Service Corps)	6	readiness to provide the requisite supplies for a force of 5
	—	European and at least 10 Nat. Regts. with suitable Arty. and
	13	a Regt. or more of Cavy. for possible operations in the South

of Ava—and that the Comdr. in Chief of the Madras Presy. be fully informed of the plans & operations of the Bengal side, & invited to correspond with Mr. Blundell & Brig. Hillier on all the details necessary for a perfect understanding settlement of the movements of the Southern Column. The Madras Govt. has been also apprized that it is our first aim & object to avoid, or at least to postpone such a war. And it is hoped that by the impression which a knowledge of our preparations must produce on the Burmese Councils they will effect our purpose of warding off a rupture altogether by arresting a course of policy, leading too probably, in its ultimate results, to violations of our Territory, and other infractions of those essential rights which no nation can consent to sacrifice.

Newsletter 13 : July 30, 1839

Lahore

18th July

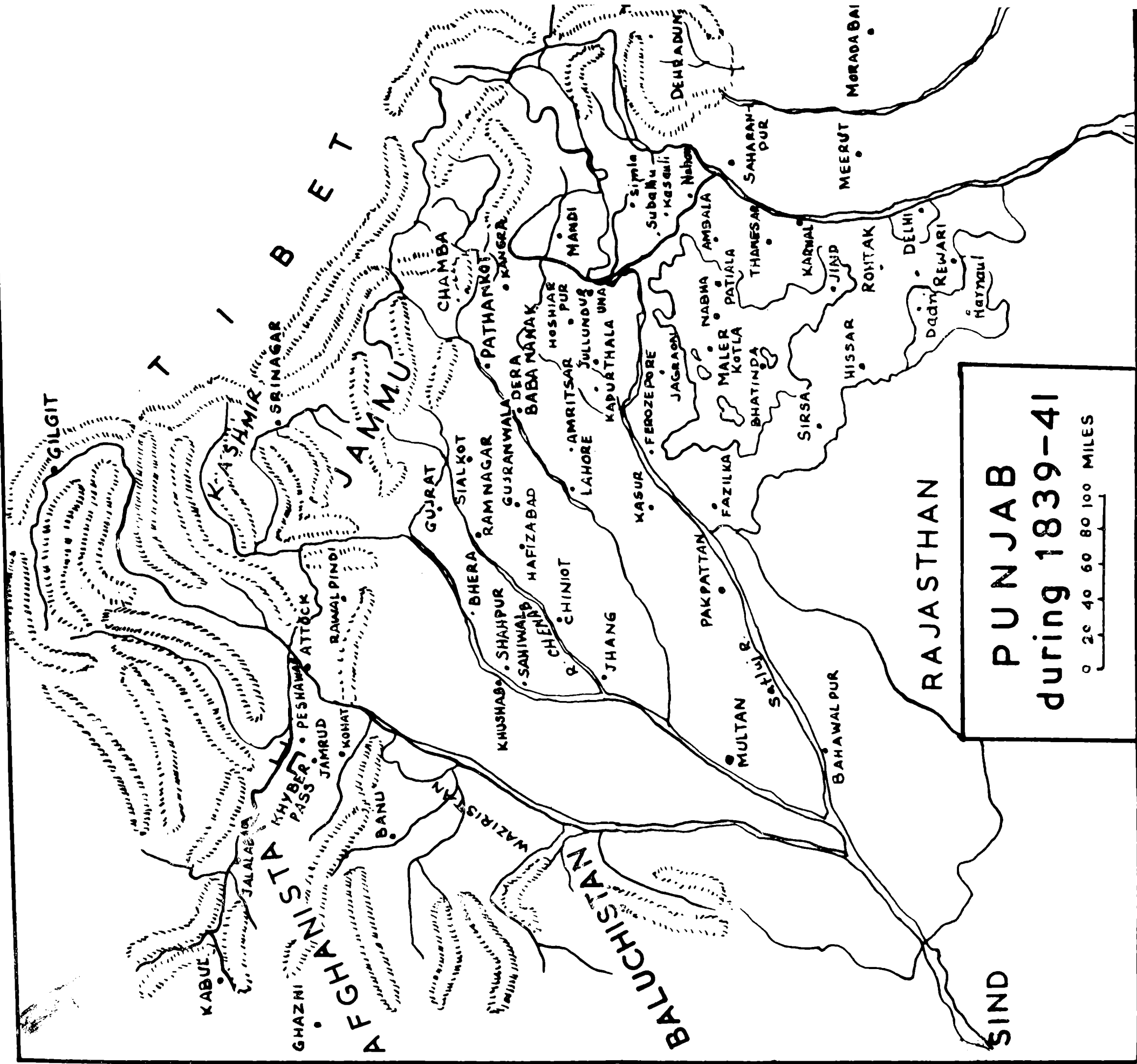
The Punjabee Ukhbars state that the Maharaja¹ went out an airing accompanied by the Rajas and Koonwur Shere Sing and there seems to exist at present great unanimity between all of them. The Rajas propose to send Shere Sing to Peshawur. Koonwur Now Nehal Sing having issued some orders respecting political matters at Peshawur, Raja Dhyan Sing has sent a Perwannah sealed by the Maharaja, prohibiting him from any interference with the political business, but with permission from the Durbar, and desiring him to attend in future only to the military duties.

24th July

The Maharaja ordered Bhaee Govind Ram to take 50,000 Rs. towards building a tomb for the late Maharaja. The Ludvah Chief recommended that it should be constructed after the design of the Jehanghire's tomb on the other side of the Ravee. Raja Dhyan Sing observed that such a building would not cost less than 25 Lakhs of Rs. It was then remarked that 25 Lakhs were not too much to disburse on a monument to the memory of so great a founder of the Sikh power—2 Lakhs have subsequently been ordered to be disbursed. General Martabur Sing wrote from the neighborhood of Deena Nuggar a letter of condolence, and expressing his anxiety to visit the Durbar. Amongst the many loose rumours which are afloat there is one that Koonwur Now Nehal Sing has made all the Sirdars about him sign a document confirming Maharaja Kurruck Sing's succession and his own "Mooktaree" or ministry, and that he has also issued a Perwannah to all the Sirdars at Lahore to defer the ceremony of "Tilluck" to his father till his return to that City—and to consider themselves responsible for the preservation of all the Jewels, Treasures, and Horses etc; left by the late Maharaja, of which he would take an account on his return. Raja Dhyan Sing is said to have been disconcerted on hearing of this Perwannah. The ceremony of "Tilluck" has been deferred till the month of October. Regarding the state of parties at Lahore it is said that Bhaees Ram Sing and Govind Ram, Missers Beilee Ram and Ram Kissen,² though keeping up appearances with Dhyan Sing, are in reality attached to Koonwur Now Nehal Sing—Dewan Dena Nath is any body's. The Fuqueers

¹ Reference is to Maharaja Kharak Singh.

² *Ram Kissen* (Ram Kishan) was one of the four Misser brothers, the eldest of whom was Beli Ram; the other two, Rup Lal and Sukh Raj, also enjoyed the patronage of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.



PUNJAB
 during 1839-41
 0 20 40 60 80 100 MILES

keep neutral. Sirdars Ajeet Sing, Jewunt Sing and Attar Sing remain partizans of the Raja. On the 16th July a title was conferred on Koonwur Shere Sing, of which the following is a translation—"Liked by the Great God, reformed by the true Almighty, bright in appearance, of clear understanding, my Brother, my cleverest, and the strength of my arms, Brother Shere Sing Jee."

23rd July

Mr Clerk in a private letter mentions that nothing can be more cordial than the reconcillation is at present between Kurruck Sing and Shere Sing. The latter on being introduced deposited his arms, said they had been presented to him by their Father, in whose service he was ever ready to use them, and that he would now do as he might be bid with these or any others that his elder Brother might think proper to restore to him. They then embraced, Kurruck Sing put on the Koonwur's sword and shield for him—and when he rose to retire, ordered that guards and Doorkeepers should understand that the Koonwur was to be permitted to come and go by day or night, when he pleased, without question.

28th July

Koonwur Shere Sing has removed to the Aloowalla's house in the City. General Ventura was ordered to attend to Col Wade's requisitions. Sirdar Mungul Sing accused Cheyt Sing in the Durbar of having embezzled lakhs of Rs. from Maharaja Kurruck Sing's Estates. Words ran high, and they were about to draw their swords when Raja Dhyan Singh interposed. Bhaee Govind Ram reported that Raja Dhyan Sing had addressed a letter to Koonwur Now Nehal Sing, describing his diligence in the discharge of the State duties after the late Maharaja's death; his strict care of the Treasury and the Troops; and that he should be prepared to go to Benares, conscious of the Koonwur's displeasure arising from the misrepresentations of interested parties. It having been reported that Meean Ruttun Chund³ and Pirthee Chund were in a state of rebellion in the Hills—that they had assembled about 2,000 Horse and Foot and having arrived at Nuggrouth⁴ had plundered two or three places, Raja Dhyan Sing obtained orders to appoint Mehan Sing and Jussah Sing with 500 Sowars and 5 Guns to quell the insurrection and Sirdar Runjour Sing⁵ was sent with 500 Sowars to cooperate with these officers. The Rajas of Mundee and Chumba were also ordered each to furnish 1,000 Horse and Foot, the Thannadars of Hurreepore & Noorpore

3 *Ruttun Chund* (or Rattan Chand Darhiwala) one of the celebrated courtiers of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who held charge of the postal services of the state in 1829 and was granted a substantial jagir in lieu thereof.

4 *i.e. Nagrota.*

5 *Runjour Sing* was the youngest son of Dasa Singh Majithia by a hill woman, and a half-brother of Lehna Singh Majithia.

500 each, and likewise all the Hill dependencies were called upon to furnish troops for the same purpose. A Proclamation has been issued to the Hill people describing the punishment that would result to any who joined the rebels. Kishen Chund⁶ Vakeel reported that Col Wade was much displeased with Genl Ventura. The General was ordered to obey Col Wade implicitly and to join his Camp.*

*The ashes of the Maharaja accompanied by his Escort were received with Military houses⁸ at Loodianah and have been in like manner met with every shew of deep regret and reverence by the authorities of the British Govt. and of independent States on the arrival of the procession at the Frontier of their respective Territories. A Rissalah of 1st Local Horse and a Capt of the 20th Regt. Bengal NI accompany the procession to Kunkur where the Escort will halt, leaving the procession to proceed with the ashes to Hurdwar.

General Relations of the Punjab

Captn Nuthell of the Commissariat has been appointed to the charge of collecting provisions for the Army on its return through the Punjab. He has now left Ferozepore with a Convoy of 13 lakhs of Rs. in money, a quantity of rum and Medical Stores which are to go on via Lahore to Peshawur. Capt Nuthall will in all probability remain at Lahore for the completion of his Commissariat arrangements, while Capt Burn⁷ and Lt. Caulfield of the Bengal army who are attached to the Peshawur Mission will go on with the Convoy to its appointed destination. Capt N has been extremely successful in contracting for the delivery of grain and stores at various points along the Frontier of Peshawur by giving over to the Contractors the grain and other stores collected at Ferozepore, and stipulating for similar quantities being available at stated places after a fixed period on payment of a certain sum pr. Md. for transport costs.

A mission of condolence and congratulation from the Govr Genl to Maharaja Kurruck Sing will leave Loodianah on or about the 20th of August, and will consist of Mr G Clerk, Pol. Agt. at Umballa and Offg. Pol. Agt. Loodianah, the H'ble Capt Osborne, Mily. Sect. to the Govr. Genl. and Captn Bruce Nichell, Capt Comdt. of the Infy. Battn of the Gwalior Contingent. These Gentlemen are charged with presents suitable to the occasion and advantage will of course be taken for the arrangement of any matters conducive to a confirmation of the good understanding between the States and the general interests of both of them.

6 *Kishen Chund*, Vakil of the Lahore Darbar at Ludhiana who succeeded in maintaining good diplomatic relations with the British. Prince Nau Nihal Singh granted him the substantial estate of Rajpura and its adjoining areas and the title of 'Rai'.

7 *Capt H P Burn*, of the 1st Native Infantry, was appointed to the Peshawar mission in September 1839 and procured supplies for the Army of Indus in the Khyber region.

8 *Military houses* : probably 'military honours.'

Dera Ismael Khan*24th July*

An Ukhbar from this place mentions that Dewan Sawun Mull, in consequence of a misunderstanding between him and Raja Dhyan Sing, is raising Troops at Mooltan, Ahmed Khan Khunil has been deputed with an orderly to the Dewan from Lahore with orders to settle him in the Mooltan Territory.

Mr Gordon's proceedings at this place have been of much interest and not unsuccessful; he had succeeded in discovering another Pass besides the Goloree, leading through the Sooliman Hills to Cabool. It is called the Tawa Pass⁹, about 20 Coss below Dera Ismael Khan, easy, open & leading through a part of the country inhabited by Tribes friendly to the Lohanees, the leading Merchants among whom are very anxious to enter into engagements for the transport of Stores. One in particular, by name Lall Khan, an intelligent and apparently enterprising person, has declared to Mr Gordon that the route through the Tawa Pass is perfectly known to the Lohanees, and is ordinarily frequented by them. The only Mountain tribe whom they have to dread attacks from on that route, being the Vizerees, a powerful tribe, whose principal seat is however about the Goloree Pass, and who never attempt to plunder in Tawa except in comparatively inconsiderable numbers and in a desultory manner. These people even might be influenced and conciliated by means of a Chief named Alladad Khan, ex-Nawab of a place called Tonk on the Mooltan frontier, who has connected himself by marriage with some of the leading Vizerees, and who himself again is wholly influenced by the Peer of Shah Bhawadeen's Shrine in Mooltan, an influential family of hereditary peers, or holy men, possessing considerable property and influence in the country. These persons have attached themselves wholly to Mr Gordon, and with management much might be effected through their Agency for the purpose above named. But Alladad Khan is unfortunately in an avowed enmity to the Sikh Govt., and so late as the period of Lt Mackeson's march to Cohat hostilities were going on between him and the troops of Dewan Sawun Mull, the Governor of Mooltan. He is moreover now constantly engaged in predatory attacks on the low Country and may be considered as a determined and dangerous disturber of the tranquillity of the Frontier. On this account it has been deemed inexpedient to encourage Mr Gordon in his intercourse with this person, and he has been directed to devote his efforts to effecting by means of the Lohanees the passage of Stores through the Tawa Pass in preference to attempting any other route at present. He has however been allowed full permission to make use of the services of Syuds and persons of reputed sanctity along the frontier, for the purpose of

9 *Tawa pass* leads over the Hindu Kush from the Ghorbund valley to Surkhat. Its ascent from the south is by the Dara Farinjal and descent by the Ashraf Dara. The path leading to it was rated difficult for pack animals and considered safe for persons on foot only.

facilitating his operations. The individuals of this class possessing a degree of extreme influence over all the Mussulman tribes along the borders of Afghanistan & Beloochistan.

Peshawur

18th July

From the Peshawur news it appears that Col Wade with some officers marched from Tehkal to Muchtee¹⁰ and bombarded the place—the people fled to the Hills, and the Afghans having concealed their property took refuge under a rock from whence they continued firing their Matchlocks. It is also stated that the people of Muchtee had subsequently submitted to Captn Ferris. The Colonel announced his intention of attacking Ali Musjid and Jellalabad, and requested the Sikh Officers to exert themselves—“but Genl Ventura proposed to return to Lahore on some urgent occasion.” The Colonel was much displeased at this proposal, and wrote in reply that the least stir of the Troops or of any officer towards Lahore at this time would be seriously noticed.

29th July

Col Wade addressed a letter to Koonwur Now Nehal Sing informing him of the march of the British Troops on the 26th Ult. from Candahar, and requested the appointment of Troops to attack Ali Musjid. The Koonwur having held a Council with all his Sirdars, ordered the Troops to be ready. Genl Ventura, being displeased, transferred the command of the three Battns. Artillery & Horses to Col Sheikh Bussawun,¹¹ and of the Nujeeb Battns and Hill Soldiers to Moner La Font. The Koonwur was desired to act according to Col Wade's requisitions in the attack on Ali Musjid.

9th July

Col Wade reports the arrival of an old servant of the Shah's who says that he and another were sent with letters from H M for the Shahzadeh and himself, but that on their departure from Cabul they were intercepted by some of the sowars of Mahomed Akbar Khan and taken to him to Chahardehi¹² his present encampment, and that to save his life he threw the letters away—after being confined for 4 days and put to every torture to confess who had sent them, they confessed nothing, and were afterwards released. At Ghuzni the Cossid says, there were only about 600 men, and that he saw very few

10 *Muchtee* (Muchnee) was a ferry over the Kabul river at a place where it entered the plains of Peshawar. Here the river flows through a narrow gorge and its current is strong, both for men and animals.

11 *Col Sheik Bussawun* commanded one of the Sikh contingents that collaborated with the British and Shah Shuja during their march upon Kabul. He was presented a sword for the excellent services rendered by him to the British cause at Ali Masjid.

12 *Chahardehi* (Chahardeh), a village situated midway between Dhaka and Jalalabad.

troops at Cabool, that Afzal Khan¹³ was still at that place, but intended soon to proceed towards Ghuzni, that on leaving Cabool, the Cossid found the whole country between it and Jullalabad in a state of insurrection in favour of the Shah—that Mahomed Akbar was still at Chahardehi and had about 1,000 Sowars, and about an equal number of footmen besides 6 pieces of Artillery—Col W in submitting the above states that Mir Afzal Khan in Gandamak, who made an early offer of his adherence to him is now actually engaged in hostility with Mohd. Akbar's troops and in cutting off the communication between Jellalabad and Cabool. The success of his exertions to serve the King have obliged Mahomed Akbar Khan to detach a part of his own Force to coerce him. The Loghan Chiefs, who are favourable to the Royal cause, have also risen against Dost Mahomed & are now actively employed in harassing the enemy up to the gates of Cabool. With reference to the declaration of the Khyber Chiefs that they would give hostages of their good faith when Col W appeared in the vicinity of Jamrood, and that it was now desirable to ascertain what the intentions of Mohd. Akbar Khan were in the event of a demonstration to force the Pass, it appeared to the Col advisable that no delay should take place in occupying the Pass in some strength; he accordingly erected four stockades supporting one another commanding the principal entrance to the Pass and securing at the same time a communication with Futtehgurh, where he has formed an encampment of the Troops which had been placed at his disposal by the Maharaja specially for such service as the present. The enemy made their appearance on the neighbouring heights for the first few days & sent some Juzzailchees¹⁴ to fire into the Stockades but finding their attempts useless, they withdrew altogether from the place and afterwards the Khyberees of the Kuki Khail tribe, including Abdur Rahman, signified their desire of treating with him. An agreement was entered into with them to the effect that in payment of the arrears due from the Sikhs, the water, which they had stopped several days before, should be supplied—that though they could not wholly throw off their connection with the garrison at Ali Masjid while Dost Mahd. remained in power, they would engage that they should not leave the Fort, and they would be responsible that the Khyberees refrained from plundering our Camp followers. A few days afterwards Abdur Rahman and all his tribe sent their Reish Sufaid (elders) to the Mulla, by whom they were afterwards introduced to the Shahzadeh and Col W and declared the readiness of the whole tribe to take the part of the Shah whenever their advance and the reduction of Ali Musjid

13 *Afzal Khan*, son of Amin-ul-Mulk, and head of the Mama Khail tribe who lived in the town of Gandmak in the Khyber mountains. He was won over by the British, supported the cause of Shah Shuja and caused considerable harassment to Prince Muhammad Akbar, son of Amir Dost Muhammad, by raising disturbances and cutting off his communications between Jalalabad and Kabul.

14 *Juzzailchees*: jezzail or jazail was a long, heavy musket used for the defence of forts etc. Jezzailchees, were soldiers, armed with these weapons.

should enable them to do so with safety. Col W has also conciliated the Mullgorie, a distinct tribe from the Khyberees which occupies the hills between Ali Musjid and the river, many of whom living near the Pass, offered their services to him and have been entertained. Col Wade, in conclusion, adds "such is the state in which our intercourse with the Khyberees stands at the present date, and could I rely on the ready cooperation of the Sikhs with me, or place full confidence in the new levies, it would be sufficiently encouraging to induce me *without any doubt of the result* to advance at once to the reduction of Ali Musjid and to the occupation of the Khyber Pass."

Army of the Indus

17th June

The Envoy and minister reports the departure of Major Todd & suite with Nujoo Khan Topchee Bashee, the Envoy from the Herat Authorities. The deputation from Shah Kamran consisting of one of his sons & the Vizier's Brother attended by about 1,000 followers, arrived in the neighborhood of Washeen and announced to Mr Macnaghten that they would remain on the other side of the Helmund until they were made aware of the wishes of His Majesty and the Envoy as to their further progress. As it was expected that HM would leave Candahar in 3 or 4 days it was deemed inconvenient that the deputation should prosecute their journey as their presence would have entailed a heavy expense. It was therefore intimated to the deputation that on the score of the trouble to which they would be exposed in following HM to Cabool the gratification of meeting had better be postponed & that they had better wait in their present position until the arrival of Major Todd and his party with whom they could return to Herat. Three of the principal rulers of Seistan have sent Envoys and letters to Mr Macnaghten—they as well as the chief of Lash profess their desire to be guided by the wishes of the British Govt. in settling their differences.

Accounts vary much as to the period at which the Army will leave Candahar, but by putting together the various statements from private and demi-official sources which have reached Simla, it appears most likely that the 1st Divn. of the Army will have moved about the 27th of June. Surwar Khan Lohanee's Convoy had arrived having been brought in by an Escort from Camp, but the number of Maunds of grain which he carried in with him was not nearly equal to the quantity which he was said to be bringing up—however, provisions were daily becoming cheaper and more plentiful. The Shah was encamped a little distance on the Cabool road from Candahar ready to march on the shortest notice.

Financial

10th June

Gold Coins to the value of above 3,90,000 Rs. have been dispatched from Calcutta per "Matabhanga" Accommodation Boat on the 2d. July

consigned to the Collector of Agra via Allahabad. The Acctt. Genl. has been directed by the President, will to suspend the further transmission of gold coins until further orders.

Upper Scinde

Major Genl Nott Camg. in Shawl reports that the Troops now in Shawl consist of the following Corps.—31st & 43 Bengal NI 4 Cos. of the 42 N I., H M Shah Sooja's 1st Infy. Regt. & a Co. of Bombay Arty. with a Dtacht of Local Horse, and points out that after the orders received from the C-in-Chief for Convoys and Escorts shall have been accomplished the only Troops left in Shawl will be 7 Cos. of the 31st Bengal NI., 6 Cos. of HM Shah Sooja's 1st Regt. of Infy., and a Company of Bombay Arty. with a Deta-cht. of Local Horse.

28th June

Capt Bean, Quetta, reports his having succeeded in gaining over to our Cause a Chief of the Burhoe Sattukzye tribe, by name "Jaum", a notorious marauder, and whose followers infest the range of Hills immediately South of the Bolan Pass. This Chief has agreed to bring in as many of his followers as may be required—and to protect persons and property through the Pass even as far as Bagh—and Capt B expresses his belief that no molestation will be offered to travellers passing through that defile if the requisite and timely intimation of approach be given. In a dispatch to the Envoy and Minister he states it as his full conviction that Mihrab Khan is execrated by his subjects and has no hesitation in saying that but little difficulty would be experienced in annexing the Provinces of Shawl and Moostung¹⁵ to the dominions of HM Shah Sooja—any change of Master would be hailed with delight by all the people, but suggests that an influential Chief of the Burhoe tribe should be selected as Governor of Moostung. With respect to the power of offence which may remain to Mihrab Khan after this limitation of his authority, Captn Bean considers him incapable of making any resistance much less of acting on the offensive. In Kelat itself the Khan has some 2 to 300 Golaums & 10 or 12 Guns of small calibre, but nearly all unserviceable from neglect.

14th July

Mr Bell in a private letter states his belief that Meer Morad Ali has been and still is making preparations to co-operate with Mihrab Khan of Kelat in the event of the latter taking the Field in person, as he has avowed his intention of doing. Ali Morad is supplied with money by Meers Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan, and his Confidential Agents assure Mr Bell that he has also received a Lakh and 25 thousand Rs. from Meer Roostum.

¹⁵ *Moostung* (Mustung) : an extensive valley in Baluchistan, to the south of Quetta and Kanhee. About 40 miles in length and 5-8 miles in breadth, and inhabited by a number of Brahui or Brahoee tribes, it had a healthy climate and fertile soil.

He has about 1,800 Afghans and 3,000 Beloochees at Khyrpore, and borrowed 16 Guns from the latter. The services of Ramun, a Boordee robber of great celebrity have been secured. This man has collected a large body of the best horsemen of his tribe, and Mr Bell has sent him to take up a position about 20 miles from Jull on the road to Bagh—to prevent the advance of the followers of Mihrab Khan, a force consisting of about 2,500 men, who are now at Gundava. It is of great importance to prevent these men from advancing further into Kutchee, because, were they to reach Bagh, Mr Bell thinks there would be a general stir throughout Scinde and Kutchee. But if they are detained for another month at Gundava they would separate. Mr B states that Meer Roostum makes many professions of assisting him to put a stop to the system of theft and robbery which is still carried on in that side of the river, but he has never as yet made the slightest attempt to do so. All this may arise from natural indolence & a desire to keep on friendly terms with the other Members of his family. “He has”, says Mr B, “a very venerable appearance and remarkably gentle and conciliating manners. As a personal acquaintance, I find him very agreeable, he has read the works of all the best Persian Authors and converses well.” He has discharged all his Beloochee and Afghan Soldiers, and affects to keep entirely aloof from Meers Noor Mahd. & Nusser Khan.

(Mr Bell has at length been enabled to proceed to Khyrpore in the neighborhood of which the followers of Ali Morad have collected to the number of about 3,000 men. It is right to remark that a considerable difference of opinion exists between Col Pottinger and Mr Bell as to the ulterior designs of the Ameers. Mr B Seems to think that there is a strong war party in Scinde and hostilities although unlikely to occur without some extraordinary exciting cause, might yet be precipitated by any actual or even rumoured reverses in Afghanistan. The Ameers are jealous, credulous and faithless according to Mr Bell’s estimate of their character and it is to be remembered that the Treaty is as yet unratified. On the other hand, Col Pottinger states that he has every reason to confide in the firendly spirit of the Ameers of Hyderabad who, he thinks, are too well aware of their real interest to allow themselves to be drawn into hostile relations with the British Govt. He continues to receive the strongest Assurances of their goodwill, and he is of opinion, that the designs of these Chiefs in any way hostile, he, accustomed to the character of the Scindees and well able to judge of the turn of their minds would not be at a loss to detect the feeling. Col P is unfortunately too unwell to return at present into Scinde; but he continues to keep up from Bhooj where he now is, his relations at Residt. with the Court at Hyderabad. It is enough to state that in any event measures will not be wanting to meet any exigencies which may occur. The Ambassadors from the Ameers to the Govr. Genl. have not yet left Scinde tho’ they are named and their departure daily spoken of.)

Lower Scinde

Lt Leckie¹⁶ in a private letter to Mr Bell of the 16th July reports that the Ameers of Scinde have at length agreed to the terms of the Treaty of 14 Articles and which had been signed and forwarded to Col Pottinger on the 14th by their Highnesses. Meer Sobdar's conduct, he remarks, has been very favourable and that he was the first to set the example to the other Ameers, to sign it. Mr Bell, in forwarding the above, notices that "Meer Morad Ali is the only man in this Country at all likely to run counter now. I say now because Meer Mobarick is dead and the Ameers of Hyderabad have signed the Treaty." Meers Noor Mohomed and Nusseer Khan were very much alarmed and frightened when they heard of their letters to Mihrab Khan having been intercepted.

British Detachment in Persia

This Detachment under Col Shee was on the 15th of May at Bagdad—men and officers in good health. Some annoyance had been given them by insolence on the part of some of the towns-people, but Col Taylor, Pol. Agent in Turkish Arabia, had referred to proper authorities for the remedy of this annoyance and the local Government at Bagdad had supplied a proper escort for the Detachment.

Aden

9th June

Captn Haines, Pol. Agent, reports that the works at Aden are progressing, and expect to be completed in another month and states that the Towns-people and soldiers are healthy, tho' the weather is warm, therm. in tents ranging between 90 & 106 F H which if occasioned by the S W & W winds crossing Mountains and coming in dry hot gusts—the atmosphere is tolerably clear, night not unpleasant, and on the whole to the feeling it is far better than the Hot Weather in the Persian Gulf or the Red Sea, for the body does not feel the same degree of lassitude and oppression—Capt H thinks that European Troops enjoy better health than the natives—When Barracks are erected and the men have their comforts about them, he is confident, it will not be an unhealthy station—The place is tolerably well off for supplies, vegetables are scarce, but grasses are plentiful—Capt H has deemed it advisable for the future welfare and prosperty of Aden to make some reductions in the Custom duties which will encourage trade and increase mercantile speculation without diminishing the revenue. And as the transit duties were very trivial and complained of greatly, states, he has (after maturely considering the advantages and disadvantages) deemed it beneficial

¹⁶ Lt J D Leckie of the Bombay Native Infantry, was appointed in May 1841 Senior Assistant to the Political Agent in Lower Sind, and within a few months, asked to take charge of the Lower Sind Agency.

to the interest of Govt. to do away with all transit levies at the Northern Pass for the present—This arrangement will tend ultimately to the benefit of Aden by encouraging the Bedouins to bring in the produce of Yemen for Export.

11th June

It is the coffee country, and the land from which it is exported—In another letter of the annexed date reports that the country is apparently quiet—and supplies come in without molestation—a Kafilah of Coffee had arrived under an Escort, and 5 interior Sheiks to see Capt'n H. It is the first of any magnitude that has entered and says he will endeavour to encourage it—Reports his having received friendly visits and letters from the Fouthelee Sultaun and other Chieftains in the neighbourhood of Aden, all professing great friendship for the British Govt.

Gwalior

2nd July

The Offg. Resident reports his having communicated to the Maharaja the nature of Baza Bae's reply to His Lordship's proposition that she should accept a pension of 4 Lakhs P. An. The Maharaja and his Ministers merely remarked that Her H, they thought, had no intention to accept the offer which had been made to her, and most probably would not subscribe to that or any other proposition whilst she had funds to enable her to live as she was doing at present. They appeared to think that she preferred affairs remaining in their present unsettled state.

The alleged Agent of Meer Dost Mahd Khan, in confinement at this place, has recently attempted suicide. He remains still in confinement.

Rajpootana

The State generally of Rajpootana is tranquil, more so indeed than has been the case for some time. In Oodypore along an injudicious tax upon the Bheels of the Jungles between Gujarat and that State (being demand for land tax) hitherto unrequired, has led to an insurrection of these people, who, joined by the frontier Grassias¹⁷ have cut up one or two Thannahs of the Ranas and have been successful in various plundering excursions. The preparations for the demonstration on Joudhpore proceed with success and rapidity, while Maun Sing himself shews no evidence whatsoever of a

¹⁷ *Grassia* : in Rajputana, Malwa and Gujarat, the chief of a tribe, claiming revenue from villages. In Mewar, the grassias were of mixed Bhil and Rajput descent, paying tribute to the Rana of Udaipur. The term is said to have come from Sanskrit 'grass', 'a mouthful' and had been applied to designate the small share of the produce of land which these men claimed. In western India, the grassias controlled militia and acted as military chieftains too.

desire to oppose the Army. He is indeed said to have dismissed the Naths, to have turned Jussroop, their principal man of business, out of the City, and to have remanded the Two Thakoors, highest in rank of those who openly adhered to the Naths, to their Estates.

Bithoor

15th July

Capt Manson in a private letter remarks that on a perusal of the depositions he is not disposed to think that Bajee Rao was concerned in the late disturbances in the neighbourhood of Poona and states his having succeeded in apprehending three of the individuals concerned in enlisting armed men in Oude, viz., Nulun Sing, Heera Sing and Babjee Punt.

Nipal

The Resident in Nipal urged by the enreaties of the Durbar has allowed to be put in train under every restriction which circumstances render prudent and judicious, a negotiation for the marriage of the Heir Apparent with a daughter of the Raja of Rewa. It is not however by any means certain that Rewah which makes high pretensions to purity of descent, will be content to give a daughter to the Royal family of Nipal, the genealogy of which is imperfect and spurious.

Items of General Intelligence

Instructions have been issued by HM's Govt. to HM's Minister in Lisbon on the subject of the proceedings of the Portuguese authorities at Goa in reference to Sawunt Waree,¹⁸ and directing him to propose to the Portuguese Govt. an arrangement for transferring their possessions in India to the British Crown. In consideration of the cession of Goa, Demaun and Diu and any other small settlement which Portugal may have or may claim on the Coast of India, Great Britain would take upon herself to satisfy the pecuniary claims of British subjects upon that Govt. which have been the subject of communications between the two Governments amotg. in the aggregate to £ 3,01,856.17.10.

The Iron Steam Boat sent out by the Hon'ble the Court of Directors at the requisition of the Ameers of Scinde has been completed, and she will be dispatched to the Indus immediately the season opens.

H Torrens

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

Simla,
the 30th July, 1839

(Reference :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 471-522).

¹⁸ *Sawunt Waree* (or Sowant Waree) : a princely state, about 200 miles south of Bombay. It was ruled by Sowants, the hereditary deshmukhs of Wari, near Goa, who belonged to the Bhonsla family. In 1819, the entire strip of territory of this state, lying, along the sea-coast was annexed by the British.

Newsletter 14 : August 10, 1839

Lahore

R/ from 1st to 10th August

Intelligence contained in Punjabee Ukhbars mention that Mehna Sing of Cashemere was ordered to continue the usual allowance of 200 Rs. p. day to Koonwur Shere Sing from the revenues of that place for the Koonwur's expences:—Bhaees Ram Sing and Gobind Ram reported that some of the troops of the Jagheerdars were returning from Peshawur without permission. An order was therefore issued to the Jagheerdars to remain there for 2 months longer, and that otherwise they would be punished. Monsr Avitabile was ordered to issue 2 months' pay to the Troops serving at Peshawur. The Troops are said to have been satisfied at learning this—Koonwur Now Nehal Singh's report, enclosing a copy of Col Wade's letter to him urging the appointment of Troops to force the Khyber Pass being received with a request for orders, Raja Dhyan Sing & Jemadar Koshaul Sing were consulted; the Jemadar represented the difficulties of the Pass from which former kings had been repulsed, and suggested the fulfilment of the stipulations of the treaty, and the furnishing of Troops as stated in it. The Treaty was produced, and an answer according to the advice of Azeezodeen, Deena Nath & Govind Ram was written. The Vakeel of Sirdar Lehna Sing represented that Pirtheechund & Ruttunchund had laid siege to the Bhutiar Fort, and that the Troops sent against them had reached the neighbourhood of Nuddoun.

Raja Runbeerchund of Kuttock was ordered to co-operate with Sirdar Runjour Sing to punish the rebels. Capt Faulkes was also ordered to prepare his Regt. to proceed on service towards the Hills. He reported that the Sowars in the Nursing Regt. were disobedient, that they refused to go on parade twice a day, and that they were discontented because they only received 2 months' pay in the year. Raja Dhyan Sing ordered him to remove from the Regt., and that he would be appointed to another. This gentleman was subsequently appointed to the command of 200 men, and orderd to proceed to the Hills and to act under the orders of Runjour Sing.

Ram Sing an officer in the Hills reported that Meeans Pirtheechund and Ruttunchund had assembled about 4,000 Troops and were joined by the people of Kangra etc; that having plundered the Palum¹ district they had

1 *Palum district* refers to the present Palampur tehsil of Kangra district. It is a hilly area extending from the Dhaola Dhar range in the north, to the Beas in the south and is traversed by a number of tributaries of this river.

proceeded to lay siege to Bhutiar, that he had encountered them with his troops, and after an engagement, 40 or 50 men were killed on each side. He further reported the occupation of the redoubts of Chungur & Bulhar etc. belonging to Sirdar Lehna Sing by these rebels, and urged the necessity of sending more troops against them as any further delay would probably sever some portion of the Hill district from Lahore. Misser Rooplall² was ordered to enlist 500 Sepoys, and to send them against the insurgents. The officers at the Teera and the Hurreepore Forts complained of the encroachments of Pirtheechund and Ruttunchund, their occupation of two Forts belonging to Ajeet Sing Sundhanwalla, and the flight of the garrisons. In consequence of this report Meean Labh Sing³ was ordered to proceed with all expedition to punish them. The officer at Jowalla Mookhee with 200 men, Mr John Home with his 4 Cos; and the Thannadar of Sheikoopoora with his Troops and guns were ordered to march against the rebels and to quell the insurrection. The officer at Kangra requested the arrears of 2 years' pay for the Garrison, and suggested the propriety of satisfying them at a time when the country was so disturbed. Raja Dhyan Sing reported that he had received a letter from General Ventura describing his difference with Col Wade and his consequent return to Peshawur from the Colonel's Camp. In reply the Maharaja ordered him to be advised to make up matters with the Col if possible, otherwise to remain with Now Nehal Sing—the Raja also reported that he ordered (on the 26th July) the foundation of the late Maharaja's⁴ tomb to be laid. It was represented that for the last three years no returns of troops at Mooltan had been received by the authorities. At Raja Dhyan Sing's request 50,000 Rs. were given to Fuqueer Nooroodeen⁵ to repair the ramparts of the City of Lahore. The Khas troops said to consist of 7 Battns and 2 Regts. of Cavy under M Court have arrived near Goojranwalla. Koonwur Shere Sing & Raja Dhyan Sing went out together towards Shah Billawar⁶ and continued talking in private for sometime. There seems great intimacy between them just now. Mr Avitabile's house has been ordered to be furnished for Capt Nuthall's reception.

2 *Rooplal* (Roop Lall) : one of the four Misser brothers, was a good military commander. Along with other members of his family, Roop Lall was arrested and tortured by Raja Hira Singh but was fortunate enough to outlive him. He was released in December 1844 and appointed Governor of Jaska; died 1865.

3 *Meean Labh Sing* : an important Rajput military officer from Jammu, who was a great supporter of the Dogra Rajas. He led an expedition against Attar Singh Sandhanwalla and his accomplices and wreaked vengeance upon them on behalf of Raja Hira Singh.

4 Reference is to Maharaja Kharak Singh.

5 Fuqueer Nooroodeen, (Nur-ud-Din) : youngest of the three celebrated Fakir brothers, the other two being Aziz-ud-Din and Imam-ud-Din.

6 *Shah Billawar* : a summer villa, half-way between the city of Lahore and the Shalimar gardens. It was reserved for the residence of the royal family.

It was reported from Dera Ismael Khan that reinforcements of troops were required in the direction of Tonk. A reply was sent that reinforcements should be marched thither. The Agent of Sirdar Lehna Sing represented that 2 Battns., would be required to expel Pirtheechund & Ruttunchund. Orders were issued accordingly. Rooplall Misser reported that the rebels had levied a "Nuzzurana" of 7,000 Rs. from the Kuttrees of Jowala Mokhee⁷ and had carried off the Guns and Ammunition.

*31st July**

Capt Nuthall arrived at Lahore on the 30th July with the Convoy under his charge, and expresses his conviction that he should meet with every requisite assistance from the Lahore Govt. while on the right bank of the Sutlej, he was waited on by Dewan Narayan Sing of Kussoor who had been deputed by the Maharaja to attend and supply the Camp to Lahore. On approaching that city, he was met by Meer Lall Sing (a connexion of Raja Dhyan Sing), and Raja Uttur Sing with a party of Horse as an Istiqbal, and by these officers, Capt Nathall⁸ and party were escorted to the residence prepared for them by order of the Maharaja. Most friendly enquiries were made regarding the health of H Ldp⁹ and of the Gentlemen on His Ldp's Staff, and many courtesies were exchanged.

In a subsequent letter Capt N reports that on the 1st of August a deputation consisting of Sirdar Wuzeer Sing¹⁰ & Fuqueer Nooroodeen waited on him to escort him to the Durbar. He was accompanied by Capt Burn and Lieut Caulfield. On presenting the Govr. General's Khurreeta to His Highness it was received in a most distinguished manner, and its contents evidently proved highly gratifying to the Maharaja and his Ministers, Capt N adds "that nothing could exceed the kindness and attention with which our party have been treated from the moment of our arrival at this Court."

Peshawur

Koonwur Now Nehal Sing was ordered to make an example of the Sepoys who had quarrelled with Capt Mackeson's followers. From the Peshawur News of 22d July it appears that Col Wade with 4 Cos. of Nujeebs, and Capt Mackeson with his troops had entered the Kafirtungee

*Maharaja Kurruck Sing having ordered that without the Mediation of Dhyan Sing nobody should address him on business, Dewan Sawun Mull, the Nazim of Multan in consequence of a misunderstanding which has long existed between him & the Raja, has begged Now Nehal Sing to accept his allegiance.

⁷ *Kuttrees of Jowala Mookhees* : Khatri bankers and merchants of Jowala Mukhi who wielded great political influence over the local population.

⁸ *Capt Nathall* ; should read Nuthall.

⁹ *HLdp.* 'His Lordship' refers to Lord Auckland.

¹⁰ *Wuzeer Sing (Wazir Singh)* : a cousin of Chet Singh, Maharaja Kharak Singh's favourite counsellor.

pass, and having arrived at a village of the same name had constructed a stockade on the top of a Hill and encamped there—Water and food being carried thither from Jumrood. Mahomed Akbar Khan is at a distance of 7 or 8 miles from Ali Musjid and is too much afraid of the Khyberees to stir out. He has dispatched some of his troops towards Jullalabad and Cabool. The Cabool chief has marched with his Troops and Guns towards Ghuzni. It was rumoured at Peshawur that Shah Sooja took possession of Ghuzni and that the people of the country had declared against Dost Mahomed. Shahzadeh Mahd. Yahee has subjugated the people of Lohgurh.¹¹ Col Wade is encamped within 2 miles of Ali Musjid and will soon occupy it, for Khyberees have promised to put him in possession of that fortress & Jullalabad without a struggle. Moonshee Ruttunchund reported that hearing of the approach of the Shah's troops, a number of the Khyberees were sent for by Dost Mahomed Khan from Ali Musjid to defend Ghuzni. The news writer reported that Col Wade had advanced his Camp to near the Khyber pass, that he had under the repeated orders of Govt. requested Now Nehal Sing to appoint his troops to attack Ali Musjid, that in reply he was reminded by the Koonwur of the stipulations of the treaty and of the promised Contingent of Troops which had already been furnished, and of the 2,000 troops sent to the Col above the amount stipulated in the treaty; and that the Colonel on the receipt of this answer had dispatched Kishen Chund to prevail on the Koonwur to accede to his wishes. The Maharaja having consulted Raja Dhyan Sing, Fuqueer Azeezodeen, Deena Nath and Bhaees Ram Sing and Govind Ram ordered a letter to be addressed to Col Wade requesting him to abide by the provisions of the Treaty¹². Dewan Deena Nath was asked how many troops there were at Peshawur, he replied about 35,000 Horse and foot. Koonwur Shere Sing was consulted as to the mode of proceeding with regard to Col Wade's request, and he urged that every exertion should be made. Now Nehal Sing was accordingly desired to appoint additional Troops to assist the Colonel. The news writer also reported that Col Wade had advanced towards Khyber; that he had arranged his troops in 3 Columns to be led by Prince Timoor, Capt Mackeson and himself & that Now Nehal Sing was requested to divide his troops in 3 Divisions in like manner each to co-operate respectively with the above Columns. The 1st Dn. of the Koonwur's troops amounting to 1,400 Horse and Foot under Sirdars Shian Sing and Beila Singh, the 2d. under Sirdar Lehna Sing & Raja Golab Sing constg. of 4,000 Troops, and the 3rd comprizing, Khasgee Sowars & Sirdar Tej Sing's Battns. to be led by the Koonwur himself.

28th July

A private letter communicates the following particulars of the attack on

11 *Lohgurh* (or Logurh), a considerable tract of territory south of Kabul which extended to the northern slopes of the highland of Ghazni.

12 *The Treaty* refers to the Tripartite (British-Ranjit Singh-Shah Shuja) treaty of 1838.

Ali Musjid, and of the evacuation of that Fortress by the enemy on the morning of the 27th July. On the 25th after driving the enemy from some heights in their front the force under Col Wade came in sight of Ali Musjid. Preparations were made for its attack on the following day. Lieut Mackeson with Lieut Maule (Arty.) and Mons La Font, Comg. a Regt. of the Maharaja's Contingent, got under Arms at day light and advanced along the Hills to the right of the Pass. Col Wade with Dr Lord and other officers did the same on the left, directing their march along a ridge of Hills which led directly towards Ali Musjid, but was separated from it by a deep ravine. With the help of Elephants a Howitzer & a 4-Pounder were got up, but from the great distance they did little more than frighten the enemy. As soon as the force under Col W came abreast of Lt Mackeson's party, so as to be able to aid him with a cross fire, that officer was ordered to advance which he did in very good style carrying a little fort & some hills in front of him, and clearing that whole range so as to save Col W from being flanked. As soon as this was done Col Wade advanced with a Regt. of Sikhs & portions of the Corps raised by Lieuts Dowson¹³ and Hillenden under the command of Capt Farmer¹⁴ & the Sikh Comdt. The ground was very much broken so that the advance was slow. The enemy had thrown up a strong breast work in a very steep hill to the left of their advance, and which as they afterwards found, in a great measure commanded the Fort. Against this therefore their principal attack was directed. After passing the ravines Col W's troops ascended to within about 300 yards of the boorj and breast-work which crowned this hill and sheltering themselves there as well as the few bushes and stones would allow, opened their fire on the defenders. In this state the fire was kept up from about 11 AM until evening fell, the men forming a sort of semicircle along the skirt of the Hill & maintaining their ground with considerable firmness. Towards evening one Company which had occupied a position to the extreme right was run short of ammunition, and the people on the Hill observing their fire to fail made a sudden dash and drove them back on the right flank. "This was an anxious moment", says the writer, "and I confess that looking at it from behind, where I then was with the Howitzer, I doubted whether the panic might not become general amongst such raw Troops. Fortunately, however, a party of about 20 of our own Sepoys who had gone up with Captn Farmer, but had been placed under a ledge of the Hill and not allowed to enter the fight, observing the advance of the enemy, all at once, (and as I believe without any order but that of their Jemadar) threw themselves out in Light Infantry order, and by the exactness of their movements and rapidity of their fire, at once drove back the enemy who were just before pushing very briskly forward. This restored

¹³ *Dowson*, then attached to the Peshawar mission. Later (1846) he held command of the 10th Irregular Cavalry.

¹⁴ *Capt Farmer* was appointed commandant of Prince Timur's levies in September 1839.

things to their old state and as the darkness came on, the troops bivouacked on the same ground throwing up a breastwork in front. Col Wade ordered a gun to be got up by night into a situation from which it could open in the boorj in the morning—returned to Camp about 11 PM., and about 2 AM, on the morning of the 27th were gratified with the intelligence that the enemy had deserted not only the boorj but the fort and were in full retreat. The troops took possession immediately after, and on the following morning, adds the writer, "I had the honor of conducting the Shahzadeh up to view his first conquest, and of planting his flag on the ramparts under a royal salute." Of the troops were killed in action 24, wounded 1297; of the H C Troops killed 1 private; wounded 5; the rest of the casualties occurred in the Sikh Contingent and the Shazadeh's levies. The above particulars are corroborated by an official announcement from Col Wade.*

Cabool

The Cabool news dated the 16th July relates that the Chief informed his brethren and his men of the march of the Shah's troops towards Ghuzni and resigned himself to the will of God for the consequences. Mahomed Afzal Khan & Shumshoodeen Khan reported from Ghuzni that the Shah with European Troops & Artillery was approaching the place—and that if once repelled from Ghuzni there would be no other place to oppose the enemy but Cabool. They therefore requested the Chief to come with his Troops to the defence of Ghuzni. The Chief being disconcerted ordered Mahd. Akbar Khan and the officers towards Chahardehi & Jullalabad to leave some troops to guard the Khyber Pass & themselves to guard the Kabool & Jullalabad roads. The Chief then said his prayers and marched with 2,500 men towards Ghuzni. It is said that the Chief is puzzled for want of confidence in his friends—a Hurkara arrived at Lahore on the 29th July—from the above place and reported

*The Khyber Chiefs had since the capture of the Fort been profuse in offers of allegiance. Lt Colonel Wade intended to halt three or four days to garrison the fort and bring up provisions. He describes it as well-placed but contemptible both as to extent and defence as a place of strength. In a private letter dated the 3d. Augt., Col Wade reports his march towards Cabool, and in order to secure the communication between Ali Musjid and the Sikh Frontier fortress of Futtehghurh, he has left a large force between those two places, besides the Garrison in Ali Musjid itself. The people of the country take in supplies to the Col's Camp, and he has taken measures to secure ample store at Dhakha through the Shinwaries,¹⁵ the Principal chiefs of which tribe are now in his Camp, & responsible for the honourable passage of the Shahzadeh through their limits. Col Wade says that it was currently reported, that the Shah was at Ghuzni on the 21st. Mahomed Afzal Khan had retreated—& Dost Mahd. had fled to Balkh. The Khatba Madheen, according to native report, read, and the Coin struck in the Shah's name at Cabool on the suggestion of Jabbar Khan & the Golam Khana. In the precipitation of his retreat, Mohd. Akbar Khan has been compelled to abandon his Cannon near Jugdalak. It was also mentioned that the King of Bokhara is preparing an Embassy to Cabool.

¹⁵ *Shinwaries* were an Afghan tribe who hailed from the valleys of the Safed Koh and lived for most part south of Jalalabad.

that the British troops had reached the neighborhood of Ghuzni—that Dost Mahomed Khan having sent some of his property and his family towards Bokhara & placing Nawab Jubbar Khan in charge of Cabool, had himself set out with about 10 or 12,000 troops, 825 Guns towards Ghuzni, and that Akbar Khan was with his troops at Ali Musjid together with Saadut Khan—The news from this quarter transmitted by Col Wade state that Akbar Khan was informed that all the Ghuzni tribes acknowledged subjection to the King in the same manner as the inhabitants of Candahar did—and that Dost Mahomed directed Akbar Khan not to stay at Jullalabad but to come to Cabool and protect his family. It is said that the Chief sometimes resolves to meet the Shah out of the Fort of Cabool, and at other times intends to act on the defensive. The inhabitants of Khyber and its neighborhood having heard of the conquest of the Fort of Ali Musjid, are flying to the Hills through fear. Mohd Akbar Khan has left Chahardehi, and taken shelter at the foot of the Hill, called Coh Safed. Dost Mahomed wrote to him stating that he alone should join his family, that he would go to Bokhara, and that if the King of that place should slight him he would proceed to Huj committing his family to the care of Mulla Budderoodeen, a merchant at Bullakh. It was currently reported that the inhabitants of Cabool have resolved to permit the advance army of the King to enter that City as soon as they arrive before it.

Army of the Indus

28th June

The Envoy and Minister reports that HM Shah Sooja-ool Moolk, with a portion of his disciplined Force consisting of the 3d. & 4th Regts. of NI, and the 1st Regt. of Cavalry, together with a Troop of Bombay Horse Arty. left Cabool on the morning of the above date. His Excy. Lt. Genl. Sir J Keane with the Cavy. Brigade, the 1st Brig. of Infy. and a proportion of Artillery marched the day preceding and the Brigs. of Major Genl. Wiltshire and of Brigr. Roberts were to follow on Successive days. Mr Macnaghten anticipates no opposition, and trusts to arrive at Cabool in less than a month. The detention of the Troops has been occasioned by the refusal of the Lohanee Merchants to proceed beyond Candahar; but this detention, he is of opinion, will prove beneficial, as the harvest will be nearly ripe by the time the Troops reach Cabool and every day must add to Dost Mahomad's difficulties, whose affairs appear by the most recent accounts to be nearly hopeless. Sir A Burnes accompanies the Comdr. in Chief. Major Todd and Lt E B Conolly are employed in the direction of Herat. Major Leech is left in Political charge of Candahar, and Capt Macgregor and Lieut J B Conolly remain with the Envoy and Minister. The Town and Territory of Candahar continued to enjoy the most perfect tranquillity, and all classes appear happy at the restoration of the monarchy. Grain is now cheap and abundant. Its scarcity was the only drawback to the general

prosperity. The Envoy and Minister also reports that HM has appointed his Son Futteh Jung (a very fine young man) to the Govt. of Candahar, and he is to be assisted as Deputy by Mahomed Atta Khan Populzye (son of the celebrated Sumundur Khan) who bears universally a very high character and whose attachment to the Royal Cause is unquestionable.

Intelligence has been received by private letters from the Army, under date the 7th July, from Kelat-i-Ghiljye¹⁶, 7 marches on the road to Ghuzni no opposition have been offered of any sort. But news from another quarter mentions a report of the Afghans having collected in some force at Obah, 4 marches from Kelat-i-Ghiljye.

The following is an extract from a private letter from a Military officer of high rank dated, Kelat-i-Ghiljye, 5th July 1839.

“This is a fine valley we are now marching through, and if the country was in a state of good rule, it might be rendered most fertile and productive. The old fort was completely in ruins, commands the high road from Candahar to Cabool, and if properly defended, might successfully oppose a strong force in its progress. There are two beautiful springs in the Fort of the purest and sweetest water which is a great treat after the very indifferent water we have so frequently had, still we have much to be thankful for that so little sickness prevails, or, that considering the nature of the country, and the immense distance we have marched, so little of real privation or distress has been experienced; it’s true that letters have been published of deep and great distress having been experienced, but *facts* have not been adhered to, and matters have been very greatly exaggerated.”

27th June

“Our accounts from Cabool” says Mr Macnaghten in a private Letter “are very satisfactory, and lead us to hope that Jubbar Khan will speedily come over. His coming will be the signal for general defection.” All is quiet in the interior of the country—and the European officers who have had opportunities of conversing with the people represent them as being in

¹⁶ *Kelat-i-Ghiljye* : literally ‘forts of the Ghilzais’ were situated along the right bank of the Tarnak river, a distance of about 89 miles from Kandahar. The principal fort was occupied by a British detachment in November 1841. The Tokhi clan of the Turan branch of the Ghilzais were the chief occupants of the territories around these fortresses. They numbered 12,000 families.

the highest degree satisfied with the change of Govt*.

Upper Scinde

7th July

Captn Bean, in Pol. Charge of Quetta, reports in a letter to the Political Agent Shikarpore with reference to the efficiency of the Brigade at that place as to carriage, provisions and stores, his having been informed by the Comt. Officer that he has 6 weeks' provisions in store with carriage for the same. He at the same time reports the disposition of the tribes occupying the Eastern boundary of Shawl as friendly—to the West are the Burhaweess¹⁷ with whom he is now negotiating and have reason to hope for a most successful result. He has not as yet had any communication with the tribes to the South of the Pass, but hopes through the agency of a chief by the name of "Jam" of the Suttukzye clan (whom, with 50 followers, he has enlisted in the new Corps of Boolan Ranges) to obtain a proportion of the Murees who will be permanently posted at Daddur for the security of the Pass. Indeed this may be looked upon as already effected as Capt B has sent small parties to Daddur who have gone and returned with Stores unmolested and the fact of Captn Liptrap's Detachment having marched through without any the slightest annoyance almost warrants the conclusion. The Achukzye infest the country to the north but being the limits of his district, Captn Bean has not attempted any communication with them. Lieut Bosanquet (who is on duty at Kila Abdoola) has however received instructions from the Envoy and Minister to raise 200 men for the security of the communication with the advance. With reference to the resources of the Country between Kelat

*Accounts since received from Mr Macnaghten dt. Camp Meekeer, 16th July, via Peshawar, represent the whole of that part of the country as in favour of the Shah—adherents are flocking in rapidly and he doubts if Dost Mahomed has a friend in the country, for his character is said to be infamous. In noting the conduct of the Goorkhas in an attack on some hill robbers who fancied themselves inaccessible in their mountain fastnesses, Mr M states that the Goorkhas charged up hill under a heavy fire of Matchlocks, and being admirable marksmen, shot 18 of the marauders. The people at that place are said to be delighted at the destruction of 2 or 3 robber Chiefs who have long been the terror of the neighbourhood. Mr M also reports that Hyder Khan & Mahomed Afzal are still at Ghuzni with a contemptible force, hardly 1,000 men altogether Horse and Foot. In a letter to Col Wade, he states that HM Troops made a very successful attack upon the Jokhee tribes (who are adherents of Dost Mahomed, and whose chiefs the Shah has deposed, appointing others in their place) capturing the standard of the leader, and killing 30 or 40 of their followers. Mr Macnaghten remarks that grain is very abundant in Camp—it is selling for 20 Seers the Rupee.

17 *Burhaweess*, (Bruhis or Bruhooees or Brahuis) : Like the Baluchis, they appear to be of Central Asian origin. Both the Baluchis and the Brahuis, probably belonged to the same ethnic stock and possessed a similar organisation for offensive and defensive purposes. It rested on the principle that the clan or section must provide for the service of the tribe a number of armed men, in proportion to their share of the tribal land.

and Shawl, Captn B reports that the Harvest of Wheat and Barley has been good and there can be no deficiency of grain, it maintains however a high price at Mustong between 7 & 8 Srs. P. Ree., which he attributes to other cause than scarcity. There are two roads for the march of Troops from Quetta to Mustong, both of which occupy three days—from Mustong to Kelat the march can be performed in 5 days. There are however short cuts over the Hills known to the Cossids, some of whom have gone on horseback from Quetta to Kelat in 18 hours. States the inability of Mihrab Khan to oppose us in the event of a movement against him. The Kaukers are decidedly hostile to that Chief, and in former years made excursions into his Country, and carried off whatever they could lay hands on, so that we may confidently reckon on their services. Whilst the Chief of the Shuhwancee Burhowees has intimated his readiness to act against the Khan, and place his whole clan, who form the majority of the population at Mustong, at our commands, Captn Bean at the same time forwards a letter from Capt Manning Comdg. detach. in charge of treasure & Stores certifying that he has experienced no molestation in his march through the Boolan Pass.

27th July

Mr Bell in a private letter strongly recommends that early in October next simultaneous movements be made on Kelat by General Nott, and on Kutchee by a Detach. from Upper Scinde—Kutchee would be coccupied at once and without difficulty and he says General Nott apprehends some little serious opposition on the side of Kelat. The General in his letter to Mr Bell states that from information received by him from native travellers and Merchants, the Country of Kelat is extremely rugged and capable of defence—and that the roads are bad and difficult, especially for guns, and at one stage little or no water—that the City of Kelat is not capable of making any defence against disciplined Troops, and although it is walled and has a few guns, little difficulty would occur in taking possession of it. The force under the command of Genl. Nott amounts at present in the aggregate to about 1,500 fighting men, after allowing for Sick and Convalescent, and according to his judgement, founded upon the information he has been able to obtain, thinks the small body of Troops sufficient to ensure the possession of Kelat, and that, if it should be determined to send him against the Khan, states, he would prefer moving immediately, as he has no doubt of being able to accomplish the wishes of Govt. by occupying that city with the force at his disposal—States there would be no want of Grain, he will have 2 full months' supply in Store, after having furnished the troops, ordered to Candahar, with 20 days' full rations for their march. The Genl. also mentions the fact that Mehrab Khan has more than once assembled a large force in hopes of some occurrence giving him an opportunity of attacking us, but being disappointed in these hopes, and want of provisions obliged him to disperse his tribes to their usual course of plunder ready to reappear at his call.

When the advance of our army approached Candahar there was a report that part of the force had received a check, and Genl N has reason to know that the Chief then assembled from 5 to 10,000 of his marauders for the purpose of doing all the mischief in his power, fire signals appeared on the tops of all the mountains, but no sooner did Mihrab Khan know that the Shah had entered Candahar than he again released his followers, and a large party of these very men were sent to the Boolan Pass and afterwards attacked the escort and convoy under Brigr Dennis—The Khan is now anxiously waiting for the result on the side of Cabool, and the General has no doubt, the least check of any one of our Columns, would instantly bring him down upon his little Detachment.

The 10 Lakhs of Rs. for HM Shah Sooja which left Shikarpore under charge of Major Newport of the Bombay Army, will move on from Quetta towards Candahar on the 14th July under escort of the Troops moving from that place to form the Garrison of Candahar.

Lower Scinde

20th July

The Ameers of Scinde have secured the head of the Gang who murdered Captn Hand and likewise re-apprehended the man named "Photah", one of that Band who had been allowed to escape from Kurachee. However tardy these measures have been, they will have a much greater moral effect, observes Col Pottinger, than had we been forced to take the matter into our hands, and they evince in a very satisfactory light the influence which we have established over the Hyderabad Govt. With reference to the delay in the ratification of the Treaty, Col P explains the Ameers as being anxious to obtain that article regarding the cession of Kurachee should be cancelled—and states that the Ameers are unused to anything like moderation or fair dealing. They have been bred up amidst mingled suspicion and terror of our power—they are utterly unable to comprehend our policy and they are further distracted by their own divided intents and counsels of their Chiefs and Relations.

Oodypore

The Bheels¹⁸ and Grassias have shut up all the hill passes leading to Joora,¹⁹ Ohjua, and Panurwah,²⁰ the troops sent against them by HH have consequently been unable to advance for the purpose of supporting the Thannahs at the above-mentioned places.

18 *Bheels* (or Bhils) : An aboriginal tribe who lived in the hilly country between Abu and Asirgarh from where they spread westward into the plains of Gujarat and northern Deccan. They lived and hunted in the forests.

19 *Joora*—is located in Jodhpur.

20 *Panurwah* was a small Rajput principality, in the vicinity of Udaipur. The British transferred its sovereignty to the ruler of Udaipur in August 1838.

Jaudpore

24th July

Col Sutherland in private letter states that he has no direct communication with Maun Sing or his Ministers, but that there is a good deal of sounding as to our intentions through other parties, and there is little doubt that the first advance made by either a small or a large body of our troops will quicken their Proceedings.

From information received from a person in Captn Dixon's service at Joudhpore, it appears that Luckmeenath²¹ had represented to the Maharaja of the organization of a British force for service in Marwar, when HH replied, that every thing in Marwar and the whole Country belonged to the English, and that when the Army should arrive, every necessary requirement should be provided as he had no intention of opposing it; on this account nothing in the way of Military preparation has taken place. There are about 14 unserviceable Guns outside the City, some tied with ropes to their carriages, others are lying on the ground—2 serviceable ones—one placed about 100 yds. from the Soojut Gate, the Troops are said to be dying of hunger, and badly accounted they are still 2 years in arrears; owing to their distress for food numbers have joined the outside Thakoor. 350 men under Zalim Sing are encamped at the Golab Sagur who are called Jewan Orderly or Body Guard. At the Mahamunder there are 2 Guns posted and there are 2 enclosures, each capable of containing 100 men—about 40 Sowars are pitched near the enclosures—in all there are about 350 Sowars, and as many footmen, of these 100 were lately entertained, the rest are men of old standing, 4 or 5 efficient men are being enlisted daily. The Town Wall is said to be broken down in one place for about 10 yards, the gap being blocked up with bushes, thorns &c, in another place it is broken down for a space of 15 feet, over which there is a regular road for Horse and foot by the accumulation of sand in the beach. Between the Palee and Soojut Gate 2 breaches have been made 8 feet wide each, for the purpose of carrying out mud from a tank sinking within the Wall, by these passages Horse and Foot pass without difficulty; near one of these breaches 4 Sowars, 1 Gun and 10 Sepoys are posted. There are about 4,000 (Barouteas) Thakoors encamped at Kaneecha, who are likely to make common cause with the British on the arrival of the Force at Joudhpore.

The Joudhpore Ukbars mention that the Barouteas are carrying on their plundering in Marwar, and have sacked 4 villages belonging to Luckmeenath, and are levying contribution from the villagers. An Urzee was received from Secunder Khan & Chote Khan Sirdars representing that unless some money were sent, the sepoy's under them could not subsist, otherwise they

²¹ *Luckmeenath* (Lakhmi Nath) eldest son of Bheem Nath, Guru of Maharaja of Jodhpur. He was a man of loose morals and licentious character.

would desert to the Barouteas²² and plunder the Country. 8,000 Rs. was accordingly ordered by the Maharaja to be given for their subsistence. A great deal of rain has fallen and filled the Golab Sagur. It is reported that Luckmeenath is preparing Military Stores in the Mahamunder—and sepoys that go for service are entertained by him. Bukhee Ram, Kamdar of Koochawun,²³ represented in private that it was well ascertained that a British Force was coming, and if HM would give orders, Horse and foot could be entertained, the Maharaja replied he might do as he pleased at Koochawun, but that he himself had no occasion for the Thakoors' troops. Jussroop is said to be devising means to levy 12 lakhs of Rs. from the inhabitants, viz., 4 Lakhs from the Towns' people, 4 Lakhs from those who are in confinement and 4 Lakhs to be collected in taxes; when this became known, all the rich Seths fled the City and took shelter in the sanctuaries of the Thakoors and other places of refuge.

Lucknow

The news from Lucknow is that on the 20th July, the Acting Resident attended on the King and presented a letter addressed by the Govr. Genl. to HM relinquishing the receipt of 16 Lakhs of Rs. which had been stipulated by the recent treaty to be paid annually by the King for the maintenance of the Oude Auxiliary Force. HM received the letter with much gratification and dismissed the Resident. On this happy occasion 21 guns from each of the three parks of Guns were fired—and Nuzzurs were presented by persons in attendance according to their respective standing which were accepted by the King.

Nipal

Matters continue pretty much in the same state as last reported. The Raja and Ranee are at variance in an unusual degree, & the Raja is said to have taken fire at the Ranee's grasping disposition, and to have uttered something like threats in reference to her. Ran Jung has fixed an early day for demanding full and complete direction of affairs, and for resigning all employment if his demand is refused. Discontent prevails as heretofore, nor are the Proceedings or spirit of the Durbar yet calculated to allay it or to give assurance to any one of what course the Durbar will ultimately pursue.

18th July

(Mr Hodgson in a private letter communicates his attendance on the Durbar, and seeing draft of a Khureeta to the GG, embodying the offer made to him verbally to place the Troops of Nipal at our disposal for service in

22 *Barouteas* or Barothi were a tribe of Ahirs.

23 *Koochawun* : a small town in the north-eastern part of Jodhpur state.

Cabool, and in Assam. Mr H has not deemed it prudent to decline it and refuse the Khureeta).

General Bhem Sen has attempted to commit suicide in order to escape the relentless persecution which he had recently undergone. This unfortunate event will have effect in facilitating the ascendancy of Ran Jang Pande—the Durbar is, according to Mr Hodgson's report in a private letter, again wavering, (and the Khureeta offering Troops will, it appears, not be sent) but all is evidently uncertainty as to the real feelings of the Durbar.

Items of General Intelligence

23rd July

A private letter from Calcutta mentions that Admiral Sir F Maitland has ordered HMS. "Volage" to take station at Canton for a while, with directions to the Commander to put himself under Captn Elliott's instructions.

The "Enterprize" will be dispatched on Saturday the 27th Inst. to the Eastward with instructions for Captn Macleod—the Comdg. Officer being instructed to place himself and vessel at Mr Blundell's disposal.

H TORRENS

Simla,
the 10th August 1839.

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref.:—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 523-575).

Newsletter 15 : August 20, 1839

Lahore

Bhaee Ram Singh represented that the inhabitants of Cashmere have raised a dispute regarding the frontier. An Urzee from the master of the Garrison of Hurreepore was received to this purport, that the Rajas of Mendee, Sookeit and Kooloo have been leaguering with the rebels, Pirtheechund and Ruttunchund, and have clandestinely sent ammunition and treasure to them. It was reported that the Troops at Jawala Mookhee had met the above rebels in fight, and after an engagement in which 50 or 60 had fallen on both sides, the Meeans were unable to bear up, and fled—the Troops pursuing them as far as Tehra Soobhanpore. This event will, it is expected, settle the affair in the hills. Orders were issued to the Kardar at Dera Ismael Khan to the effect that if any officer of the British Govt. comes into those quarters to purchase Grain, no obstruction should be offered to him—a letter was also addressed to Koonwur Now Nehal Singh directing him to take special care to pave the ways to the Khyber Pass kept properly open, so that merchants might easily come and go thereby. 200 Sowars were also stationed on the roads about Khyrabad, in order that the transit of merchants and others might not be molested.

Peshawur

7th August

Col Wade has taken measures to secure the safety of the communication through the Khyber Territory, and is of opinion that without the adoption of some permanent system of control which shall give the Shah a greater power over the tribes than has hitherto been possessed by the ruling authorities, there can be no security for a free and uninterrupted communication through the Pass, whether as regards the immediate interests of our Govt. or those of the Shah, and a prosperous commerce through the country. He observes that the road between Lalla Beg and Lundi Khana is one of extreme difficulty for artillery, and although it is scarcely 5 miles in length, the guns were two days in reaching the end of the stage, and were only brought there by great exertion on the part of the officers & men, even after much labor had been expended in removing some of the obstacles in the way. The worst part of the Pass is at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and before a train of artillery can be taken over it, it will require to be very considerably improved. There is also a difficult place for guns to pass immediately below the Fort of Ali Musjid.

The duty of repairing both these passes to facilitate the march of our Army on its return will be entrusted to the officers at that place and Dhaka, the two extremities of the Pass.

Cabool

7th August

Intelligence has been received by Col Wade on the annexed date from an authentic source of the arrival on the 3d. Inst. of HM Shah Sooja with the British Army at Kila Qazi, about 5 Koss from the City of Cabool on the Candahar road,—and that he was to enter the City itself on the 5th Inst. On the capture of Ghuzni, it is stated, that DM¹ deputed Nawab Jabbar Khan to make terms if possible for himself, but the negotiations not being so favorable as he desired, he had fled towards Bameean with 4 pieces of artillery, & 6 or 700 of his own immediate retainers, leaving the rest of his Guns and heavy stores behind. The report is that he had made an effort to induce the Golam Khana of Cabool to try the issue of an engagement, but that they had refused, and produced letters of assurance from the Shah whose authority they declared themselves ready to acknowledge—Mahomed Akbar Khan is said to have died near Cabool from the effects of sickness brought on by the fatigues endured by him on his retreat.*

Bokhara

21st July

Dr Lord reports the return of the messenger who had been sent with a letter addressed to the King of Bokhara. The messenger states that immediately after his arrival at that place he stated his business and was without delay ushered into the presence of the King.—On presenting the letter, the King opened it with his own hand and after looking over a few lines of it, called for a Mirza who read it all deliberately—Upon this ensued a consultation between the King and the Mirza which ended in their declaring that they did not conceive what kind of answer they were expected to send to it—and he therefore returned without a written answer. He further reports that up to the 7th of June, the day on which he left Bokhara, Col Stoddart so far from being released was still a close prisoner in the State prison of the Fortress and that but one man was allowed access to him. He applied for permission to see him or to be allowed to bring a letter from him to Dr Lord

*Mr Macnaghten reports the arrival of Nawab Jabbar Khan in his Camp from Cabool (treat on the party of DM.,—all terms were rejected beyond promise of support in Hindoostan for the Ameer on his unconditional submission—the Nawab continued with these) Cabool—Lt Burnes has been left in temporary political charge at Ghaznee. A report dated 12 Aug. came in on the evening of the 20th from Lahore stating that an engagement had taken place two marches from Cabool on the 2d; in which Dost Mahomed was totally defeated.

¹ DM : reference is to Amir Dost Muhammad.

but was refused. It was generally believed he had been imprisoned for insulting the King. With regard to the affairs of Bokhara he states that the Rais who had succeeded the Koosh Beghi as Prime Minister had died suddenly, not without suspicion of poison, and it was doubtful whether his successor would be the Koosh Beghi or the present Governor of Kurshi. If the former, every one predicted the speedy liberation of Col Stoddart.—The Embassy sent to Russia had not yet returned nor was there any avowed Russian Agent in Bokhara—The return Kafila from Russia this year was much smaller than usual, and on the messenger enquiring the reason, he was told that the Emperor had seized 6 or 7,000 of their Camels, but they did not know in what direction he meant to send them. There was also a report of the Russians being engaged in making large purchases of grain somewhere near Orgunje.

Herat

29th June

Major Todd in reporting his arrival at Girishk to the Envoy and Minister states that he had an interview with the Prince Sekunder Mirza and his having afterwards called on Sirdar Sheer Mahd Khan to whom he explained the reasons which had induced his Majesty and the Envoy & Minister to recommend the return of the party—that as no other object was proposed in deputing the Mission from Herat than to satisfy the British Govt. and HM Shah Sooja of the friendship and attachment of the Herat Govt., that object had been fully obtained by the progress of the Mission thus far.—The Mission appeared to be satisfied with this explanation and of the arrangement which had been made for their return, and they were to have proceeded on the following day in company with the British Mission.

Army of the Indus

6th July

Mr Macnaghten in writing from Camp Kelat-i-Ghiljye reports that His Excy. Sir John Keane moved from that place on the 6th and HM Shah Sooja would follow the day following. Genl Wiltshires Bujraja arrived there on that morning, and would halt a day as the other Columns had done, as the troops and Cattle required rest, for the stages hitherto have been long, the heat great, and the roads excrable². HM intended leaving 300 of his own Hindostanee Nujeebs which will be sufficient. Mr M hopes for a temporary arrangement, for there is no unity of purpose amongst the Ghiljye Chiefs, they being at open feud amongst themselves. Mr Macnaghten expresses his opinion, in which Sir John concurs, that for another twelve months at least, there should be left in Afghanistan, 1 Regt. of Cavalry & 3 of Infantry, with a due proportion of Artillery.

² Excrable ; should read 'excerable'.

Intelligence has been received in a dispatch from His Excellency Sir John Keane of the successful storm and capture of the Fort of Ghuzni on the 23rd July after a determined and obstinate resistance by the enemy; but as it has been notified in a more public manner, it is therefore unnecessary to insert the accounts here.

Bahrein

16th June

Through the interference of Col P Campell, H M's Agent and Consul General Alexandria, Mehemet Ali has addressed an order to his General Koorshed Pasha to give up all views of conquest on Bahrein, as well as any interference with that Island.

Egypt and Syria

3rd July

A private letter from Col P Campbell mentions hostilities as having commenced in Syria between the Sultan's troops and those of the Pasha, but no decisive affair has, as yet, taken place. The Admiral was expected there soon with his Squadron, but will remain neutral in any affair between the Turkish and Egyptian Squadrons.

4th July

In a subsequent letter, Col Campbell reports that official intelligence has been received at Alexandria of a Battle having taken place on the 25th June between the Turkish Army under Hafiz Pasha, and the Egyptians under Ibrahim Pasha, in which the Turks have been completely defeated with the loss of all their Artillery, Ammunition, Tents, &c. &c.—The action lasted only two hours—the loss is not known, but one Egyptian General, Ibrahim Beg, of the Guards has been killed.

Jodhpore

The Ukbars from this place mention that the Son of Diwan Gumbeer Mull was seized and confined by the troops, till they should receive their pay—this created an affray, on its being represented to Maun Singh, His Highness ordered the disturbance to be quelled by the payment of the arrears to the Sepoys, and the Dewan's Son was accordingly released who immediately took sanctuary in the house of a Thakoor for fear others of the Troops should demand their arrears in the same way. The troops on learning what had happened immediately sent a petition to the Durbar for their arrears. HH ordered Jussroop, the Kamdar of Luckmeenath, to make arrangements to pay them—the Kamdar replied that the whole of the troops intended getting their arrears, and then afterwards joining the disaffected Thakoors etc.,

and that he thought it was improper at present to disburse their pay. Jussroop represented that 2,500 sets of armour had been made in the time of Bajee Sing and that Luckmeenath required them for his men. His Highness replied he had not seen them since his accession to the Guddhee, and probably they were destroyed, but if Luckmeenath required armour he might make them up, and dress his men in it—Jussroop recommended that the Kotwal might be ordered to levy, contributions on the Town's people, but His Highness said that it was generally known that the Govr Gen's Agent was coming with a Force, and the people would leave the city if they were fined. Jussroop in reply answered he had heard from good authority that no preparations were going on at Ajmere, and that it was a mere report.

From intelligence received direct from a person sent to report from Joudhpore it appears that 200 Gossains³ are appointed on duty in the Fort of Joudhpore itself, and 4,000 in Fort of Nagore, and able and armed mounted men are being entertained. In the Capital there are about 1,000 soldiers, Rajpoot and Ramporee Afghans. At the gates, on the ramparts, and on the bastions considerable preparations and arrangements are making "but for all this (says the writer), no directions or injunctions have been given by the Maharaja, but everything is done by Luckmeenath," 300 men & 4 Guns have been sent for the protection of Palee. The arrangements in the Fort and Town are carried on by Luckmeenath, and those in the Country by Luktedan and the Pohkurn Chief with their relations. Luckmeenath is said to be using oppression on all the inhabitants. He has planted 4 Guns in the Munder & 12 on the ramparts & is making every military preparation. The Naths have paid their own troops their arrears. Luckmeenath does not allow the people of the Oodeymunder to enter the Fort, and is himself employed in superintending the repairs of the ordnance. In the Mahamunder are assembled 1,000 or 1,200 Horse and 3,000 Foot, and ingress is only permitted to his own people. For payment of the tribute to the British Govt. Gold Mohurs are being struck from the metal procured from the Shameeana Poles, feet of Charopoys, Chairs etc. His Highness is completely advised by the Naths, and the affairs of the state are conducted by Luckmeenath.

Later Intelligence communicated by the same persons mention that Luckmeenath desired Jussroop to take a muster of the number of Sepoys and Guns, of which latter there were found to be 100-30 requiring 20 prs.⁴ of bullocks to draw each; 12 each drawn by 4 Horses—and 58, 4 or 5 prs. of bullocks each with their ammunition. Grass is said to be very scarce, Great consultation is at present going on at Koochawan. The Kamdar of the

3 *Gossains* ; literally, religious mendicants, they constituted a distinct sect of the Hindus. Though celibate, a number of them followed various professions including cultivation, commerce and even soldiery. Some made excellent soldiers and worshipped Lord Siva as their god of war.

4 *Prs.* for pairs.

Koochawan Chief, Thakoor Roopjee, the Raepore Chief Jussroop and many followers of the above-named chief and others are assembled at Joudhpore who agree that the arrangements are good, but recommend some also being made at Koochawan—night and day 5,000 men remain in the Mahamunder,—150 Sowars and 500 of Luckmeenath's own Rissalah were sent from the Mahamunder for the protection of Koochawan—4 new Guns are being cast in the Mahamunder. Luckmeenath, it is said, does not allow the Troops in that place to be kept in arrears, but are paid regularly and is enlisting men daily. There are about 5,000 men in all, including old Soldiers and new levies. Powder and Ball are being prepared, and he is looking out for Artillery men. Maun Sing has ordered Goolara Russool Khan who has a body of 1,000 men to entertain more if he can get good serviceable soldiers. Luckmeenath requested that he might be allowed to have 12 unserviceable guns that were in the Fort for the Mahamunder, and Jussroop mentioned that he (Luckmeenath) was putting that place in a State of defence on his own acctt. that it might not be plundered by the British Force.

Jessalmere

A foreigner named Mahomed Khan has arrived at Jessalmere in the character of a merchant, and has sold 200 Rs. worth of pills⁵ to the Rawal; it is said he has come from Persia as a spy.

Bithoor

2nd August

The Coomr. with Bajee Rao reports communication made to the Ex-Peishwa by Soobadar Ramchunder Punt on the 31st July regarding the removal of His Highness' residence to within the boundary of his Jagheer. This is the only measure observes Capt Manson, calculated to prevent the recurrence of intrigues. Bajee Rao received the intelligence with the greatest dismay, and after detaining the Soobadar till a late hour at night talking over the subject, dismissed him with injunctions to visit Captn Manson and urge all he possibly could to avert what he considered to be a measure which could not be carried into effect without the sacrifice of his "Izzut and Hoormut." Captn M had an interview with the Ex-Peishwa on the following day, after informing him of the cause of the order for his removal and forcibly pointing out to him that his real interests, and future welfare were concerned by that measures, Bajee Rao's alarm and objections were removed and he readily assented to the wishes of the Governor General.

Nipal

29th July

General Bhim Sen died of his wound in the throat this day, and happy

⁵ Pills would appear to stand here for bullets.

is it for him, remarks Mr Hodgson, for further cruelties were in store for him, had he lived. The immediate cause of his suicide was the threat that he should be plunged in a midden⁶ up to the neck, and that his wife should be exposed naked before all the city—His son and wife and friends are suffering all sorts of ignominious and cruel maltreatment in order to force the confession of his guilt and of his supposed concealed wealth.

Ava

A private letter communicates the arrival of the H C Steamer "Ganges" from the Eastward bringing very satisfactory intelligence from that quarter of there appearing not the slightest symptom of any immediate hostilities on the part of the Burmese—The position at Moolmyn is so strong and the troops in such fine condition, that the idea of the Burmese hazarding an attack seems improbable. Mr Blundell however continues to think that in the cold weather they will make an attempt against Arrakan rather than Tenasserim. Captn Bogle, who has returned on the "Ganges" mentions that there is not the slightest sign of any preparation going on at Martaban⁷ nor had any been heard of as in progress at the other places. From Moolmyn he proceeded on to Rangoon where he landed in the quietest manner possible, walked over all the Bazar, saw the fortifications about which there have been so much said, in which manner he spent a whole day entirely unmolested by any person in authority—The result of what he thus observed and heard was, the fortifications round the Great pagoda are insignificant in the extreme—The Pagoda stands upon the innermost of 3 Squares of decreasing size, each rising a little above the other. Round the lowest & innermost of these plateaus they have begun to run a wall with embrasures for guns. These are not likely to prove very formidable for they are constructed in horizontal and parallel lines so as to admit of neither range nor depression opposite, and not 300 yds. from an angle of this fortified square there is a rising ground from which Artillery might play with effect on the whole enclosure. As to levies, there is what they call a Kyng in force, that is one man in three was required to be ready with a musket, powder and ball, and rice for 16 days to take the field when required; but Captn Bogle was assured by an English Merchant, and the information was generally confirmed by the Moghul Merchants that there were not 500 men regularly entertained as Soldiers. About 300 Horsemen had been down but had gone away about a Month before. War was talked of as a thing that might, or might not be, but with no strong apprehensions of its occurrence. They all described Rangoon as not having fallen off since the last War, a point of vast importance as it proves the value to the Burmese of that which we can so easily

6 *Midden* : a dunghill.

7 *Martaban* was a province, with a capital of the same name, in British Burma. The town was situated at the junct on of the Gusyne and Salween rivers, opposite Moulmein.

menace—How much the King dreads this, is proved by the fact of his having sent orders to stop the mouth of the Irrawaddy. It is remarkable, observes the writer, that even at Moulmyn Capt Bogle heard of the extensive preparations in progress at Rangoon, and would have returned impressed with the truth of these accounts, if he had not happened to visit that post on his way.—Mr Blundell is of opinion that Tharrawaddy could not bring a force more than 30,000 strong against us, and even ridicules the idea of any coalition with Nipal so as to act in regular concert. Moolmyn is described as a very thriving place in a beautiful situation with about 20,000 inhabitants, the bulk of whom are Burmese—Martaban has dwindled into a paltry place of about 100 Houses, Beling has not above 300, and Tangoo⁸ not above 500 Houses.

Simla

The 20th August 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref:—Foreign Department, Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 576-606).

⁸ *Tangoo* (Toungoo), a town in the Tenasserim province of Burma, built on the right bank of the Sitang.

Newsletter 16 : August 30, 1839

Lahore

It was reported to the Maharaja that Means¹ Pirtheechund and Ruttunchund having fled and taken shelter at the Assadeenee Hill—the troops of Runjour Sing and Mohun Sing had besieged them and that they would either be surprized or have to fly. The Newswriter at Belaspore giving an account of the rebellion in the Hills states that the Meeans of the Catochee tribe in concert pillaged, in the first instance, the village Baharna attached to the Territory of Palun, and then Bejapore and Nadawun which lay at the distance of 12 Koss from each other, and at length Joala Mookhee with the Shrine of Bhone davee, a place of pilgrimage of the Hindoos, the temple of the Virqueen and others and the markets thereof. The Troops of the Chief of Blaspore amtg² to 500 men are now encamped at the village of Punttehra. The forces of the Chiefs of Sookeit and of Mendee have halted at the subbahs of their respective Masters. The Sikhs have addressed the Rajas and Ranas in the neighbourhood to send their respective troops to quell the insurrection; but notwithstanding this order, the troops have not moved. The Catochee Means having issued Circulars to entertain sepoy, 100 men belonging to the Raja of Sookeit Mendee immediately resigned and offered their services, which were accepted. It is reported that when the revenues of Belaspore were being remitted to Lahore, notice of this was given to the Meeans who having pursued the escort to the distance of 5 or 6 Coss from Jowala Mookhee on the western side of it, plundered the Treasure putting the Escort to death. Mehun Sing reported to the Durbar that Ruttunchund, one of the principal rebels, had been apprehended; he was ordered to send him a prisoner to Lahore under a strict guard, and was at the same time desired to use his best endeavours to apprehend the other rebel Pirtheechund—Koonwur Shere Sing having waited upon the Maharaja informed him that he would proceed to Battala, and on the arrival of the British Mission at Lahore, would return to welcome them. To this the Maharaja readily acquiesced.

Peshawur

The News received at Lahore from Col Wade's Camp mention that Saadut Khan submitted himself to the Shahzadeh. Satisfactory arrangements having been made, the Prince has allowed him to remain in attendance. Koonwur Now Nehal Sing has stationed 100 Horsemen in the vicinity of

1 *Means* should read 'Meeans' or Mians'.

2 *amtg.* for 'amounting'.

Kakree to guard the Khyber Pass. It is said Grain and other necessary articles are freely taken to the Fort of Ali Musjid and the Camp of Col Wade. It was represented to the Maharaja that as the affairs in Afghanistan had been successfully terminated it would be advisable that a letter should be prepared for the return of Koonwur Now Nehal Sing. The Maharaja replied that he would give directions after consultation with certain Chiefs. A Shoqa was accordingly a few days afterwards addressed to the Koonwur directing him to return to Lahore after stationing a body of troops under a Confidential Chief at Peshawur. Monsr Avitabile was directed to supply grain and other necessary articles to the Camp of Col Wade.

Col Wade has made arrangement for sending on the 13 Lakhs of Rs. intended for the use of the Army of the Indus which will accompany the Kafila now on the way through the Punjab with supplies for the Army. The posts which have been established by the Col at Ali Musjid and Dhakka will enable him to strengthen the escort in charge of the Treasure with a Force sufficient for the protection of the whole dispatch at once. Col Wade has also directed Captn Burn to remain at Peshawur, the presence of an officer at that place he considers to be essentially necessary, not only to aid him in regulating matters connected with the supply of the Army, but in watching the transactions of the Sikh authorities, whose intercourse with the neighboring tribes he deems it highly advisable to watch.

News from the Convoy with Stores and Treasure going across the Punjab

A private letter from an officer with the Convoy reports his belief of his being able to reach Peshawur by the 10th of Sept. The Convoy has been very fortunate in meeting with few obstructions from heavy rain, and has invariably found the Sikh authorities extremely civil, the people of the country quiet and respectful, and supplies abundant. The Escort supplied by the Sikh Govt. is represented as being very little under command whether cavalry, infantry, the men of a disciplined Batta.³ under a European officer on detached duty with the Convoy, are represented as being wholly destitute of discipline in their mode of marching, though an Escort duty, morning by two and three at their pleasure. The Escort of British troops is sufficient to protect the Treasure; but the Rum and Medical Stores being left in the charge of the Sikh troops cannot be said to be under regular escort, tho' such is the friendly character of the people that an escort even for appearance sake is hardly necessary. The only chance of obstruction anticipated by the officers with the convoy was that of a heavy fall of rain. Grain is represented as cheap, but the people are in a very miserable state; many coming daily into camp to beg for food, and even taking that prepared for or left from the officers' tables—in some places the people were seen picking the undigested Grain from the dung of horses to satisfy the cravings of their

³ Batta for Battalion.

hunger. The country between the Jelum and Chenab and in the other side of the former river where cultivated, is represented as fertile.

Army of the Indus

A private letter from an officer in Camp in communicating the storming of Ghuzni mentions the following particulars, in some of which, particularly in the amount of stores and of horses taken, he appears to have been misled.

The Army arrived on the 23rd July surrounded on all sides by hordes of horses with the Fort immediately in their front crammed full of Afghans. Sir John Keane having gone on ahead with a strong reconnoitring party was perfectly astonished at the strength of the place. The whole of that day was employed in severe skirmishing, but finding no impression made, the plan of attack was altered to the Cabool side—and on the Engineers reporting that it would be impossible to breach with only 9 *prs.*⁴ the heaviest Guns in Camp, it was determined to blow open one of the Gates which was effected by Capt Thomson of the Engrs. in gallant style on the morning of the 24th before day light. The place was then stormed.—Col Dennie leading the advance with the Bengal Regt., and it was hand to hand work in the streets for a considerable time—the enemy as firm as a rock, the Europeans charging and firing by sections till it forced them to give way when a terrible slaughter took place—2,000 prisoners were taken. Dost Mahd's son and all his Court captured by Captn Taylor of the Europ. Reg. Capt Macgregor, assistant to Mr Macnaghten and late ADC (1st) were the officers who captured Mohammad Hyder Khan. The Camp was attacked at this time but our Cavy; gave a good account of these fellows. Provisions for 3 years' Consumption were found stored with a sufficient number of the most splendid horses to mount the whole of the Cavalry. In fact it has been a most splendid affair, observes the writer, and well conducted—and the effect on the Country will be wonderful, and will show the Afghans what our power can accomplish. Sirdar Kohun Dil Khan, the Chief of the Candahar Brothers is reported to be dead.

A letter from a medical officer of rank and experience dated the 15th July mentions that “the Country people come into Camp in hundreds and unarmed. The supplies are abundant and moderate. Barley 18 to 25 *Srs.* for the Rupee; plenty of Butter, Milk, Eggs, Poultry and Sheep—Onions and Carrots, and some dried fruits. The fruits of the season are not yet ripe, a proof of the difference of Climate between this and Candahar. A full month before leaving Candahar, the crops were cut, and here the harvest is just begun with extensive tracts of Corn still green.” Illness from Diarrhoea and Stomach complaint has been prevalent among HM 13th Regt.—

4. *Prs.* for pounds.

“On the 16th Grain was at 32sr. P. Ree.⁵ and the men were improving—the Chief thing wanted was Wine for the sick—Every other necessary article they had in abundance—all the officers who were in the sick list are rapidly recovering.”*

Mission to Herat

30th June

Lieut Todd in a private letter to Mr Macnaghten from Girrishk reports that the Mission would start on the evening of that day accompanied by the Herat deputation—and thinks that the deputn. have no desire now to prosecute their journey in the direction of Candahar. When Lieut Todd found that they had expressed themselves dissatisfied at being turned back, he made known to them that they were at perfect liberty to go in any direction they pleased and assured them that it was only out of the purest regard for their comfort and convenience that His Majesty had recommended their return. They however repeatedly declared that they had not the slightest wish to go on to Candahar—that their only desire was to perform any service that might be required of them by the British Govt. and that as they were not in time for this, the wisest and most agreeable course for them was to return to Herat, and there carry into effect our wishes. Lieut Todd apprehends they will cause considerable annoyance on the march—“on their way to this place” he says “they took every thing they wanted without paying a farthing, and that in consequence the Khails⁷ and villages on the route have been deserted. I shall take an early opportunity of pointing out to Shere Mahomed who appears to be a very clever intelligent man, that such proceedings cannot be tolerated, and that he must refrain from similar acts of oppression at least until he enters the territory of his master. “These people”, observes Lt Todd, “have no possible excuse for plundering or levying contributions of any kind, for they have received ample funds to cover the expences of the journey.”—He at the same time notes having intercepted some letters on their way to the Ex-Chiefs of Candahar—one is from Dost Mahomed to his Brothers in which he expresses the strongest assurance of being able to defeat the “infidel Ferringhees,”—stating that the armies of Russia and Persia are on their march to his

*A letter from Mettah mentions that the effect of the capture of Ghuznee had been to destroy wholly in the minds of even Muhammudan partizans' confidence in him or his influence. The people in their on⁶ phrase said “the strength has departed from him.” One effect which the writer notes (and which has not been directly observed elsewhere) is the absence of plunderers about the camp as reported by him (correspondent H.C.C.) from the date of the fall of Ghuznee. Mettah has, it appears, turned an unhealthy station during the autumn, and many men are in hospital.

5 32 sr. p. Ree : at the rate of 32 seers per rupee.

6 On : should read 'own.'

7 *Khail* : a commonly used Afghan Baluch term signifying a village, community, collection of tents. Also a sub-division of a tribe or even an entire tribe.

assistance that the States of Kurdistan⁸ are well disposed towards him—that Ghuzni has been placed in a state of defence, and that the works of Cabool have been made impregnable.

Cabool

7th August

The following is an extract from a private letter from an Officer in Camp “The Embassy now occupy the House and Garden where Burnes resided for so many months. The King lives amongst the dilapidated buildings, once called the palace of his ancestors, and while he does so, keeps cursing that dog Dost Mahd. for allowing it to fall into ruin and destruction. The Comdr. in Chief has encamped near his Army, and the army is encamped a few miles from the Town. The return of HM is hailed with gladness by his subjects—the people seem to have the greatest confidence in us, and for days past they have all been at their occupations, and few capitals even in Europe present a more busy scene than does Cabool at this moment. The party consisting of 2,000 Afghans and 11 British Officers who went in pursuit of Dost Md. returned here today. They pursued him until they reached Bameean but owing to the treachery on the part of Hajee Khan Kakur, Dost Md, his wives (400), and adherents slipped far ahead, crossed the Hindoo Coosh mountains, and it is said they are now at Khoodlum to which place a force from the regular army will probably be sent to drive them thence—The young Dost Hyder⁹ was left a Prisoner at Ghuzni and Burnes’ brother is there to take charge of him—Hyder thinks of nothing but of eating, and is monstrously fat—he heard of his father’s flight with the greatest composure remarking only that he (Hyder) was very fond of pickles, and begged that Burnes would give him some—The last reports from Ghuzni mention that the people had returned to the Town—had opened their shops, and were busily employed in selling their goods as if nothing had lately occurred to disturb their peace.—There was only one European in Cabool on our reaching it, his name is Harlan—he is an American by descent. He commanded a Regt. in Dost Mahd’s service who detected him embezzling money from the men of his Regt.—he was in consequence thrown into prison, scourged and, I believe, branded. While he was undergoing punishment, his cries were overheard by an Afghan Lady of rank who begged of her husband to intercede with the Ameer in behalf of the prisoner which he did & the scourging was discontinued—there are several versions of the same story—Nawab Zummun Khan¹⁰

8 *Kurdistan*: country of the Kurds, is a table-land surrounded by rugged and lofty mountains, to the east of Persia. The Kurds are also found scattered towards the west of Persia, in Asia Minor and Syria.

9 *Dost Hyder* (or Muhammad Hyder Khan): a son of Amir Dost Muhammad who was in charge of the Ghazni fort, was taken prisoner by the British after the fort was captured.

10 *Nawab Zummun Khan* (or Zumma Khan), chief of Khalil tribe who readily submitted to Shah Shuja in 1839.

was the person who interceded for Harlan—Mr Campbell commonly called Major Campbell who was also in the service of the Ameer and formerly a servant of the Shah was placed under the surveillance, and was sent with Dost Mahd's Harem to Bameean.—The climate here is heavenly and the rides for miles in the neighbourhood of the City perfectly beautiful, the whole country about here is a continuation of Gardens, and Canals flow in every direction—they are fed by two rivers, by the Cabool river which flows through the City, and by the Loghur river, which is not more than 2 or 3 miles from it—Wade is expected here in a few days—he seems to have done much good.”—

Herat

25th May

Lieut Pottinger writes that the intelligence of the fall of Candahar at Mushed caused a great panic, and the immediate rise in the price of provisions, Ghorian is still held with no symptoms of an intention to evacuate it, though Lt P thinks it next to impossible for Persia to resume hostilities towards Herat unless strongly supported from foreign sources. All that the Persian Army could do would be, he thinks, to blockade the City and destroy the crops. The Minister he represents as still needy and retained in our interests chiefly by the friends supplied him—he does not appear to have a strong party in Herat, and his main strength and dependence being upon a body of 1,800 men who are the best soldiers which the place affords. He represents the traffic in slaves as still continuing especially fostered by Yar Mahomed the Vizier for his own ends. He states that a sum of 2,250 £. Stg. p.m. would amply suffice to maintain the Herat Govt. and the paramountcy of British interests. “A Detachment sent to this from Candahar” says Lt P “would if accompanied by Dorranee Chiefs attached to Shah Sooja, run no danger of attack or surprize” on the way from predatory tribes. The Bazar price of a Ducat now is not 20 Rs.—the copper coin is becoming very scarce having been carried off to purchase Grain, and Silver is not used in the Bazar, but for barter.

31st May

Lt Pottinger reports that Moola Mehndee, the Jew of Mushed, a staunch adherent to British interests had informed him that a Russian Agent had visited Mushed during the last Mohurrem, and that he invested Asuf-ud-Dowlah with address of honour and a sword—The Persian Envoy to Orgunje returned thence accompanied by an Envoy from the Khan of that place for the Persian Court. On the 23rd, a Persian Agent arrived at Herat for Shere Mahomed Khan but Lt P was unable to ascertain the nature of his business—The harvest had commenced—and the news from Candahar has given the people heart to set about agricultural affairs.

Persia

12th May

A report has been received at Erzeroume by Col Sheil from Tahrán that the Shah is projecting a military expedition of importance towards Herat under Kuhurman Mirza but the Col attaches no credit to the report—The approach of British Troops may, he supposes, induce the Shah to strengthen his forces in Khoressan as a matter of precaution, but speaking generally of probable events in Persia Col Sheil says—“it would be very hazardous to form any calculation on the proceedings of two such persons as the Shah and his minister, upon whom experience is thrown away.” No chance of reconciliation is, according to Col Sheil, apparent, and the only mode in which it could be effected as matters are at present seems to be by a mediation which Great Britain would never consent to. The Persian Ambassador now residing at Vienna who has been refused acknowledgement by the British Court is making endeavours to effect his being received in England through intrigues at Vienna & Paris—Col Sheil does not anticipate that any good result would ensue upon an ill-defined accommodation between the British and Persian Govts.

27th May

The Shah has certainly ordered the collection of a body of Troops. The army is however at least 3 years in arrears, as also are all the Civil Servants of Govt.—and there are but 300 thousand Tomauns in the Treasury. This would in appearance preclude the possibility of troops taking the field, but says Col Sheil the facility with which Persian Troops are put in motion is so marvellous, that it would be unsafe to adopt these circumstances as a measure for guidance. The destination of the Troops can only be to one or perhaps two of three places—Herat, Bushire or Bagdad. It appears not improbable that these troops may have been collected with a view to maintain the important post of Ghorian by augmenting the Garrison, which Fort, it is observed, while held by an unfriendly power, must at all times endanger the safety of Herat—Marshal Pascovitch has received the command of the Army of the South or it is said even of the Caucasus¹¹, to which force an addition to 30,000 men has been already made, and thus with the 50,000 men already in Georgia constitutes a formidable army. There is reason for supposing that ulterior objects having reference to the result of the Syrian Campaign have induced this concentration of force which could hardly be all intended for Circassia.¹²

11 *Caucasus*: chain of mountains lying northeast to southwest between the Black and the Caspian seas, and separating Europe from Asia. This region was of great importance to Russia as the area through which her trade could be extended to central and southern Asia. The Caucasus region was like a great wedge thrust between Persia and Asiatic Turkey.

12 *Circassia*: a mountainous country in the southeast corner of Europe, on the northern face of Carcassus.

Turkish Arabia

25th June

Lieut Lynch writing from Bagdad says, "our information from Persia is vague and contradictory—some confidence is given in England that the Shah intends to attack this Pashalic. We hear of levies of Troops in Persia, but from what I know of Persia and Persian reports I think we have little to fear either here or in the Gulf—Koorshed Pasha still maintains his position in Arabic, I am told it is not without its difficulties, and his advance on Bussora will rather depend upon the success of Ibrahim Pasha, than tend to it. He is doing all in his power to conciliate the Arab Chiefs, and attempts to take for his Master Mahomed Ali, the place and rights of the Wahabee Chief as protector—this gives him a better position in Arabia —The claims of the Wahabees, though of comparatively recent date, extend in some shape or other over nearly the whole of that country.

10th June

Captn Hennell in reporting the result of the experimental mail dispatch via Bussora says, "Although the route via Bagdad is for many cogent reasons preferable to the one by the Syrian Desert, yet the result of the trial now reported is so far satisfactory that it establishes the practicability of sending our mails direct from Bussorah in the event of the communication by Bagdad being interrupted by any unforeseen causes." According to Mr Wherry's (HM Consul at Damascus) certificate, the experimental Mail reached Damascus in 17, and the answer was received at Bussorah in 21 days.

Arabian Coast

15th July

Captn Hennell has been successful in checking for the present the extending influence of the Egyptians in the Province of Oman by having given encouragement and confidence to those disposed to maintain their connexion with the British and by proportionately lowering the hopes and pretensions of the opposite party. On the occasion of Captn Hennell's interview with the Principal Maritime Sheiks of the Arabian Coast, states his having received from them written declarations of their desire to continue their former friendly relations with us.

Joudhpore

The plan of operations decided on by Genl Hampton¹³ and Col Sutherland in Marwar is as follows. The advance of Major Forster on Deedwanna¹⁴ with the Jyepore Brigade, Captn Dixon with the Mairwarr Battn. and Captn

13 Genl Hampton initially of the Nizam of Hyderabad's army was appointed to command the Jodhpur expedition in December 1839.

14 Deedwanna (Didwana) was the headquarters of the district of the same name in the state of Jodhpur.

Malling with the Joudhpore Legion on Palace, will be nearly simultaneous with the march of a light Detachment from Nusseerabad on Mirta,¹⁵ which spot it was to reach on the 24th Inst. This Detacht. is spoken of as being in a high state of efficiency and equipment and the strength of the 3 Divns. about 4,000 men. The distance from the three points on which these Troops have marched are convenient for communication, and they are respectively distant from Joudhpore as follows:

From Palee to Joudhpore	20 Koss
Mirta to Joudhpore	40 —do—
Deedwanna to Joudhpore	50 —do—

Col Sutherland will not move on with these detachments which are under the command of Brig Rich through whom any over-turns of negotiation from Joudhpore will be referred to the Colonel. The preparations for the march of the main body of the regular force with the seige train going on meantime, and the whole being in a condition to march about the 4th of Sept. "In the meantime", adds Col Sutherland in a private Lr.¹⁶ "Maun Singh is making no preparations—the Naths have, I fear, sent off their property, are sending off their women, and preparing to be off themselves—Opposition in Arms I look upon from present appearances to be quite out of the question and if preparations were now to commence I think the 3 detach. now in the field should close in upon Joudhpore, and take up such positions as would checkmate Maun Sing and completely cripple his operations."

The news-writer at Joudhpore reports that in consequence of the foreign troops being kept so long in arrears, they left that city on the 5th Aug. taking their Guns & Ammunition with them. Chote Khan with 400 men followed to induce them to return, but without success—and about 5 coss from Peepar sowars were drawn and three guns fired, when 5 men of the Foreign Troops were killed and 8 wounded—6 were wounded on the side of Chote Khan, who returned taking the Guns with him to Joudhpore.

Nipal

5th August

The Emissaries sent by the Nipalese Durbar to Deo Dharma via Thibet have returned to Khatmandoo—The following Mr Hodgson reports would seem to be a tolerably faithful statement of what occurred in this embassy, and what is further proposed by Nipal. The Nipalese party proceeded thro' Thibet without a question and reached the frontier of Bhootan where they were stopt by the Soobah—required to deliver their message, and to await

15 *Mirta* (Merta): headquarters of a district of the same name in the state of Jodhpur, about 9 miles southeast of Merta Road station, on the Jodhpur-Bikaner railway. It has been the scene of many historic battles.

16 *Lr.* for 'letter'.

the answer of the Deb¹⁷—Their message purported that there had been ancient friendship between Deo Dharma and Nipal, which Nipal was anxious to revive—that the Nipal Raja had heard with concern of the insurrection against the old Deb—that this rebellion was instigated by the Company—that Nipal was ready to assist the old Deb with soldiers or small arms or cannon—and that the Deb had only to point out how this assistance could be best rendered and a league offensive and defensive formed against the arts and power of the Company. The answer of the Deb to this message as transmitted thro' this soobah or frontier officer, was to the effect that as the Nipalese had brought no credentials, they should be told to go back and provide itself with written and formal powers, when the party should be welcome to the Deb's presence. The Soobah was at the same time instructed to say to the party that Cannon were the chief want of the Deb, and if cannon could not be supplied, artificers to cast and make them were required. It is proposed by the Durbar immediately to send an Agent duly accredited to Deo Dharma with a few pieces of artillery—and if leave cannot be obtained from the Thibetian authorities for their transport through that Territory to send the artificers required—and by all means to endeavour to establish a footing and influence by espousing the old Deb's side in the existing Civil War. A Khurreta was addressed to Lassah on the 7th of Augt. offering the troops of Nipal to help to put down the revolt in Thibet, as a bribe to Thibet for winking at Nipalese intrigues in Bhootan whither Bhabat Beer has been sent as Envoy with 8 followers & formal credentials. The season of Panjani or annual rotation of office was expected to have witnessed Rang Jung's installation as Premier, but he still continues for some secret purposes to evade all appearance of power or of responsibility—The new Gorak Battn.¹⁸ was brought up for the Panjani and offered 40 Rs. p. an. as pay for the next year, and ordered to Talleyan—The soldiers to Aman refused this reduced rate of pay, and piling their arms went off. The Durbar continues to be wholly unsettled owing, it is alleged, to the opposite views in regard to the administration of affairs of the Raja on the one hand, and of the Rance and her favorite Run Jang on the other.

7th August

In noting the conduct of the Durbar, Mr Hodgson in a private letter says that the dangerous humour of the Durbar or what seemed such a while back is passing away, and that fraud, trickery and presumption are what may now be looked for—But caprice and arrogance rule too absolutely to admit of confident prediction—He hopes to force the Durbar to redeem its more important pledges to him of justice to our subjects and desistance from all material secret intrigues. But the Durbar will hold back, he observes whilst it can, till our success in Cabool & be more decided.

17 *Deb* (Raja) was the temporal ruler of Bhutan.

18 *Gorak Battn.*: for Gurkha Battalion, in the (British) Indian Army.

13th August

The Kharita for the Govr Gen has been sent to Mr Hodgson, but he has demurred to forward it till the Durbar's repeated pledges are redeemed—And he has insisted on this being done before he sends it, not by words only but by deed—and Mr Hodgson thinks that he shall accomplish this material point*.

Ava

30th July

Captn Macleod reports that it was rumoured the Princes will not proceed to the southward until after the lent, it is supposed that the doubts entertained of the fidelity of some of the tributary states, especially Thainee, which is one of the most powerful and all times tendering a doubtful submission has caused such change for the present. It is supposed that the Tsbwar of the Thainee State & those of some others have been in communication with the authorities at Zimme, and are determined to throw off their allegiance to the sovereign of Ava on an opportunity offering—It has created a strong sensation at the Capital—The King is only waiting for an opportunity to go to War with us, and if he was convinced we had met with reverses he would break out at once—He does not attend much to business—and is said to have given up drinking to excess, but still indulges a little—His Majesty continues to receive with satisfaction all reports prejudicial to the British and looks with eagerness to our meeting with reverses in whatever quarter it may be.

A private letter from Mr Prinsep to Lord Auckland states that Captn Macleod has arrived at Rangoon from Amreepoora, whither he was allowed to proceed after some difficulty. The Residency was flooded and uninhabitable; the Ministers offered a dry place without a hut upon it, and the Woonduck Gale suggested the parties being stopped on the way down, but this was not done. The Woonduck of Rangoon begged earnestly of Captn Macleod not to prosecute his intention of going away altogether, and spoke openly of the folly of Govt. and Captn M accordingly awaits instructions at Rangoon—He seems to apprehend that the return by Lord Auckland of the letter addressed to him by the Ministers would together with the demur upon the Siamese (10th Article) of the Yandaboo treaty,¹⁹ make the King, in words at least, outrageous. There appears grounds says Mr Prinsep to suspect his sanity—but the Princes have not joined their Govts. and except a slow surrounding of the Great Pagoda (at Rangoon) with a stockade, there is no appearance of extra preparation—Mr Blundell anticipates no outbreak

*N.B.—This is I suppose that in which troops are offered us, but Mr Hodgson does not mention the contents.

19 *The Yandaboo Treaty* signed in 1826 after the first Anglo-Burmese war. According to its terms, some Burmese territory was ceded to the British with the Salween becoming the southern boundary of the Burmese kingdom.

except from an accidental cause.

Items of General Intelligence

The "Snake" Steamer has made a second unsuccessful attempt to ascend the Indus to Bukker. She afterwards proceeded through the western branches of the River into the Garrah Creek with the intention of going to Kurachee, but St. Jardine writes from Ghisree (at the mouth of the Creek) that the Sea is breaking very violently along the Coast, and that he does not expect to be able to enter Kurachee Harbour till the end of Sept.

With Major Lister's assistance there is a prospect of a dispatch of 10,000 Mds. of Coals into Assam, of which, 5,000 have already been collected at Terriah Ghaut. Some 40 Tons of very good Steaming Coal has been procured by Mr Blundell from the new and more accessible site on the Tenaasserim River at Mergui,²⁰ deliverable at Maulmein at a cost of 8 As. p. md. This is equal to 30s. a ton but Mr Tytler has furnished a very satisfactory report of the Coal discovered by him in the Surgia & Meyrab portions of the Palamow field. He has again left Dinapore²¹ to proceed on an experimental voyage up the Soane²² & Koila rivers, with a view to ascertain if it is practicable to bring the Coal of the parts above-mentioned to the banks of the Ganges. A coal field has also been discovered on Paget's Island opposite Chedriba.²³

Simla,
the 30th August, 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 331, pp. 611-654).

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- 20 *Mergui* : headquarters of a district of the same name in Lower Burma. It is located on the (Tenasserim) river and protected by the little hill island of Pataw, that helps to form a good natural harbour.
- 21 *Dinapore* (Dinapur) : situated in the Patna district of Bihar, then part of the North-Western Province.
- 22 *Soane* : a tributary of the Ganges, originates in the Amarkantak highlands of Central India and flows first north and then south, till after covering a course of about 487 miles, it joins the Ganges, 10 miles above Dinapur.
- 23 *Chedriba* (or Cheduba island) situated off the Arakan coast, in Lower Burma, has an area of about 220 sq. miles. Triangular in shape and covered with a dense forest, the island constitutes a busy township.

Newsletter 17 : September 10, 1839

Intelligence

Lahore

21st August

Meean Puharchund, son of Mean Ruttunchund of Kangra with his followers had taken refuge in Pudteer, a village of Brahmins on the Kuhlore¹ frontier adjoining Kangra, the Sikh troops under Sirdar Dul Sing beseiged the village. Firing commenced on both sides, but without any effect, the Sikhs then assaulted the place and set fire to it, when 8 Brahmins of the village were burnt, 2 escaped, and it is said one stabbed himself. The Meean was wounded and was at last taken prisoner with his friend Rana Gean Sing²—Only two men of the Kuhlore auxiliaries and 3 of the Sikh troops were wounded in this affair. Meeans Ruttunchund and Moluck Chund of Kangra visited Sirdar Mehan Sing, and were immediately arrested by that officer,—Mehan Sing has been now recalled from the Hills as matters are nearly settled there.

24th August

Sirdar Lehna Sing reported his arrival at Soojanpore, and requested an appointment towards the Hills to quell any insurrection there, but he was ordered to come on to Lahore as soon as possible, as the disturbances in that quarter were suppressed. Grain is represented as very dear at Lahore—Wheat being procured with difficulty even at 12 Seers the Rupee—On Bhaee Hurree Sing reporting this scarcity, Raja Dhyan Sing was ordered to issue a proclamation to the Corn Dealers to sell corn at the rate of 16 Sr. p. Ree—All duties on Corn are abolished for the time.

28th August

The Peshawaur news writer reported that Koonwur Now Nehal Sing had reached Khyrabad in progress to Lahore by forced Marches—and that M Avitabile had been ordered to remain at Peshwaur. On Raja Golab Sing and Sirdar Utter Sing describing the loyal and brave conduct of M Ventura and the kindness he had always experienced from the late Maharaja, the Koonwur promised that the same attention would be paid to the French officers in their service.

1 *Kuhlore*, Kohlur or Bilaspur state.

2 *Gean Sing* for Gian Singh.

Pundit Mudsoodeen³ was asked to fix a proper day for the Maharaja's being installed (with the usual ceremonies) on the Guddhee, and he appointed the day following—Accordingly soon after sun rise on the 1st September, the Maharaja in the presence of his Ministers and other officers of Govt. seated himself on the Guddhee with all pomp and ceremony. Pundit Mudsoodeen placed the "Raj Tilluck" on the forehead. The installation was announced by Salutes of Guns, and presents were made by Kumuck Sing⁴ to Brahmins and others. The Maharaja then worshipped the "Jhunda", 500 Rs. and a suit of clothes were presented to it. The Durbar was held in a chamber which was furnished with princely furniture and rich carpetings and presents were made by all the officers and ministers according to their ranks, and every one congratulated the Maharaja on this happy occasion.

The expectation of Koonwur Now-Nehal Sing's early arrival at the Capital, observes Mr Clerk, seems to have prompted the Durbar to adopt the precaution of performing this ceremony rather sooner than was otherwise intended.

Mooltan

21st August

The Mooltan news writer reported to the Lahore Durbar that Dewan Sawun Mull, the Nazim of this place, had entertained 18 Sepoys and that it was his intention to enlist a full Battn. by the next Dussuhra (in October). The Dewan's intention was not known.

Peshawur

24th August

Koonwur Nownehal Sing has made arrangements for his speedy return to Lahore. It is reported that he intends leaving at Peshwaur 3 Batns; under Raja Golab Sing, and Mons Lafont with 300 Sowars from the Ram Regt. 1,000 from those under Jemadar Kaushal Sing and 500 sowars from the different other Troops, and M Avitable to realize the annual revenues.

24th August

Col Wade in writing from Camp Gaudamak reports that on the Shahzadeh's arrival at Jellalabad on the 17th instant, he was greeted by the inhabitants of the city who assembled in Crowds to receive him, and during

3 *Pundit Mudsoodeen*, (Pandit Madhusudan) his father, Pandit Brij Lal was one of the holy men attached to the Lahore Darbar under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Appointed head priest of the Darbar by the Maharaja in 1808, he was given charge of the Charity Department which he held until 1849. His long tenure speaks of his integrity and spiritual attainments, free from all political intrigues, whereby he earned the respect and reverence of all.

4 *Kumuck Sing*, stands for Kurruck Singh or Maharaja Kharak Singh.

his stay there, the Maliks and other leading men of the country came to profess their allegiance to the new Government with alacrity. He represents the Town as in a very ruinous state, and from the reports of the people, it would appear that Mahomed Akbar Khan in his endeavours to support an army, disproportionate in extent to the Territory subject to his authority, was obliged to make exactions and levy contributions on them, which had rendered his rule oppressive. In the arsenal at Jellalabad, Coll Wade found a quantity of powder and upwards of 700 rounds of Ball had been left by the young Sirdar, together with some unwrought materials for making Gun Carriages and Saddles for Swivels. During Mahomed Akbar's retreat, it appears that he had been compelled to abandon the whole of his artillery and baggage, and that after leaving Gandamak he had with difficulty effected his escape with only a few of his followers. Col Wade has traced and taken possession of most of the guns with some part of his camp equipage, a few horses, draft bullocks, Jezzails etc. etc.

Col Wade appears to watch with some suspicion the apparent efforts of the Sikh local authorities in Peshawur to extend a degree of influence in the direction of Sewat and Banur.

Army of the Indus

The following extracts from private letters contain particulars of much interest :—

24th July

A staff officer in Camp in communicating the storm of Ghuzni, mentions that—"It is surrounded by substantial walls and bastions on all sides—the defences had lately been put in complete order, and it mounted 9 Guns, 1 a 56 Pr.⁵, besides innumerable wall pieces, Jinjalls, and Matchlocks. The Garrison is supposed to have consisted of not less than 2,000 men. On approaching the town we were surprized at the lofty and beautiful appearance of the Citadel and the extent of the works. The Comd. in Chief determined immediately to reconnoitre it in force and make them shew their strength. On approaching the place a number of walled Gardens and orchards were found occupied by the enemy. Our 4th Brig. was immediately called up and thrown into them. They rattled the fellows out of them in capital style and drove them behind the defences with little loss on our side. The Guns were then called up to answer those of the Fort, the enemy kept up a brisk and well-directed fire from all descriptions of fire arms. At about 11 A.M. we drew off, and pitched our camp out of range of their Guns. Our Skirmishers retired from the gardens, which were immediately reoccupied by the enemy, who cheered our retiring parties—the fellows set this down as a

⁵ 1 a 56 pr. A 56-pounder field-gun.

victory, wrote the joyful news to Cabool, and indulged the pleasing vision of demolishing our army by raising the whole country with Dost. Md. from Cabool, we changed ground the same day at 3 p.m. and took up a position on the other side of the town across the Cabool road. Our right resting on the heights which commanded the place, and our left in semicircle round it—All that night the garrison was rejoicing, firing and signaling their friends in the neighbouring hills with blue lights. Next morning our camp was threatened with 3 large bodies of Horse and Foot from the Hills on the left—They were beaten off by the Cavalry, Horse only, and some of the Shah's troops—Another large body chiefly horse, under another son of Dost Md., was on our left, and not far from him a Ghiljye Chief with 1,500 Horse, who has hung upon our flank all the way from Kelat i-Ghiljye. At 3 AM the 3 Cos. of the 35th opposite, struck up a rattling fire, the Engineers then crept silently up to the gate and deposited their further (200 lbs of powder) all right and were followed at a funeral pace by Dennie and his party; but the suspicions of the place had clearly been awakened by the shot which boomed over our columns, and the sharp clatter of the wall pieces. Suddenly the explosion took place, and sent the large gate to atoms. It was still dark save from the blue lights which they threw out over the walls; and the effect at this moment was really such as I find it impossible to describe. Certainly it was the most magnificent, the most exciting scene I ever beheld—the strong light and shade of the rude old tower—the roar and flash of all sorts of arms from the Zubbur Jung to the Matchlock—the blue lights and the grim figures Shumshere Ke Dust shadowed in the smoke, all formed a scene which you would have rejoiced to witness. Then came the tug of war—the Engineer having reported that all was clear ahead—on went Dennie groping in the dark for a pace or two—for the gateway first took a turn to the right, then by the dim light of approaching morning which just streaked the sky, he discovered the mass of beard⁶ which choked the entrance and shouted defiance—A volley from the leading section—and then a rush with the bayonet. The next loaded section to the front—another volley—and then at them again with the bayonet—another and another—they gave back—On pushed the 4 Cos—gained the open space, and let fly in the ramparts right and left. On then went Sale and his Column, irresistible of course, but yet resisted— A body of desperados rushed sword in hand from the rampart on the head of the Column and had nearly killed the brave old Sale; but they were settled soon.”

24th July

Another writer in giving the same account says that “On the 22nd the Zubbur Jung (a 56 Lbr) which had been dismantled the day before having been remounted treating the Shah with an occasional shot. In the

⁶ *The mass of beard* : refers to a cluster of bearded Afghan soldiers.

afternoon the enemy appeared in force on a ridge to the SE of our Camp but were soon dispersed by the Shah's Troops especially the Goorkhas. They turned out, I believe, to be the Soliman Khail,⁷ and appeared to amount to 1 to 2,000; some prisoners were taken who were disposed of by the Shah, after a dangerous attempt of one of them on HM. On the 23rd the guns moved into position, and the storming party formed under cover of the fire the bags of powder were placed against the gate by Capt Peat and Lieut Macleod with a party of sappers and the saucissions⁸ was fired by Lt Durand—the explosion was completely successful.” The advanced party then pushed forward— “Within 1/2 an hour from the explosion, town and citadel had fallen into our hands, and we had the pleasure of saluting the British ensign to the tune of the British Grenadiers. The loss in killed and wounded is unprecedentedly small, and would, it is said, have been smaller, had the advance of the reserve storming party taken place with greater promptitude. All the Engineers escaped—Capt Thomson had a narrow escape during some desperate fighting in the gateway, and was saved by being knocked down and kept down by two falling British soldiers—It is certainly striking, (observes the writer), and must have a most moral effect on the Afghans that a city that was besieged by one monarch for 2 Years, and by Nadir Shah for 10 Months before it fell, and that was passed by Ahmed Shah, should have been captured in 48 hours by an army without a single battering gun.”

29th July

In describing the climate and the general features of the country, the same writer says:—Ghuznee stands on the termination of a slope—the continuation of a low range of hills forming the n. boundary of the valley up which the Cabool road runs. In its position is its strongest defence, for the sides of the slope in themselves are high and generally very steep. It is surrounded with a high and thick wall—well furnished with bastions and a rowney, and by a wet ditch crossed opposite each of the three Gates by a bridge or causeway. The Citadel occupies a still higher mound and not only commands the town, but such portions of the hilly range by which part of the Town is commanded. It has 7 Guns, the largest a 56 Lbr. The Garrison is stated to have consisted of 2,000 men, among whom were 1,500 of Dost Mahd's picked swordsmen. It is said to contain some 5,000 inhabitants, and is in circumference nearly a mile. The streets are narrow—the houses all poor outside and jammed irregularly together. It was well supplied with provisions, and all necessary ammunition—excellent powder—some articles of destruction of French manufacture in the form of patent Cartridges, Vicovitch

7 *Soliman Khail* : a Pathan tribe on the North-West Frontier.

8 *Saucission* ; should read 'Saucisson', a long tube of water-proof canvas, packed with gunpowder and used for firing a mine.

is said to have been there 5 or 6 days and design of an outwork which commands the bed of the river, which runs close to the west face of the Town, and which is crossed by two rude bridges, is supposed to have emanated from him. The elevation of the Town is 7,600 feet above the sea. The surrounding valleys along the bed of their supplies of water, are well cultivated. The view up the Ghuzni river is very picturesque, but by no means void of the usual fault-excessive sterility of mountains and their sloping bases—None of the neighbouring mountains are of any great height. The lat. is $33^{\circ} 33' 44''$ N and assumed Long $68^{\circ} 20'$ E. The climate is fine, although the sun is powerful out of doors. In tents the therm. does not rise above 92° and in houses 76° . Water is abundant. Gardens are very numerous and well kept. The fruits are grapes, apricots, 4 kinds of plums (one as good as the common Orleans plum of England) almonds, apples, peas and mulberries. The Crops consisted principally of Wheat, Lucerne,⁹ and an excellent species of clover are very abundant. The writer notices the exaggerated statements published in the News-Papers and concludes with this remark—"Some of the journals are, I see, still harping on our hardships, whatever they have been, I must declare that they have affected private soldiers and sepoys. For my own part, I have seldom lived better than I have done with the Mess of the sappers and miners and all other messes were placed in similar circumstances. Losses of property and camels have no doubt affected most Subalterns not on staff employ and warrant officers, but this was partly due to starting with such immensed establishments are a supposed essential to every one in Bengal."

1st August

Ghuzni was described as very weak, and completely commanded from a range of hills to the North, which induced Sir John Keane to leave in Candahar the small battering train then with the Army—but when the army came before that Fortress on the morning of the 21st July "we were very much surprized" observes another correspondent, an Engineer officer, "to find a high rampart in good repair, built on a scarped mound about 35 ft. high, flanked by numerous towers, and surrounded by a Fausset-braye¹⁰ and a wet ditch. The irregular figure of the encient¹¹ gave a good flanking fire, whilst the height of the citadel covered the interior from the commanding fire of the Hills to the North, rendering it nugatory. In addition to this the tower at the angles had been enlarged—Screen walls had been built before the Gates, the Ditch cleared out and filled with water (stated to be unfordable) and an outwork built on the right bank of the river so as to

9 *Lucerne* : the leguminous plant *Medicago Sativa*, resembling clover, cultivated for fodder; purple medick.

10 *Fausset* (or *Faussebraye*) : an artificial mound or wall thrown up in front of the main rampart; in early usage a covered way.

11 *Encient* (or *enceinte*): an enclosure, chiefly in a fortress.

command the bed of it." The works were evidently much stronger than we had been led to anticipate, and such as our army could not venture to attack in a regular manner with the means at our disposal. We had no battering train, and to attack Ghuzni in form a much longer train would be required than the army ever possessed. The great height of the parapet (60 or 70 ft) with the wet ditch were insurmountable obstacles to an attack merely by mining or escalading. It therefore became requisite to examine closely the whole Contour of the place to discover if any other mode of attack could be adopted", which the Engineer officers with an Escort accordingly did. They found the fortifications were equally strong all round, the only tangible point observed was the Cabool Gateway which offered the following advantages for a coup-de-main. The road up to the gate was clear; the bridge over the ditch was unbroken; there were good positions for the artillery within 350 yards of the walls on both sides of the road; and it was said that the gateway was not built up, a reinforcement from Cabool being expected—Preparations were accordingly made on the 22nd for blowing the gate open by powder. It was arranged that an explosion party consisting of 3 officers of Engg., 3 Serjts. and 18 men of the sappers in working dresses carrying 300 lbs of powder in 12 sand bags with a hose 72 ft. long should be ready to move down to the Gateway at day break. The party moved steadily on headed by Lt Durand, the powder was placed, the hose laid, the train fired, and the carrying party had retired to tolerable cover in less than 2 minutes. The artillery opened when the blue lights appeared, and the musquetry from the covering party at the same time, so quickly was the operation performed, and so little were the enemy aware of the nature of it, that not a man of the party was hit, and the Citadel was occupied as soon as day light shewed that it had been evacuated by the enemy, and the whole of the works were in our possession before 5 O' C on the morning of the 23rd July.

One of the officers who was sent with a party to apprehend Dost Mahomed in his flight, gives the following account of the expedition :—

"Dost Mahomed Khan having found his followers disinclined to face us made up his mind to flight, and started towards Bokhara—A large force of Afghans who had joined the Shah were directed to pursue him accompanied by a few of our officers. It must now give you an account of our Expedition from which I yesterday returned. The Depy. Adj. Genl., having written to offer me the opportunity of doing good service by aiding in the capture of the Dost, I gladly availed myself of it, as I knew that success must insure a reward to those engaged in the business, and the following officers volunteered their services, Lieutts Wheler and Lawrence of the 2nd Cavy, Capt

Backhouse¹², MB Lt Hogg, Captn Outram ADC and Capt Erskine, Poona Horse, together with Lts Ryves & Worrall of the 4th Local Horse, 50 men of the regulars, 25 of the 4th Local and 25 of the Poona Horse were directed to accompany us, and we were expected to encourage the Afghans who were to form the chief strength of the force—We had but a few minutes given us for preparation, and according to orders were in attendance at Mr Macnaghten's quarters at 10 O.C. We were then told to wait till 4, the Afghans not being ready to start, in consequence, we all reassembled that hour and were again kept waiting till dark. The rascally Afghans making all manner of difficulties, and already shewing themselves much disinclined for the trip—At length in lieu of 3,000, about 700 men under Hajee Khan the Kakur Chief appeared ready to be off, and Mr Macnaghten thought it requisite to increase our strength by 100 of the Shah's Cavalry under Captn Christie with 2 other officers of the Shah's force, and 11 in number, away we went about 8 O.C. at night on our journey to plunge into the midst of the Hazara tribes and attempt to cut the Dost off together with his family. You may imagine what a trip we must have had when I tell you that we could take no servants, clothes, beds, tents, or any thing else with us. 2 Shirts & 1 Blanket formed our Stock, and we all had made up our minds to rough it in every way. Captn Outram being the only one who had any thing like a tent in the shape of a pall which was carried on a tattoo. This was occasionally pitched, generally in the day time, and amongst us we mustered 4 Khidmutgars on spare Horses—all was excitement with us—we knew the game to be ahead, energy and courage were all that were requisite to bring it to bay, and did we succeed, great advantage to all concerned must have been the result. For 3 days we toiled on our road, and through hills that had never been traversed by an European—and had we not generally been moving in the dark, should have seen some very wild scenery. In the middle of the night we used to throw ourselves down for a couple of hours' rest, but the cold on the tops of the bleak hills, we were amongst, proved in general too great for much sleep, and a short dose was all we got. Those who, could find a good stone for a pillow being thought most lucky and most luxurious in their Couch—we had proceeded but a few miles when we discovered that, small as our party was in comparison to the object we had in view we could not depend on the Afghans in the hour of need, and at length became convinced that they had no intention or wish for facing the Dost. The more certain we became of coming up with the fugitive, the more reluctant did our allies appear to continue the chase—every obstacle was thrown in our way, and every entreaty used to persuade us to halt and send back for reinforcements. Our guides were induced to lead us astray, and one night when we knew we should come on the Dost by day break, having certain

12 *Capt Backhouse*, attached to the British envoy at Kabul, was made incharge of Shah Shuja's artillery and deputed to organize a mountain train for him in Dmceber 1839.

intelligence of his being only 20 miles off, we were disappointed by being led into a difficult mountain Pass, and the guide there leaving us to our fate, in consequence of which we were forced to halt till morning. To make up for this we tried one more effort at a forced march, but were deserted by the Afghans, and owing to their treachery, the Dost was informed of our being in pursuit and enabled to evade us. When we upbraided Hajee Kakur for his cowardice and want of energy, he tried to discourage us by the assurance that the Dost had nearly 15,000 men with him, that not an Afghan of our party would draw a sword in our favour, but would turn against us were we to get the worst in an attack, did we attempt with our own few men to intercept the Dost. Ours indeed became an awkward situation with 200 men besides ourselves, we were in the midst of a wild country where at any time 50 matchlockmen could have taken possession of the mountain passes and cut off retreat; with treachery amongst us, and a strong body of desperate men ahead success seemed impossible—but we strove all in our power and were determined to risk all, could we once see the enemy before us. As it happened we were not destined for the trial, and on our reaching Bameean, we found the Dost had heard of us and bolted the night before. We here had to give up the pursuit, and were at the time much disappointed at all our labors having been in vain. On cool reflection we could not however help acknowledging that, under existing circumstances, it was perhaps providential we never overtook the enemy, as had we done so, in all probability not a man of us would have remained to tell the tale. Lt Trevor and Capt'n Taylor¹³ had joined us with 25 men, and with officers we could muster only 260 souls. The Dost would have been by far too strong for us, and had we been beaten back, the Afghans of our party together with the people of the country would have fallen on our rear and cut us up piecemeal. As it was we have all returned in safety, and if the expedition failed it was owing to no want of energy on the part of the officers. We have all returned well and in good health. I would not have missed the trip for any thing—Only fancy our going over passes, 1,500 feet above snow, & a pass we had to cross was at least 15,000 feet high. The cold proved intense, and we found our sorais of water frozen. Our party had to rough it a great deal—and the want of clothing caused great inconvenience. Still we had a pleasant party, all were cheerful, and owing to the excitement in good humour—and the different shifts we were put to proved a source of laughter and amusement. Such a dirty looking set you can scarcely imagine, and could you have seen us scrambling for our dinner would have had a hearty laugh. An old tea cup or a Chuppatty having often to serve as a plate, We expected when starting to have been out about 2 or 3 days, instead of which, we were absent a fortnight during which time we never took off our boots, and shocking to relate some of us had not even a change of linen.”

13 Taylor : Superintending Engineer, NWP.

The Shah has designed the institution of an order to be called "*The order of the Dooranee Empire*" wherewith he proposes to invest the principal British officers engaged in the campaign. The permission of HM our Gracious Queen being sought with respect to their being allowed to wear the decoration of the said order. He also intends striking Gold and Silver medals for distribution to all the officers & privates of the Army in commemoration of the storm of Ghuzni.

Cabool

Provisions at this place are abundant and cheap, and as it is more advantageous to Govt. that the Troops should purchase their own supplies, all issues from the Comt. Godown have been stopped. The only articles required were Rum and medical stores—Major Parsons¹⁴ is getting some spirits prepared at Cabool as an experiment, but he thinks Rum would be preferable as being cheaper and better for the men. For the Troops that may return via Candahar there will be abundance of supplies on the road, as there are Depots at Ghuzni, Candahar, Quetta, Daddur and Shikarpore and there is abundance of Rum, Hospital Stores & in Depot at Shikarpore also. The Camels however are represented as in a wretched state—they have been sent to graze at some distance from Cabool.

The following accounts describing Cabool are extracted from demi-official letters—

14th August

‘We have at last, after a march of nearly 600 miles reached a place which has not been exaggerated, and with which all are highly pleased; pleased with the scenery, novel on account of the abundance of wood, and extremely rich cultivation—and delighted with the fruit, which is as good as it is abundant. The Army is encamped about 6 miles from the Town, with the exception of the Infantry which is two miles nearer. The Engineers’ camp is a charming spot—the garden of the Emperor Baber—encamped round a small reservoir of water under the shade of Five Poplars, and two beautiful sycamores—the Garden abounds with another English favorite the Hawthorn, and consists of several terraces from several of which delightful woodland views are obtainable. Pretty as it is, the garden shews no sign of royalty; neither does the mosque built by Shah Jehan in honor of Baber; or the Emperor’s tomb which is nothing but an ordinary grave and tombstone. We are close under a range of Hills; which close to us are as it were divided by the Cabool river which intersects the Town—it is a poor stream—on both sides of this gorge the wall of Cabool ascends the hills rising over

¹⁴ Major J D Parsons was appointed deputy to the Commissariat Department of the Army of Indus. He was wounded at the siege of Ghazni in September 1839, and awarded the insignia of the Durrani empire.

one peak or 1,100 ft.—within this, about 200 yds., commences the Town which is too irregular to enable one to describe its outline; it is with the exception of some gardens, very densely crowded with the usual houses: Not a superior house is to be seen on looking down on it. The Bazars are fine enough—the best are wide, about 30 ft. high with flat ornamented roofs: the shops are clean and in many cases tastefully laid out. The fruit shops are the theme of common conversation, melons, water melons, grapes, peaches, pears, apples, plums of several kinds—in absolute profusion—and really excellent. The peaches are particularly good, and very large—some measuring 10 inches in circumference—the melons and many sorts of grapes particularly good—and all worthy of being introduced into the NW Provinces, the only parts of India which, unlikely as they are to this, have any remote affinity of climate. The most common shops after the fruits' shops are armourers, blacksmiths, shoemakers.—The Balla Hissar occupies the Eastern corner of the Town: it is surrounded with the remains of a wet ditch, and is exteriorly a decent, respectable looking place. I have only seen part of the interior which is crowded with the usual poor houses. Cabool is not defensible; the citadel is completely commanded from the upper citadel which is in ruins—and the streets come close up to the lower one. These streets are very narrow. In crowds of inhabitants, bazars and trade, Cabool exceeds any place I have seen in these parts. The chief trees the most common, are the mulberry, apple and pear—the cultivation consists of Rice, Indian Corn, Wheat, Barley, Tobacco, Beetroot, Melons, Cucumbers, Safflower, Clover and Lucerne. So far as we have yet seen, the presence of the Army has not made any rise on the supplies. Atta is selling from 16 to 20 Sr. P. Ree—Barley about the same—everything else is proportionably cheap; and the natives are by no means the Jews they were at Candahar. We have been much annoyed by thieves, but I believe they are nearly confined to our Camp-followers. The Natives seem orderly and well disposed—but the Kazil-bashes are ill affected—and from their numbers may be powerful enemies, unless strictly watched—it is said they can bring into the Field an Army of 10,000 men, armed and equipped. They resemble the Mamelukes¹⁵ in evil qualities and in danger, and are disliked and feared by all the respectable Afghans—Dost Mahomed had spared no pains in fortifying the Bala Hissar—and expected Ghuzni to hold out 2 years at least. The climate of this place is fine, clear and bracing: nor does the Therm. rise higher than 90° even in Tents—its elevation is correctly stated by Burnes—not so the latitude, which he gives 6 miles at least too far South: the true lat: is 34° 30' 30". The mountains retain their peculiar features of barrenness and ruggedness—the Pughman range are the highest near us—they cannot be under 13,000 ft. above the Sea—White patches resembling snow are visible here and there. The

15 *Mameluke* : a member of the military body, originally composed of Circassian slaves who seized the Egyptian throne in 1254, and continued to form the ruling class in that country until exterminated by Muhammad Ali in 1811.

Hindoo Koosh is not seen to perfection from Cabool: the adjoining mountains being generally too high." Another writer speaking of the City says, "Cabool is the cleanest, the most regular, and best looking of any place I have seen in the East; and it possesses by far the best bazar I have ever seen. The shew of fruit is beautiful and so well-arranged in the Shops and Stalls, a fruiterer in London might be proud of such variety and all of exquisite flavor. Grapes, black and white, Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots, Pears, Apples, Plums of every description, Cherries, Melons &c. and all in the utmost profusion—Onions, Carrots, Turnips, Beet-root, and other vegetables in the utmost perfection—but they do not grow potatoes, peas, or cauliflowers—milk and butter, poultry and eggs in plenty and reasonable. In short this is a land flowing with Milk and Honey. Our men are improving in health—the Sick with very few exceptions are doing well. The admissions are few and the cases taken into hospital not at all severe. The officers have all returned to duty."

Financial

16th August

Capt Bygrave reports his Cash Balance in the Military chest on the 1st of Augt.—Rs. 3,18,778—Of Bills drawn by him in July—58,161.—10 Lakhs of Rs. under Lt Col Stacy Comg. 43rd NI were expected at Candahar on the 2 Inst. and this money is on its way to Cabool escorted by the 37th and will most likely reach its destination on or about the 1st of Sept. when in all probability the Troops will be paid in full for June—and if it should not be practicable to disburse pay in full for July also, an advance will be made in part for that month. The Commt. demands for the past 8 months have averaged only 4,25,750—this is considerably less, Captn Bygrave remarks, than the average expenditure he was led to suppose owing to the large outlay at Candahar. There is a falling off in the Statt.¹⁶ of drafts drawn, but there is reason to suppose, observes Captn Bygrave, that the diminution for the most part is of a temporary nature, for the troops, uncertain when pay might be regularly issued, have naturally refrained from remitting more out of June's pay, than could be avoided and the Bankers at Cabool seem shy, and disinclined to do business through real or imaginary fear of consequences which they think the slightest indication of wealth might entail on them in the present state of affairs.

28th August

Mr Bell reports amount of Treasure now in Scinde to be in

Rupees	...	20,27,332
In Gold Coins	..	4,50,014
In Sycee Silver	...	10,03,432
		<hr/>
		34,80,778

16 *Statt.* Statement.

A private letter from Calcutta states that the 50 Lakhs intended for the use of the NWP and the 20 Lakhs for Bombay will be furnished from the Presidency without loan or extraordinary resources being had recourse to.

Bokhara

7th July

Lieut Pottinger in reporting on the affairs of this quarter states his having received a letter from Col Stoddart who informs him that he was still in confinement but states that the Raees by whose advice he was imprisoned died on the 2d. of June, and that the Ameer had in consequence released all the State prisoners, but Koosh beggy Azaz Khan and himself—and that he had no hope of release until our troops occupied the old Dooranee frontier on the Oxus—A Persian Envoy was there soliciting neutrality or even co-operation in an attack on Khiva¹⁷—The Russians who have been sometime past assembling an Army at Orenburg are reported to have positively marched and the Persian confirms the story, saying his own Govt. means to advance from the South—The Khan of Kokan¹⁸ is at present engaged in a religious war with the Chinese—The Turkoomans are said to be discontented with the Khiva Govt. and the tribe of the Tukas has come over under Persian protection.

A letter has been addressed jointly by His Excy Lt Genl Sir J Keane and Mr Macnaghten to the King of Bokhara with a view to the release of Col Stoddart, and other measures have been adopted for the same purpose.

Upper Scinde

Reports of an interesting and satisfactory nature have been received from Lt Scott of the Beng. Comt., and Lt Bate of the Bombay Comt. noting the quantity of stores of every kind available in Upper Scinde, and the high state of preservation of the whole. The heat of the sun is so great as to prevent the presence of Weevil in the grain where exposed under a slight covering from the effects of the weather to the solar action. The store houses erected by the Officers above named appear to have been very

Orders, replies & Observations

N.B. The pressure on general resources induced by the extraordinary expenditure beyond the Indus continues to be met without necessity of devising any extraordinary means of supply nor does it appear probable that there will be reason to have recourse to such means save under contingencies, the probability of which is extremely questionable.

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- 17 *Khiva* is ancient Khurasan, the Corasima of European writers. The city is situated in a fertile plain close to the Oxus, about 600 miles from Herat.
- 18 *Kokan* (Kokund or Khukund) was a small principality west of Kashgar, situated in the valley of Ferghana, Babur's patrimony. It was regarded as the key to Turkistan, athwart the high road to the Chinese settlements of Kashgar, Yarkand and Khctan, with whom it carried a considerable trade. In 1865 it was subjugated by the Russians who called it the Ferghana province of Russian Turkistan.

sufficient for the purpose; and the losses of Grain and Stores in Scinde have been principally confined to damage done by sudden risings of the river at a time when difficulty was experienced in removing the Grain from its banks.

Lower Scinde

8th August

Col Pottinger reports the conviction of the murderers of Captn Hand. Chakur Khalifa was the head of the Gang by which the above atrocity was perpetrated, and it is more than probable it would not have been committed had he not given the order which from his holy character (as denoted by his title of Khalifa) his followers were the more ready to obey. Col P¹⁹ has therefore called on the Ameers of Hyderabad to issue directions for his execution in the most public manner on the spot where the murder took place, and with respect to the other 4 criminals recommends their being confined for life.

Col Spiller notices the arrival of Sahib Khan Chota (who may be termed the Rob Roy of Scinde) into Kurachee on a visit to him. He represents this man as never having before seen an European and had never even been near Kurachee—and a short time ago refused to visit the Ameers altho' their Highnesses sent him a gold sword and a deputation to invite him. "He has shewn a very great confidence in us, (Observes Col Spiller) and his visit will, I am sure, be attended with a great moral effect, more particularly as he was dissuaded from coming by every one, far and near, high and low."

Col Pottinger adds that this Chief had gone back to his Jagheer much gratified by his visit to and reception at Kurachee, and which cannot fail to have a most excellent moral effect throughout lower Scinde—and that our people may henceforward go into his country with perfect safety—and that that Chief and also his followers have formed a very high opinion of our united power, and good faith from the confidence and kindness with which they were treated and permitted to gratify their natural curiosity amongst people and things so perfectly new to them.

22nd June

Col Spiller, Comdg. the Scinde Reserve Force reports that the Nat. Arty. with their Guns, Batteries, &c &c, complete, together with 2 Cos. of the 26th Regt. NI and Pioneers marched that morning for Tatta. He represents Kurachee as not a desirable situation for Troops and notices that Tatta has every advantage over that station in point of health particularly with native troops. The sickness at Kurachee as compared with Tatta is as nearly 3 to 1—another advantage Tatta possesses is the cheapness of materials for building—Col S mentions that he passed the whole of a hot

19 Col P for Col Pottinger.

season at Tatta in Tents, and he has never known such a pleasant and cool season in any part of India. Not an officer of the Brigade was sick during that period.

Steam Navigation of the Indus

The Political Agent in Upper Scinde has submitted the first part of a report upon measures taken for facilitating Steam Navigation on the Indus—Arrangements have been made for depots of fuel at various points between Tatta and Ferozepore, a distance of 825 miles, having an establishment of wood-cutters at each Depot whereof there are 6 major and 22 minor ones; and Mr Ball of the Indian Navy. The Political Agent reports that Steamers drawing 3 ft. 4 will have no difficulty in navigating the Indus as far as Mithankote²⁰ at any season of the year. He doubts much however whether the Sutlej, will be suited for vessels of such draft, and he thinks that steamers such as are employed on the Ganges drawing 2 ft. 4 will be the most suitable description of vessel for that river. His present impression is that coal fuel will be found at once the cheapest and best description for steamers on the Indus, and he has proposed to the Bombay Govt. that a quantity of coal be sent to Bukker²¹ so as to be available as soon as possible after the steamers come to use, in order that the experiment of the two kinds of fuel may be fairly tried at the outset of the undertaking.*

Circassia

1st April

From information received from a confidential source in St Petersburg it is stated that it is the intention of the Emperor of Russia to carry on the war in Circassia with increased vigor and with greater force than has hitherto been employed, and that the plan which has been determined upon is to make a simultaneous attack upon the opposite sides of the District as yet unsubdued with two Armies—One is to proceed by the Shores of the Caspian Sea, while the other is to be landed near and to advance from Poti upon the tribe of Tcherheuses who with their neighbours, the Lesghees, are the most powerful and rancorous of the Circassian tribes in their hostility against Russia. The execution of this project, remarks the writer, will require a reinforcement of

*N.B.—This subject is considered by the Honble the Secret Committee as most confidential.

20 *Mithankote* : a big town in Dehra Ghazi Khan (now in Pakistan) on the banks of the Indus, a short distance below its confluence with the Sutlej and its tributaries at Panjnad.

21 *Bukker* (Bukkur) a small strip of land, a sort of island in the Indus river. It is situated in the centre of the stream, just opposite the town of Rori and on the western bank of the Indus. It belonged to the Amir of Khairpur from whom it was acquired by the British in 1839. Bukkur was the principal British arsenal during the Afghan and Sind campaigns.

from 20 to 30,000 men in the Caucasian Provinces—These dispositions, he adds, must occasion many military movements throughout the Empire in the ensuing summer.

Muscat

26th July

The native Agent at Muscat reports that from information received by him via Daliara it appears Koorshed Pasha intended returning to his place after stationing Khalid All Saood in his room in Nejd. With respect to the affairs of Oman, the writer says, there is a stronghold between Rustak and Moosmuch which has been constructed by the two Aribeh²² tribes & which has been up to this time possessed by them notwithstanding attempts made to capture it—But lately the Garrison of the Fort has been divided into factions, and in a skirmish which ensued some of them were slain. A party of 21 of them left the Fort and sought an asylum with Hamood bin Uzan—they afterwards laid siege to the Fort—Hamood who apparently seemed not to take any part in this affair, was secretly watching an opportunity of undertaking an expedition against the Fort in support of the party which submitted to him—The Agent also reports the arrival of a Persian adventurer in flight from Tehran—His object is to proceed to India.

Kurnool

As the arrangements entered into by the Madras Govt. for instituting certain enquiries at Kurnool having for their object the possible coercion of the Nuwab of that place, in the event of his being detected in treasonable proceedings, have now in all probability become in a great measure public, owing to the assemblage of a force in the Kurnool frontier, it does not appear necessary to enter into any detail on the subject. Notice of the proceedings on the Nuwab of Kurnool in so far as regards his assemblage of large bodies of armed followers—his collection of supplies, stores, and munitions of war, and his generally contumacious behaviour have been at various times noted in previous news letters. It is suspected that discoveries may be made by the Commrs. appointed at Kurnool in the proceedings of Moobaruz ood Dowlah, the Brother of His Highness the Nizam, whose vain pretensions and treasonable designs were, there is strong reason to believe, not unfostered by the Nuwab of that state.

Joudhpore

The Ukhbars mention that certain Thakoors represented to Maun Sing that they had heard a British force were on their way to Joudhpore, and if His Highness would so order they would also encamp outside the Town

22 *Aribeh* for Arabic.

and prepare their armed men &ca. The Raja replied he had not the power to oppose the British Troops, and recommended their not giving it a thought—that when the British Officers arrived “whatever was to happen would happen” that if he were allowed by the Governor General’s Agent to remain in the Fort he would do so; but if not, that he would take up his residence somewhere else. The relations of Luckmeenath and Asob Thakoor are quarrelling amongst themselves—the Maharaja on being informed of it desired men should be held in readiness, to give assistance to those in possession of the Asob Fort, but the troops did not proceed on this duty. The Asob Thakoor sent word that the opposite party had got possession of the Town, but the Fort still held out, on which the Maharaja ordered 200 sowars of his own to go to the assistance of those in the Fort. It was subsequently reported to His Highness that the besiegers had attempted to storm, but had been repulsed by a sortie from the Fort, and lost a Gun. Cholera is said to be raging at Joudhpore and 10 or 20 people daily die of the disease in the Town.

30th August

It is represented that no preparations are still being made by His Highness Maun Sing—The news is that Luckmeenath and Jussroop with other Kamdars do not intend to remain in Marwar, but will leave that Territory for a place called Paunchoo in the Bickaneer State as soon as they are certain of the departure of Col Sutherland for Joudhpore.

Nipal

Mr Hodgson reports that he entertains strong hopes of effecting satisfactory arrangements with the Durbar as regards the grievances so often complained of by our Govt., but the subject appears to be still in abeyance.

Ava

22nd July

Captn Macleod reports his having this day quitted Amreepoora, and assigns reasons which induced him to take this step and to withdraw the Residency to Rangoon. The continued inimical disposition of the Court, the fixed determination on the part of His Majesty to believe in our disasters, the prospect in consequence of his committing himself and other causes have determined Captn Macleod in taking this step. He applied to the Ministers for other accommodations in consequence of the Residency being flooded, and the uninhabitableness of the buildings generally, and pointed out to them in the strongest terms the very great inconvenience and discomfort all had been subject to, the general state of health of the sepoy and followers and especially his own, yet they treated his representations with flippancy and indifference. He was at last constrained on the 13th Inst. to request that the Ministers would furnish him with the means of conveyance for

himself and suite to Rangoon, which was not however at the time supplied and, on the 15th, seeing that the King & Ministers would not allow him to take his departure, he addressed a Letter to the Ministers of State stating he has been urged to quit the Capital without delay on account of his health and his constitution being much impaired. His Majesty declared that the Residency should not be permitted to leave the Capital, and it was the evident desire of the Ministers to delay his departure or prevent it altogether from sinister motives—It became the common talk of the Town that Captn Macleod would be detained—His Majesty had afterwards on the following morning on the representation of the Prince of Prome who pointed out the consequences of their pre-meditated acts of violence—that detaining the Mission would be contrary to the law of nations, permitted his going; and ordered boats to be supplied—the Ministers declaring that the reason they had made objections to his going away was because they wished him to remain near them. It was represented to Captn Macleod that the Woonduck Gale had ordered a strong party of armed men to proceed to Kyouk ta loun²³ where they were to have been stationed on both sides of the river to intercept the mission if they moved. This person observes Captn M is the chief supporter and instigator of HM in the iniquitous and perfidious intentions of the court. On Captn Macleod's quitting Amreepora, he was to have been accompanied by the Ame Youk, but the wind favouring them they reached Kyouk ta loun before him—An Officer put off in a small Canoe and boarded his boat and demanded his passport—he apologized to Captn Macleod for being obliged to detain him as his orders were peremptory not to allow any person to pass without an order from the dhivotdan, and on Captn M refusing directed the boatmen to do so, which they did below the Chokey—During this parley a boat with 2 more Officers and about 30 men came off—on the arrival of the Ame Youk these officials endeavored to throw the blame of their highly improper conduct on that person for not being down before Captn M - and with many apologies left his boat—On his arrival at Rangoon Captn M was welcomed by the Ye Woon in the Woonduck's name in the most friendly manner—and told him that the house Col Benson occupied had been prepared for his reception. The Woonduck assured Captn Macleod that Burmese have no intention whatever to quarrel with the English, and moreover said that he was aware of the manner the Residency had been treated at the Capital which was disgraceful and that Captn M may rest assured he would, as he has always done, exert himself to the utmost in preserving the peace between the two countries—The report is that the Ame Youk is collecting supplies at the Pagoda—Grain, Salt, &c.—that lead is now double the price it was a short time ago, such is the demand for bullets. Two roads are being constructed into Arracan; one from the Town of Teling over the Nagaret Hills to the Kaladan Khyoung (Nullah)

23 *Kyouk ta loun* probably refers to the town of Kyauktaw in the Akyab district of Lower Burma. The Kaladam river flows through it.

in the Arracan territories, and the other from Yan loun she—Both these roads are to meet. His Majesty was apprized that there were 8 or 10 deserters at Martaban from Moulmein—and of Mons Chinelle and a French Officer being there— these two were ordered up to Amreepoora immediately—The former in consequence of a dispute with some English Officers at Moulmein came over to Martaben and is to be employed by HM in building Gun Boats and some men of war. The latter the Burmese represent as being a great military Officer, and is on a secret mission from Pondichery.

Items of General Intelligence

A singular discovery is noted in a Topographl.²⁴ report by Dr Winchester, of the Bombay Med. Serv., on Tatta and its environs, of the existence of a disease on the udder of the camel similar to the disorder which produces the Vaccine preventive of Small Pox. By Dr Winchester's report, the existence of pustules on the camel & the affection of the hands and arms of those who milk them in a similar manner as is observed in the Cow, seems to be established beyond a doubt. The disorder is called in Scinde "Photta Shuter"—but the natives do not appear to have applied the matter as a check on Small Pox which is represented as being severely felt in Scinde.

27th August

The Steamer from Assam arrived at Calcutta on the 26th Aug—She was 3 days from Jamalpore to Gowalpore—3 from Gowalpore to Gowahatty—2 from the latter to Tezpore, and 1 to Bishnauth.

Lt Grothire of the Engrs. has executed a most beautiful road on the line between Muneepore & Sylhet via Cachar. It is expected to be completed to the whole way in Decr.—The Mily. Bd.²⁵ say it reflects great credit on Lt G as the country is considered a most impracticable & dangerous one to work in—Lt G proposes to throw a suspension bridge over the Barak on which the Road will be continually frequented for travel and transit.

Lt Kittoe is to be employed for the construction & survey of the Bombay & Nagpore Road, he is to have a working party to mark out & open the road next season as far as he can towards Raepore.

Simla,
the 10th Sept. 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol 332, pp. 1-80).

²⁴ *Topographl* for topographical.

²⁵ *Mily. Bd.* for Military Brigade.

Newsletter 18 : September 23, 1839

Lahore

4th September

It was reported to the Maharaja that Koonwur Now Nehal Sing would arrive at Jurgurh on the other side of the Ravee on the following morning. Rada Kissen was deputed to enquire of the Koonwur's health, and a salute of Guns was ordered to be fired from all the artillery on his arrival at Lahore. A deputation consisting of the following persons, Sirdar Ajeet Sing, Rajas Heera Sing and Soocheyt Sing, were ordered to conduct the Koonwur into the city, and the 9th Inst. was the day fixed by the Brahmins for his entry. On the 5th the British Mission paid a visit to the Maharaja. His Highness advanced to receive them, and all were seated. After some conversation and civilities a letter from the Governor General and presents were presented. At the Vakeel's request, a copy of the above letter which contained compliments to Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing upon the assistance afforded to Col Wade in Peshawur was sent to him.

11th September

Orders have been issued to the Local Officers on the Peshawur road to assist the British commissariat Agents in the purchase of Grain and other necessaries for the use of the British Troops returning from Cabool.

11th September

A private letter notes the entry of Now Nehal Sing in the city on the 9th and in communicating the state of parties at that Court says that he (Now Nehal) is the only one of the Sirdars who treat his father with the least semblance of respect, but he is very tenacious of his own rank and very jealous of his grandfather's old favorites. Dhyan Sing & Koshaul Sing transact all the business of the State—all at least which is done openly. The great object of the Koonwur's ambition is to be the Naib of Suldaun what Raja Dhyan Sing is, and the Chiefs declare that, in that case, all will go on well—that Kurruck Sing will be nominally King, and Now Nehal the real one—and that if let alone, he would select Raja Dhyan Sing to carry on the business, but Gooroo Govind Ram¹ is striving hard to supplant him. Heera

¹ *Gooroo Govind Ram* (also Bhai Govind Ram) belonged to a respectable family of holy men which was held in great esteem by the Hindus and Sikhs alike. His elder brother, Bhai Ram Singh, was a great politician. The family enjoyed the patronage of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and were commonly styled 'goorocs'.

Sing still keeps his place on the left hand of the Maharaja, but the Koonwur never notices him except to chide him. The Durbar is described as a melancholy sight—without order—and nothing but noise and wrangle. The troops at present at Lahore do not exceed 3,000 men and Now Nehal Sing has three times that amount at Shahdoora. Kurruck Sing was asked if he would go to Amritsar as usual for the Dussuhra, his reply was "If I leave this, Now Nehal Sing will get in and I shall not be able to get him out again." Fuqueer Azeezodeen and Koonwur Shere Sing are represented as being utterly miserable. The latter is said to be in great favor with the Maharaja but all are ready for a start across the Sutlej at a moment's notice, and it was expected that a collision would take place hourly. All matters relating to the return of the army via the Punjab have been settled, and they will return by the best road which brings them not nearer than 15 miles to Lahore.

10th September

Another letter says, Now Nehal Sing recd. the Mission in a lively and good natured manner and came out to meet it, which surprized the Gooroos. All seemed inclined to bow to him, and to treat his father with neglect—which he did not, for he passed over to Kurruck in the most gentleman-like manner, all the honors tendered to himself. He is looking in great force, and is plainly dressed—Golab Sing was looking crafty, but was very civil, and Dhyan Sing is always attentive, but poor Heera Sing never opened his lips. There is much of secret reference to the Mission upon the manner in which they are all expected to act, and the substance of advice given in return is that Now Nehal should have his proper place about his father—that the grand-father's old men of business should remain—(The Gooroos however and others are jealous of Dhyan Sing, and there is fear that he will aim at too much power.) It is the writer's belief that he will be prudent and that all may yet go on well, though there will be as violent a division of parties and as much intrigue with more danger of violence as is found in most courts. Kurruck Sing is a cipher amongst them all, but Now Nehal Sing may uphold him.

13th September

The officer at Attock was ordered to let no sepoy cross to this side the river without a passport from M Avitabile. Mr Clerk writes, on the 19th Instt. that Raja Dhyan Sing looks in the lowest spirits.

Mooltan

2nd September

The Officer at Labanivalla reported that the Officers of Dewan Sawun Mull had committed 22 murders in this District, and that in consequence the people were daily deserting. The Maharaja ordered two of the Nephews

of the Dewan to be instantly apprehended and to levy a fine on them of 2,000 Rs. Devedial² was strictly enjoined to prevent the officers of the Dewan from murdering the inhabitants, otherwise measures would be taken to punish them.

5th September

A perwannah was written by the Lahore Durbar to Dewan Sawun Mull praising his exertions to increase the prosperity of the Provinces under his charge. By these contradictory accounts it will be seen that Dewan Sewan Mull, who has great Power at Mooltan and in the neighbouring districts is amongst the chiefs whom it is an object with contending factions at Lahore, to crush or to conciliate.

Cabool

20th August

The Envoy and Minister reports measures adopted by him for the seizure of Dost Mahomed Khan who appears from intelligence, entitled to credit, to have gone into the Territory of the Khoolum Chief. He has addressed letters to the Chief of that place, to his Brother, the Chief of Hybuk, and to the Chief of Koondooz, pointing out to them the inconvenience to which they might be exposed by harboring the ex-chief, and suggesting his expulsion from the neighbourhood of their Territories. To give due effect to the letter sent to the first named Chief, Mr Macnaghten has dispatched to him a Syud high in his Jaj's confidence and has charged him with messages of a friendly nature calculated to give him a general knowledge of our views and policy. He has further, with the concurrence of His Excy Lt Genl Sir John Keane, resolved on deputing Mr PB Lord forthwith to the Ruler of Koondooz, whence he will proceed in person to Hybuk & Khoolum or will depute one of his suite to the Chiefs of those places. The chiefs of Khoolum & Koondooz are represented to be in a state of enmity, in consequence of the former having rendered assistance to Dost Mahomed in his aggression upon the Territory of the latter. If therefore the Khoolum Chief were to persist in affording an asylum to Dost Mahomed, there would be little difficulty, Mr Macnaghten thinks, in securing the co-operation of the Koondooz Chief to effect his expulsion. But of the Khoolum Chief's so acting there is little probability as he has recently made a voluntary tender of his allegiance to His Maj: Shah Sooja ool Moolk.

3rd September

Mr Macnaghten in a private letter mentions the arrival of Lieut Col

² *Devidial* (Devi Dayal), a nephew of Diwan Sawan Mal and his agent at the Lahcre Darbar.

Wade at that City on the morning of that date. States it as his conviction that with the liberal support of the British Govt. he foresees no difficulty in carrying into effect all the views of the Governor General in that Country, but the work he observes must be one of time, and he does not think it possible that he could report the completion of our policy in less than a twelve month.

Army of the Indus

24th August

Major Maczaren, Comg. Ghuzni, writes that the European sick are recovering very fast—44 are now in tents and a number more will join them in a few days. Reports having received a letter from Lt Col Herring, Comg. 37th escorting Treasure for the Army, dated Mookoor,³ the 22nd, stating that all was well—he was expected to reach Ghuzni on the 29th—The country was perfectly quiet, and states he met with no molestation on the road from Candahar.

25th August

The Services of Captn Outram having been placed by His Excellency Sir John Keane temporarily at the disposal of the Envoy and Minister, that Officer has been instructed to bring several refractory individuals under His Majesty's authority. The most prominent of these are the chiefs of the Hotukee and Tokhee tribes of Ghiljyes; Moosa Mehlur, who headed the tribe of Fanatics which threatened the camp at Ghuzni; the Khan of the Tureekie tribe of Ghiljyes, and the Mama or maternal uncle of the ex-Sirdars. The forts or strongholds of all these individuals are believed to be situated in the vicinity of Kelat-i-Ghiljye. There is also a Fort called Maroof, at no great distance from Candahar, where the Kafila which left that place with a view of returning to India was so cruelly treated and Capt Outram has been instructed to level this place to the ground as well as the Fort at Toba⁴ belonging to Hajee Khan Kakur should any demur be made as to its surrender—and he is to be accompanied by certain confidential servants of HM on this duty. The means placed at that Officer's disposal for the accomplishment of the above objects are the 4th or Goorkha Regt. of the Shah's Infantry with a suitable portion of the Shah's Cavalry and he will move from Cabool to Ghuzni as soon as the necessary preparations can be made for their march, and he will take with him the Camel Battery (or such part of it as could be got ready). With a view to afford further aid to

3 *Mookoor*, 160 miles to the north-east of Kandahar, was administrative headquarters of a district of the same name on the route from Kandahar to Ghazni.

4 *Toba*—an irregular range of rocky mountains, a hundred and fifty miles in length, and a hundred in breadth, extending northwards from the valley of Pishin.

these operations, Captn Macan,⁵ Comg. the Shah's Infy. Regt. at Candahar, together with Captn Anderson's troops of HA & a small proportion of the Shah's Cavalry has been ordered to repair to Kelat-i-Ghiljye and there effect a junction—and if further military aid should be needed Maj Genl Wiltshire, Comg. the Bombay Force en route to that Presidency via Mookoor & Quetta, has been instructed to furnish it to Captn Outram. The terms to be offered to all are unconditional surrender, tho' to the Mama and the Khan of the Furekee, assurances are to be held out of their receiving honorable treatment on their immediately tendering their submission to the Shah. Measures have been also taken to apprehend the murderers of the late Lieut. Inverarity.

27th September

A private letter from an Officer in Camp represents the Cattle as in a very bad state, and dropping daily. The camels from India, it is said, cannot stand the climate. The Bombay troops are however being fitted out as efficiently as possible for their departure, which is to take place on the 15th Instt. Arrangements for the necessary supplies for the troops remaining in Afghanistan, and for those to return to the Provinces have been made. The dispatch of a quantity of supplies to Dera Ismael Khan will answer for the Troops remaining at Cabool, and have the necessity for any further dispatches from the Provinces except it may be some Rum for the Europeans which is much wanted.

Bokhara

2d. June

Lieut Pottinger states his having received a Lr. from Col Stoddart dt. 12th May, up to which period he was still in confinement, and the talk of releasing him, which had before prevailed, had ceased. The report of the fall of Candahar had reached Bokhara in 19 days. Col Stoddart further states that the Russians are assembling a force at Orenburgh preparatory, it was said, to the attack of Khiva—From Mushed reports had reached Lt Pottinger that Asuf-ood-Dowlut has left the City and encamped outside where he is assembling the Troops of Khorassan—but from subsequent accounts there is every reason to discredit any formidable collection of military strength at Mushed.

Herat

28th July

In a private letter Lt Pottinger mentions a report from the Persian

⁵ Capt C G Macan, of the 16th Native Infantry appointed to Shah Shuja's force.

frontier that Asuf-ood-Dowlut has made friends with the Ameer of Kayin,⁶ given him his daughter in marriage, or taken the sister of the Ameer to be the wife of his son Solar. It is also reported that he has given the command of Ghorian to Moshin Khan (Tyreony) removing his own younger son Mohomed Ally Khan thence to Koh-i-Sorrkh⁷ in lieu of which he has given Shumsaldyn Khan 400 Tomauns and sent him to Tehran—He has also heard that Asuf has given the former lands of the Hazarah at Jam and Bakhurs on the Persian frontier to the Tymoory Chief, this step, Lt P believes may lead to a renewal of hostilities, or at least forays. Asuf-ood-Dowlut's conduct, he observes, looks very much as if he were acting for himself and not his master. The acquirement of the friendship of the Ameer and the Tymoory Chief is of double importance, as he has also detached them from the party of his enemy the Minister Hajj Akasy. These steps joined to the seizure and imprisonment of his nephew, also his enemy, leaves him without a single opponent in Persian Khorassan.

Mission to Herat

20th July

Lt Todd, writing from Camp Aizabad near Subzawur, reporting the progress of the mission thus far, states that the district of Furrah has suffered very greatly from the incursion last year of the Candahar Chiefs on their way to and from that place. Many of the inhabitants having fled to Seistan⁸ & Lash—and the few that remain, are loud and bitter in their complaints of the unjust exactions of their rulers. Syud Mahomed Khan, the only son of the Vizier of Herat, and Governor of the District of Aizabad,⁹ visited Lt Todd on the 19th with a large retinue, and expressed on the part of himself & father the strongest attachment to the British Govt. and a deep sense of the obligations conferred by it upon the people of Herat—He also stated that it was the intention of his father to head the Istaqbal with which it is the intention of the Shah to honor the Mission on its reaching the neighbourhood of Herat.—The Country through which the Mission passed, although suffering severely from the consequences of the later war, is reported to be in a state of quietude. The town of Ghayn has been lately visited with

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- 6 *Kayin*, adjoins Herat and is the first Persian province to the west of Furra, and lies on the frontier with Afghanistan. It is inhabited entirely by the peace-loving Muslims of the Shia faith, a factor that encouraged the Turkeman tribes to seek for slaves in this region, during their 'chapaos' or forays.
- 7 *Koh-i-Sorrkh* on the route from Herat to Kandahar, a hundred miles to the south of Herat. The pass here was rated difficult for wheeled carriages.
- 8 *Seistan* lies to the southwest of Afghanistan, between Bast and Girishk. The province proper is in the basin of the Helmund, is a flat country with low-lying hills surrounded, except on the north, by vast deserts.
- 9 *Aisabad* (or Aizabad), a village in Afghanistan, on the route from Herat to Kandahar.

repeated and severe shock of Earthquake, by which it has been almost destroyed.

Lt Todd has reason to believe that a reconciliation has taken place between Lt Pottinger and the Vizier, as he has heard that they spend most of their time together, and are engaged in field sports all day. States his having received every attention, the kindness during his journey—and represents the climate of that place as truly delightful. By the latest Intelligence received by him, it appears that the ex-Chiefs of Candahar had been allowed to pass through Seistan and had reached Ghayn which place they were about to quit on their way to Persia. The Engineers of the party are said to be indefatigable in their exertion and are making an accurate survey of the route of the Mission which promises to prove an useful addition to our Geographical knowledge.

26th July

Lt Todd in another letter reporting his arrival at Herat on this date represents the appearance of the place as truly wretched—and to form some idea of the state to which the works and the defenders were reduced before the termination of the siege, mentions that Lt Pottinger is of opinion that had 100 fresh men seconded the first efforts of the assailants on the day of the grand attack, the place must inevitably have fallen.—The City appears to be nearly deserted with not more than about 7,000 inhabitants—The Bazar he says presents a most melancholly appearance; most of the shops are closed, and the few that are still open “would form but an indifferent regimental Bazar.” It is the belief of every one there that had not Lt Pottinger remained in Herat after the retreat of the Persians the City would have been utterly deserted by its few remaining inhabitants. There does not appear to be any immediate prospect of the Persians returning to Herat, says Lt Todd, but should the Russians again stimulate them to the attempt, he fears that they would meet with but feeble opposition compared with that which they experienced on the former occasion. He is therefore of opinion, in which Lt Pottinger concurs, that at least one Brigade of our Army should be kept at Cabool or Candahar in readiness to move if necessary on Herat.

Lower Scinde

4th August

The Resident in Scinde in noting the state of feelings of the Ameers remarks that it is said two of the Ameers are always ready to give credence to those rumours that tell against us and vice versa, but whatever their real feelings may be, they have discretion enough to disguise them but Soobdar Khan (and perhaps Meer Noor Mohd.), he says, must always be excepted from all inimical feelings. Soobdar has been friendly and consistent throughout;

his rigid engagements with Meer Sher Mohd of Meerpoor bespeak his character and good faith and Col Pottinger looks upon that close connection as very desirable since it forms a kind of guarantee for the quiet and friendly demeanour of that uncivilized Chief, who has however, he observes, been most sadly belied by the news mongers and report makers of Scinde.

18th August

The Secret Intelligence at Hyderabad reports that the Cassids, who had been sent by the Ameers with letters for Mr Macnaghten, begging that gentleman to advocate their cause with His Lordship the Governor General, had returned. The result of this application from the Ameers was a note from Mr M saying an answer would be sent through the Resident. Their Highnesses are represented to be in "great shame and tribulation" at this intimation as they are afraid the Resident will be offended at their addressing Mr Macnaghten.

13th August

Lieut Leckie in charge of the Hyderabad Resy. reporting on the habits and occupations of the Ameers of Hyderabad states that although the four Ameers are Mussulmen, they are not of the same sect, three being Sheeas, and one a Soonee and their intercourse is nearly as divided as their tenets of religion. Meers Noor Mahomed, Nusseer Mahomed, and Meer Mahomed Khans live together, and meet at the bungalow of one which may have been selected the day before for the transaction of business where they listen to complaints made by their Beloochees. There being 3 judges and 3 sets of complainants and defendants from the several territories of the three Ameers besides witnesses there are not that regularity and quietness which are so essential for the well-being of justice, and may, it is said, retire discontented. They pass much of their time in the Durbar and in the society of their Chiefs and men of rank conversing on different subjects, or in admiring Swords, Daggers and Matchlocks for which they have a great fancy, and sometimes they vary their amusements by shooting at a Target with Ball—the remainder of the day is passed chiefly in reading the Koran or in prayer and in seclusion with their families. Meer Soobdar Khan is regular in the performance of public business and holds his Durbar separately. He does not listen to reports or interfere in what does not concern him, and his communication with the other Ameers is not frequent—they visit him perhaps once a month. He is said to be beloved by the Beloochee Soldiery. The four Ameers are passionately fond of sport, and go out frequently and always at the same time; nothing but indisposition will make one remain behind in the Fort. The sons of their Highnesses are very intelligent lads, particularly Futteh Ali, the eldest son of Meer Soobdar. The Ameers, it is reported, neither drink spirits, nor smoke Hookahs, but take snuff in moderate quantities. Their

Highnesses have much spare time, Lieut Leckie remarks, which might, had they only the heart to exert themselves, cause a great change in their present mode of Govt. and conduce to the welfare and happiness of their subjects.

Egypt and Syria

18th July

A letter from Lieut Lynch to Lord Auckland from Bagdad, communicating a precis of intelligence from Syria, and of a battle between the Turkish and Egyptian Armies on the 23d & 24th June last, leading to the total defeat of Hafiz Pasha's army at Nesib with great loss and total confusion, observes that the weakness of the Sultan is now apparent; and interference from some quarter is almost inevitable; unless indeed the Pasha of Egypt foreseeing the result, should consult his interest in a moderate line of policy, which he believes will be strongly pressed on him by Her M's Govt.—The intrigues of Russia, he apprehends, will be opposed to this line. The Sultan is reported to be in a dangerous state, and not expected to survive, having a complication of diseases brought on by hard drinking—He will not give up the reins of Govt. his son, a lad of 17 yrs. of age is said to be an imbecile in the hands of Eunuchs &c.—The old Janizan party is moving and it was feared a revolution was at hand. The Russians are said to be looking out to exercise their Protectorate, and have 40,000 men ready to embark on 200 Transports at Sevastapool, the fleet ready to move with them to Stambol.—Russia has besides 1,50,000 men in the Ukraine. The French Squadron of 3 ships of the line with Prince Janville on board were at Cape Baba—The reinforcements from Toulon are getting ready—The British Fleet was at Palermo, and intended going on the Coast of Damascus. The Sultan's fleet was at the Dardenelles with 10,000 troops—on board for Syria—the action between the two armies which led to the dissolution and complete rout of Hafiz Pasha—He lost 7,000 prisoners besides innumerable deserters—The Killed and wounded are said to amount to 8 or 10,000—The Egyptians at least 5,000—for they were surprized by the Turks on the night of the 23d. where they lost ground, but on the 24th at day light, Ibrahim led them to the attack in person, having the day before cut them off from Bir¹⁰ by occupying Ghisseren. Hafiz fled to Manash—It is said the Egyptains took 25,000 stand of arms, the Turks laid them down and fled—All the Artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, Tents, in fact all the Camp. Ibrahim Pasha has received orders from Mehemet Ali to re-enter his limits. Mehemet Ali has not declared his independence, and the question remains to be settled by the Great Powers—The consequences resulting from this victory no body can derive—and the proximate death of the Sultan, the distracted state of his counsels, and a divided

¹⁰ *Bir*, a town on the left bank of the Euphrates, in the then Peshalik of Orfa. Caravans and travellers from Aleppo on their way to Bagdad and Persia crossed the river here.

regency expected, a disturbed capital and a discontented country. Affairs are getting quiet again at Damascus and Syria—Commerce however is as dull as ever.

Turkish Arabia

Bagdad is quiet—The Pasha who appears to Lieut Lynch to be doubtful of Persia, is near Sulimania in Kurdistan, the chief of which is also willing to take advantage of the times and play with both Turkey and Persia—He offers money to the Pasha, but declares his intention of abandoning his Country for Persia if the Pasha approaches it.

18th July

Lt Col Taylor communicating intelligence from this quarter reports that Koorshed Pasha is for the present quiet; and it is apprehended that his future motions will depend on the part taken by the British Govt. as to the independence of Mehemet Ali. The defeat of Hafiz Pasha has astounded the Govt. of Bagdad, and for the present they give out to their dependants that Mehmet Ali has offered to restore Syria, and consequently that Ali Pasha of Bagdad is to have that Government.

Persia

In the same letter Lt Col Taylor writes that the Shah of Persia is at present quiet, though much is said of collecting forces for Foreign Services. The Persian Detachment remains still at Bagdad.

Kurnool

The Resident at Hyderabad forwards copy of a letter to the Govt. of Madras communicating further strong evidence of the treason of the Nawab of Kurnool. A Persian letter enclosed in a Tuveez or Armlet from the Nuwab of Kurnool and intended there can be no doubt for Moobaruz ood Dowlah, has fallen into the possession of Genl. Fraser under very peculiar circumstances. Some doubt had existed as to the exact meaning of the letter, but the allusions contained in the first part no doubt point to some former Resident, the Minister and General Fraser, and the conclusion implies that "Arms, materials for war and Troops are ready—and that Treasure will be collected in a short time, because many of the Company's villages are rich and near the Kurnool frontier," thus leaving the inference to be drawn that his treasure is to be collected from the plunder of these villages.

Joudhpore

7th September

The Ukhbars state that Luckmeenath still remains in the Mahamunder. He has taken precautions against a surprize. Horses, it is said, are kept

saddled night and day, and parties are constantly on the look out and going the rounds at a distance of about a Koss from the Munder. A report is current in the City that many persons including the Mutsuddies of the Naths and of the Raj are preparing for flight. There was a rumour that the British Troops had reached Beesalpoor upon hearing which, Jussroop sent his family immediately away to the Bickaneer Ilaqa. Property belonging to the inhabitants leave the city daily. Ingress and egress are freely permitted—and it is mentioned that the Maharaja has declared his intention of keeping open the gates of the city on the arrival of the force sent against him.

The advanced column consisting of the Jyepore Brigade, Joudhpore Legion and Mairwarra Battn. under the command of Brig Rich were expected to arrive simultaneously at Beesalpoor, within 9 Koss of Joudhpore, on the 14th Sept. and there effect a junction. These detachments are spoken of as being in a high state of efficiency and amounting to about 1,000 Horse, 4,000 Infy. and 15 pieces of artillery, and in the opinion of the Brig a Detachment amply strong enough to meet any emergency.

11th September

Col Sutherland in writing from Camp Barownda¹¹ states that Major Genl. Hampton was expected to have left Ajmere on the 10th with a Troop of Horse Arty, 3 Squadrons of Cavalry and the 14th Regt. NI with 2 Battering Guns and 2 Mortars, and preparations are actively going forward for the advance of the remainder, should it eventually prove that they are required. And the troops both in advance and at Ajmere are reported to be in excellent health. “Maun Sing (he says) pitched his Camp about a Mile from Joudhpore the day before yesterday, and entered his tents yesterday, having made over charge of the Fort to the Naths and the most trustworthy of his Chiefs. His declared intention being to meet us at Beesalpoor and accept of such terms as we may dictate to him, and I believe this to be his intention. But in the meantime he has summoned all his Chiefs and retainers to the Capital.” Col Sutherland is one march in rear of Brig Rich with our friends the Thakoors.”

8th September

Captn Dixon mentions in a private letter to Col Sutherland from Palee¹² that matters promise to be Speedily brought to a close for the Maharaja is only awaiting the Colonel's arrival to do all that is required. Notes the Maharaja's having paid 13 visits to 12 Chiefs and 1 Munder two days previous—a most unusual act of condescension on his part, he observes, and particularly strange at the present juncture of affairs unless His Highness had

¹¹ *Barownda* : possibly Baraunda, now in Madhya Pradesh.

¹² *Palee* : Pali, a small, historic town in Jodhpur.

some motive in view. The assumed cause was to pay a visit of condolence to the different Thakoors. But Captn Dixon apprehends it may be that he has made up his mind to relinquish the cares of Govt. and took that opportunity before quitting the Guddhee to ingratiate himself with his Nobles. Maun Sing is a strange man, Captn D remarks, and it is out of the question expecting to analyze or penetrate his actions or intentions. The Maharaja, it appears, intimated to the Naths that it was proper they should remain and not run away like a thief—that their cause would be his. It is not unlikely Captn Dixon thinks that the Naths will accompany the Maharaja who intends in person to perform the part of “Peshwae” to Col Sutherland on his nearing the Capital.

Items of General Intelligence

The Danube Steam Navigation Company have extended their steamers to the Coast of Syria from the Centre of Germany, and Lt Syrich suggests that a line of steamers should be established there, and thus connect India with Central Europe—Keeping the line through those rich countries in our hands—Should the Company, he observes, extend their line along the Euphrates the intrigue and annoyance to our Merchants, and indeed political interests, would be serious. Every thing is most favorable to our complete success.

7th September

The Hill State of Bughat has lapsed to the British Govt. by the demise of Rana Mehender Sing. The annual revenue of the several Pergunnahs including the Rana's Khass lands are estimated at Rs. 2,885. The Raja of Pattiala to whom 3/4th of Bughat was sold by the late Sir D Ochterlony has offered to purchase the remaining part of the Thakoorai for a Nuzzurana of 1,50,000 Rs., a sum about equal to 200 yrs.' purchase of the net proceeds of the state. This is a sufficient proof of the increasing value attached to the Hill Provinces.

Financial

4th September

25 Lakhs of Rs. in Gold and Silver will be dispatched from Calcutta to the Collr.¹³ of Delhi via Allahabad, P. Steamer Bhaguruttee which was expected to sail on the 9th Inst—This remittance is in part of the requisition of 50 Lakhs for the NWP made under date the 1st August last.

Kelat

24th August

The Pol. Agent in charge of Quetta reports his having received a visit

¹³ Collr. for Collector.

from a confidential servant of Mihrab Khan with a letter of compliment from his Master. The emissary told Captn Bean that he had been deputed by the Khan to inform him that he was ready to obey any orders he might receive from the Shah even to wait on him at Cabool—Captn Bean acknowledged the communication from the Khan with courtesy, and intimated to his servant that if his Master had anything particular to say that he had better commit it to paper and attach his seal thereto—He expresses his confidence that the situation that the Khan now finds himself in is such as to compel him agree to any terms offered.

Bussorah

21st July

Lt Campbell, IN Comg. the HC Steamer "Hugh Lindsay" reports the conduct of the Sheik of Mahumarah in refusing to allow the shipment of any Coal from that place until leave to do so was obtained from the Sheik of Duack, a place 3 days' journey inland. In consequence of this that officer waited on the Govr. of Bussorah requesting his interference, who gave him a simple order on the Sheik to deliver the Coal. Lt Campbell sent an officer of the vessel to wait upon the Sheik, who pointed out to him the impropriety of his conduct in refusing to let him ship the Coal after his acknowledging it to be British property. The Sheik however refused and said that not one piece of it should be removed until he got directions, how to act, from the Sheik of Duack—and that he acknowledged no superiors but the above and the Shah of Persia. Shortly after this the Sheik of the Western Town came off on the part of the Sheik of Mahumarah to settle the difference and had a conference with Lieut C¹⁴ to whom he explained the consequences of the Sheik's insult to the British flag, and told him that he shd.¹⁵ leave that port next morning at 11 a.m. and *would take* the Coal. He then put the vessel in a position for attack—At 8 a.m. the next morning the same man came off and reported that the affair was settled and that the Coal should be immediately delivered. The Resident of the Persian Gulf has been requested by the Bombay Govt. to communicate the displeasure of Govt. to that Chief and to caution him against a repetition of such conduct.

Hyderabad

2nd September

In consequence of the probability of approaching hostilities with the Nuwab of Kurnool, and the risk there may be that he will endeavor to escape towards the northward through the Nizam's territory and that at all events his Arab, Pathan & Rohilla followers are very likely, on the fall of Kurnool,

14 Lt C for Lt Campbell

15 *Shd.* for 'should'

to cross the river and either plunder the Nizam's villagers, or by taking service with the troublesome Zemindars of Hyderabad increase the very evil which has been so long the object of the Govt. to diminish, Genl. Fraser has, as a measure of precaution and with the entire assent of the Minister of that state, ordered a Rissalah and a half of the Nizam's Cavalry from Mominabad amounting to about 700 rank and file to move down that part of the country opposite Kurnool from which parties will be detached and stationed at proper places eastward along the northern bank of the Kistna as far probably, as the district of Kurnool extends, and westward and in a similar manner for a few miles along the northern bank of the Tumboodra.¹⁶ An emissary of the Nuwab of Kurnool arrived at Hyderabad a short time ago with 60,000 Rs. to purchase Horses for his Master. General Fraser demanded from the Resident Minister the detention of this individual, and the seizure of his money for the purpose of being kept in temporary deposit. Orders to this effect were given immediately, but it appears that the man hastily left Hyderabad on hearing that our Troops had marched in that direction. General Fraser at the same time reports the apprehension of Illahi Buxsh in the Talook of Nulgoondah in the Nizam's country. He attaches considerable importance to the seizure of this man as independently of the known fact of his having been recently employed as a Messenger between the Nuwab of Kurnool and *Moobaruz ood Dowlah*. Genl. Fraser has been informed by one of his own associates that he was the person who excited so much disturbance at Bangalore and Cuddapah¹⁷ in 1832 by throwing dead pigs into the Mosques of those places, and that in doing so, he acted under the orders of *Moobaruz ood Dowlah*.

Gwalior

11th September

The Resident at Gwalior in reporting the punishment inflicted by the Durbar on the pretended Envoy from Lahore States that the Maharaja had directed Lall Beharee the principal of the party to be branded on the forehead with the figure of a snake, to have his face blackened, to be placed on an ass, and turned out of Camp, after which, he and the two men who accompanied him were to be turned out of the Gwalior Territory by being taken across the river Chumbul.

Nipal

31st August

Intelligence from this quarter of the annexed date represent the conduct of the Durbar as still continuing the same towards the family and relations

¹⁶ *Tumboodra*, another name for the river Tungbhadra in Karnataka, south India.

¹⁷ *Cuddapah*, a town in the Madras presidency which the British occupied in 1800.

of Bheem Sen who are still suffering the most cruel and unmanly usage—and Martaban Singh's family having been again subject to confiscation—All manner of oppression is exercised on the people for the purpose of getting money. Discontent is consequently extensively spread abroad, and even the nationality of the Goorkhas cannot prevent expression of the wish that the Company may soon attack and conquer Nipal—Many offers and promises of amendment have been tendered by the Raja to the Resident, and it would seem that the Raja himself is at length more or less sincere, but that the Ranee and Pande will not suffer him to fulfil his pledges. The general spirit and proceedings of this Govt. still prove that fear alone prompts the delusive tenders of amendment now making to the Resident, and again retracted in the very act of making—3 Lakhs of Gun flints, it is said, have arrived at Nipal from Calcutta—and the Arsenals continue as busy as ever. Upon the whole however it would seem that the recent hopes of the Durbar are fast fading and that any outbreak on the part of Nipal need no longer be at all apprehended.

Simla,
the 23rd Sept. 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

Newsletter 19 : October 5, 1839

Lahore

19th September

The Pol. Agent Loodianah reporting on the mode in which the Mission was received mentions that he took occasion to apprise the Durbar of the degree to which the regret of the British Govt. in the demise of Maharaja Runjeet Sing was aggravated by the holocaust which signalized his obsequies. It is not likely, Mr Clerk observes, that a man will soon again arise in this part of India whose renown will excite in so many those feelings that led the victims on the late calamitous occasion to desire to sacrifice themselves. Among Punjab Sikhs it appears the custom has for years past been gaining ground. The effect of long years of comparative quiet has been to render the Sikhs a far more ostentatiously religious people than originally they were, or had leisure, to be. Any one, he says, who sees much of them cannot fail to observe frequent indications of their being in the stage of rapidly reverting to the observances and tenets of the sect of Hindoos to which their ancestors may have belonged.

Cabool

12th September

Col Wheeler and his party started on this date in the direction of Ghuzni in aid of Captn Outram's operations as mentioned in the last newsletter, as did Captn Hay¹ and his party in the direction of Bameean and Dr Lord and his suite in the direction of Koondooz. The Bombay Troops were to have left Cabool on the 16th Inst. and the Bengal Division would commence its march to the Provinces about the first week of Octr—His Majesty has not yet determined where he is to pass the winter—He seems to dread the cold of Cabool and inclines to Jellalabad. "Every thing", remarks Mr Macnaghten "wears the appearance of tranquillity, and the feeling of the people as evinced when we go abroad is evidently favourable towards us."

Herat

13th August

The Treaty of Friendship and alliance between the British Government

¹ *Captn Hay* of the 2nd Bengal European Regiment was wounded in the capture of Ghazni in September 1839. He soon recovered and commanded the British detachment which proceeded to Bamian in December (1839). He was awarded insignia of the Durrani empire.

and HM Shah Kamran which was prepared at Candahar under the supervision of the Envoy and Minister and there accepted on the part of the Herat Govt. by Nujeeboolah Khan has received without alteration the final approval of HM, who has affixed his seal to the document previous to its being transmitted for the ratification of the RH the Governor General—The treaty was produced in the presence of HM on the 3d. and read aloud by the Vizier who explained the several articles as he proceeded for the Shah's information. HM at the conclusion expressed himself satisfied with the document which, however, he desired, might be examined, and its several articles carefully explained and discussed previous to its being presented for his final sanction. The next day had been appointed for the examination but interrupted for some days the progress of the negotiations. On Major Todd's proceeding to the Palace accompanied by Lt Pottinger and Captn Abbott,² the Vizier's Guard stationed at one of the Gates rudely refused admission to his followers and by blows and other violence prevented their accompanying the officers—Finding that his expostulations had no effect, he deemed it the more becoming course to return at once and inform HM of the reasons which prevented his waiting on him according to appointment and to request that the offenders might be punished. Excuses of various kinds were offered and the punishment of the soldiers was constantly evaded. It was not until the third day after this occurrence when Lt Pottinger remonstrated in person that due reparation for the insult was accorded. The offenders were then sent to Major Todd to be punished but deeming the concession sufficient he pardoned them. The wording and tenor of the several articles of the Treaty underwent considerable discussion, but every thing was at length satisfactorily settled, and HM expressed himself well pleased with the document. Of the state of politics at Herat Major Todd notes that the power and influence of the Vizier Yar Mahomed Khan³ continue unimpaired—that the Shah takes no active part in the affairs of Govt.—and that there seems to be sufficient evidence of a correspondence having existed upto the date of his arrival between the Minister and the Persian Govt.—There is no appearance of any movement of the Persians in that direction. A report has reached Herat, and has gained considerable credit that the Russians have purchased a Lakh and a half of Camels preparatory to an advance on Bhokhara or Khiva—The late Sirdars of Candahar are believed to have reached Mushed—The price of Wheat at Herat is at present 6 Bengal Seers for a Cor. Rupee.⁴—

2 *Captn J Abbott*, attached to Shah Shuja's army who sent him on deputation to Khiva in 1840. There he was wounded by the Kuzzaks; later, he defeated Chattar Singh, the famous Sikh leader, in the second Anglo-Sikh war.

3 *Yar Mahomed Khan*, a prominent Wazir or Prime Minister of Herat, not to be confused with Yar Muhammad Khan, the ex-Amir of Sind.

4 *Cor. Rupee* : should read Coy. rupee; a one-rupee coin issued by the East India Company.

Lieut E B Conolly on special duty at Herat has been deputed to Seistan to collect all the information in his power regarding that Country, especially on the following points—The character, power, and influence of the different chiefs: their connection with each other, their relations with neighbouring States; and their feelings toward the British Govt.—The boundaries and extent of their Chiefships: Their statistics and Topography: The State of the Roads and Country, particularly with reference to the movement & subsistence of Troops—He is to report on these and any others which might present themselves during the course of his journey. Lieut Conolly is to proceed in the first instance to Larh and after the completion of his observations and enquiries in Seistan, he will proceed to Cabool. Lt C commenced his journey on the 11th of August—Lieut Pottinger was to have left Herat in the course of a few days for Cabool and thence to India for the purpose of communicating personally with the Governor General, as the voluminous mass of interesting matter which he has collected regarding Herat could scarcely be comprehended within the limits of a written Report. It is his intention to take a northern route through the Hazarah Country and Dr Ritchie will accompany him—Major Todd will, in the meantime, act for him during his absence from Herat.

14th August

The Vizier of Herat is, according to Major Todd in a private letter, ambitious of power and knows that this is only to be gained by money; but he is poor, and therefore takes the mode which appears to him the readiest one of obtaining the wished for Gold. His conduct proceeds from poverty and ignorance. Kamran, he says, “flares up” occasionally, and at times dreaded even by the Vizier himself, but these signs of animation are few & far between, and his general state may be described as one of profound slumber. The sons of Kamran are a set of imbeciles, with the exception of the eldest, Jehangeer, who is possessed of some talent; but he has been kept for some years past as a beggar and has been made the object of cruel oppression, in consequence of which, his mind seems to be unhinged, and his spirit cowed. There is no silver or gold currency in Herat, and the only Coin which has a fixed value is a *nominal* one, viz. the Herat Rupee, which has no existence, but which is calculated to be always equal to 25 Cooper⁵ Coins called Fulloos. There is some Gold Coin in the market, *tillas* of Bokhara, Dutch *ducats*, and *tomauns* of Persia, but the value of these fluctuates daily, being regulated chiefly by the quantity of Grain brought into the Town. There are a few silver Coins to be found, but these are looked upon as curiosities and are not to be procured, except in very small numbers, in exchange for Gold or Copper. The Vizier paid a visit to the Mission to inspect the small detachment of Sappers. The men were drawn up and went through

5 Cooper, for copper.

the manual and platoon to the astonishment of the Vizier and a numerous party of Afghans assembled on the occasion. The Musquets being brought to the ground with one "trick" was a fertile source of wonder and admiration. The brightness and cleanliness of the men's arms & accoutrement seemed to surprize the Vizier much, and he begged that the secret of this might be imparted to him that he might introduce a reform in this respect into his *own Regt.*—a body of about 1,500 dirty ragged Afghans, says Major Todd, armed with what were once good English musquets (taken from the Persians) but which, from neglect, are now begrimed with dirt and rust and nearly un-serviceable. The secret was told in a few words—regular pay and constant superintendence, too dear a price, however, Major Todd observes, for such a communication in the eyes of the Vizier.

Egypt & Syria

Extract of a letter from an officer on board HMS Tyre, dated Alexandria, July the 20th 1839:—

"We arrived here yesterday with dispatches from the Fleet—We sailed from Malta about 3 weeks ago, since which time we have been cruising with our Squadron under Admiral Sir R Stopford off the Island of Cyprus—They are awaiting there for orders from England to be on the spot in the event of any thing occurring—they consist of 7 sail of the line, with some smaller ships. We took the intelligence of the Sultan's death to the Admiral on which event the Capitan Pasha, who is the Lord High Admiral of the Turkish Fleet, came to the resolution of delivering the fleet upto the Pasha of Egypt—he sailed from the Dardanelles and accomplished this, and the two Fleets, the Turkish and Egyptian, are now lying anchored together in this Port. The whole of the Turkish army was routed on the frontiers of Syria; they were disaffected, and destroyed their officers, deserted and fled—The army no longer exists, and the Empire of Turkey appears to be a prey for Russia or any power that is strong enough to hold it after occupying it—there is no knowing how things will be decided. We sail to-day for the Dardanelles, where we expect to fall in with the Admiral."

Sattara

6th September

The Governor of Bombay with his staff paid a visit to the Raja on the 21st Augt. and in vain endeavoured to persuade him to ratify his former treaty, and desist from further intrigues against the British Govt. He pertinaciously maintained his innocency on each and every point that was touched upon during the three interviews which took place, and it appears, places his whole dependance on an appeal through his Agents to the Home Authorities. In consequence of his not agreeing to the terms proposed,

he was deposed at day-break on the morning of the 5th without a shot being fired and a Proclamation placing his brother on the Guddhee was read aloud in the Chief places of the Town—The Ex-Raja left Sattara in a Palanquin accompanied by an Escort of a native Infy. Regt., and proceeded to a village a few miles distant where he will remain for the present safely secured. One great point has been achieved by this manner, remarks the writer, it will tenot⁶ to shew the Guicowar of Baroda that Government are determined to punish disaffected and intriguing Princes and will probably make him listen to terms which he would a short time since have rejected.

Joudhpore

15th September

The 3 Detachments under the command of Brigr Rich reached Beesal-pore on the morning of this date. Col Sutherland with the friendly Thakoors are about 3 miles further off and Major Genl Hampton with the Force under his command was expected to be at Mirta on that date. The Troops are reported to be healthy more so than they would have been in their catonments. Maun Sing, Col Sutherland says is still encamped outside the City, making the most friendly professions: but continuing to collect his Thakoors and their followers from all quarters. He seems to have about 5 or 6000 men with him, and to have left 1000 in the Fort, and 2,000 in the City. He informs Col P that he is prepared to come forward to meet him, or to meet him where he is in terms of friendship; and lest either of the Columns should attack him, he writes to the officers Commanding each that he has encamped outside, and if he comes forward, does so, only for the purpose of a friendly meeting with Col Sutherland.

18th September

On Col Sutherland's nearing Joudhpore the Maharaja sent two of his Confidential advisers to meet him, and it was settled that whilst the Troops marched to Nandla, distant about 5 or 6 miles from that City, Col Sutherland should proceed to the Maharaja's Camp at Beemar, which is 4 or 5 miles on the right of that place. Maun Sing came out to meet him with his whole force, and it appeared evident that he made no warlike preparations beyond calling around him at this crisis of his fortunes the Chiefs of his house—for they had not more than 3 or 4,000 men. After a long discussion on the several demands by Col Sutherland it was finally settled that His Highness should resign the Govt. of his country into our hands, that we should effect a settlement with the Chiefs, and put his house in order, preserving the institutions of the country unimpaired—and when these things were done, restore it to himself or his heirs. He desired to take the opinion of all the Chiefs with him on this important matter—and it was most gratifying, the Colonel

⁶ *tenot* should read 'tend'.

observes, to witness the readiness and confidence with which they placed the concerns of the Govt. into our hands. "Whether it was satisfaction at getting out of the hands of the Naths (he says) or at this termination of their difficulties with us, I know not; but the eagerness with which they closed with the proposition was evident to every one as well as to me."

19th September

In a private letter Col Sutherland reports his having moved upto Joudhpore on the morning at this date, and says—"I have this instant returned from the Maharaja's Camp, where I carried the most important point, I think to us—that a British Garrison shall be admitted into the Fortress of Joudhpore." When our Garrison is there, the further advance of Ordnance and Troops will be countermanded. The place is said to be immensely strong—much rain has fallen, and which is supposed to have been general all over Marwar.

22nd September

Col Sutherland writes on the annexed date, that "the same confidence and good feeling on the part of all was continued to be manifested towards us in every way, particularly by the Maharaja himself." He proposed to leave his family under the protection of the British Garrison if they could be accommodated without encroaching on his limits—Brigr Rich, Captn Smith, the Chief Engr. and Col Sutherland accordingly went with the Maharaja to look at the place—they found the accommodations for the Troops very wretched. The only difficulty in taking thorough military possession of the place is to leave the Maharaja's Zenana undisturbed for the only road from the one end of the Fort to the other passes, absurdly enough, through the Zenana compound. Maj. Genl. Hampton's force reached Joudhpore that morning. There is no sickness amongst the Troops.

23rd September

A private letter from an officer in Camp states that affairs are progressing there quietly enough, the only impediment in the negotiation appears to be respecting the occupation of the Fort by the Troops. Maun Singh humbly submits that it is unnecessary seeing that he has agreed to all our demands—that he cannot remove his family—that there is no accommodation there for Troops, no ground even to pitch a Pall upon. All the principal Thakoors both therein and out, it is said, to join in begging Col Sutherland not to insist upon it as they consider this as destruction to the name of the Raj for ever. The writer in describing the Maharaja, says, "he is tall, good-looking, (not fat, sleepy) but a youthful looking intelligent man with quiet pleasing manners." The Fort is represented to be a far more formidable looking place than it appears to be from below—there is only one part of it practicable for breaching—the Gateways are strong and well-defended.

“We found,” says the writer, “more guns than we expected, miserably mounted of course—a good number of heavy stones were collected on the ramparts, and they would have proved very destructive, situated as the Fort is. We found it full of armed men of every description—They formed streets for us, salaamed and behaved civilly enough. Orders were sent to stop the siege train on the 22nd. Maun Sing was said to be visiting the rebel Thakoors accompanied by Col Sutherland—the naths are hovering about the neighborhood, it is supposed their evil machinations will be effectually put a stop to by the arrangements in progress.”

27th September

Col Sutherland reports that after various endeavours to save the Maharaja the necessity of moving his family, and of moving himself from the Fort, the thing was found impossible, for he could not remain there without a considerable number of armed men and our troops could not on these conditions take entire military possession, therefore, however distressing the circumstances under which this resolution was taken, it was deemed necessary that His Highness should evacuate the Fort. This has been done, and our Garrison is to move up on the following morning. Col S further reports that every thing is going quite right at Joudhpore, and the troops may return from thence in a day or two, except the 22nd Regt. NI which is to Garrison the Fort and the Joudhpore Legion which must remain for out-door work.

Nipal

15th September

The revengeful and rapacious proceedings of the Durbar in its internal administration have not yet ceased, but on the contrary are steadily and systematically maintained. A Decree has been issued that no Bangala Thappa (Bheem Sen's tribe) shall receive any public employ for 7 generations to come—and the late Minister's immediate family are suffering in banishment all sorts of severities. They have been banished to a more Westerly prison in the northern range of the Hills and has⁷ been outcasted. Three Lall Mohers* have been issued to Karbeer Pandey by which not an assignment or gift of land free of revenue made in the last 35 years is to stand. The disgust excited by these measures seems to be general, and there are persons who assert that the Ranee and Pandey's are driving the Raja upon unpopular measures in order to force his abdication. Towards the British Govt. there is an obstinate evasion of all effectual atonement and right

Orders, replies and observations

*“The Lall Mohur”, a Red Seal, is the royal signet and papers impressed with it are the common parlance so called.

⁷ *has* should read ‘have’,

doing. The Misser Gooroo is constantly urging the Raja to yield nothing to the Resident, but to wait and put off all reform till enforced by some hostile demonstration, or palpable threat of it at least.

Jessulmere

August

The Dhatees or Camel owners who proceeded towards Candahar with Camels for the service of the British Troops have become desperate under their losses. On the suggestion of some person, 7 of their number went to Gudesoor Tank, and having wounded themselves in the throat and on the arm caused the blood to drop into the water. The Rawul on receiving tidings of the occurrence sent 40 Sepoys and 10 Chumars to seize and take them beyond the Frontier.

Oude

September

Secret enlistment has again sprung up, Col Caulfield does not however expect more than a bubble—nevertheless he seems to think that the matter must have some connection with the affairs of Nipal, as there is not that he can trace the vestige of a cause at this side of the Hills for such proceedings. Should occasion require it, the Sooltanpore Force proceed to disperse any assembly that may take place at Ajoodeah, but it shall not move till some thing indicates a necessity for its so doing.

25th September

On the 21st information was received by Col Caulfield that about 6,000 armed men were congregated in the neighbourhood of Fyzabad for the purpose of ascertaining the result of the Annunt Choudas.* Some of them were said to be armed with swords and spears, but by far the greater number with nothing but stones. These men having been drawn together avowedly for some hostile purpose to guard against which the Resident at Lucknow considered it advisable that the Oude Auxiliary Force should move on Ajoodeeah for the purpose of preventing the assembly of large bodies of men in consequence of which he instructed the Brig. Comg. to detach 200 of Captn New Berry's Horse under a European Officer for dispersing such masses as might be found to have congregated for the purpose of repairing to Ajoodeeah. Early on the morning of the 24th Instt. the crowds had, on receiving intelligence of the approach of Troops from Lucknow, quietly dispersed. Col C therefore countermanded the march of Brig Anquetil's⁸

*A festival falling on the day before the moon is full in the month Badaen (according to reckoning in Hindoostan) which throws the expected period to about the 28 of the Pous month: the Bangalle mode of reckoning for this festival is different.

⁸ Brig Anquetil (or Anquetil) organized the Oudh Auxiliary Force and was its officer commanding in February 1838.

Force and thus ended the anxiously looked for result of the Anunt Chowdas. If the number of people reported to have assembled is anything like correct, observes the Resident, the circumstance may be considered as illustrative of one very important fact—the facility with which large bodies of armed men may be collected on any given point, which would seem to indicate the expediency of being prepared in every quarter, especially on our frontiers, to put down with promptitude and vigor all attempts to excite public commotion.

Items of General Intelligence

A French Colonial Committee has arrived at Calcutta bringing an Aid-de-Camp of the Governor of Bourbon to take measures to procure the importation of the manufacture of Silk into Bourbon. The said Gentleman has proceeded to Moorshedabad in prosecution of his object.

Captn Dicey, Commander of the HC Steamer “Ganges” has been deputed to Mauritius with a view to the purchase of the Steamer Madagascar. The Steamer now building at Moolmyn⁹ of 769 tons burthen ordered by the Hon’ble Court in November last, is reported to be nearly completed, and she will be launched in the first spring of 1840.

H Torrens

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

Simla,
the 5th Oct. 1839.

Cha R Macleod
Confidential Clerk

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 332, PP. 141-182).

⁹ *Moolmyn* (Moulmein) was an important town in the Burmese province of Tenasserim on a small peninsula, formed by the Salween, the Gyre and Attaran rivers, opposite the town of Martaban. It was acquired by the British in 1826 and converted into a military cantonment.

Newsletter 20 : October 15, 1839

Lahore

28th September

Fuqueer Ases-ooden and other Members of the Mission to the Governor General were instructed to inform His Lordship, if asked regarding the present ill-feelings existing between the Maharaja and his son, that there was merely a discussion going on for a Jagheer which will be soon adjusted, and that no other difference subsists between them.—Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing attended the Durbar, and requested a Jagheer of 20 Lakhs. The Maharaja offered him one of about 15, saying that if he received a Jagheer of 20 Lakhs of Rs., he should be obliged to furnish 8 Battns; of Infay. and 2,000 Sowars. The discussion continued for some time without any decision. Raja Dhyan Sing remarked that it would be better to satisfy Nao Nehal, but the Maharaja merely observed that the Koonwur would mind his orders. Sirdar Cheyt Sing, an unworthy favorite of the Maharaja, requested instructions that Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing might be enjoined to be kind to him.

29th September

Sirdar Futteh Sing was ordered to inform Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing of the Maharaja's offer of a Jagheer of 16 lakhs, out of which 12 lakhs to be assigned for the pay of the contingent to be furnished—a Jagheer of 25,000 Rs. to Sirdar Futteh Sing Maun, and one of the like amount to Chunda Sing, the Koonwur's maternal uncle, and the remaining 3½ Lakhs to be appropriated for the Koonwur's private expenses. Raja Dhyan Sing was accordingly ordered to send the Purwannahs confirming the grant of several Illaqas to the Koonwur amounting to the sum above mentioned, but the Raja delayed this till the Koonwur's approval should have been obtained. The Maharaja ordered Sirdar Cheyt Sing to appear only as the other officers do at the Durbar, because all the Chiefs desire he should not interfere with the state affairs. The Battn that was on duty day and night to protect the Sirdar, was ordered back to its lines; and he was ordered to throw himself at Nao Nehal's feet and ask his forgiveness. Cheyt Sing promised to do so, but begged that a Jagheer might be assigned to him. He was told that this should be granted. Sirdar Lehna Sing Mujeethia has urged the Maharaja to agree with Nao Nehal—Raja Dhyan Sing also, it is said, is desirous of procuring additional Jagheers for the Koonwur to conciliate him, but nothing has yet been determined on this subject.

30th September

Orders were issued, by the Maharaja on this date to Raja Golab Sing, Beilee Ram and others to put Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing in possession of the Jagheer of 16 Lakhs of Rs. assigned the day before.

1st October

The Maharaja desired the Koonwur to appoint his confidential servants at Rawulpendee,¹ Rohtas and the Jelum etc., to make proper arrangements, and the Koonwur proposed to nominate Sheik Golaum Moheoodeen². General Hurdut Sing³ was at the same time directed to march one of his Battns., to put Nao Nehal in possession of his new Jagheer. On Raja Dhyan Sing being ordered by the Maharaja to conduct affairs in concert with Sirdar Cheyt Sing, he replied with joined hands, "I am the servant of the Maharaja, and of Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing, but cannot serve Sirdar Cheyt Sing" that the Sirdar was too self-sufficient. It is the wish of the Koonwurs Nao Nehal and Shere Sing and the Rajas that the Dussehra festival should be held at Amritsar, but Sirdar Cheyt Sing and the Maharaja, it is said, are most anxious to remain at Lahore.

Peshawur*30th September*

Mons Avitabile reported to the Lahore Durbar that since Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing's departure, the people between Attok and Peshawur had commenced their depredations on travellers and Merchants, and that the "Khasgee" Sowars were very inattentive to his orders—Col Golab Sing, Comdt. of the Sowars, was strictly enjoined to obey the orders of Mons Avitabile.

28th September

It appears from a private letter of this date that the Khyber Pass is very unhealthy at this time of the year. Out of 3,500 men, there are not, it is said, 500 fit for duty at Ali Musjid, and many have died. The country all round Peshawur is low, with the water close to the surface, which makes the place so unhealthy at this season of the year—Since General Avitabile was appointed Governor of this Province, he has done a great deal for the country. Murders before his appointment were of daily occurrence in

1 *Rawalpendee* for Rawalpiridi.

2 *Sheik Golaum Moheoodeen* (Sheikh Ghulam Muhi-ud-Din), Settlement Officer of the Mandi state under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, appointed (1842) Governor of Kashmir and notorious for his extortions and oppressive rule.

3 *General Hurdut Sing* (Hardat Singh), commandant of Prince Kharak Singh's cavalry; was married to the daughter of Nanak Chand, the elder brother of Diwan Sawan Mal.

the streets of Peshawur, but now, few murders occur in Peshawur itself. On the road between that place and Attok, the Fureedis* who live in the mountainous Country to the South, come down at night and attack travellers, killing every Sikh they can lay hold of. This prevents the dawk from running at night, which causes the packets to be longer on the road than they otherwise would be. The preparation of supplies for the army returning to the provinces via the Punjab are continuing to be made with vigor, and every thing is expected to be ready long before they will be required—

Cabool

21st September

Measures have been taken by the Envoy and Minister for the expulsion of Dost Mahomed from Khoolum where he is reported to be still remaining. Mr Lord has been deputed on a Mission to the Ruler of Koondooz with this view, whilst a demonstration from the side of Cabool will also be made at the same time. It was rumoured at Cabool that the ex-Chief is making preparations for a flight, and the King of Bohkara has refused to grant him an asylum which he solicited in Balkh. It is certain that he has sent his Secretary Mirza Samee, and his son, Mahomed Akbar to Bokhara.

23rd September

Dost Mahomed, according to Mr Macnaghten in a private letter, made a highly advantageous treaty for himself last year with the Meer of Koondooz, and seized the Khoolum transit duties which had formerly belonged to Moorad Beg, making the Walee of Khoolum independent of the latter. With regard to the Khazilbash faction at Cabool, he says, they are very innocent citizens—their place of residence has a wall round it, and should the occasion arise, it might be battered down in a quarter of an hour—but he thinks it would be cruel to deprive them of it, situated as they are in the midst of an inimical Scoonee⁴ Population—What little power the Khazilbashes possess is a useful counterpoise to the Afghans. The Shah, he says, has succeeded in gaining over Khan Shareen Khan, a person of the greatest influence amongst them—Arrangements have been completed for the line of dawk from Jellalabad to Cabool. The distance from Peshawur to Cabool will not be travelled in 4 days—Horsemen had hitherto been employed between Peshawur, Cabool and Candahar, but it is in contemplation to substitute footmen as being equally expeditious and less costly.—Mr Macnaghten is of opinion that a good geologist would be very useful in Afghanistan as the country is said to abound in Mines of every description, and its resources have never been developed, he accordingly proposes to

*Sirdar Lehna Sing Sindanwalla now at Simla with the Sikh mission, reports the Fureedis to be mere Sowar without spirit or power to oppose regular troops, they are hereditary plunderers and being a Mooslim tribe are united against the Sikhs.

⁴ Scoonee ; should read 'Sunni', a well-known Muslim sect.

retain the services of Captn Drummond upon this duty for a short time.

Persian is commonly understood by all classes. From the Beggar to the King all classes speak and understand it; and in going through the Bazar Pooshtoo is seldom heard spoken. With regard to the execution of 25 Prisoners by H M Mr Macnaghten says "it is better founded in fact, than most of your news paper stories, but the case is distorted to suit the mischievous purposes of the writer. The Russians that were executed had been murdering our innocent Camp followers whenever they could seize them. They were in rebellion to their lawful sovereign, taken fighting against him, and when brought into his presence, they abused him in the most scurrilous manner; one of them drawing a dagger, and plunging it into the body of the Shah's peishkhedmut who was standing before His Majesty. Assailed as we were by 3 or 4,000 of these scoundrels and surrounded by enemies on every side, I think, you will admit, an example was necessary, and that HM was fully justified by all the laws of the most civilized nations in putting to death these desperate and cruel wretches who could not have been let loose without great danger, and who could not have been guarded as Prisoners considering the state of our Force at the time without infinite inconvenience."

25th September

Lord, in a letter from Charikar,⁵ reports to the Envoy and Minister his having been waited on by Khoda Yar Khan (grandson of Kooat Khan Undejani), the person whom the tribe of Munas, on occasion of their late revolt from Mahomed Moorad Beg, chose to be their Meer. This person stated that Dost Mahomed with 700 followers, Meer Woolee with 200, and Baba Beg with 100, had all reached Koondooz, where, joining their Forces with Moorad Beg, they all advanced to Talikan,⁶ where they defeated part of the tribe of Munas with some slaughter; that in consequence the rest of the tribe had become disheartened, and had advised him to save himself, as they were unable to withstand such a coalition—he had consequently left Ishkimish with a few followers—and added that his object in going to Cabool was to represent his case at the Durbar, of which his ancestors had been old and faithful subjects. As he is a man of undoubted rank, whose influence amongst his own Countrymen under this new aspect of affairs may be worth retaining, Lord has consequently treated him with kindness and respect, and supplied him with the means of proceeding to Cabool—and asks the Envoy & Minister for orders—Mr Macnaghten

5 *Charikar*, a town in Kohistan (Afghanistan) situated close to the entrance of Ghorbund valley in the Hindu Kush. It was the headquarters of the Governor of Kohistan and had considerable transit trade both with Turkistan and Central Asia.

6 *Talikan*, in Turkistan, a town between Balkh and Merv, three days' journey from the latter place. There was another town of the same name, east of Kunduz.

advises him in reply that in case he should have received no contradiction of the intelligence imparted to him by the Chief, and no invitation to proceed to Koondooz, it will be advisable that he should accompany the Force proceeding to Bameean.

By an express received this morning (14th Oct.) from Mr Macnaghten under date 30th ulti., the state of matters in Toorkistan was such as to induce the Envoy to retain the whole of the Bengal Infantry Force in Afghanistan, with a view to have an efficient brigade ready upon the opening of the passes to detach against the petty and weak States in that quarter, provided they should not in the meantime have previously expelled Dost Mahomed and his followers.

Financial

29th September

(The Sketch Estimates, upon the results of which will depend the decision whether to note extra resources besides the balance surplus have not yet been received from the Acctt. General's Dept. But it has been ascertained that the Returns give 9 Crore and 50 lakhs of Rs. which afford a surplus of a Crore and a half at least for the year's extra expences. No difficulty is apprehended in finding money for all the petty affairs against Joudhpore, Kurnool etc; and for the further winding up of operations in Afghanistan).

17th September

Captain Bygrave, Pay Master, Army of the Indus, reports his Cash Balance in the Military Chest on the 1st Sept. to be

In Gold Mohurs	..	26,010
Rajshahye Rs.	..	60,594
Nanakshahye Rs.	..	279
Company's Rs.	..	90,456
	..	<hr/> 177,339 <hr/>

Out of the 10 lakhs of Treasure, which arrived from Candahar on the 9th, the Bombay Column obtained 4 lakhs, a sufficiency to settle with the Troops of that Presidency in full, and which has enabled them to leave Cabool. Capt Bygrave has not succeeded in raising money to any extent. He has every hope however that Treasure will be dispatched from Shikarpur to Quetta and Candahar as soon as the road through the pass may be practicable, but he apprehends some delay. Although the Troops are in arrears, with the exception of an advance of 5,000 Rs. to each Corps, yet, Capt Bygrave observes, no inconvenience was felt for the want of pay—and many Corps have not taken advantage of the authorized advance above-mentioned, being in no way distressed for money.

25th September

The Estimates of cost for the Shah's army for the ensuing year amounts to about 34,14,000 Rs. The Estimate has been framed on a liberal scale, so as rather to exceed than fall short of the wants of the year. One item of commissariat expenditure may shortly be got rid of by doing away with the Camel Estab^t. or merely keeping up a sufficiency for the carriage of camp equipage etc. and having when necessary, cattle of that part of the country for the carriage of grain when deemed requisite, as the people will willingly come forward with Camels and Yaboos⁷ for that purpose.

Nagpore

16th September

At a late visit by the Raja to the Banka Bae Sahib⁸, that lady quoted to his Highness the example and fall of the Raja of Sattara as a warning, and as an inducement to His Highness to give satisfaction to the British Government—and read His Highness a long lecture on the propriety of attending to the wishes of the British Government and of the Resident. His Highness answered that without doubt this was true.

Joudhpore

28th September

Col Sutherland in a letter to Lord Auckland reports that the 22nd Regt. NI supported by the 52nd, and accompanied by a party of Sappers and Miners, the whole under command of Brig Rich, took quiet possession of the fortress of Joudhpore at 10 A.M. of the 28th Sept. The troops were to have advanced at day light, but during the night Col Sutherland received a message from the Maharaja begging the troops might not enter the city walls until he had seen him. Col S accordingly waited on him at day light and was told by His Highness that a party of Rhatores,⁹ variously estimated from 20 to 100 men, opposed themselves to the surrender of the Fort, and had sworn to die at their posts. These men had gone up during the night, entirely of their own will, and without the orders of the Raja, and were acting independently of all authority. Col Sutherland begged of the Maharaja that he would send up one or two of his sirdars with their men to subdue or seize the refractory Thakores, but as they were not prepared for the work, and our troops being under arms, should not be stopped, and that he would order them immediately to advance—blow open the gates, and take possession of the place at all events. His Highness did not appear to like this, and it was finally settled that Col Sutherland should accompany

7 *Yaboos*, small horses of the mountains near Kabul.

8 *Banka Bae Sahib* was the queen of Nagpur who took an active part in state politics much against the will of her husband. She was anti-British in her outlook and had established diplomatic contacts with Appa Sahib as well.

9 *Rhatores* : The Rathor clan of the Rajputs.

HH up to the Fort, and endeavor to bring the Rhatores to reason. Captn Smith¹⁰ Ludlow¹¹ and Bruese¹² accompanied them. There seemed to be altogether not more than 2 or 300 men in the Fort, for the Maharaja having, the day before, withdrawn most of the Garrison. A parley ensued, they were at first sulky but were persuaded to leave the Fort, and accompany the Maharaja. Col Sutherland and Capt Bruese to the Foot of the Hill, and it was settled that on His Highness reaching the bottom our troops should advance. Nothing could have been better than the conduct of Maun Sing on this trying occasion. Almost every one accompanied His Highness out of the Fort, but Captn Smith & Ludlow by previous arrangement with some of the Killedar's people unfortunately remained behind. Whilst walking on a terrace, one of the infuriated Rajpoots suddenly appeared, fired his matchlock at Captn Smith, drew his sword, and rushed on the two officers. They were at first unprepared. Captn Smith parried his cuts. Ludlow was wounded in several places, though not severely, and the man was killed on the spot. There could not have been a better proof that no treachery had been planned by any party, observes Col Sutherland than that the two officers were permitted to descend without further molestation. The troops advanced and took quiet possession of the place. The conduct of the troops under Major General Hampton's command throughout this short campaign, has been marked by the strictest discipline. Col S remarks, and has proved to the people of Marwar, that the invasion of a Country by a British army is no affliction. "All parties here," says the Col "have entire confidence in us, and I have no doubt, that we shall in a short time settle Marwar in a manner equally honorable to ourselves and beneficial to the Country."

1st October

It will not be possible, according to Col Sutherland in private letter of this date, to raise the outside chiefs, amongst whom the eight principal Omras of the State, to their proper place in the Councils of Marwar during the life of the present Sovereign. Col Sutherland accompanied the Maharaja in his visits of condolence to all of them, whom he had not seen since the death of their fathers, some of whom had been put to death by Maun Sing himself at a Durbar which His Highness held, he received them all in due form." "We had assembled at his tents (the Col says) some of the most discordant material in the world, brought together for the first time

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- 10 *Capt Smith* had been earlier attached to the forces of Shah Shuja in the Army of Indus ; for his services in the Afghan campaign, the insignia of the Durrani empire was conferred on him.
- 11 *Capt J Ludlow*, of the 6th Native Infantry was appointed Assistant Political Agent, Rajputana in 1835; promoted Agent in 1839.
- 12 *Capt Bruese*, Assistant Political Agent, Rajputana, was given charge of the Thuggi Department as its Superintendent in January 1839.

in the last 30 years, an explosion would have been tremendous yet the whole passed off without an accident". Col S was at one time under the necessity of staying the process of bringing the parties together until we had possession of the Fort lest he should in that matter unite them against us. This is the only thing in which he has shewn want of confidence. It could not fail to be understood and there is no doubt that our occupation of the Fort is a bitter pill for all of them to swallow. It was Col Sutherland's conviction that this was necessary to the full assertion of our supremacy, and to the humbling of the so long boasted independence of Marwar. It gives us the vantage ground not only at Joudhpore but throughout Rajpootana. As some compensation, and at the particular request of Maun Sing, whose conduct has been throughout continuous, and will continue admirable so long as he can be kept out of the hands of "these rascally Naths." Col Sutherland has consented to restore without reference to Lord Auckland, Nandla and Sambur.¹³ It is a mere money question, he observes, its revenues had wiped off the debt for which they were held answerable, on the 30th of June, except about 76,000 Rs. The restoration of these places to the Maharaja will have a very healing influence and, he hopes, it will be found that Marwar has the means of fulfilling all the pecuniary obligations to us at no very distant period. Col Sutherland reports that 2 Regts. of Infy., some Field Artillery and the Joudhpore Legion will remain there for the present. The siege train and Brig Wild's Brigade has marched from its position about 35 miles on this side of Ajmere on its return and Major General Hampton intended marching with the remainder of the Force on the 2nd Inst.

23rd October

It appears from a private letter from a staff officer in Camp that the man who attacked Captn Ludlow and Smith was a commandant of 40 Horse belonging to Nagor, and was one of the men who went to Maun Sing's tent on the morning the Fort was taken possession of; and swore they would die rather than open the Gates. It seems that the man was not quite dead when they hustled his body away, he lingered till the following morning. The Gates were shut that he might be concealed before the troops went in. There is nothing to prove that he was employed to attack Captn Ludlow or any one in particular he had said he would spill the blood of some of the "Sahib Log," and seeing Captains Ludlow and Smith almost by themselves, he seized the opportunity for carrying his threat into execution. Captn Ludlow broke a sword over the assailant's head belonging to some person

¹³ *Sambur*, a famous salt lake situated on the borders of the erstwhile princely states of Jaipur and Jodhpur. It is said to have been worked by the Imperial Mughal Government since the days of Akbar. With the downfall of the Mughal empire in the middle of the eighteenth century, it fell into the hands of Jaipur and Jodhpur states. This continued till 1870, when the British acquired it on lease for an annual payment of 7 lakhs.

standing by who reluctantly allowed him to take it, and after taking away with the broken end, recollected that his own sword was in his chupprassy's hand, this he seized, and soon settled the fellow. Capt'n Ludlow is recovering fast from his wounds. In consequence of rumours of further treachery, the letter states, Brig Rich's Brigade with a Brigade of Guns with 20 European Artillery men will remain at Joudhpore. One Regiment occupies the Fort, the rest are to be encamped near Col Sutherland's Camp. Major Foster's¹⁴ Corps will return, the remainder of the troops will also commence their march on the following day towards Nusserabad where the Force will be broken up. Col Sutherland was desirous that the Maharaja should witness a review of the Troops, and particularly to shew him the effects of Shrapnel and shell, but His Highness objected, and said he had no curtains & Ca. that there was so much discontent amongst his followers who would crowd in thousands round his person that he was fearful of some disturbance taking place, of some matchlock going off by accident & Ca. The writer speaks very favourably of the Shekawattee Brigade. "I attended (he says) a review of Major Foster's Corps this morning and though not very favourably impressed with the efficiency of his Horse on first arriving here, I really think now that they are not so bad. I have the highest opinion of his Infantry which, considering they get only 5 Rs. a month each man. It is surprising to see what a good body of men they are; their marching in this sand astonished us all—regulars could not have done better; they were remarkably steady, and the whole manoeuvred remarkably well. Altogether I think Major Foster deserves the greatest credit. The Joudhpore Legion have better men and better horses, but I question whether they are so well drilled." The Puchayat was to have been formed on the 1st. The contending parties had been brought together "but looked daggers at one another." Col Sutherland had been round with Maun Sing and some of his party, paying more visits of condolence as they are termed. He mentioned to the writer that it was his intention to remain about a month at Joudhpore and says he feels very confident of being able to set the machinery agoing. According to the writer, the Thakoors are said to be a treacherous and villainous set to deal with, the Naths are said to be collecting the revenue and committing all kinds of excesses at a great distance off. The writer has been assured by many that Maun Sing will abdicate, finding himself as he does so regularly worried on all sides. Col S says he has every reason to be satisfied with his conduct throughout the present negotiation, and indeed with that of all his advisers, who have shewn every disposition to meet his wishes in every thing, and both to settle the differences between

14 *Major Foster* (Forster) employed with the Shekhawattee Brigade of Marwar; the rank of Major was conferred on him by the Jaipur Darbar.

the two Govts. and between the contending factions in the State. The people are evidently strongly attached to his person, and although they are loud against the acts of the Naths which they know were all done with his cognizance, still they cling to him with a special fondness truly extraordinary and will hardly allow that he is to blame in the least; but it is the name of the Raj which they venerate. The Fort is being accurately surveyed. Opinions vary much as to its strength. Captn Smith considers it very strong, and only practicable at one part. Captn Reilly of the sappers on the other hand thinks differently. There are only 32 guns that could be seen, all miserably mounted, some English, some Dutch &ca. The Fort appears to have been recently well provisioned. The Magazines and Grannaries were all filled.

Nipal

17th September

Mr Hodgson is still debating with the Durbar as he has been for two months past, and knows not which most marvel at, the obstinacy with which simple justice and fair dealing are resisted, or the insincerity with which what is conceded, is given up. He has gained a good deal; but this will not content those who seek simply their rights. Several times he has seemed on the verge of perfect success, but still some trick of evasion has intervened. Our successes in the NW, observes Mr Hodgson, appear unable to counter-vail the impression of our acquiescence elsewhere. The Durbar has renewed their proposal to let them pass through Sikkim to seize Dheo Dharma. It would appear by this proposal that the Durbar finds Deo Dharma slow to fall under its wiles.

24th September

The Resident in Nipal reports the application of the Durbar to allow the passage of its troops through Sikkim for the conquest of Bhootan. Mr Hodgson was coolly asked to concede the passage as a mark of friendship and in return for the amende honorable which the Durbar professed to be then about to make to him. He asked if the Durbar had received any injury from Bhootan or had demanded any explanation? None whatever, was the reply. But, Mr Hodgson continued, Sikkim is an independent State and *she* will never consent to yield the Goorkhas a passage for such a purpose—"We care not a fig for Sikkim's consent, we want only yours" was the reply. Mr Hodgson then observed that the British Government had too much respect for justice to sanction any part of such proceedings—and that no proposition of the sort could be listened to.

Bootan

12th September

It has recently become of high importance that one should know regularly and correctly how affairs are progressing in this country to which the

Nipalese are so sedulously turning their attention for the purpose of establishing an influence, adverse to us. The present prohibition to the entrance of foreigners into Bootan, observes Dr Campbell,* leads to the belief that no other means than the dispatch of a Mission into that Country with the determination to maintain it there, can enable us to acquire the requisite correct information and thwart the designs of the Goorkhas. It is not unlikely that in the past distracted state of Bootan, the Goorkhas will have but little difficulty in inducing one party or the other to accept of aid in men and arms, and it appears certain that the smallest aid from them will insure supremacy to the accepting party. Dr Campbell therefore seems to think it would be better and cheaper to miss the hate and jealousy of the Goorkhas by establishing our own influence there through the means of countenance to a Deb, than to let it flourish in present annoyance, and with the certainty that, when more difficult, we shall have to meet and annihilate the Nipalese power from the Burhampooter¹⁵ to the Kali. Although the establishment of the Nipalese influence depends on the consent of the Thibet authorities to the passage of men and arms for Bootan, yet Dr Campbell would prefer looking after our own interests without reference to the uncertain state of affairs in Thibet, especially as we could more easily secure them in Bootan, ere the Goorkhas have obtained a footing there than afterwards. He accordingly proposes to go into the Bootan Turai after the rains, for the purpose of trying to establish some means of procuring constant intelligence from the Mountains. He will thus be enabled to add much to his present information on people, places, or other matters in that direction.

Upper Assam

In consequence of the disturbed State of affairs in Upper Assam, it has been deemed expedient to add to the Military means at disposal in that quarter. 2 additional Cos. of the 36th NI have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Seebpore near Rungpore in Upper Assam. Orders have been also issued to the Commissariat to provide Boats for conveyance to Gowahatty¹⁶ of a second Detachment from the Regiment stationed at Jamulpore; and if matters continue in their present unsettled state, Brig Littler,¹⁷ Comg. Eastern Frontier, has been directed to proceed into Assam in the course of the ensuing season, to superintend the movements of the different detachments, and to ascertain the efficiency of the new levies.

Items of General Intelligence

8th September

Sir F Maitland in a letter to Lord Auckland states, that it was his

*Later Asst. Rest. at Nipal and now in charge of Darjeeling.

15 *Burhampooter* : for Brahmaputra.

16 *Gowahatty* : for Gauhati in Assam.

17 *Brig Littler* of 70th Native Infantry was Officer Commanding the Eastern Frontier with Sylhet as his headquarters.

intention to leave Trincomalee¹⁸ about the 23rd or 24th and proceed to Madras where he will complete the "Wellesley's" provisions. He has written to the President in Council requesting he might be furnished with the state of our relations with the Burmese, as well as the opinion of His Honor in Council as to the probability of an immediate or proximate rupture with that nation, as upon that must depend his own movements, as well as his means for furnishing any ships for the Persian Gulf. If his Excellency's presence and that of the "Convoy" is not required in the Bay of Bengal, he proposes, after visiting Madras, to proceed with such ships as he can collect, to Bombay, that he may there concert with the Governor in Council on the measures to be adopted in the critical state of affairs. Sir Frederick will remain at Bombay till he receives information of the views Her Majesty's Government has taken of the Chinese affairs, and he will be just and ready, he thinks, to act upon them from Bombay as from the Bay of Bengal, but as reinforcements, if on their way, cannot arrive for 2 or 3 months and further, there would be great difficulty in making a passage to China with a squadron while the N E Monsoon blows. He has in addition to the "Volage" sent the "Hyaunth" to China—and it must depend upon the state of affairs in that country if both or either of those ships return. His Excellency notices that 60 sail of shipping, and upwards of 20,000 tons of cotton are locked up in consequence of the stoppage of the China trade by Captn Elliot, at an immense loss to either individuals or the public without any one benefit that he can discover; and from the state of irritation existing in the minds of the foreigners, and the threats the Chinese are holding out of sending fire ships against our vessels if they do not either trade or depart, he much fears, a collision will take place before any communication from Home can arrive. Captn Harding of the "Pelorus" employed on the Sydney Station will be relieved by the "Favourite" if matters are quiet in the Bay of Bengal.

Letters from Aden of the 23rd August state that the "Water Witch" with the Mail had arrived in 39 days in that Part leaving the Pilot—and that she met with very foul weather and calms in the Bay—and sprung her Mizzen top mast.¹⁹

A private letter from St Petersburg of the 3rd July mentions that Vicovitch, the Russian Agent, has actually shot himself and that a Col Bradenburgh was on the point of starting for Khorassan, and as far into Afghanistan as he might safely venture, in order to follow up Vicovitch's proceedings.

H Torrens

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

Simla,
the 15th October, 1839

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt. Miscellaneous, Vol. 332, PP. 183-236).

18 *Trincomalee*, a small island near the east coast of Ceylon, with fine bays and harbours. The town, built on the neck of a peninsula on the north side of the bay, was taken by the British in 1795 although Ceylon itself was not to be annexed until 1802.

19 *Mizzen top mast*, the mast next above the lower mizen-mast.

Lahore

8th Oct.

It was well-known to all the courtiers that enmity had always subsisted between Missur Beilee Ram and Raja Dhyan Sing. After the death of the late Maharaja, Missur Roop Lall (brother of Beilee Ram) possessed himself of some lands belonging to the Aloowalla Chief, under pretext of a boundary dispute; and this chief having erected a redoubt on the disputed land, Missur Rooplall sent his troops to demolish it. Raja Dhyan Sing on the one hand determined to check Roop Lall's aggressions, and on the other Beilee Ram sought the assistance of Sirdar Cheyt Sing, who was, as Kurruck Sing's favorite, so rapidly rising to the highest influence in the State. Accordingly, troops and Guns were appointed to assist Roop Lall. Raja Dhyan Sing was greatly displeased with these orders, and his dissatisfaction, which he did not conceal, was increased by the unhesitating assumption of authority on the part of Cheyt Sing in his forcible seizure, degradation and imprisonment of Sirdar Wuzeer Sing. On the 7th, Beilee Ram began to concert measures with Cheyt Sing for the apprehension of Dhyan Sing, but the Rajas and other Sirdars being apprized of the conspiracy went directly to Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing, informed him of it, and told him that as long as Beilee Ram and Cheyt Sing lived, there could be no stability in the Govt. and no security for any person; they, therefore, advised the Koonwur to kill them. Raja Golab Sing went to Nao Nehal & concerted the measures to be taken. Accordingly the Koonwur gave orders as for his march to Umritsar. At midnight orders were sent to the officers of the Shere Regt. to be ready at 3 o'clock in the morning at Dhyan Sing's house as quietly as possible—The Koonwur taking with him also a Battn. of Tajj Sing's, went at that hour to the Raja's. With these troops in their train they went silently to the Fort and ordered the Gates to be opened; the guards refused entrance at first, but at length the Gates were opened, the sentinels were seized, and the party entered. They found the Maharaja binding on the turban, and Cheyt Sing cleaning his teeth; but both of them seeing this alarming interruption, fled. They ran downstairs, entered another room and shut the door. Raja Dhyan Sing advanced to the door, and his followers firing their carbines killed two sentinels & 2 other persons. The Raja then requested the Maharaja to come out, which he first refused to do, but being assured that they were faithful in their allegiance to him and would do him no harm, the door was opened. He was instantly carried to the throne—and while Dhyan

Sing bowed his head to the Maharaja's feet, his partizans cut Sirdar Cheyt Sing to pieces. Many seizures took place—The Maharaja was afterwards carried to the Huzooree Garden attended by all the Chiefs, and it was proclaimed through the city that the Maharaja was the *Badshah*, the Koonwur the *Mooktear*, and Raja Dhyan Sing the *Vizier* of the State.

9th October

Beilee Ram and all his relations are imprisoned. Hardyt Sing brother of Cheyt Sing, is a prisoner, and is about to be dispd.¹ in irons to the Kangra fort. Missur Meg Raj (one of Beilee Ram's brothers) in charge of the Govindgurh Treasury, has been also apprehended. Koonwur Nao Nehal was ordered to confiscate Sirdar Cheyt Sing's Estate and to remit its revenues—The officer at Filore² was at the same time ordered to prevent any property of Missur Roop Lall's crossing the Sutlej. General Sookraj has been ordered to be confined very closely—and all the public and private servants of the Govt. have been warned by the Koonwur to desist from any acts of disloyalty otherwise they would be punished. Beilee Ram being brought before Dhyan Sing and the Koonwur was ordered to be beaten—he was asked where the missing pearl string worth many Lakhs of Rs. and the precious daggers were? He replied that a few pearls out of the string and the Daggers were still in the Treasury. The Raja told him he also would have been killed had not the Koonwur kindly interceded for him—and the Missur resigned himself to the Koonwur's will. The prisoner requested permission to eat and drink which had been denied him for two days. His best horses have been confiscated. Nao Nehal Sing now issues his orders with the advice of Raja Golab Singh, Sirdar Futteh Sing Maun, and Bhaee Ram Sing, and the most important cases only such as the grant of confiscation of Jagheers, are reported to the Maharaja. The Maharaja observes that he has nothing to do with the State and its rule; that they are all gone with Chety Sing, & that he will be contented with his former Jagheer. leaving every thing also to Raja Dhyan Sing and the Koonwur. With a view to console him the Koonwur and the Raja dine with him regularly. General Ventura, it is reported, has incurred the displeasure of the Court, for of all the chiefs of the State, only the General and Koonwur Shere Sing were not accessory to the assassination of Cheyt Sing. The Raja and the young Prince are not very easy, it is said, in their minds as to the consequences of the opinion the British Govt. may form of their late proceedings.

10th October

Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing ordered all the Chiefs and Ministers to give in, in the Maharaja's presence a written and sealed assurance of their future allegiance and the due and faithful discharge of their duties—and this was

1 *dispd.* for dispatched.

2 *Filore*: for Phillaur in Ludhiana (Punjab) district.

immediately executed by all. Rajas Dhyan Sing and Golab Sing sent for Hurdut Sing, the prisoner, and desired him to point out the concealed treasures of Cheyt Sing, but he only replied "If I live, I will one day avenge the murder of my brother Cheyt Sing". Upon this the Raja ordered him to be killed. His remains were thrown into a well and the well filled up. Some papers relative to the conspiracy against Dhyan Sing have been discovered. The Maharaja, it is said, asked the Koonwur and the Raja in private if he was really free or in confinement, and they assured him he was their M^aster.

11th October

It is reported that Koonwur Shere Sing has discontinued his attendance in the Durbar, and seems rather apprehensive for himself, though neither the Rajas nor Nao Nehal Sing appear to entertain any ill-will towards him.

Cashmere

29th September

A private letter giving an account of this quarter mentions that Cashmere is perfectly quiet and observes that it will never be otherwise for the people are the greatest cowards in the world, and have always bowed to the conqueror. The writer notices the influence and the extent of territory of the Jummoo family* and expresses his belief that they will set up for themselves—their influence being paramount in the Punjab. They have crushed all the chiefs of the Lower Hills, except the Rajas of Rajauree and Chumbna³; the former is too weak to offer any resistance to their plans, and the latter is the father-in-law of Heera Sing.** When the writer was at Chumba, there were four emissaries there from Raja Dhyan Sing, wanting the Chumba quota of Troops or an equivalent in money, neither of which the Raja was then inclined to grant. Remarking on the other Rajpoot Rajaships below the hills, he says, the Raja of Noorpoor was imprisoned before Runjeet Sing's death, and the Kotooh⁴ Raja has been imprisoned lately. The Kooloo⁵ Raja is helpless, and the Raja of Mundee, though possessed of a large and rich territory, can do nothing against the power of the Doguras (the Jummoo family name). The Bheember Raja, who was twice spared by Runjeet Sing had his eyes put out with red hot irons by order of Raja Golab Sing, more than half of the Rajawree State has been seized or gained possession of by Raja Dhyan Sing, and the Poonch Raja has been confined with all his family—his son, however, is now at large in Cashmere

*That of Raja Dhian Sing, R. Goolab Sing and constituting the strong Rajpoot party at the frontier of Lahore.

**Son of Dhian Sing and the late Maharaja's chief favourite, bearing the title Furzandi-Khas in his time.

³ *Chumbna* : for Chamba in Himachal Pradesh.

⁴ *Kotooh* : for Kota in Rajasthan.

⁵ *Kooloo* : for Kulu in Himachal Pradesh.

—a beggar—The whole of the country between Poonch and the Indus belongs to Dhyan Sing including the Durds and the Khukhas⁶ and Buumbas. The entire line of road from Jummo to Ludak has been seized by Raja Golab Sing who has posted his toll collectors along it: all the roads, without one single exception, leading from Cashmere either to Thibet or Ludak or towards the plains are commanded if not actually and wholly possessed by the Jummo family : so that (Cashmere is completely surrounded by their territories) : and it appears that they are only waiting for a favorable opportunity to set up for themselves and seize the whole of the country northward of a line drawn from Attck on the Indus, to Belaspore on the Sutlej, including the Khukka Bhumat of Derbend⁷, the Gukkars of Dangalee and the Durds of Hasora and Mozufferabad and the territories of the Poonch, Rajowree, Bheember, Chumba, Noorpoor, Kangra, Munde and Kooloo Rajas—To the Northward of these Lower hill states they will add Cashmere and Ladak, and soon afterwards Iskardoh⁸, Gilgheet⁹, Chytral¹⁰ &ca. The writer mentions a report current in Cashmere received a few days back, and which was generally believed that Shere Sing and Nao Nehal having united had insisted upon the removal of Raja Dhyan Sing from the ministry and upon the instalment of themselves in his place since which the Court has been split into factions, and the roads are now reported unsafe and the country unsettled—No one even hints at what is likely to happen amongst these divisions; but all agree in hoping that the British will take possession of the Punjab. He has been repeatedly asked when will the Company take the country—and amongst the people of the villages it was universally believed that the writer had come to take possession of Cashmere. They always asked how many soldiers he had with him, and when the Co. was to take the country and they reason thus “You have taken Cabool and Candahar and how (or why) will you let the Punjab escape.”

Cabool

By a letter of the annexed date from Captn Outram it appears he has succeeded in finding out the perpetrators of the murder of Lt Col Herring. Buxee Khan, a person possessing 5 Forts in the district of Alla Jan Killa was the instigator and participator in the acts of the Banditti who murdered that officer—they consisted of upwards of 50 wandering Kanjacks headed by

6 *Khukhas*, a people in north-western Punjab who occupied the rugged mountains lying westwards from Kashmir to the Indus.

7 *Derbend* (Derabund), a small town in Derajat, about 30 miles south-west of Dera Ismail Khan. It was a meeting place for Lohani and other caravans.

8 *Iskardoh*, once part of the Balti state (Baltistan) in Kashmir, situated at the foot of a valley surrounded by lofty mountains. Popularly known as ‘Little Tibet’ among Europeans it was conquered in 1840 by General Zorawar Singh.

9 *Gilgheet* : for Gilgit.

10 *Chytral* : for Chitral, now in Pakistan.

Mooza Khan and his relations. It appears that this band has long been associated in predatory pursuits and was latterly in the service of Mahomed Akbar as Jezzailchees. It has also been elicited that they and Buxee Khan were with the Fanatics who menaced the Camp the day before the fall of Ghuzni. He is the only head of tribe or Village throughout the Country, Captn Outram has traversed, who failed to meet him with assurance of allegiance to the Shah, and his conscious guilt is further evinced by the fact of his having sent his family to the Hills three days previous, and he himself absconding on Captn Outram's approach. He has happily succeeded, however, in arresting 4 of his nearest male relations and a Moolah who resided with him, all of whom it appears were active participators in his misdeeds. The prisoners will be sent to Ghuzni for the purpose of being forwarded to Cabool. The forts of Buxee Khan were found almost entirely deserted with considerable stores of grain etc. Captn Outram further reports the good feeling manifested by all classes and states that the head of every family in the district with the exception of the delinquent, above alluded to, were in attendance in his Camp and perfectly assured.

23rd September

Mr Macnaghten reports having permitted Captn Backhouse of the Artillery to proceed to the Provinces to prepare and equip a mountain train for service in Afghanistan and begs that the Officers in Charge of the Delhi and other Magazines and of the Gun Carriage Agency at Futtugurh may be directed to render Captn Backhouse every assistance in their power to facilitate & expedite the formation of the Mountain Train as proposed by that Officer.

2nd October

Mr Macnaghten states that Captn Outram has succeeded in getting hold of Mihtur Moosee, the person who led the Fanatics at Ghuzni—He is a father-in-law of Dost Mahomed—To seize him was the second object of Captn Outram's deputation, and by having this person in his power, facility will be afforded for the accomplishment of the other objects.

4th October

It has been arranged that the troops with the exception of 1 Nat Rgt shall winter at Jellalabad; and His Majesty has nearly made up his mind to do the same. It was His Excellency Sir J Keane's intention to leave Cabool about the 10th Instt. provided that the Treasure arrives in time.

Army of the Indus

22nd September

Major MacLaren, Comg. the Troops in the Zoormut District, reports the result of a successful attack on a horde of Banditti by a Detachment

under his command. On information being brought to him that the Kajuck¹¹ tribe of plunderers amounting to upwards of 200 had left the Hills, he immediately moved with a wing of the 16th Regt., 150 of Christies Horse under Lieut Nicolson,¹² 50 of Skinner's under Lt Broadfoot, and 150 of HM Afghans under Mahomed Osman Khan to attack them. The Detachment came in sight of the robbers at day light, but found their encampment in a much stronger position than Major M was led to expect, it being at the foot of a range of mountains of bare rock. He, however, made such a disposition of his force as completely to have them in. The enemy conducted themselves with bravery. A few of them were killed at the camp, but the main body took to the heights which were excessively steep. The Grenadier Co. of the 16th were ordered to pursue up the mountain, the Light Co. and another being sent to the right to prevent them escaping along the range. Lt Nicolson succeeded in getting round the Hill with his horse, the above Cos. closing in upon the enemy who had gained the tops of two of the highest mountains on which they made their stand being well-protected by large rocks. It was with the greatest difficulty that the officers and men got up in face of a heavy and well-directed fire from Afghan Matchlocks with rests.¹³ The Chiefs of the Kajucks waving their swords, and calling on our troops to come and meet them; they did so, killing many, taking the rest (120) prisoners—many of whom were wounded—and so complete was the affair that not an individual escaped. It is satisfactory to learn that amongst the captured are Mahomed Usman, Chief of the Kajucks, and two or three others who murdered the late Lt Col Herring. Many articles of clothing of Europeans and Native Soldiers as well as parts of English letters have been found in the enemy's camp fully proving that from this horde of banditti issued the parties which by plundering the Cattle and murdering the defenceless Camp followers occasioned annoyance to the Troops in their advance upon Cabool. 120 Camels, a few horses, numbers of sheep have also been captured, as well as arms of every kind. The Matchlocks are said to be superior to any seen in Afghanistan. The inhabitants of many forts, on the return of the officers & Detacht. to Camp turned out and cheered them for their gallant conduct, in having destroyed a race that had for 250 yrs. prevented their cultivation, carried off their Cattle—and that no King or Chief of Afghanistan had dared to attack or encounter. Lt & Adj

11 *Kujuck* (Kujuck, Khojak), in Afghanistan, a pass that links the valley of Pishin in the east with Kandahar on the west. The main road from Sind to Kandahar, by the Bolan Pass, lies through the Khojak, but the road to Ghazni turns off northwards about 30 miles south-east of the pass. In 1839, it held up the passage of British troops to Kandahar.

12 *Lt P Nicolson* of 28th Native Infantry was appointed Adjutant of 1st Irregular Horse of Shah Shuja's force in November 1838. Subsequently, he escorted Amir Dost Muhammad and his entourage to India. In May 1844, he was appointed Assistant to the Governor General's Political Agent on the North-West Frontier.

13 *rests.* for results.

Balderston of the 16th was slightly wounded, and Lt Nicolson received a severe contusion. Of Rank & file 3 killed and 3 wounded. Major MacLaren notices the conduct of the Chief Comg. HM Afghan Horse, Mahomed Osman Khan, and also Jurwar Khan who was of great service. Captn Outram also reports most favorably of the former and says, "he displayed more zeal and gallantry than I had hitherto witnessed in any Afghan, except Meer Allum Khan, the new Ghiljye Governor."

1st October

His Excellency Sir John Keane and Mr Macnaghten, in a joint letter addressed to Lord Auckland, report that events have transpired by which it has been deemed expedient to retain for a time a large portion of the Army of the Indus in Afghanistan. The letters received by the Envoy and Minister from Koondoos and Khoolum are evasive and unsatisfactory. Dost Mahomed, according to the best accounts received, is daily gaining influence in those countries, and from information received from very good authority, it appears that that Chief is strengthening his interests by matrimonial alliances between his own family and those of Moorad Beg of Koondooz, and the Walee of Khoolum. On the day on which Mr Lord left Charikar, intelligence reached him that a rebellion had taken place in the District of Ghorabund, instigated by Dost Mahomed, who had promised to send one of his sons by a Kohistanee Mother (Mahomed Akram) to the aid of the insurgents. There is little doubt that these evils would daily increase in number and virulence, were Dost Mahomed allowed the unmolested occupation of his present position, and it has been resolved therefore to detain an additional Brigade in Afghanistan for active operations, if need be, across the Hindoo Koosh on the opening of the favorable season. A detach. consisting of the Goorkha Regt. under Captn Hay, Captn Temming's Troop of Horse Arty, 1,200 Afghan Horse, some Nujeeb & Jezzailchees in the service of HM, and a party of 200 of Christies Horse, to which were subsequently added 2 Mortars & a Howitzer, was ordered to proceed in the direction of Bameean. Mr Lord will proceed as Political Agent with the Force. HM 16 Cancers, the 3rd Regt. of Lt Cavy. and Captn Grant's Troop of European Horse Artillery being the only part of the Bengal Force ordered to return to India through the Punjab. They will be accompanied by 6 Col. of NI belonging to different Regiments who have escorted Treasure, or had gone up with Lt Col Wade—Major Genl. Sir W Cotton is to remain at Cabool, and assume command of the whole of the force.

Candahar

1st October

The Envoy and Minister forwards a letter from Major Leech, the Political Agent at Candahar, suggesting that as there is every probability of a great influx of Trade from all quarters to Candahar, that measures should be adopted for the safety of Merchants on the roads leading there from Herat,

Cabool, Shikarpore, and Dera Ismael Khan, and pointing out the means he would adopt for this purpose. His Majesty Shah Sooja has been pleased to sanction the arrangements proposed by this officer for the security of the roads above-mentioned.

Bokhara

27th August

Lt Col Stoddart reports that his release will not take place till the Ameer sees our force—Though released from prison, he is still a prisoner at large, and cannot go about as he would wish—Much uneasiness prevails at this Court in consequence of the reports from Balk¹⁴ and Khoolum that Shah Shooja has taken Ghuzni, and nearly taken Cabool, and thence means to go towards Bokhara—The Russians still detain the Khiva Merchants at Orenbrugh—They have built a Fort 10 Stages from Khiva, among the Catta Yoor tribe, and reduced to subjection, the Kojack near it—12 stages from Kokan, at a place named Ser-i-Soo, they have also built a fort—At Bokhara they have done nothing new. The Envoy from the Ameer of Bokhara to the Emperor of Russia was not expected to return till the autumn.

Herat

12th September

By a letter from Major Todd, matters are reported to be going on tolerably well there. The people have lost all confidence in their own Govt. and it is next to impossible to persuade them that the British Govt. does not intend to take them under its protection. There are some slight symptoms of an improving state of things and it is his belief that the presence of the Mission has tended somewhat to restore confidence. All fear of the Kujjers seems to have been dissipated, and the dread which formerly existed of the Vizier's tyranny and oppression has in a great measure disappeared. The people are now turning their attention with hearty goodwill to the cultivation of their lands. Major Todd thinks that the presence of the Army in Khorassan is indispensably necessary to enable him to place our relations there and in Toorkistan in a firm and satisfactory basis. He cannot, he says, procure any intelligence that can be relied on from Persia—he intended sending a person to Erzeroom; where, he thinks, the Mission still remains unless they have returned to Tehran of which there are still rumours at Herat. Lieut Pottinger left that City on the 11th and was expected to arrive at Cabool about the middle of October.

23rd October

Lieut E B Conolly writes from Turrah¹⁵ that Ibrahim Khan is on

¹⁴ *Balk*: for Balkh.

¹⁵ *Turrah* (Farah), capital of a province of the same name in Afghanistan. The town was plundered and destroyed, once by Changiz Khan and, on another occasion, by Nadir Shah, resulting in the migration of most of its people to the adjoining areas.

bad terms with his neighbours. The Beloochees are, with his permission, running wild and plundering the country. Jumma Khan, half-brother of the Sirdars of Candahar, left them, and accompanied by some 20 or 30 men, his women and children, was on his return to Candahar : he was attacked by the Beloochees and completely stripped of everything. His women and children are said to have been abused in the most disgraceful and shocking manner, and he himself wounded. Shiek Pussund Khan has taken him into his Fort, and has given him even assistance. "The nearer I approach his country, the greater are the praises of this man", says Lt C "but from what I can learn, it is probable that though violently affected towards the English, circumstances will force him to throw himself into the hands of the Persians". His hatred of the Vizier of Herat is the common theme of conversation. It is currently reported that Kuhurman Mirza is encamped outside Subzawar¹⁶. —At Furrâh there is nothing but grapes which have been the support of the people who make them into raisins etc. and export them to Jowaine Killa Rah & where they get grain in exchange for them. There has positively been no cultivation of wheat there this year. The horses starve during the greater part of the day. There being no Booza, and the grass which covers the plain, being of a deleterious quality, and the cause probably of the death of so many horses in Seistan—Lt Conolly gave his cattle a measured portion of this by day, and an extra seer of Barley. There is not a Hindoo resident at Furrâh—the town consists of merely a few mud huts, and the place is represented as altogether very wretched looking and most unhealthy—The Country for miles round, up to the very fort itself, is a salt marsh, the greater part of the year. The river contains but a few pools of water, with here and there a stream, and, in general, it is dry in that part of the course some 20 days earlier. Rumours were afloat there on the 25th of the flight of Dost Mahomed to Tartary¹⁷—and the other Sirdars are said to have left Toosbêeh nominally *en route* to Meshid, but really intending to try to get into Toorkistan. It was also mentioned that the Sirdars were daily regretting their having fled at all. Lieut Conolly notices a remarkable mist in the atmosphere, and says, "Every day, since we have been here, the atmosphere has been so hazy that you cannot see 50 yds. before you." This has prevented our getting an accurate map of the plain. The day before our arrival the sky was clear and we got a few bearings, but this curious fog came on all of a sudden. The people here call it Dowlak. It seems caused by minute dust brought from

16 *Subzawar*, once a considerable town, on the banks of the Adruscund in a fertile valley in western Afghanistan. In 1838-39, it was nominally governed by a son of Shah Kamran of Herat. The town lay about eight miles west of the route from Herat to Kandahar.

17 *Tartary*, a somewhat vague term, used widely in the middle ages, to denote the whole of central Asia, deriving its name from Tartar inhabitants of that region. Tartary proper was taken to include the entire Asian belt from the Chinese frontier to the Urals, while "Little Tartary" stood for Crimea and the areas thereabouts.

the desert—The sun can hardly shine through it, and the moon, though now at the full, is eclipsed.

11th September

Major Todd reports several extensive forays having lately been made by a portion of the Ormah tribe of Tymunnee¹⁸ into the valley of Herat within 40 or 50 miles of that City. The Vizier has applied to him for pecuniary assistance to equip a body of men for the purpose of chastising these marauders, but he has advised him in the first instance to endeavor by threatening language to obtain satisfaction before proceeding to hostilities, and he has consented, to address a joint letter with him to the Tymunnee Chief, pointing out the certain consequences which will result from his refusing to satisfy the just demands of the Vizier or failing to give sufficient security for abstaining from such predatory habits in future—Major Todd has taken measures for opening a friendly communication with the Khan of Khiva. For this purpose, the son of the late Vizier of Herat, a person of great respectability will be dispatched with a letter to the Khan explanatory of our policy with regard to Khorassan, and expressive of our friendly disposition towards himself. The repairs of the works are progressing very slowly in consequence of the paucity of laborers procurable—The Harvest which principally consists of Grain called Urzum, used by the poorer classes for making bread, is so plentiful, that there is no apprehension of scarcity this winter.

Kelat

7th October

Further instances of Mihrab Khan's perfidy and hostility to the British Govt. have come to light. Various Agents were dispd. by Major Leech from Shawl for the purchase of Camels and Grain for the Commissariat when the advance of the Army under Sir W Cotton were reduced to great straits. One of these Agents was confined by Mihrab Khan, several times beaten severely, and threatened with death. He escaped at last on the 27th Sept. and reported to that Officer at Candahar that, during his confinement, a report reached the Khan that two officers had started from Shawl to proceed to Myang avoiding Kelat. A man was immediately dispatched with 70 Horsemen with orders to murder the officers wherever they were found. They were absent 20 days and returned without having gained intelligence of the objects of their pursuit. —Mihrab Khan is reported to have failed in gaining any of the Chiefs over to his aid in opposing the expected invasion of his country by a British force.

18 *Tymunnee* (or Taimani), a sub-division of the Aimaks who lived to the north of Herat and Kabul, in an undulating country. The Aimaks were subdivided into four different groups, the Taimani, Jamshedi, Firczkohi and Timuri.

Lower Scinde

15th September

Their Highnesses ordered a salute of 20 Guns from the Fort at Hyderabad to be fired in honor of the success of the British Arms at Ghuzni, and likewise for the taking possession of Cabool. On a remark being made by some of the officers of the Court that they did not credit the capture of Ghuzni or the possession of Cabool by the British Troops : the ameers said "You see that the conquerors of Tippoo and Bhurt pore, even after so long a cessation from war, are always ready to fight and are not to be overcome."

Sickness prevails in the city of Hyderabad and the surrounding country.

25th September

The secret intelligence reports that a mission composed of the youngest son of Noor Mahomed, the eldest of Meer Nusseer, and the youngest son of Meer Sobdar Khan, together with the nephew of Meer Meer Mohmed started for Khyrpore to condole with the chiefs of that place on the loss of Meer Mobarick Khan. Mirza Bakur has accompanied the young Chiefs, and will deliver the message of Meer Noor Md., Nusseer Md. & Meer Mahd. Khans privately to Roostum Khan regarding his swearing everlasting friendship to agree with them in every thing, and to act as they do.

26th September

The Ameers of Hyderabad this day received their letters from His Lordship the Govr. Genl. of India giving them a detailed account of the storm and fall of the Fort of Ghuzni lately achieved by British Troops. Their Highnesses were much gratified at this intelligence and said, "Our friends, the British, having gained such a victory, we consider it a victory for us also."

Aden

Sheik Cassim Sheryebec, one of the Arab Chiefs, writes to Captn Haines¹⁹ enquiring if it is his object to take possession of the Country, and promises to bind himself unto him to preserve the security of the country and the roads, from the Gate of Aden to Yemen, and in return, he wants that Officer to afford him such assistance as he shall require whether in money, ammunition and Guns. He also states that he had sent a son of his to wait on Captn Haines, but in consequence of his absence they had an interview with Major Bailee—Consequently "the flames of enmity have been kindled between him and the Turks"—He therefore announces his subjection to and friendship

¹⁹ *Capt G Haines*, of the 18th Madras Native Infantry was appointed Assistant Commissioner, Mysore, in February 1840.

with us—and begs that if we have no ambition for the occupation of the Country, to establish amity between him and Ibrahim Pasha and cause the restitution of the Territory over which he and his ancestors ruled.

The Govt. of Bombay with reference to the above letter points out the course of policy advisable to be observed towards the Arab Chiefs and Egyptian Authorities and considers it proper to instruct Capt'n Haines studiously to avoid committing the Government to any engagements direct or implied by which it could be called upon to mix itself with the internal disputes of these Chieftains, or to interfere for the adjustment of their differences with the Egyptian Authorities.

Persian Gulf

21st September

Capt'n Hamerton, who was deputed on a Mission up the Euphrates for the purpose of ascertaining the resources of the Country reports that in consequence of the extraordinary inundation of the river, he found considerable difficulty in procuring boats or people to accompany him—the banks of the river were completely overflowed, and the country in either side for many miles under water, so that the men were unable to track boats up the stream in the customary way. He had a meeting with the Sheik of the Montafy who assured him that he would assist in every way any person who came on the part of the English Govt. to procure supplies. Wheat, Barley and Rice can be procured in great quantities, also Sheep, and Horses of a very superior description well-suited for our Cavalry and Artillery purposes. There are no mules either bred or used in the country—Considerable difficulty would arise in bringing horses down the river unless the good-will of the Bagdad and Bussorah Govts. were obtained—With respect to Camels, the Sheik told Capt'n Hamerton, he could not advise a hope being entertained of their being bought in the country, that altho' great numbers were bred in the Country, they are never taken below Bussorah—the Turkish Govt. buy all that are sold by the tribes of the Montafy Arabs. Capt'n Leslie who was also deputed on a Similar Mission was unable to reach the Mule Country or Bagdad for the same reason as Capt'n Hamerton, and also the very disturbed state of the country near Bagdad.

Kurnool

24th September

The Kurnool Commrs. in a report to the Govt. of Fort St. George mention the particulars of a Conference which they had with Namdai Khan, the Minister of the Nuwab. After some declarations on his part of the loyalty & attachment of the Nuwab and his family to the British Govt. he stated that as far back as 5 or 6 years ago the Nuwab had begun to show

symptoms of insanity, which had gradually increased on him, but that he had for the last 2 years been gradually recovering, that the aberration of the Nuwab's intellects was manifested in the most extravagant fancies and actions. On the Commrs. questioning him particularly as to the motive of the Nuwab in making such extensive military preparations, the Minister said that he had scarcely any fixed idea on the subject at all, for that he had at one time heard of an extensive invasion from Afghanistan, and conceived the idea of increasing his country in the event of this taking place; and that, at another time, he would express his firm determination of proceeding to Mecca²⁰ and taking his troops and Guns with him conquering or killing Mahomed Ali and taking possession of Egypt but denied in the most earnest manner that the Nuwab's views even in his madness had ever been directed against the company's Govt. and with respect to any treasonable correspondence with Moobaruz ud Doulah or other parties, he would answer with his own life that nothing of the sort had taken place or would hereafter be discovered. The Commissioners observe that there are points in the Minister's communications which are fairly liable to suspicion, yet they are inclined to view it as generally deserving of credit. They are more inclined to this opinion because the account given by Namdar Khan of the State of the Nuwab's mind is considerably strengthened by their own observation of his personal appearance and demeanor. "We have seldom seen anyone," observes the commrs., "the expression of whose countenance and general bearing more strongly indicated partial, if not confirmed, derangement of intellect", and it is a well-known fact that more than one member of his family has been thus affected.

Sattara

4th October

The Raja of Sattara by three public proclamations has notified—

- (1) That the practice of Suttee has been abolished within the Sattara State.
- (2) That the transit duties are put on the same footing as in the British Territory.
- (3) That the Co's Rupee has been declared to be current in the Sattara State in the same manner as it is current in the British Territory.

The abolition of the rite of Suttee was entirely voluntary on the part of His Highness. He stated to the Resident personally that he was aware of the light in which the rite was viewed by the British Govt. and the fruitless attempts hitherto made to suppress it within the Sattara State, he declared it to be his intention to follow the example of the British Govt. in suppressing it—and this declaration he has now fulfilled by public proclamation.

²⁰ Mecca (Mecca), birthplace of Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

Nagpore

2nd October

The Resident reports the delivery on the 21st Sept. of a Khureeta from the Gov. Genl. to His Highness and relates minutely the particulars of the conversation which took place between the Raja and himself on His Lordship's letter being read and explained. The Raja was much excited at first on hearing the contents of the letter, and made some remarks. Mr Wilkinson explained that the object of the letter was to warn him in time and thereby prevent his country becoming a waste like that of Hyderabad, and that the G G had solely his good in view. On the 24th, the Durbar Vakeel visited the Resident and said His Highness was determined to follow the advice of His Lordship, and asked what it was wished should be done. The Resident replied the Govt. desires him to reduce his expenses to the utmost, commencing the reduction gradually, to adopt such a system of superintendence of every Department as would secure justice to his subjects and prevent their being oppressed and in no account to make extortions. This has been agreed to, and the Dussehra is the period fixed upon from which His Highness is to commence his reductions and new arrangements.

Jodhpore

6th October

Col Sutherland reports that all the outside chiefs have attended the Durbar held by the Maharaja, and every thing passed off, and goes forward with great quietness and wonderful regularity. The respect of all parties for his authority, now that we have got him fairly amongst his Chiefs and people, whilst the readiness with which he takes to business and the acquaintance he shows with passing events and his anxiety to do what we wish and require, and to put his house in order, all show that he is no ordinary man. There is great patience and composure about Maun Sing, and yet, as has been observed on many occasions, sufficient decision when that is required. He seems to have no doubt that we shall restore order and good Government to Marwar, shattered although the institutions and the frame of society has been for so long a period of time, and of this Col Sutherland himself sees no reason to doubt. The Maharaja says that he would of course never have even attempted this himself, and that he can now only proceed in the attempt to carry through such plans as he may have himself or as we may have for him with the support and confidence of the Governor Genl. Confidence has been restored to the money market and there will be no want of funds. "The quietness with which everything goes on (remarks the Colonel) at the Capital and the provinces, is at all events, very remarkable and I am told that the collections are being realized with more than the usual regularity."

Nipal

The temper and views of this Govt. continue the same as heretofore. All free grants of former years are being questioned; extreme and rash measures of retrenchment are being enforced; and to add to the discontent raised by these exactions, sudden fits of violence on the part of the Court seem to jeopardise the personal honor of the Chiefs as much as systematic exactions do their property. Although the season of annual appointments is fast passing away, there is as yet no symptom of the usual rotation of office.—The Raja and Ranee are said to be at issue as to the Premiership; and, in the meanwhile, the Kala Pandeys, with all the real influence, affect to evade office and give out that they have no power or responsibility. The *Gorak* Regt. which refused to serve at the new rate of pay (30 Rs. p. an.) has been compelled to submit; but if this rate be enforced generally in the army, general mutiny, it is apprehended, will be the probable consequence—The demeanor of the Durbar towards us is little improved, & an obstinate spirit of perversity appears to have got possession of the Durbar which argument can make no impression on.

8th October

This Durbar notwithstanding its having lately pledged itself to the Resident to discontinue the abetting or suffering of secret intercourse with our protected allies of the Plains (who are prohibited by treaty from holding such intercourse) has lately suffered two Mahratta Brahmins to come furtively into its territory and has held secret communication with them at Cheesapanee which is situated about 25 miles South of Kathmandhoo—Mr Hodgson fully believes them to be Agents of the disaffected at Poona and at Sattara. He has also been credibly informed that the Raja has confessed his accession to the late Poona & Sattara and Hyderabad intrigues, for His Highness was overheard congratulating himself in confidential discourse with the Ranee upon his fortunate escape in that the discovery of those intrigues had not (so far as appeared) involved him.

A party headed by a Syud named Syfoolah arrived at Kathmandhoo about 2 years ago with letters and presents for that Court professing to be a Mission from Shah Kamran of Herat. With what objects this mission remained so long there, Mr Hodgson has not been able to discover. The Durbar has at length agreed to dismiss Syfoolah and his two companions, who are to proceed homewards in about a month, or as soon as the Malaria subsides.

A Sepoy of the 7th Ca. Nusseeree Battn.²¹ went on leave to Dottie²² from May to Novr. 1838. In Jany. 1839 he was reported by the Subadar of

²¹ *7th Ca. Nusseeree Battn.* viz., 7th Calcutta Nussere Battalion.

²² *Dottie* (Doti), a province of Nepal bordering on Kumaon.

his C.²³ to have been seized by the Goorkhas—his name was struck off the strength of his Regt. about July of the same year for absence without leave; he however, returned last month and stated that when he got leave of absence, he went to Dotie but Jugtea Pandey, falsely informed the Chontura Jan Sahi of Salgurry that he had come to induce the ryots to emigrate into Kumaon (this was when he was returning to join his Regt. in October last)—he was in consequence seized and imprisoned from Octr. to February—He was, after the intercession of his friends, at length tried by ordeal and pronounced innocent and released—He was confined 11 days in a Fort in Dunool Doora and afterwards in Salgurry—and says there are 4 Cos. & 4 Kotes at the former place; but he believes only 8 Sepoys are in the Fort who are relieved regularly from the lines—There are 12 Cs. in Salgurry—he was not allowed to enter into the Fort—He states that the Goorkhas are enrolling Soldiers taking in even the Childern—and says that many soldiers are deserting. He represents Dotee as not in such a flourishing state as formerly and firmly believes that the inhabitants would be delighted with the English rule such as it is in the North-Western Hills.

Burmah

19th September

By the last accounts received from Captn Bogle relating to affairs in this quarter, every thing appears to be in as peaceful a state as can be expected. Whatever petty preparations may have been ordered and in some instances commenced and finished, nothing has been done that need give the smallest concern. There was a strong feeling of anxiety lest we should commence operations against them consequent on the knowledge that our Residency had withdrawn to Rangoon and the rude treatment experienced by our officers—indeed there seems to be very general belief on the other side the Mountains, that we are on the point of attacking them—whilst on our side the natives apprehend numerous dacoities will take place in the cold weather. A few Chokeys had been stationed in small stockades a short distance within the boundary line on the Burmese side—the roads repaired—the stockades at Mappi and Maindoung put in a defensive state—and sundry precautions against attack adopted but no assemblage of Troops had taken place, nor in short any thing indicative of the intention of attacking us. One of the best symptoms of this peaceful state of affairs is the arrival at Kyouk Phoo of a good many large Burmese Boats on their way to Calcutta, as usual.

26th September

Mr Blundell mentions his having received a letter from Captn Macleod, confirming the numerous reports that have reached him at Naulmein²⁴

²³ C. for Company (army unit).

²⁴ *Naulmein*, misprint for Moulmein in Burma.

through various channels, of mischief of some kind being designed against us by the neighboring Burmese authorities of Beling. It would appear from these reports that the design is to collect a considerable number of men on the plea of boat racing in Oct. (the usual period for such amusements) and with them make a dash at Maulmain—Rumours had also reached them that the Burmese intend to launch Dacoits again on our villages. As to any plans concerting at the Capital, nothing is known; but as Captn Macleod very correctly observes, we cannot judge of the plans and intentions of the Court by what may be going on on the frontiers. According to Mr Blundell, a Burmese force would require no preparations being made for it. It is so difficult to imagine the King fool-hardy enough to order an attack on us. "I am one of those (he says) who do not consider an attack on us as very probable but who deem it very possible, grounding that opinion on an Oriental Prince being incapable of appreciating a forbearing policy and always open to increase of arrogance by success in one point of it". Mr Prinsep seems to think that if the Burmese take the intention in hostility it will be by some measure such as the attempt forcibly to occupy the island of Pelewien, and the collection of Boats, on the plea of races may, he thinks, end in something of that kind.—However HMS "Conway" will just arrive in the nick to prevent any such attempt just now.

Items of General Intelligence

19th September

Captn Bogle writing from Kyork Phoo notices that the whole of the European portion of the Residents in Arrakan have enjoyed excellent health this season—not a soul has been ill since January or February last. The Sepoys are, however, suffering more than usual, the weather having of late been rather hot and dry & unseasonable.

The "Satellite" Steamer from Aberdeen has been offered to Government for a Lakh of Rupees. She is a passenger vessel, with a single engine of 100 Horse power, and carries 20 days' coal.

24th June

By a letter from Col Sheil, there is every reason to believe that a M Tehicatscheff, a Russian Emissary, was about to set out from St Petersburg early in May for Central Asia, if he had not already done so, and that he had been directed to assume a feigned name during his travels. It is further stated that he will be accompanied by a scientific person from Berlin.

H Torrens

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

Simla,
the 25 October, 1839

Newsletter 22 : November 8, 1839

Lahore

1st October

Raja Dhyan Sing was ordered to appoint two Battalions for the Maharaja's personal guard and to direct all the chiefs to encamp outside the City.

13th October

The Vakeel of the Aloowalla chief reported that Missur Roop Lall, hearing of the apprehension of his brother Beilee Ram, had betaken himself to the Bijwarra Fort, and Chaudree Md. Buxsh and Col Ameer Sing Maun laid siege to the place. The following day, he was prevailed upon to surrender, and was immediately put in irons. They were ordered to bring the prisoner to the Durbar—His property has since been confiscated. Koonwur Nao Nehal was ordered to give a Jagheer of 5,000 Rs. per Annum to the parents and widow of the late Sirdar Cheyt Sing, and to leave the property of the widow to herself.

21st October

Nao Nehal Sing remarked in the Durbar that the affairs of the State had lately been going on in a very quiet manner, and that were a British Agent stationed at that Court, things would be cemented. Raja Dhyan Sing said this could only be by orders of His Lorship the Governor General—Sirdar Futteh Sing then observed there is not a doubt but that a British Agent would be often with them. The Koonwur and the Raja, it is said, presented General Ventura with a sword to allay the doubts he seemed to entertain consequent on Cheyt Sing's assassination. He was at the same time reminded he was an ancient and faithful adherent of the Raj. The General admitted that he was so, and owed every thing to the late Maharaja and that whenever he felt he could no longer serve with satisfaction to the Durbar or credit to himself, he would request permission to retire.

Cabool

10th October

Sir W Cotton states that the accounts relating to Dost Mahomed are so very contradictory that there is nothing certain regarding him; but no apprehension seems to be entertained of his annoying Cabool.

6th October

Extract of a letter from Mr Macnaghten—"There is nothing new of late.

Toorkistan is the most interesting quarter at present. We have rumours of incipient quarrels between Dost Mahomed Khan and his allies, but nothing that can be depended upon. The Shah will winter at Jallalabad, whither all the Troops will proceed save the Queen's 13th and a wing of a Native Regt. which will Garrison Cabool—Sir A Burnes and a Shahzadeh will look after our interests at Cabool."

10th October

Mr Macnaghten reports that a man had just arrived at Cabool who says that Dost Mahomed is going back to Khoolum, and that Moorad Beg is anxious for Mr Lord to go to Koondooz. The politics of these parts, he observes, are difficult to unravel. He shall be able, he thinks, to establish an influence in Bokhara that will effectually prevent the Ex-Chief from gaining aid from thence—though an asylum probably may not be denied to him.—Mr Macnaghten has it on good authority that the Ex-Sirdars of Candahar with their families had arrived at Mushed. It is reported that two of them had gone thence to Teheran. It is not unlikely that Dost Mahomed will go to Mushed if the Mission of Meerza Sumeer to Bokhara should prove unsuccessful. Mr Macnaghten does not, however, imagine that Toorkistan can long support him and his followers as they have no money. Mr Macnaghten at the same time forwards a letter from Lieut Nicolson who had accompanied Captn Outram & Major Maclaren in an expedition undertaken against some of the Shiljee predatory tribes, suggesting measures under his own supervision for the establishment of Chokees on all the Kotils¹ and passes; the pursuit and apprehension of robbers; the gradual making up of the quarrels regarding water, which now keep the whole country in a ferment; and an ascertainment of the *Malya* paid to the Dooranee Monarchs and Dost Mahomed; and a just and equitable settlement of a new rate, not as an arbitrary measure, but by talking over the Muliks. "*These* and their people (he says) seem generally more alive to the blessings of peace and a fixed Govt. than you can imagine. The Anderees about Ghuzni and Shilgurh are equally so, and express themselves favourably towards the King's rule, and to us, *if their religion is not interfered with.*" This seems their chief apprehension, while in the wilder district, the word religion was never mentioned. The points requiring most immediate attention are the confirmation or reappointment by HM of the most influential Muliks, without caring if they were of Dooranee or Barakzye nomination, the taking engagements from the Muliks to repel all predatory attacks—to guard Govt. property—be answerable for the peace of their tribes and for all plundered property—and not to harbour malcontents or thieves. To all these, they will readily agree, and from what Lieut Nicolson has seen of them, he imagines that they will generally adhere to their engagements.

¹ *Kotil* (Kotul or Kotal), a Turki word, adopted by the Afghans, meaning a mountain pass.

12th October

A private letter notes that affairs are going on very quietly. The portion of the Troops that are at present to return to India will move on the 16th Instant. There is abundance of everything for their return; but a little inconvenience was felt for the want of money.

12th October

The system of conciliating and enlisting the wild tribe, whose occupation was formerly plunder, which has recently been so successfully adopted in the Bolan Pass, might, in the opinion of Mr Macnaghten, be equally successful in that of Khyber; he has accordingly deemed it advisable that a Corps of the natives of the Khyber Hills should be raised and organised as soon as practicable, and Lt F Mackeson has been instructed to undertake the duty of superintending this levy, such aid being afforded to him in European Officers as may be necessary—The number to be enlisted for the Khyber Corps should not exceed 800 men, and their duty will be to guard the Pass from one end of it to the other.

24th October

Raja Dhyan Sing, Soocheyt Sing, Bhaee Ram Sing, Govind Ram, Fuqueer Nooroodeen, Jemadar Koshaul Sing and Sirdar Futteh Sing Maun urged the Maharaja by the advice of Koonwar Nao Nehal Sing to release Missur Beilee Ram, Meg Raj, Roop Lall and others as they had now suffered enough for their conspiracy with Cheyt Sing. They were directed to take written engagements from the prisoners to obey the Durbar to serve with loyalty, and to promote unanimity among the Chiefs and Ministers of the State, and to bear no ill-will to any one for their present treatment. The prisoners immediately assented to all this urging that they had committed no act of disloyalty before;—but nothing was determined on.

25th October

From the Peshawur news received at Lahore a rumour, little entitled to credit, is mentioned that a coalition had been formed between the Courts of Bokhara, Herat, and Persia—that the latter had in consequence restored to Herat its forfeited provinces, and requested Prince Kamran to accommodate the fugitive chiefs of Candahar.

26th October

Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing ordered the lines which are being erected for the late Cheyt Sing's troops close to the wall of Lahore, to be levelled; General Ventura observed that the lines had already cost the State some thousands of Rupees, and why throw this away merely on account of the name? The Koonwur replied that nothing ought to be allowed to remain

to mark that such a man had ever existed; and that, therefore, the lines should be levelled to the ground.

Peshawur

The Khyberees appear to have attacked the Troops at Ali Musjid on the night of the 24th Oct. headed by Khan Bahadoor Khan but were driven back. They repeated the attack on the following night with the same ill success—and on the 26th they attacked the positions occupied by the Batt. of Nujeebs and Ali Ghols belonging to the Lahore Govt. which were left there pending the arrival of Lt Mackeson. The Maharaja's troops were not able to resist the attack; they are reported to have evacuated their posts and retired to Futteh Gurh with the loss of a considerable number of men in killed and wounded. The Khyberees appear to have been encouraged in making these attacks, from the extreme state of sickness to which the Troops in Ali Musjid and its immediate vicinity have been reduced. On Col Wade's arrival at Dhakka and on his way through the Pass, he had ordered the whole of Lieut Mackeson's levy of Mooltanees, and Lieut Dowson's Corps to proceed respectively from Jellalabad and Dhakka to reinforce the posts in Khyber—and which force had subsequently arrived. Their presence will prevent any serious impression being made on Capt Ferri's isolated position.

Kelat

The Political Agent in Upper Scinde reports a summary of the information regarding Kelat and Mukram received from Shah Newaz Khan with a genealogical account of that Chief's family who states that he is the fifteenth in descent from Abdoolah Khan by whom the Territory of Kelat and its dependencies were first conquered and united in one Kingdom. Abdoolah had two sons—On his death the eldest Mahabut Khan succeeded to the throne, but was shortly afterwards slain and his dominions usurped by his younger brother Nusseer Khan. The latter was firmly seated on the throne of Kelat and never admitted Hajee Khan to any share of power.—He befriended the son of that unfortunate Chief, however, and finally gave him his only daughter Sarah Bebee in marriage, the only legitimate child of Nusseer Khan. At his death he divided his possessions equally between his eldest son Meer Mahomed, and his son-in-law Bahram Khan, giving the Pergunnah of Bagh as Jaghire to his youngest son Mostuffa Khan. Meer Md. was succeeded on the throne by his eldest son Mihrab Khan. Bahram left one son Ahmed Yar Khan and Mostuffa also left only one son who succeeded him in the Jaghire of Bagh. The three cousins, Mihrab Khan, Ahmed Yar Khan and Sirufraj never were on good terms. The former, who is, by nature, of a very treacherous and cruel disposition, constantly sought for some means of slaying the others that he might seize their possessions. Such an opportunity at length offered : They agreed to meet

him at Gundava that all differences between them might be satisfactorily arranged and made oath on the Koran that no treachery should be practised. Immediately on their arrival there, he killed them (both) and usurped their possessions, and that (chief) carried Shah Nawaz and his younger Brother (along) with him to Kelat and detained them in confinement for 15 years. They at length contrived (to) escape from their prison by scaling the walls and fled to Sebee²—and afterwards attempted to gain their possessions but without success—Shah Newaz³ now applies for the permission and support of the British Govt. before taking any further steps. He says he has been promised assistance by the Berhaee and Belooch tribes, and if the British Govt. would do likewise, he pledges to remain in strict allegiance to it, and to act in every respect as it shall dictate. Mr Ross Bell speaks very favourably of his character and disposition—and has not a doubt that if the British Govt. restore him to his possessions, he will prove a faithful adherent.

Lower Scinde

5th October

Lieut Eastwick writing from Kurachee mentions that the change from the intense heat of Upper Scinde to the cool breezes and equal temperature of Kurachee is very striking. At the point where the Fort of Manoora is situated, a promontory juts out into the Sea : the Therm never varies more than 5 or 6°, and never rises above 80°. He does not think there is a more eligible place on the Bombay side for a convalescent station and gives the preference to Kurachee over every other spot in Lower Scinde for the Cantonment of Troops. Little progress has been made in breaking down the fences of bigotry and ignorance which encompass the Scindeans. It was his intention, therefore, on his return to Hyderabad to seek a more familiar intercourse, not only with the Ameers but with the principal Chiefs, in order that he may have an opportunity of explaining the principles on which we act, the nature and extent of our power and the benefits that will occur to themselves and their country if they come forward to meet us in a sensible manly way. The great difficulty with native rulers, he observes, is to counteract the poison instilled into their minds by interested minions of their Courts, who, to further their own ends, invent and palm upon them, all sorts of garbled statements. There is much yet, he says, to be learned concerning these people of whose character and habits much less is known than could have been expected from their proximity (to) Hindostan. The Chief of the Gang of the murderers of Capt'n Hand (Chakur Khalifa) was hung on the 2d. instant. He met his fate with

2 *Sebee* for Sibi in Baluchistan.

3 *Shah Nawaz* was made chief of Kalat in November 1839 on Macnaghten's recommendation.

that indifference that so often is evinced by Asiatics. He was a notoriously bad character who under his garb of sanctity had committed most atrocious crimes.

Bagdad

Lt Col Taylor writes that the Shah of Persia appears inclined to take advantage of the reverses of Turkey urged probably no less by Russia than Mehemet Ali. He has revived a claim to losses of Persian Merchants on the capture of Meharah by the Pasha; and has stated these at a large amount; threatening an advance on Bagdad if not promptly satisfied.—The Persian Agent residing at that City has gone to join the Persian Envoy to accompany him to Pasha's Camp to second his representations. They have been emboldened to do this by the defeat of Hafiz Pasha and the presumed weakness of the Turks; for the Turks have neither money to pay, nor force to resist; so that in the end he will in all probability throw himself on us. Koorshed Pasha is at Thermeda in Jehd, and said to be going to the Hojar.

Egypt And Syria

By a letter from Damascus it is reported that the affairs of the Levant⁴ are going from bad to worse. Mehemet Ali has accepted the decoration from the Sultan—He replies as a mark of respect, obedience and loyalty to the Sultan; but that the offer of hereditary succession of Egypt (even which with Syria and Candia⁵ & less he will not take) he will not accept, unless Khosrow Mahomed Pasha, the Grand Vizier, is banished from his Councils. Mehemet Ali and the Captain Pasha have sent a Corrette openly to Sulonica⁶ with five confidential persons with letters to all the Pashas of Romelia, Albania, Bosnia &c. to make common cause with them to support the Sultan; but to insist on the overthrow of Khosrow Pasha. It was said that Ibrahim Pasha is to remain at Manash and the Troops which have been sent to Orfa and Bir are to be returned to this side of the Euphrates. Mehemet Ali declares to the Consuls General that after the overthrow of Khosrow Pasha, the hereditary succession established, and that Ibrahim Pasha can be recalled by him to Egypt—he will go on his steamer

4 *Levant* : the coastlands and islands of the eastern Mediterranean; in a more restricted sense, the coastlands of Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt; in a wider sense, all regions from Italy to the Euphrates.

5 *Candia*, a seaport with a big fortress in the northern part of the island of Crete in the Mediterranean. Founded in the ninth century by the Saracens, it passed into the hands of the Venetians, from whom it was taken by the Turks in 1669. Scene of fierce fighting between the German and Allied forces in 1941 in the course of World War II.

6 *Sulonica* (Salonica) in Greece.

to Stambol⁷ and do homage to the young Sultan and unite with him in every measure for the welfare, glory and defence of the Empire.—The writer was informed that all Northern Mesopotamia is in open revolt—the Kurds in arms in all directions and neither the Pashas of Bagdad nor Mosul have sufficient means to co-operate with the remains of Hafiz Pasha's army who was at Malatia, without infantry, ammunition, provision and artillery—and the irregular Cavalry either gone over to Ibrahim or joined the insurgents.

Aden

23rd September

Capt Haines reports that the Country inland appears in a perfectly quiet and settled state at present. The population of Aden has increased very rapidly. He took a census of the town and found the increase since the census forwarded in March last to be Males 1,058, Female 557, which makes the population of Aden 2885, independent of Troops, Camp followers and other Indians. He is convinced there will continue to be still greater increase, for he has had many applications from respectable natives for ground to build on. The weather, he notices, as daily becoming more agreeable and the nights cooler, the strong westerly winds appear to have subsided, and are succeeded by delightful refreshing southerly winds—No improvement, however, appears to take place in the health of the Native troops—While the Europeans remain equally well, with the exception of 12 or 15 suffering from their own indiscretion.—Trade is progressing—No molestation experienced on the roads, and every thing bears a favourable aspect—and supplies are plentiful.

Hyderabad

13th October

The Offg. Resident writes that affairs are perfectly quiet and tranquil at Hyderabad. It was his intention to keep Col Blair with his Rissalah and a half of Horse on the Northern banks of the Kistna and Toombudder, opposite to the Kurnool country until the affairs of the latter shall be entirely settled. The Minister and the Resident are on very friendly terms; and, he believes, that he had some confidence in him. He tells General Fraser that he places himself entirely in his hands and that he will act in every thing as he advises; This leads the General to hope that without having recourse to any extreme or violent measures, for which there is at present no just grounds, a gradual improvement may be introduced into the administration

⁷ *Stambol* (Istanbul, formerly Constantinople), the largest city in Turkey stands at the southern end of the Bosphorus. Founded by Emperor Constantine in 328 AD, on the site of the ancient Greek city of Byzantium, as the new capital of the Roman empire. After its fall to the Turks (1453), it remained the seat of the Ottoman empire.

of affairs, by means which if judiciously maintained for 2 or 3 years, may in the course of that time produce a considerable change for the better in the affairs of the Nizam's country and the condition of its inhabitants.

Kurnool

2nd October

In consequence of a communication from the Nuwab that the Commissioners were at liberty to inspect the whole of his canon, ammunition and other military stores now in the Fort, and after the strongest assurances frequently repeated by the Minister that there should be no concealment whatever, two officers, Captns. White⁸ and Richardson were deputed for the purpose of making an inspection. These gentlemen were accompanied by the Minister and one of the Nuwab's brothers who took them or rather were guided by them throughout their tour of inspection both of the defences and magazines of the Fort, and pointed out the different places in which the canon and military stores were deposited. The motive of the Commrs. in directing this inspection at the desire of the Nuwab was not that they considered that it could be relied upon, but as Namdar Khan had partly on behalf of the Nuwab and partly on his own account assumed a tone of the most unreserved confidence and sincerity, they considered it extremely desirable to avail themselves of the voluntary offer on the part of the Nuwab to permit an inspection, because it would afford the best and surest criterion by which to test his sincerity hereafter and would effectually close every avenue for future misrepresentation or evasion upon the most important point embraced in their enquiry. The officers above-named accordingly inspected the whole of the war-like material which he professes to possess, a distinct and defined statement of the extent of which had been previously obtained. There were exhibited 272 Guns and of all sizes and sorts, 15 Tumbrils filled with Ammunition and a very great quantity of Powder and shots of different sorts.

10th October

A private letter from the camp mentions that the state of the Nuwab's arsenal, his preparations for war as far as conceived, material in ordnance stores and ammunition "are prodigious". The gardens of his palace and zenana are covered with founderies for casting Guns, shot and Shells and pieces of ordnance are to be found in every stage of preparation. Two of the Mortars, beautiful brass pieces, are probably the largest in the world, the diameter of the bore of one being 26 and the other 23 inches; the depth of metal being 9 inches; and there is an abundant supply of shells for these. The various buildings in the palace and Zenana are turned into Magazines

⁸ *Captn White* had been Political Agent in Upper Assam and commandant of the Assam Light Infantry Battalion since 1831; was killed at Sadiya in 1839.

of every imaginable weapon from Guns of the heaviest calibres to double barrelled pocket pistols. In one shed which had the entrance built up to appear a dead wall were found 45 brass pieces of field ordnance from 1 to 6 prs. mounted on new carriages, while, in the same place, there were about 60 or 80 new Carriages for Guns buried in the vicinity of the shed. The writer states that he could not have seen less than that 600 Guns, some of them being 6 prs. with the Company's stamp on them. Others say at least 1,000—an endless number of Ammunition waggons and Tumbrils have been found ready laden with powder, Shot, Shells, grape &ca., and packed and ready to take the field at a moment's notice. Ranges of Godowns of great extent are filled with powder, saltpetre, sulphur and, in fact, it would appear as if the whole life of the Nuwab had been devoted to the collection of war-like stores and that the revenue of the country for years must have been expended for this purpose. With the exception of about 30 pieces all the others were buried or concealed in Buildings, the entrances to which were built up and would have escaped discovery had not some of the workmen employed turned traitors and pointed out the places of concealment. The Vizier accompanied the officers and at each successive discovery affected amazement and his entire ignorance of the Nuwab's proceedings. The Nuwab is still in the hands of about 1000 Rohillas and Patans who are encamped within a mile or two of the Camp.

Reports subsequently received from the Commissioners corroborate the account given in the preceding letter, of the vast extent of Military preparations made by the Nuwab. From information received by them, they had strong reason to believe that there were still great number of Guns and other munitions of war which were not exhibited to the officers. In order that the fullest opportunity may be allowed of searching for the Guns and Stores, the Commrs. considered it absolutely necessary that temporary possession of the Fort should be given to the British Troops to be retained until the investigations now making are completed. In pursuance of this plan they addressed a letter to the Nuwab demanding that such force of British Troops as may be sent, should be admitted to the temporary possession of the Fort. The demand had evidently taken them by surprize, and numerous frivolous objections were urged by Namdar Khan, and much time was lost in irrelevant and useless discussion, but at length a reply was received in which the Nuwab expressed his readiness to show his fidelity and obedience by delivering over possession of the Fort as had been demanded. The troops accordingly got under arms as speedily as possible and entered the Fort having full possession on the 6th Oct. without any opposition or disturbance. The Nuwab had, it appeared, quitted the Fort the night previous and was observed the following morning crossing the Hindry River to a village named Zorumpore close on the south side of Kurnool apparently taking with him a portion or the whole of his Rohillas. From subsequent examination the commissioners state, "We are not using the language of exaggeration when

we say that we have been utterly amazed at the enormous extent of the Military preparations which have been presented to our view during the course of our inspection and which even with the information we had previously received so far exceed our expectations that we fell perfectly at a loss to convey any adequate idea of them". The whole place has the appearance of a large arsenal, Guns and Mortars were found buried and thrust into corners and every other place fit for concealment. The shot, shells and Ammunition as well as the raw materials for making them are on a scale of equal extent, but it is utterly impossible they observe to make even a guess at their numbers or quantity. Numerous extensive buildings were formed heaped up with shot of every size, grape and canister and lead musket balls which could only be estimated by millions. In consequence of the deception and concealment which have been attempted by Golaum Russool Khan as well as the proved vast preparation of military implement and equipments with an ostensible object, and for which no pretext or excuse is offered or can be imagined that is consistent with the Nuwab's duty as a Jagheerदार and subordinate holder of territory, a sentence of confiscation has been accordingly passed against the Jagheerदार and the courts have been instructed to adopt measure to secure the persons of the Nuwab and his Minister and such of the Nuwab's adherents as it may be deemed expedient to seize and to discover the particular motives and designs which the Nuwab meditated in making such extensive preparations, and the sources from which the funds have been obtained.

18th October

The Foreign Troops of the Nuwab were guaranteed all arrears of pay, protection of life and property and passports to their native countries. Some of them appeared inclined to accede to these terms but Shah Wully Khan, the Rohilla Chief was most insolent, refused to receive the letter addressed to him and the other Chiefs or permit the Nuwab to surrender as was demanded, unless he was paid up arrears, on the spot, and other terms he demanded, acceded to. Finding that persuasion was useless, Col Dyce who commanded the Detacht. consisting of about 75 Europeans of HM 39th Detacht. of Artillery with two 6 prs. and two Howitzers and 400 men of the 34 Regt. NI moved into position to attack a stone enclosure surrounding a Durgah while a squadron of the 13th Dragoons and a Squadron of the 7th Cavy. were detached to the right of the attacking force to cut up run-aways. After a few rounds of Grape and Canister from the Guns the whole line advanced in gallant style and carried all before them. The loss of the enemy has been very considerable. A large body of them having been taken prisoners and among them the Nuwab untouched whom Major Armstrong personally secured in the Durgah. A great number of the prisoners were wounded and Shah Wully Khan killed. Most of the other chiefs are either killed or captives. The extent of our loss is represented as very trifling, about 20 or 25 of all ranks killed or wounded. Lieut White of HM 39 is among the former; Major White HM 39 and Lt. Ochterlony M. Eng.

wounded severely and Lt Yates of the 34th mortally, and not expected to survive. The affair altogether was sharp, short and decisive.

Joudhpore

17th October

Col Sutherland foresees no difficulty in arriving at satisfactory results in the permanent settlement of the country. There is a great deal of work to be done in the way of discussion and reference to records, and all parties work cordially with him. He has got through an inquiry into the tenures on which about 1,000 of the Thakoor villages (or the villages which they claim rather) are held. Some of these villages are claimed by two or three parties and not more than 100 out of the whole number are now in possession of those who claim them, the other being Khalsa, or in the hands of Naths, concubines &ca. To arrive at any understanding of the question at all, he says, it is necessary to know the condition in which the whole landed property of the State (4241 villages) stands, and then the sovereign and the chiefs with our assistance, in so far as this may be necessary, can adopt measures for a distribution, disturbing of course as little as possible the tenures on which property is now held. Every thing is in utter darkness and uncertainty or rather the true condition of things is known only to a very few. The principal points appear to Col Sutherland to be to carry the Maharaja along with us (for now that he has come out, he is very influential) to exclude entirely Naths and all their partizans. To employ as far as possible the old servants of the State in whom the Maharaja and others have confidence, to hold a supreme military position and to stand as great umpire in all questions between the Sovereign and his Chiefs, and between the several classes of chiefs where our umpirage is appealed to.

25th October

The following is an extract from a Letter from an officer; "The Cholera has disappeared and the troops are healthy. They get on very well with the Marwarees, and there has been no quarrel or disturbance of any kind. In short, I think, we succeeded in making a very favourable impression on the people generally from the pains we took going and returning to prevent the camp followers from plundering and destroying cultivation and very few instances of sepoys being concerned occurred but the Brinjarries, Commissariat contractors and their myrmidons⁹ gave no end of trouble. The villagers appeared astonished at every thing being paid for the patrols and sentries being placed round their fields and although we found several places deserted and their cattle driven off, going to Joudhpore, on returning we found they had all come back, and their fears for safety of their property entirely subsided. At many villages, the tired and starved bullocks and camels left behind had been taken care of; and all the poor fellows begged,

⁹ *Myrmidon* : a faithful follower or servant; a loyal attendant or hireling; a hired ruffian.

was to be paid for having fed them for so many days. Such a thing as a theft was not heard of on the whole march. The appearance of the villagers does not bespeak very great prosperity—We saw no signs of any trade being carried on between the few large towns we passed through and Joudhpore itself but we were too early in the season and not in the right line. Palee for instance is a great mart. We never met a traveller of any description going or returning, the people everywhere were civil and submissive. We saw nothing of Rhatore haughtiness—We heard that at one of Maun Sing's Durbars, when the contending parties were brought together that there was a good deal of the twirling of moustaches and looks of defiance—and that one man, when Col Sutherland was present, was seen to draw his tulwar, he was seized and put in confinement, but no tumult ensued.”

27th October

Col Sutherland reports that all parties are working admirably—and feels confident of making a capital settlement for Marwar so as to interest all parties in working out the renovation of the country, and in preserving the public peace. The last proposal of the outside Chiefs is to pay an early contribution of 2 lakhs for their restored possessions for the payment of the pecuniary obligations of the State, present and in prospect.

Jeypore

20th October

Capt N S Nesbitt, late incharge of the Shekawatee District, speaks in the most favourable terms of the conduct of the Troops of this State. “I intend (he says) on taking leave of the Jyepore troops to State to Major Thoresby my very high opinion of them. My saying so will certainly surprise others as their excellent conduct has me. I confess I would not wish men to behave better, and have not witnessed greater obedience and attention to orders in any Army than I have found among them since I took charge of them this day two months.”

Nipal

12th October

Mr Hodgson reporting on the subject of Nipalese influence in promoting Secret enlistments in Oude remarks that the only circumstances tending to implicate Nipal are:—1st, A report made to the Lucknow Resdts. by an intelligencer that the muster roll of the recruits had been carried off to the Hills just before the said intelligencer's arrival at his destination. 2dly. A report made to Mr Hodgson before the Anant Chowdas assembly became matter of notoriety that a part of the arranged tactics of the Durbar for the season was further to distract our attention with tumultuary risings to be signaled by plunder and devastation at the moment when our regular troops

should be engaged beyond the Indus and in Ava as well as on the frontier of Nipal, and that the above scheme was got up by Nipal in concert with various of our dependant allies in the plains, as well as with the Ex Peishwa. Mr Hodgson considers it probable that such a scheme existed, and that Bajee Rao's intrigues with Nipal—the recruiting for this Chief in Oude, the large enlistments of Nipalese soldiers by the Toolsipoor¹⁰ and Balrampoor¹¹ Zemindars and the Anant Chowdas assembly were all parts of that scheme. The success of our arms beyond the Indus with the vigilance exercised in all quarters probably made the concocters of this scheme abandon it, and hence the recent denouncement of the Anant Chowdas drama in Oude has presented so harmless and unintelligible an aspect.

Mr Hodgson does not apprehend that Nipal would venture upon any serious rupture with us at present—and thinks it probable that she will shortly redeem the pledges of amendment which she has been haggling with him about for the past 3 months. But still her general temper and spirit cannot yet be said to promise any material change of system towards us further than necessity may seem to exact from her; and it will, therefore, he conceives, be expedient to continue to check her attempts at intrigue in the plains as vigilantly as heretofore.

Oudh

25th October

Col Caulfield with reference to Mr Hodgson's letter of the 12th has not any reason to suspect confederacy on the part of Oude or even connivance at the doings in Nipal—quite the reverse—An invasion from the mountains, he is of opinion, would ruin that country. He seems to think that Raja Durshun Sing, a powerful Amildar of Oude, is evidently involved in whatever has been going on. Col Caulfield is satisfied that Durshun Sing¹² hoped for the aid of Nipal in establishing himself in the possessions he has acquired. The Oude authorities, he reports, are very forward in meeting all his wishes, and where they fail, is imputable rather to the weakness of the Govt. than to any other cause.

Camp Shahabad,
the 8th Nov., 1839

Sd/
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India
with Govr. Genl.

10 *Toolsipur* (Tulsipur), a township in the Gonda district of eastern UP.

11 *Balrampoor*, a large talukdari estate in Oudh (UP) comprising the districts of Gonda, Bahraich, Partabgarh and Lucknow. Digbijai Singh became its chief in 1836 and remained loyal to the British cause during the Rebellion of 1857.

12 *Durshun Sing* (Darshan Singh), younger brother of Bakhtawar Singh, founder of the Ajodhya estate in Oudh. He succeeded his brother as chief; died in 1844.

Newsletter 23 : November 18, 1839

Dera Ismael Khan

23rd October

Captn Besant¹ on special duty at Dera Ismael Khan reports that the Shivanees occupying the Dara Pass which is the most practicable road, have evinced objections to allowing Kafilah to pass through their country—they had, at the instigation of a certain Moola, threatened to oppose Peer Ibrahim Khan (the person who was deputed by Mr Clerk in August last into the neighbouring mountains for the purpose of establishing a dawkh communication with Candahar and Ghuzni) by force should he attempt their pass. The Zao Pass² which was visited by the Peer seems to offer many obstacles to the passage of troops, and which to artillery would be insurmountable unless at a vast outlay. The greater part of the country too is a waste and Kafilahs going by the Zao Pass are obliged to bring their eatables with them whereas the Dhana road is said to be practicable for all arms, and would be attended with but a trifling expense in rendering it easy: but in consequence of a feud existing between the two tribes occupying either side of the Pass, no caravan is allowed to pass that way. Cultivation appears to be abundant in that part. Captn B has, however, since been informed that these tribes now regret having opposed Peer Ibrahim Khan. He has no doubt that much might be done by an officer bearing credentials from our Govt. or from HM Shah Sooja and whose Head Quarters might be at Durabun or Tonk where he might also be useful in keeping an eye on the Sikhs whose frontier adjoins, and who, at the time of Peer Ibrahim Khan being deputed, endeavoured by promises of reward to induce the tribes of Vuzeer and Shiranee to throw every obstacle in his way—nay more. Lukhee Mull, (Kardar of this place, was directed by his master Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing who holds this part of the country in Jagheer) to send for the Chiefs of these

1 *Captn Besant* of 21st Native Infantry held various political-cum-military assignments on the north-west frontier and Sind during the first Afghan War. He was attached to the Peshawar Mission which preceded the advance of Army of Indus through the Khyber. Later he was asked to act as Assistant to the Political Agents in Khairpur and Dadhar; in the course of the British onslaught on Kabul in 1839, he maintained law and order in Dera Ismail Khan as commandant of a British detachment.

2 *Zao Pass*, situated in the Sulaiman mountains separates the North West Frontier province from Baluchistan.

3 *Durabun* (Durban), a village in northern Afghanistan, a short distance south of the Hindu Kush, and near the source of the Tagoo river.

tribes, and by means of presents and promises of future rewards to induce them (in the event of the said Peer making any overtures to them) to say that they were under the Sikh rule, and, therefore, could not comply with his wishes unless by permission of the Lahore Govt. The whole line of this frontier is very imperfectly guarded. A fort is being built there and nearly completed. It is of mud, faced with brick, and is to have a dry ditch round it. It is situated on an extensive plain and within breaching distance of the town where an enemy could erect Batteries and carry on his approaches without the loss of a man. The walls of Fort are very substantial and would stand a good battering, but its dimensions being but small, an hour's shelling would suffice for the garrison. The town itself could offer no resistance, the wall by which it is surrounded being only about 10 feet high and a foot thick. The climate of Dera Ismael Khan is delightful, the Therm: usually in the morning standing at 66° and the water is excellent.

Peshawur

1st November

Mr Asst. Surgeon Reid⁴ reports on the sickness and mortality which have prevailed amongst the Troops at Ali Musjid as well as Dhakka and Jellalabad, and of the cause to which the sickness may be ascribed. The statement exhibits an extraordinary number of deaths among the troops generally, but especially in the British Detachment which has lost 23 men out of 60 since the 1st of Sept., while the rest are in too sickly a state to perform any duty. The sickness at Ali Musjid is attributed to the water which is said to be impregnated with antimony, the spring from which the fort is supplied, rushing from under a rock of the sulphurate of that metal. Other water was, for some time, tried by the troops but it is said that all in the neighbourhood is impregnated with the metal.

29th October

The attacks made by the Khyberees on Captn Ferri's Force at Ali Musjid on the nights of the 24th and 25th, which he was able to repel, has been noted in the preceding newsletter. On the 26th they attacked the positions occupied by the Troops of the Lahore Government and since Captn Ferris received reinforcements from Lt Dowson and Mons Carron.⁵ About 4 or 5 O' C of the 27th, the Afreedis having collected in a large body attacked

4 *Dr Reid* was given charge of a dispensary attached to the British Political Agent at Ludhiana in February 1839; accompanied the Peshawar mission to provide medical aid to its personnel.

5 *Mons Carron* was employed probably in the intelligence service of the Company. In March 1839 he provided information on Kabul and, thereafter, a few weeks before the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was deputed to maintain contacts with the Lahore Darbar. The object of his mission was not known to any other British Officer. After the death of the Maharaja, he was found in Bajour, possibly on some other secret mission.

the Sikh Nujeeb and Alighol Battns which were posted on a height of a mile or a mile and a half on this side of Ali Musjid; and drove them from their positions near the Musjid with considerable loss. The Nujeebs are all men from our Provinces about Saharanpore and its vicinity and are said to have fought most gallantly, indeed wonderfully, considering that most of them were sick. They had their ground till dark or for some hours after the day had closed, fighting hand to hand with the Afreedis, but were at last compelled to abandon their post and fled towards Jamrood at the mouth of the Pass. What number have escaped is not known, but Captn Burn hears that about 350 of the two Battns have got safe out of the pass; they were pursued all the way from Ali Musjid to the mouth of the Pass by the Khyberees. Captn Ferris made a requisition on Genl Avitabile for the assistance of Troops. The General has moved out about 3,000 men to Jamrood and Captn Burn intended proceeding with them, and will move them on to the Musjid if he finds that Captn Ferris still stands in need of aid.

5th November

Subsequent accounts received from Lt Col Wade mention that the Khyber Pass is again open after it had been closed for the last 3 days. The Khyberees after seven unsuccessful assaults contrived at last to drive the Nujeebs from their Sauga, killing 250 of them—the loss on the enemy's side has not been ascertained.

1st November

Agreeably to the desire of His Majesty and Mr Macnaghten, Col Wade addressed a letter to each of the Khyber Chiefs in which he invited them to meet him at Ali Musjid for the purpose of learning the terms which His Majesty was ready to concede, but he received no replies from them—neither did any of them attend. Khan Bahadoor Khan is reported to be the person who has been principally engaged in making the late attack, while in the Pass, Col Wade ascertained that he had been sending emissaries in every direction by means of Moolahs with a Koran to invoke the aid of the tribes in an attempt to expel the Kafirs from Khyber, but could not prevail on any of those who had entered into engagements with the Colonel to join him. Many of them at once rejected the proposal while others who had received favors both from the Shahzadeh and Col Wade declared that they had no cause of quarrel with us, and that he might fight his own battles. In passing through Peshawur Col Wade spoke to Genl Avitabile's relative to the imputed intrigues of Sultan Mahomed Khan with the Khyber Chiefs, but he said that both the Sirdar and his brothers had of late been pursuing a course of their own and paid little attention to his authority owing to the changes which have taken place at Lahore and their direct influence at that Court. Sultan Mahomed is engaged in storing grain and strengthening his position

in Kohat while Peer Mahomed Khan has been directed to annex Sewat and Boner to his territory, and to send such of the Chiefs as he can persuade to yield to Lahore.

Candahar

1st Oct.

Lieut Bosanquet on Special duty reports his having established guard houses on the road from Killa Abdoola⁶ to Candahar—and that the road is now quite safe. He has directed his Sowars to carry the dawks themselves as it will be a saving of expence. The dawk travels from Fort Abdoola to Candhar 2 days quicker than it did before his horseman carried it.

Cabool

7th Oct.

Captn Outram succeeded in surprizing Abdool Ruhman, the Ghiljye Chief, in his Fort which Major Maclaren took every precaution to surround with his Cavalry, but he contrived to effect his escape with all his followers. Some houses in front of the Gate which might have been taken possession by the Infantry after dusk, were previously set fire to by the Garrison, who thus prevented the approach of the Infantry within command of the Gateway and the Chief and his followers were enabled to get out on horse back unseen under cover of the smoke and unheard amidst the crackling of the smouldering ruins from whom they rushed out at speed separating in different directions and passing the videttes who gave chase but in the extreme darkness the main pickets could not distinguish friend from foe, and all escaped. The fort will be completely destroyed and orders have been sent to Captn Macan to march to Gool Mahomed's Fort for the purpose of demolishing it, also having been deserted by that Chief who fled some days ago. The followers of the above two Chiefs have almost entirely deserted them.

10th Oct.

In another letter Captn Outram announces the flight of Mama—it appears that Abdool Rahman joined that Chief the day after his escape from the Troops on the night of the 7th Inst.—and that both fled towards the Hills the next day. The fugitive Chiefs propose taking refuge in the Punjab or at Peshawur proceeding there via Dera Ismael Khan—their united followers are scarcely 100 Horse. The reward offered for their apprehension, it is expected, will secure their capture. Major Macsaren has been directed to proceed to the Mama's Fort, destroy it and then return to Ghuzni. Captn

⁶ *Killa Abdoola*, in Afghanistan, a village fort, two to three miles left of the route from Shawl to Kandahar, and forty-eight miles north-west from the former place. Here is a good stream, a feeder of the river Lora. During the Afghan campaign (1838-42) the fort was in good repair, buttressed by bastions, and well-supplied with water.

Outram's labors in the settlement of the Ghiljye tribes have terminated, and the formidable power of that tribe as a united body may be said to be now entirely destroyed. Three of the five Chiefs are fugitives with scarcely a follower, their forts being demolished, their lands being consigned to the Kings' Officers, and deserted by their people who have cheerfully come over to the newly appointed Chieftains—Khan Trorekee was admitted to pardon, and Mehter Moosa, the fifth Chief, having been driven by Captn Outram's measures to surrender himself on conditions that he should be allowed an opportunity to earn His Majesty's pardon by performing service.

14th Oct.

Major Macsaren has succeeded in capturing the murderers of the late Lieut Inverarity of HM 16th Lancers. "You would be surprised," he says in a letter to Mr Macnaghten, "to see the respect my Detachment is held in wherever I move, and so quiet are the people of the country, even the Ghiljyes, that our Cattle require no guards". The weather is represented as very cold. Therm : for the last 10 days standing as low as 28 & 29° in the mornings. The men under his command have stood the cold uncommonly well and are in high spirits.

24th Oct.

It is uncertain when His Majesty will leave Cabool for gellalabad, but it is expected it will be before the end of the month. The 37th and 48th Regt. NI had already left Cabool. The European Regt. accompanies HM together with his own 3d. Regt. of Foot.

Koondooz

15th Oct.

Mr Lord has established posts at each end of the valley of Bameean for the purpose of controlling the communications. By this means he has laid hold of travellers and Cossids from Bulkh and Tash Koorghan⁷ from whom he learnt that Dost Mahomed Khan and the Walee had quietly returned to the latter place after having effected a compromise (for there was no fight) between Meer Morad Beg & his rebellious subjects. Baba Beg and Soofi had each returned to his own Government. Meerza Sami who had been sent by Dost Md. to Bokhara had reached that City; and, after remaining 3 days, is said to have received intimation that he would not be allowed an audience of the King and had, therefore, returned to Khoolum. This treatment is in a great degree attributed to the influence of Abdul Jabbar Bee, the Governor of Bulkh who being a mortal enemy of Walee, took offence at Dost Mahomed having gone to him in the first instance, and, therefore, when Meerza Sami reached Bulkh, he not only treated him coolly, but delayed him some days until he had sent on a letter of his own to the King in which

⁷ *Tash Koorghan*, an administrative centre of Kurgan oblast in Russia, situated in a rich agricultural plain, east of the Urals.

he not only prejudiced him against Dost Mahomed, but even asserted that he understood the Chief had designs on Bulkh for the protection of which he requested additional troops. The result of this was that Meerza Sami was refused an audience, and some 3 or 4,000 men have, it is said, been sent to defend Bulkh against Dost Mahomed. The Mission to Mushed has been still more unfortunate as Mahomed Azeem Peish Khedmut who was employed on that was seized by some Aleemans⁸ near Meimuna⁹ who took him to Kurshee where he was purchased by some of his friends and allowed to return to Khoolum. The report which represented Dost Mahd. and Meer Walee to have gone on to Underat turns out to be unfounded: They never advanced beyond Ishkirmish. It is said some coolness exists between them. Mr Lord has sent off a confidential man to Walee for the purpose of urging on him the absolute necessity of dismissing Dost Mahomed without further delay. He states that the Country ahead of Bameean is in a most distracted state, and in consequence much impaired in its resources. He was told the people of Kahmund and Syghan are even reduced to live on millet.

Morad Beg, the Chief of Koondooz, writes to the Envoy and Minister that HM the Shah of Bokhara has sent about 30 or 40,000 Horsemen to Bulkh and 15,000 of these have been dispatched to assist him against the rebels who have opposed his authority—that when the affairs of his Govt. were in disorder he invited Dost Mahomed, but not to make friendship or give him shelter—Now that the affairs of his Country are right and satisfactory, he has dismissed him. Mr Macnaghten has reason to believe that the King of Bokhara has sent only 2 or 3,000 Horsemen to the neighbourhood of Bulkh, not however with the object ascribed to him by Morad Beg but to defend that place against any attempt to take possession of it on the part of Dost Mahomed Khan and his followers. It was supposed that the Chief's followers would soon disperse and that he himself would repair to Mushed.

19th Oct.

According to Mr Lord, it is certain that a Bokhara Army which had originally been ordered to Bulkh from a jealousy of the intentions of Dost Mahomed has now in consequence of the deputation of Morad Beg's son to that Court been ordered to afford him assistance against his rebellious subjects. For this purpose it has marched from Bulkh through Khoolum to Koondooz and has been joined by Meer Walee and Baba Beg. Dost Md. has not been allowed to take any share in the expedition and remains

⁸ *Aleeman* (Alaman), a Turki word, a raiding party of Turkomans, a foray.

⁹ *Meimuna* (Mymouna), in Afghanistan, a town with a district of the same name at the western extremity of Hindu Kush, in Hazara country. The area, albeit elevated and mountainous, is reasonably fertile and well-cultivated. The chiefs of Mymouna generally professed allegiance either to the rulers of Kabul or to those of Herat.

at Khoolum. The Army is stated at about 4 or 5000—all cavalry. Their present destination is Roostack in which the rebellious Budukshees¹⁰ have fortified themselves and it is confidently asserted that on their return they are to take with them Dost Mahomed—by fair means if he will go—if not, by force. Meerza Samee, it appears, has not yet returned and Dost Mahomed states to his followers his hopes that with him he may receive a farewell message from the King. His followers are in much distress. About 20 of them who passed through Bameean with a Kafila agree on this point. They also state that on the arrival of news that the King had placed guards over their families, a general spirit of dismay had spread amongst the followers and that they had repaired in a body to Dost Mahomed who only soothed them by a positive promise that if they would remain with him until the return of Mirza Sami from Bokhara, they might then go or stay as they pleased.

Upper Scinde

29th Oct.

Mr Ross Bell left Sukker on the 21st and expects to be able to report in about a fortnight that the high road to Daddur is as safe as that between Delhi and Kurnaul.¹¹ The plunderers have wasted the whole of the country about Phoolujee and Chutr which are now held by some of Amiel's Horse and will be occupied during the cold weather by a Co. of NI and a couple of guns. The peaceful tribes have all sent deputations to him and expressed their delight at their prospect of the plundering bands being suppressed. Mr Bell just arrived in time to save the standing Crops from being destroyed by the bands of Dada Murie, Beejar Khan Doomkee and Toork Ulee Jukraanee who were out in every direction with the avowed determination of destroying the Crops and wells with a view to prevent our operations. They had only time to destroy three wells at Minouttee, a very important place on the edge of the desert, several of the inhabitants were cut up, a party of Amiel's Horse arrived in time to save the rest. The most formidable plunderers are those under Dada Muree. While Major Billamore, 1st Bombay NI with Lt Postans, accompanied by 150 Infy. 3 guns and 500 Horse, keep the line of country between Shahpore and Phoolujee, Mr Bell will go round by Bagh to Lehree which is at the foot of the Muree Hills. The peasantry of the country ran out from every village to Mr Bell and begged that they may not be left again at the Mercy of the plundering tribes. The peasantry consist principally of Jutts, Pomranees, Ubrabs, Jamalees &ca., all very quiet, and when allowed to be so, industrious.

Captn Codrington, Commanding Provn. Battalion of Shah Sooja's Army, in charge of 464 Boxes of Treasure to Queetta, left Shikarpore on the 1st November. Mr Ross Bell in giving him instructions for his guidance

¹⁰ *Budukshees* : the inhabitants of Badakshan.

¹¹ *Kurnal* for Karnal, in Haryana.

represents that part of the country as now free from plunderers, and water provisions are to be had in sufficient quantities for a large camp at the places between Rajhan and Bagh viz., at Kurda and Kasim Ka Joke. At Kurda, particularly, there is abundance of water and the finest forage and the Bazar is tolerably well supplied.

4th Nov.

Mr Ross Bell in a private letter from Camp near Bagh mentions that Mihrab Khan's Kardars have during the last six weeks carried away the whole of the stored grain from that part of the country and Bagh has, in consequence, been deserted by 3/4th of its inhabitants. He met, he says, upwards of a thousand starving wretches some days ago on their way to Shikarpore. The people of that part of the country according to Mr Bell are very expert thieves—but they seldom attack in open day.

Lower Scinde

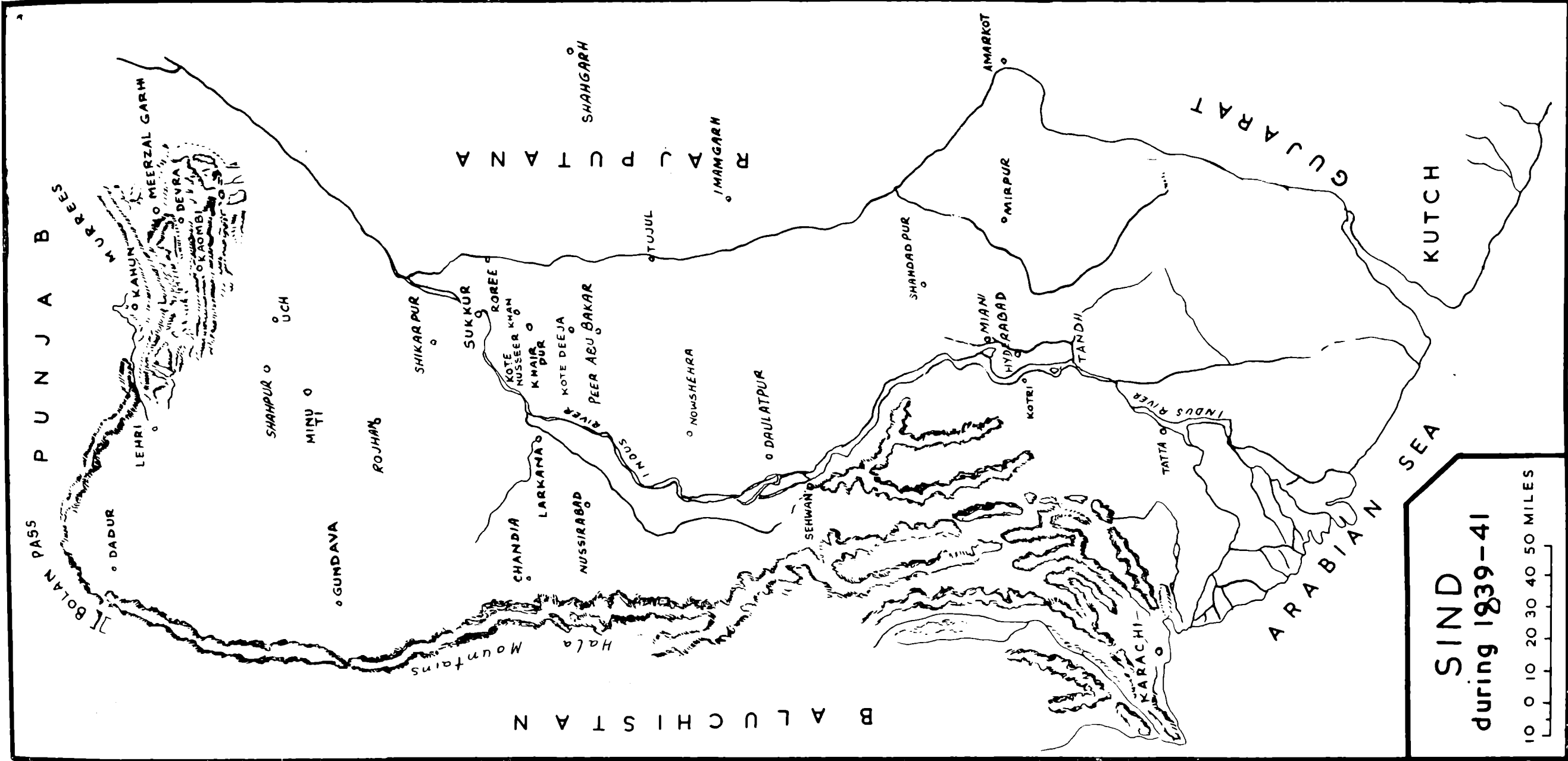
10th Oct.

It is reported that the Ameers had been discussing amongst themselves the necessity for making early provision for discharging the balance of eleven Lakhs of Rs. due to Shah Sooja-ool-Moolk on account of Shikarpore and the Tribute. The Estimate of the Revenues of Shikarpore and its dependencies, Col Pottinger says, does not exceed 2½ Lakhs. Three-fifths of this belong to the Khyrpore Family and two-fifths to Noor Mahomed and Nusseer Khan in equal proportions. In explaining his views and the ground of them regarding Kurachee, Col Pottinger mentions various facts illustrative of the difficulty of introducing our new policy in that Province. He has taken great pains to inculcate the principle of each Chief individually and personally responsible for his own acts, and the strict fulfilment of the engagements into which he has entered with us, but hitherto not with the success that might have been anticipated, owing to Nusseer Mohd. and Meer Mahomed Khans being invariably ready and even anxious to place their authority and affairs under the guidance of Noor Mahomed Khan, and Sobdar Khan seeming to take no interest in what may be termed the general politics of the country.

The following extract from a private letter from Col Pottinger to Lord Auckland contains remarks of much interest regarding the present feelings of the Ameers of Hyderabad towards the British Govt. and which, in comparison to the feelings heretofore manifested by them, is very satisfactory.

19th Oct.

“I am fully aware of the strong feeling that has existed against the Ameers of Hyderabad on the part of many for whose opinions I have the highest respect, but I have always held that a portion, at least, of that feeling arises from a want of acquaintance with the character and above all of a



PUNJAB

BALUCHISTAN

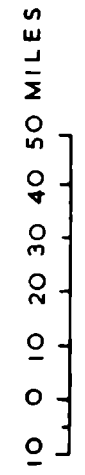
RAJPUTANA

GUJARAT

KUTCH

ARABIAN SEA

SIND
during 1839-41



proper conception of the ignorance and imbecility of those chiefs whom they speak of, and seemingly expect to act as enlightened rulers; forgetting that our policy is not only far beyond the scope of their comprehension, but that, as regards them, it is entirely changed of late, that for upward of half a century we winked at, and even I may say, fostered the very demeanour at which we now exclaim by allowing the Scinde Govt. to behave with insolence towards us, and that up to the time I came to Bhooj, they were in the constant practice of writing to the Resident in Kutch as the 'Thannadar', a style which they attempted to revive during my absence in 1832. This mismanagement on our side and its fruits in Scinde, I contend, that we have no right to expect to alter at the very instant, it suits our purposes to do so. The evil has been of too long standing to be rectified, in a day, and if any person who knows the course of circumstances and events to which I allude, should have hoped for the Ameers giving credence to all I have lately had to impress on them; I can only remark that his and my ideas of human nature widely differ. Were the Ameers perfect savages I should have had a less hopeless task but their education and prejudices, not to include their religious bigotry, have all told against me—and it must be further remarked that the few about them, who understand our power, did their utmost to keep the Ameers, in the dark and to lead the oligarchy of which they are but the heads, to believe that the expedition to Cabool was a mere cloak to our real designs which would infallibly develop themselves in their ruin. The eyes of all have now been completely opened, they have seen our strength, and have profited by our moderation whilst the three principal offenders have paid a mitigated fine for their enmity and perfidy. I speak of it as a fine because that is the only light in which they will long view the subsidy of 3 lakhs of Rs. They not only do not want our protection but would gladly pay us that sum or more to withdraw our troops from their country. Time may and I think will soften or perhaps entirely eradicate this impression and they now clearly comprehend that their welfare and continuance in authority depend on their rigid fulfilment of their engagements and that although their past offences have been forgiven, they have neither been unobserved nor unrevealed."

24th Oct.

Discussions are going on in the Durbar respecting the intentions of the British Govt. towards the Khan of Kelat. Various reports were in circulation—All, however, agree that Mihrab Khan is utterly ruined. News have been received that he had sent his family to Kedge in Kukram and that he himself had fled to the hills in the neighbourhood of Kelat.

Persia

23rd July

A disturbance occurred at Tebreez which at one time threatened

to terminate in the massacre of the Russian and Armenian population of the place. On the 11th, a dispute arose in the bazars between an Armenian of Nakshewan and a Musselman in the course of which the former grossly abused the Mahomedan religion, some by-standers immediately attacked the Armenian who escaped to the Georgian Caravanserai, the Georgians took his part and sallied out to attack his pursuers but finding that a mob far too numerous for them to contend with, had already collected, they retreated again to the Caravanserai and closed the Gates. The Moojtehed endeavored to tranquilize the people as much as he could and wrote a note to the Begler Beg requiring that the Armenian should be severely punished. A considerable number of people accompanied a Syud towards the Moojtehed, others separated from him in the Bazars and seizing any weapons that were exposed in the shops, as they passed along, rushed into the Georgian Caravanserai shouting and threatening but without proceeding to acts of violence—the Georgians fled and concealed themselves in all directions—after a short time the Armenian was discovered, brought out and bastinadoed, and the Moojtehed having declared that was sufficient and several Syuds and Moolahs interfering to tranquillize the people, the mob gradually dispersed. Guards were placed at the gates of the Caravanserai and the tumult subsided. Many of the Georgian Merchants in consequence of this affairs are about to return to Tiflis¹² and give up their trade at Tabreez. Viewing the ill-feeling which pervades a great part of the population towards the Russian protected Georgians and Armenians and the reckless over-bearing conduct of the latter, there can be no security against another outbreak.

17th July

The Shah perseveres in his efforts to collect troops though as yet with very little success. It was still believed in Tehran that the Shah persisted in his resolution to undertake a military expedition this summer, but in what direction still remained unknown.

10th Aug.

A body of troops has marched from Tabreez to Sooltanieh¹³ which, with those formerly sent, will consist of 700 Artillerymen with 6 Guns,

12 *Tiflis* (Thilisi), now capital of the Georgian Republic of USSR. Famous for its 'warm springs' and a long history of trade relations with Persia, Turkey, Russia and Central Asia.

13 *Sooltanieh* (Sultaniah) built in 1305, as a royal residence by Oljaitu, son of Argun, eighth in line of the Mongol khans of Persia. Long after the destruction of the city by Timur, the tomb of Oljaitu was still magnificent, and especially noted for its colossal gates of demasked steel. The city was re-occupied by some of the Persian rulers in the 16th century till Shah Abbas transferred his seat of government to Isfahan.

2,000 Irregular cavalry and 3,000 Infantry. It has been publicly stated that the Shah will himself join the Troops at Sooltanieh and from thence proceed to Hamadan. The District of Kerman Shah being at present in a very disturbed state, there is ground for supposing that the Troops are destined to quell the disaffected in that Province. One of Col Sheil's correspondents from Tehran writes to him that it is the intention of the Shah in the event of the Vizier of Bagdad refusing to give satisfaction for the attack made by the Turkish troops upon Mohemarrh when the Shah was at Herat (which is claimed by HM as Persian territory), he will advance from Kerman Shah¹⁴ upon Bagdad.

Several people have arrived from Shirwan¹⁵ who represent the Force employed by the Russians against the Lesgians¹⁶ as very large—that they have had hard fighting but have taken a good deal of ground and several passes where they are erecting forts. A few hundred men with 6 or 8 guns are said to be stationed at Pool Khoda Afreen and at different fords along the line of the Arras,¹⁷ but no large force.

31st Aug.

The Newswriter at Shiraz¹⁸ reports a disturbance as having arisen which has put the Town of Shiraz in the power of rioters and everything in the greatest confusion in consequence of the irregularities of the Sirbouz, and their having seized a poor man's daughter. A Shirzaman was passing through the open space near the Prince's house, foolishly allowed himself to get into a quarrel with one of the Toork Sirhauzes who wounded him with the sword, and having done so, ran off. The wounded man assembled his relations and friends in the new mosque, and very quickly numbers were collected who vowed they would have revenge. The Sirhauzes, during the night seeing that there was no probability of being then attacked by the townspeople, proceeded and took possession of all the Caravanserais, mosques and large houses situated in commanding positions where they fortified

14 *Kerman Shah* : in west Persia, capital of a province of the same name; mostly inhabited by Kurds.

15 *Shirwan* : now part of the Georgian Republic of the Soviet Union. It was once a province of Persia but was ceded to Russia in 1724, and again in 1826. Among its inhabitants were Armenians, Muhammadans and Tartars.

16 *Lesgians* : An agricultural people who occupied Daghestan in Caucasia, one of the seven Caucasian nationalities between the Black and the Caspian seas. Their country was later incorporated in Czarist Russia.

17 *Arras* : A modern name for the ancient Araxes, the Awerrma of the Puranas. The river springs from the side of the Bin Gol, 'mountain of a thousand lakes', about 30 miles south of Erzerum. The source of the Arras and some of the northern branches of the Euphrates are a bare ten miles apart.

18 *Shiraz*, capital of the Persian province of Fars, founded in 622 A.D.

themselves with trenches. There was no going about in consequence of this and matters remained so for two days, the Shirazees increasing in strength. The shops and bazars are all closed—the offices and affairs of Govt. are altogether neglected—Both parties (the Prince and the mob) are in expectation and afraid of being attacked; therefore, they remain armed and prepared for War. A collision between the Prince of Shiraz and the citizens of that town had afterwards taken place, and some blood has been shed. According to the last accounts, the portion of the Town called the Narung Killa, was held by the Prince with the Sirbauz while the remainder of the City was in the possession of the Town's people, both sides being as it were in a state of siege. The people of Shiraz, now it is said, won't consent to the Prince's remaining. It is mentioned that the Heir Apparent is to come. The citizens of Caseroon, Koom and Cashan have expelled their respective Governors—the two former for having oppressed the people and violated justice, and the latter, it is asserted, in consequence of the secret instigations of Mirza Agary, the Prime Minister.

5th Sept.

From information since received it was reported that the eldest son of the King who has the title of "Wullee Ahud" or Heir Apparent was to arrive at Shiraz on the 3rd Sept. and assume the Functions of Firman Firma of Fars.¹⁹ His RH Feeroodoon Mirza having by the orders of the King been deposed from his authority in the Govt. of Fars, has left Shiraz.

9th Sept.

Another disturbance has occurred at Shiraz—Rumours are very current that an insurrection has taken place in Tehran which had so serious an aspect that the Shah had been under the necessity of shutting himself in the Ark or fortified Palace.

7th Oct.

Intelligence has been received from Shiraz down to the 29th Sept., from which it appears that on the 26th, a plan was laid by the Prince's Shirbauz to make a sortie and fire the Bazar in several places. This design having got wind, the Shirazees took measures to prevent it. The plan having thus failed, the firing recommenced on both sides and was still going on the above-mentioned date. Out of the 4,00,000 Tomauks, which forms the annual tribute paid by Fars into the Shah's Treasury, only 40,000 have yet been liquidated, although 7 months of the year have elapsed. All the other Provinces are said to be equally in arrears—Mirza Reza in his

¹⁹ *Fars* or Farsistan, a province in south-west Persia. The area is thinly populated, mountainous, fertile, where irrigated and intensely hot on the coast. Its capital is Shiraz.

letter states that the condition of Khorassan is materially worse than that of Fars—that Ullah Yar Khan “the Asoof-ool-Dowlah” has been expelled from Mushed by the inhabitants—and that Ghorian is in great confusion—According to the latest accounts the Shah was in Tehran but his health is seriously affected, and that in the place of his former active disposition, he now manifests great disinclination to move from his Capital unless compelled to do so by absolute necessity. All authority as before still rested in the hands of Hajee Mirza Agacy. In order to palliate the success which has attended the Mission of Hassun Khan to England, reports have been put into circulation that the cause of his return was his not having been furnished with full powers, but that an Ambassador Plenipotentiary was to be sent out from England to arrange all the differences existing between Persia and Great Britain.

Muscat

20th Oct.

The native Agent reports hostilities as having commenced between the tribes of Beni boo Ali and Beni boo Husson. The son of Mahomed Bin Ali, Sheik of Julan with 200 men of Jumba attacked the ryots of Soor of the tribe of the latter and killed 30 of them, carrying away cattle, goats and asses belonging to them amounting in the whole to 1,700 heads. The loss on the opposite side was a few men and 2 horses.

Bushire

9th Sept.

Mirza Mahomed Hossein, the Governor of Bushire, has been forcibly deposed from his office and compelled to take refuge in the Cazee's house at the risk of his life, by Sheik Hossein, uncle of Sheik Nassir, the hereditary Governor of Bushire, who has assumed the Chief authority in that part himself. It is currenty believed that Sheik Hossein will attempt to resist the entrance of his nephew in the event of the latter being appointed to the Govt. by the Shah. The Chief of Tungastany has publicly declared that he will give his aid to Sheik Nassir, should he be appointed to Bushire—His object is to put an end to the custom of Governors being sent down from Shiraz, as he is constantly put to much expense in furnishing them assistance in horses &c., whereas, on the contrary, he will always be able to extract money either directly or indirectly from Sheik Nassir. Notwithstanding these intentions, he keeps upon friendly terms with the late Persian Governor of Bushire under the apprehension lest the latter may be reappointed to his former post.

Bahrein

20th Oct.

From Intelligence received from this quarter it appears that the

Governor, Sheik Abdoola Bin Ahmed, has placed his own vessels and those belonging to his subjects under embargo—it was also said that he was collecting a force. The sons of Khalifa, his enemies, were also enlisting troops. The dispute which exists between the two parties is on account of the customs of Bahrein. Khalid Bin Saood is at Riaz and Koorshed Pasha still remains at Dulun with a force of about 12,000 strong waiting for instructions from Mehemet Ali Pasha to fix the destination.

Egypt & Syria

19th Sept.

Col Campbell, HM Consul Genl. Alexandria, seems to think that Koorshed Pasha will not take any step or make any movement which can give umbrage to the British Govt. in India, as it is his policy; and which he well understands not to do any thing against our desires or interests, more especially as the Great Powers have not yet concluded any thing at Vienna as to the final settlement of the differences between the Porte and Mehemet Ali—Mentions having heard from Admiral Sir R. Stopford of a rumour current at Constantinople that the Persians had entered the Pashalic of Bagdad—a concerted scheme between Russia, Persia and Mehemet Ali, but Col Campbell speaks with confidence that at least Mehemet Ali is not in any league with Russia—The fleet of the Capitan Pasha is still at Alexandria and every thing is tranquil there and in Syria where the Army of Ibrahim Pasha still occupies the Cantonments and positions which it took up after the battle of Nizib.

Sattara

2nd Nov.

The Resident has discovered additional proofs of intrigues by the Ex-Raja of Sattara by which it appears that these intrigues had extended even to the Punjab—From the deposition of a Sikh inhabitant of Lahore as also that of Ranoojee Naick through whom this intrigue was conducted, who is evidently an unwilling witness and only discloses such parts of this affair as he cannot deny, leaves not a doubt of the fact.

Kurnool

An official report from the Govt. of Madras transmitting a detailed account of the action at Zorapore (Kurnool) confirms the account given of it in the last newsletter. On Lt Col Dyce's arrival at the village of Zorapore, he had an interview with the principal chiefs when the terms offered by Govt. were distinctly explained to them. The result of this and several other interviews proved unsuccessful, and as upwards of two hours had elapsed, he determined to try the effects of intimidation and placed the troops in position to attack, this produced an immediate visit from the parties. On this occa-

sion Col Dyce, anxious to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, again used every endeavor to induce them to agree to the terms offered, pointing out the inevitable consequence of refusal, but in vain, the conduct of Shah Wully amounted to extreme insolence and he distinctly avowed his determination that the Nabob should not surrender. After this there appeared to be considerable commotion at the Durgah and parties of the enemy moved out and lined the walls. Three Hrs. and a qr. having now elapsed, he again sent the Persian Moonshee to beg the chiefs would consider the terms offered and accede to them or that he should be obliged to attack them. To this they replied, "attack us, we also are ready". Col Dyce then ordered the guns to open which was done with admirable effect by Major Bond, and which was instantly returned by a very heavy fire of Muskety and Ginjals from every direction; finding the enemy determined to hold his position behind the strong stone walls at which he had taken post, he charged and drove them out at the point of the Bayonet. The struggle at the Durgah and enclosures was for some minutes very desperate and hand to hand, the men confining themselves almost entirely to the Bayonet opposed to the swords and daggers of the Rohillas and Arabs. The loss of the enemy has been very severe. 98 Prisoners were taken. The casualties on our side are reported to be :

Commissioned officers	killed	1
	wounded	3
Non. Comd. and Rank & File	killed	3
	wounded	22

A number of Elephants, Horses and Treasure and other property have been captured. Lt Col Blair has secured 40 Rohilas who had crossed the river and expected to capture some few others of whom he had intelligence.

From a subsequent report, it is said that others have since been captured, a great many appear to have perished in their attempt to cross the river. Lt Col Blair mentions that upwards of 100 bodies had been counted floating down past Alpoor and many others must have passed unobserved.

22nd Oct.

A private letter of the annexed date states that 2 Col. of Europeans, 2 six pounders, 1 Squadron of Cavalry and 2 Regt. of Nat. Infy. are to remain at Kurnool for the present. Every thing is said to be progressing as could be wished and the Ryots are delighted with the change.

Hyderabad

25th Oct.

The spirit and intentions which were entertained by Moobaruz ood Doulah, even during the time when he was a Prisoner in Hyderabad before his removal to Golconda, confirm the existence of a deep laid scheme of some sort which it is absolutely necessary to sift to the bottom. From information

communicated by a prisoner, a confidential Rohilla servant of Shah Wully Khan to Major Armstrong at Kurnool proves the existence of a correspondence between the people of Hyderabad and Moobaruz ood Dowlah. He says, Illahee Buxsh went for the express purpose of offering Shah Wully Khan Rs. 5,000 to go to the assistance of Moobaruz ood Dowlah when his Kotelah was surrounded, which corresponds with the evidence already before the Commissioners as to Shah Wully Khan being shortly expected at Hyderabad. Shah Wully, it appears, did not put entire faith in Illahee Buxsh and deputed his servant Hossein Khan to go to Hyderabad with a letter addressed to Moobraz ood Dowlah, which he destroyed and threw away, fearful of being detected with it in his possession.

The Nizam, with a very blameable weakness and blindness to probable consequences, directed the sum of 6,000 Rs. to be paid monthly to Moobaruz ood Dowlah for the purpose of being subsequently appropriated by himself for the support of his family. This sum was accordingly sent to him and actually delivered into his own hands on the 2nd Instant. The orders of His Highness were reported to the Resident by the Ministers in terms which did not seem to indicate any disapproval of them. Genl. Fraser therefore pointed out the danger which might result from placing such large sums of money at the disposal of a person who had shown himself so capable of applying them to a bad purpose. The Minister, appearing to concur with him, promised that his advice should be attended to, and stated that only 2 or 300 Rs. a month would be sent to the Killadar of Golconda for the use of Moobaruz ood Dowlah and the wants of his family in the city of Hyderabad should be provided for but that in future no sums of money whatever should be given to him.

Nipal

1st Nov.

Mr Hodgson reports with remarks the departure of the Herat Envoy for the Govr. Genl.'s Camp and recommends his being detained until Mr Macnaghten's answer to his letter on the subject arrives; more especially as Syfoolah himself professes to wish for an explanation which it is desirable to obtain in order to ascertain in some degree how far this Durbar was yet connected itself with the Chiefs of Central Asia. Mr Hodgson feels confident that the Durbar has sought communication with those Chiefs for some time past; and that the present mission, which was possibly experimental, merely originated, he seems to think, in the solicitations of Nipal conveyed through Horse Dealers annually visiting Katmandhoo.

Burmah

8th Sept.

Intelligence from this quarter received from Captn Macleod represents the conduct of the King the same as heretofore—The Woonduck Gale who

has latterly supported the party adverse to the British interests, and who has in a great measure urged to King in his unfriendly conduct towards us, has been raised to the rank of Woongyee. His Majesty talks of having men enough in the Southern Provinces and on the Martaban frontier to take the whole of the Tenasserim Provinces from us—and from hints, His Majesty has thrown out, it is his intention, should we meet with any reverses in the North-West, to make a dash on Calcutta through Arracan. The person who reported this to Captn Macleod had numerous opportunities of knowing the sentiments of the King, Court and people. The former, he reports, to be as inimical to the English as he well can be, the Court is obliged to follow the King's whim, but is most averse to a War; and with the People, the King is becoming daily more unpopular. He further describes the Royal treasury as being at a very low ebb.

18th Sept.

Captn Macleod states the prospect of an invasion by us caused much alarm in the Woonduck's mind. It appears to him that as far as the Woonduck is aware of the intentions of his Court that no offensive operations against us are at present in contemplation. The likelihood of an immediate war is believed by all the inhabitants of the Lower Provinces and of the Country generally, and however alarmed and anxious they feel for the consequences on themselves of the first outbreak, the event, if it does take place, he says, will be hailed with enthusiasm and delight. The preparations going forward at Rangoon may be attributed to the fear of a sudden attack from us. The other preparations are almost at a stand-still—no bricks are to be had to continue the Pagoda Wall, nor can they be made on account of the weather; and the stockades down the river have not been erected though the timber for them is collected.

8th Oct.

Some attempt is being made by this Court to establish a communication with the Govt. of Chandernagore through the instrumentality of the Frenchmen at the Capital: What the precise object is, Captn Macleod has not been able to discover. The Woonduck at Rangoon has at last obtained a promise of recall. His anxiety to quit that place, Captn Macleod is convinced, arises as much from fear of our invading the country whilst he is there, as his desire to settle matters, he asserts, he will do when he reaches the capital. There has been a good deal of Musket and Ginjal practice at Rangoon for sometime past, and the people are busily employed taking down the old Pagodas and using the bricks for the new wall round the Great Pagoda. The European Merchants are one by one quitting the place, stagnation of trade, the uncertain state of affairs between the two Govts., the exactions of the Burmese Officers in various ways, and the fear of personal violence oblige them to close their affairs and quit the country as soon as possible.

Items of General Intelligence

As in the present state of our relations with the Court of Ava, it would be of bad effect that it should be known there is no vessel promptly available for service in the Bay of Bengal. The Presidt. in Col. has addressed a letter to the Naval Comdr. in Chief to detain HMS 'Convoy' in the Bay.

Camp Paneeput,²⁰
the 18th Nov. 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
with the Govr. Genl.

²⁰ *Paneeput*, for Panipat now in Haryana.

Newsletter 24 : November 30, 1839

Peshawar

11th Nov.

The Envoy and Minister has ordered 2 nat. Regiments, the 37th & 48th under Col Wheeler to proceed with all practicable expedition from Jellalabad into the Khyber Pass with a view to coerce the Khyber Chiefs. Captain Mackeson will collect all the Force he can on this side—and Genl Avitabile will cooperate with him with the Sikh Troops. The General has heretofore acted on his own responsibility but has since received the orders of the Lahore Durbar to retain a strong force at Futtygurh, and push troops into the pass at any time we may require assistance from him.

Cabool

19th Oct.

Captn Outram, reporting the destruction of the Fort of Maroof,¹ the place where the Kafilah returning to India met with such cruel treatment, represents it so formidable as to throw a most dangerous power into the hands of the Barakzyes of that neighbourhood, a very numerous and powerful clan nearly connected with Dost Mahomed, who, with this Fort in their possession, could at any time, raise the standard of rebellion in the heart of the Shah's dominions in defiance of any force that could be sent against them. The place, he says, was positively the strongest of its size that any of our officers had seen in Afghanistan not excepting Ghuzni—He passed through the whole Ghiljye territory "without losing a pin or meeting with mistrust or disrespect."

20th Oct.

Major Maclaren reports his return to Ghuznee after performing the duties entrusted to him for coercing the refractory Ghiljye Chiefs and remarks that the destruction of Shahboodeen's fort has created a great sensation in the whole counrty. He also reports that the country through Kelat-i-Ghiljye, Zoormut and Kutiwas is now perfectly quiet.

1. *The Fort of Maroof* (Kila-i-Murgha) in Afghanistan, was the residence of Abdul Rehman Khan, the principal chief of the Ghilzais. His father had, at the head of fifty thousand men, contested the sovereignty of Afghanistan with Shah Zaman, the brother of Shah Shuja. Abdul Rehman was hostile both to Shah Shuja as well as his British auxiliaries. Shah Shuja besieged the fort twice but failed to conquer it. Major Outram ultimately, destroyed the fort by exploding mines under its walls and the gateway. Abdul Rehman and his family escorted by picked horsemen, forced their way through the British lines and escaped.

6th Nov.

The Envoy and Minister forwards translations of several letters found by Major Maclaren in Abdool Rahman's fort fully proving the treasonable designs of the Ghiljye Chiefs and, among others, a letter from Dost Mahomed to the Khan of Kelat, clearly showing that his feelings were estranged from the British Govt. whilst he was at the time professing friendship. It appears it was with the advice of Dost Mahomed that the Khan induced the Burhaees, Beloches etc. to harass and plunder the Troops through the Bolan Pass.

Bokhara

27th Oct.

Mr Lord has strong reason to believe that Dost Mahomed is about proceeding to Bokhara. From information communicated by a person who left Khoodum on the 19th, he says that the King of Bokhara has sent to recall his Army : this is so much in character that Mr Lord is inclined to believe it.

24th Sept.

Authentic letters from this quarter mention that the affairs of Toorkistan are in a very disturbed state—and that a Russian Agent had arrived at Bokhara from Orenburg with letters for the King. The Agent, it is said, has asked the King to give him up Col Stoddart who was then in custody, but His Majesty has not as yet given him any answer; nor does it appear that the King will give him any reply. On the writer's questioning the Agent what were the views of the Russian Govt., he said that when Vicovitch returned from Cabool to Russia, he told the Russian Authorities that he had sent them many letters soliciting Military and pecuniary assistance, and that they never sent him (Vicovitch) any reply and delayed the business "that this neglect had made him out a liar in the country of Cabool and Candahar, and, therefore, he felt disgraced, and on hearing of the answer of the Cabinet of St Petersburg, he shot himself." That the death of Vicovitch caused great regret at the Court, and even immediate preparation for the provisions and clothes of the army for one year—every thing necessary for the use of the Army has been stored in Mangistauk (A Russian Port on the NE side of the Caspian)—It is further reported that the Russians have collected a great number of camels, carriages and steam Boats on the banks of the Caspian Sea. They have resolved to send their army and provisions by way of the Caspian to the vicinity of Kir (Cape of Aral) which lies at the distance of 3 or 4 days' journey from Khiva. This has raised alarm in Khiva and the Chief of that place has sent 2 or 3 Agents to the King of Bokhara who informed His Majesty of the departure of the Russian Army towards Khiva and desiring to know what they should do or how to act on the arrival of the Force there. To this the King has not replied.

From another communication addressed to a respectable Merchant at Cabool, it is stated that the Russian designs are to be directed against Khiva.

Army of the Indus

1st Nov.

In consequence of rumours which have reached the Envoy and Minister of the presence of Russian Emissaries in Bokhara and the news regarding Khiva which has since been confirmed from other sources of the possibility of an advance of a Russian Army into Toorkistan, or upon Herat whilst that Fortress is in a comparatively defenceless state, he has, therefore, deemed it advisable to order the detention of the whole of the Bombay Force under Maj Genl Whillshire² below the Bolan Pass.

Herat

23rd Sept.

The eldest son of Shah Kamran, Shahzadeh Jehangire, has Hleft erat, and proceeded in the direction of Mushed with the avowed intention of going on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Various reasons were assigned for the Prince's taking this step, and as it was difficult to ascertain the true state of the case, Major Todd did not deem it his duty to interfere in the matter further than by informing the Prince that it did not seem to him advisable that the eldest son of the King, and one who had been once acknowledged as heir of the Kingdom should leave Herat and proceed on a distant pilgrimage in the present ruined and disorganised state of the Country. Finding his remonstrances had no effect and the prince was not to be moved from his purpose, he informed him as he was about to leave the place, that if he had formed any scheme of strengthening his claims on the throne by an alliance with the Persians, he would most assuredly fail in his object as the British Govt. would never recognise a claimant backed by the interest or power of Persia.

1st Oct.

Major Todd mentions an unpleasant misunderstanding which has lately taken place between the Vizier and himself regarding some pecuniary advance. Out of this misunderstanding have arisen reports purporting to be supported by unexceptionable authority but in their nature too wild to be credited of plots and treachery and even violence. The present report is that a league has been patched up with the Shah of Persia who conjointly with the Heratees is to march upon Candahar, that the Officers of the Mission are to be seized and their property is to be confiscated. A Persian Envoy is confidently stated to be in the City in communication, though not personally, with the Vizier. Major Todd is inclined to suspect that the reporters of these rumours are creatures of the Vizier in disguise, and sent with these

² *Whillshire*, should read Willshire.

fabrications to intimidate him. The price of Wheat has risen to 5 sr. the Cos. Rupee,³ but the Urzum which seems a staple article of food, and is a particularly plentiful crop is selling at 12 sr. the Cos. Rupee. The progress of the repair of the fortifications is scarcely perceptible owing to the want of tools. There is but a single blacksmith in that City capable of forging the shovels and pickaxes necessary for the work.

3rd & 8th Sept.

Lieut E Conolly reports his having been very kindly and hospitably received by Shah Pussund Khan, the Chief of Lash, who stated in a conference held with that officer that he had been always desirous of the friendship of the English and was ready to prove it by any means in his power—that he was prepared to obey any order which Shah Sooja might send him to join him, or to stay at home, that he had been forced into a connection with the Persians by the conduct of the Vizier of Herat, but that he was ready to throw off that connection even at the cost of the life or liberty of his eldest son who is with the Persian King, should Shah Sooja express a wish to that effect. Shah Pussund promised to give no hindrance to the Seistan's supplying Herat with Grain, if we should require it, but he begged distinctly to state that for Yar Md. himself he would not have permitted a grain to pass. The Country, Lt Conolly represents, as in a most disturbed state. Bands of Beloochees 2 or 300 in number are prowling about the Country, and it is said that all the Chiefs of Seistan connive at them, and participate in the plunder, but publicly pretend to accuse each other. Barley is selling at 4 Sr. the Rupee and Wheat @ 3—At Seistan, the year before, it was 40 Muns, now it is only 8. The cause of this is the influx of population, from Turrah and other places—but chiefly Turrah. Lieut Conolly observes that province is actually emptied—and the Chief of its villages and its principal people say that unless they get money to buy seed the whole of the inhabitants of Turrah will be reduced to the greatest possible distress, and their province which with a little present assistance, could recover itself in 2 years, will be desolate for years. The people will migrate to countries farther away, and a great proportion will probably have no alternative but to join the plundering Beloochees. A large portion of the exiles are said to be exiles on account of their fear of the very name of the Vizier for having sided either with Shemsodeen Khan, or Mahomed Siddic or for having gone over to Shah Pussund Khan. "You can have no conception", Lt Col said, "of the state of distress to which the exiles are reduced. In Hindoostan the poorer classes last year were turned out of their villages by thousands by famine; but the evil has here fallen on the somewhat better classes and men formerly of property and consideration are without bread." In consequence of the influx of a starving multitude into Seistan, the plundering

³ 5 sr. the cos. Rupee : at the rate of five seers per rupee, issued by the East India Company.

gangs have increased to such an alarming extent that people cannot move out a mile from their forts. Such is the state of things that Mahomed Reza of Seistan and Shah Pussund have written to Syud Mahomed to come and assist them to put down these robberies by force.

Upper Scinde

6th Nov.

Mr Ross Bell reporting his proceedings in Kutchee mentions that although thieving is still carried on to some extent, yet the country is no longer infested with gangs of plunderers and the high roads are safe to people travelling with the smallest escort. On his arrival at Shikarpore, he ascertained that the local authorities of Mihrab Khan throughout Kutchee had removed all the grain stored in the Country to the Hills and were extorting money from the inhabitants and preparing to cut down the green crops—the measures adopted by Mr Bell and the capture of Mahomed Ameen by Lt Brown at Bagh, compelled the local authorities of Mihrab Khan to abandon their forts and flee to Kelat by the Moola Pass. The province of Bagh has been for years past in a state of anarchy—and latterly the tyranny of the Naibs of Mihrab Khan has been such that upwards of 3/4th of the population have emigrated into Scinde.

Kelat

6th Nov.

Mr Bell notes in a private letter that a Queen's Regiment along with the 31st Regt. Bengal NI, 4 Guns, and 2 Rissalahs of the 4th Local Horse started for Kelat on the 3d. and expected to reach it on the 18th instant.

Lower Scinde

16th Oct.

Lt Margary⁴ of the Bombay Engineers has submitted a very satisfactory report on the direct route from Kurachee to Sehwan—a Copy of which will be furnished to the Geographical Society for publication. The whole distance from Kurachee to Sehwan is about 146 miles, and the line of Country is generally passable after the Monsoon for Troops of all arms. The obstructions are few and far between—Nor are there any steep ascents or descents and, upon the whole, that officer considers the road much easier than that leading via Tatta and Hyderabad—and it is shorter by 70 miles. Water is to be procured at most of the halting places either from running streams or by digging 2 feet in the sandy beds of rivers. It is necessary to carry supplies, as with the exception of 2 small fields of Juwarra and Bajra there is no cultivation to be seen until nearing Sehwan. The people appear to be poverty-stricken. The country is in fact merely a thinly

⁴ Lt (later Major General) Margary (1811-1876). Entered the Bombay Engineers in 1830, and was attached to the Sind Reserve in the first Afghan War.

populated jungle—the property of those who have any, consists of flocks and herds, those who have nothing, from habit and necessity live by thieving.

28th Oct.

Lieut Eastwick's reception by the Ameers of Hyderabad on his arrival at that City on the 24th October was very favourable. He remarks that the difference in the demeanor of their Highnesses, and indeed of all classes was too remarkable not to deserve notice. During his short stay at Hyderabad on a former occasion, when he was the bearer of the Treaty of 23 Articles, he was not treated with peculiar courtesy, and his departure was somewhat unceremonious. He believes that a better feeling towards us is now springing up in the breasts of the Scindees, and that it depends in a great measure upon ourselves to nip its root by hasty and unconciliatory behaviour or to foster it into a thorough good understanding.

Karrack

20th Oct.

The late change in the temperature of the island, Captn Hennell reports, has produced a corresponding beneficial effect upon the health of the Europeans and Natives composing the Field Force. There are now only 12 of the former in Hospital, and it was expected that number would be reduced to 5 in a day or two.

Persia

8th Oct.

The Newswriter at Shiraz reporting on the state of affairs in Persia mentions the arrival of Mirza Nebee Khan in the capital of Fars—This nobleman has been dispatched by the Shah to settle the affairs of that Province—On seeing the desolate state of the City and the unhappy condition of the people, Mirza Nabbee immediately sent people to destroy the barricades and strong places, and ordered that the shops should be reopened and that no one should be allowed to go about armed. The inhabitants represented that they could not consent to these terms until the Prince Governor was turned out of Shiraz. Finding this to be the disposition of the people, Mirza Nebbee Khan directed the Prince to arrange his affairs and take his departure within 3 days from Shiraz.

11th Oct.

Agreeably to the recommendation of the above nobleman, the Prince had agreed to leave Shiraz, but while his baggage was being conveyed out of the City, the Shiraz mob plundered some of the mules. Upon hearing this the Khan ordered the breast works of the palace to be rebuilt and advised the Prince not to leave the City. Captn Hennell seems to think that there is something like a preconcerted arrangement in this transaction between

the Khan and the Prince—It is reported upon good authority that the King would march on the 24th October to Shiraz.

Turkish Arabia

18th Oct.

Koorshed Pasha is reported to be still at Riaz. A Caravan on its way from Lassa to Nejd, and by which the Governor of the former place had sent a remittance to Koorshed Pasha on account of the revenues was attacked by the Bedouins who carried away the whole of the Treasure. Saood Bin Mutlack made requisition for a force from Koorshed Pasha and Khalid-al-Saood for the purpose of marching with it towards the Oman. Koorshed sent a reply that he could not dispatch a force until he had obtained the instructions of Mehemet Ali to whom a reference had been made on the subject.

Muscat

8th Oct.

The Arabian possessions of His Highness the Imam are becoming unsettled and disturbed owing to the different tribes occupying his Territories, indulging in their feuds and quarrels without fear of control or consequences. The people of Huzum have commenced plundering and ravaging the inhabitants of Fustack, Humood bin Uzan whose subjects they are, to protect them from their outrages besieged them with a party of 150 men. A youth of the Huzum tribe waited on the Imam to solicit His Highness' aid when he was supplied with Money, Gunpowder &c. but with regard to Troops, the Imam told him that he could not assist him in that respect.

Sattara

11th Novr.

The information communicated by Wussee-Oola Moonshee who proceeded on a Mission to England on the part of the Ex-Raja of Sattara corroborates what has from the earliest stage of the proceedings against the Raja been suspected, viz., that his intrigues have not been confined to this country but have embraced communications with Powers beyond India. On his arrival in England, Wussy-Oola was to have communicated & acted with Meer Afzal Ally, the person who is now there on behalf of the Raja; and there is evidence to show that this person, on first being selected for this duty, was furnished with a letter to be delivered to the Russians in case his negotiations in England failed and his subsequent clandestine departure from Bombay gave reason for the Resident to suspect that there were some other ulterior objects in view besides a representation of the Ex-Raja's case to the Home Authorities. Among these one is now proved by the deposition of Wussee-Oola to have been set on foot an intrigue with the Pasha of Egypt. There is reason to believe that the full extent of these intrigues has not yet

been ascertained. The discoveries recently made at Kurnool may probably lead to further important disclosures.

Burma

23rd Oct.

Captn Macleod reports that on the arrival of HM Ship "Conway" he took measure to re-establish the right of HM Ships of War firing the usual Muskets in the morning, evening and at 8 O'Clock at night. The Woonduck started some objections at first, and then wished to compromise the matter by her firing only in the morning and evening and not at night; but all these objections were overruled by Captn Macleod, and in the end it was settled that none of the established customs of the Navy would be laid aside. The conduct of the Woonduck, he observes, has been most friendly towards us. At a private interview which Captn Bethune and his party (accompanied by them very cordially) and expressed his sincere pleasure at the visit, and assured Captn B a weight had been removed from his mind, which had long caused his health to decline, that it was the impression from reports received from Calcutta that, on a man of War, visiting the Port, it would be with a declaration of War. The Woonduck, it is said, would soon leave Rangoon for the Capital, but who is to succeed him is not known. Great progress is being made in the erection of the Pagoda Wall.

China

9th Sept.

Intelligence has been received from the quarter up to this date which represents affairs as still unsettled. Captn Elliot has chartered 3 small armed Vessels for the protection of the British fleet to be placed under the immediate orders of Captn Smith of the "Volage." Mr Douglas, the Comdr. of the armed "Cambridge" is employed in the guarding of this fleet. She mounts thirty 18-Ib Guns and has a crew of 70 Europeans. The latest intelligence from the Bocca Tigris describes the force there to consist of about 20 large Men-of-War Junks, and 30 or 40 sail of large fishing Junks, possibly for the transport of troops, and perhaps some of them equipped as fire ships.—A Proclamation by the Commissioner and Governor has been fixed upon the walls of Macao commanding the people to arm themselves and to attack and endeavor to cut up persons landing for supplies—and it admonishes them to take care to do so in strong bodies & not in small parties. It is not easy to predict the effect of the affair at that place, but it has had the effect of restoring to the fleet regular supplies of food, which the people bring in, Captn E states, for nearly the same prices as they were wont to do in ordinary times—and all is quiet.

H Torrens

Camp Pulwul,
the 30th November 1839

Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

Newsletter 25 : December 10, 1839

Peshawur

21st November

Captn F Mackeson reports the arrival of Col Wheeler's detachment at Ali Musjid and states that the Khyber Chiefs with whom he has been in communication since his arrival at the Musjid are now collected within half a mile of that post. They withdrew the greater part of the force collected on the heights the day previous and he is sanguine that by noon that day the road would be cleared, and that he will speedily be able to come to satisfactory terms with them, as the Chiefs, through their Agents, profess an anxious desire to do so and to serve the Shah. If terms prot-tempore are made with them, he proposes moving Col Wheeler's detachment outside (on the Peshawur side) of the Pass.

28th November

Mr Macnaghten writing from Camp Futtehghurh reports that all is now quiet in the Khyber Pass and that he experienced no molestation whatever during his march through the Pass. Arrangements have been made with the several Chiefs to keep the road free of robbers, who have engaged to do so; and to reimburse us for any losses that may hereafter be incurred. Mr Memet several of the chiefs on his way down, and did all in his power with some success to conciliate them.

Cabool

16th November

Mr Macnaghten reports that HM is doing all in his power to promote the interests of commerce by making great reductions in the transit duties and by providing as much as possible for the safety of merchants and others passing through his dominions.

Bamecan

3rd November

Mr Lord reports an attack made by him on Golam Beg, the son of the Walee of Khoolum, who had, with an armed force of at least 7 or 800 men, encamped at Syghan, a village about 35 miles in his front. The enemy, on seeing our force, which amounted to about one fourth of their number,

appeared to file out of their Camp in tolerably good order as if for fight, yet struck apparently by the unhesitating manner in which the charge on them was made, they all at once seemed seized with a panic and fled without striking a blow; in short, the surprize was complete and the rout universal. The Walee's son with his chief men effected their escape.

Herat

10th November

A letter addressed to Lt Col Sir Burnes from a very respectable correspondent at Herat confirms the intelligence received from Bokhara of the movement of a Russian force as mentioned in the last newsletter. The writer also mentions that the Russian Govt. secretly sent a letter to Yar Mahomed Khan, the Vizier of Shah Kamran, containing great assurances and the promise of a large sum of money on the condition of receiving the friendship of Russia, and refusing that of England. The writer as well as other well-wishers of our Govt. pointed out to the Vizier the consequences if he took this step, to which he acquiesced, and has given an evasive answer to the Agent of Russia.

Kelat

31st October

In consequence of information received by Captn Bean,¹ Pol. Agent Shawl, that Mihrab Khan is apparently determined to offer resistance and is collecting a number of tribes in his neighborhood, suggests that an addition be made to the detachment about to proceed against Kelat. Major Genl Willshire, Comdg Bombay Column of the army of the Indus, has accordingly directed HM 2nd or Queen's Royals, HM 17th Regt. and the Engineer corps to form part of that force.

2nd November

The force will now consist of the following :—

HM 2d. & 17th Regts.

31st Bengal NI

4 Guns SS's Arty.

2 Rissalahs—4th Local Horse.

Detachment of Sappers & Pioneers.

The troops will move from Quetta on the 3rd. *en route* to Kelat, which place it was expected to reach on or about the 11th instant.

13th November

Major Genl Willshire's dispatch announcing the assault and capture of Kelat which took place between the hours of 9.0'C and 1 A.N. of the 13th inst. will be published in the several newspapers for general information; it is therefore omitted in this place.

¹ i.e., Captn Beans.

Captn Outram in a private letter mentioning particulars of the storming of the Fortress of Kelat represents the citadel as really most formidable, and that there was as great a want of good information as to the real strength of this place, as those had been in the siege of Ghuzni. Another day's delay would have enabled the Khan to have strengthened the Garrison as his son was expected to bring up reinforcements. There was every expectation that Mihrab Khan would submit to the very lenient terms offered on the part of the British Govt. notwithstanding the Khan's letters to the Pol. Agent that he should consider it as an appeal to arms if our troops moved from Nungoochur—and on that account as well as the reported weakness of the place—incapability of the country to forage horses, insufficient carriage—and lateness of the season, Major Genl. Garrison was stormed in open day and by the Gateway, it had a force numerically twice as strong as the assailants, our whole strength being under 1,400 bayonets, of which not above 11 or 1,200 were in the field, and not two-thirds of those engaged. Not one of the Chiefs or Principal adherents escaped—7 Guns, immense quantities of arms, and booty to a large amount have fallen into our hands, and nearly 2,000 prisoners have been taken. It appears that the Khan was prepared for flight—he had previously sent off his women, and his property being all packed, and camels in the citadel ready to load.

13th November

The Pol. Agent Shawl has, as a temporary measure, appointed the nephew of the Vukeel Mahomed Sudeeq Khan to act as Governor until the appearance of his uncle when Captn Bean expects he will be able to make such arrangements as may tend to reassure the people and induce them to return to their respective avocations. The mother of Shah Newaz Khan, with a few attendants, was discovered in a retired apartment where she had been shut up as a prisoner for the last 7 years, miserably clothed, and with a pittance barely sufficient for existence. Captn Bean has directed arrangements to be made for her due support and maintenance.

Upper Scinde

Capt Codrington with treasure to Candahar arrived safely at Bagh on the 13th November, and reports having received no molestation on the way. The country, he describes, as quite free from plunders: the Bombay Detachment, out against the Beloochees, having driven the marauders to the hills. They marched across the desert, he represents, as a fearfully long one (34 miles) and took them 17 hours—"I could never (he says) have conceived such a desolate dreary place as the desert proved. Not a tree or sign of vegetation was to be seen—the soil was hard, and the surface very flat—It seemed to me as if the sea had been frozen, and that we were travelling over it—Not a bird seems to rest on its inhospitable soil, and no hillock rises to confine the view or give relief to the eye in this vast plain."

17th November

It was reported to Lt Amiel² that some camels were being driven off by the Beloochees; he immediately mounted and went after the plunderers, with whom he had a slight skirmish, in consequence of which the Murees, Doomkies, and Jakranees began collecting in considerable numbers at all the strong points along the low hills which stretch from Phoolujee to the Bolan Pass. Mr Ross Bell, in concert with Brig Scott, have made arrangements for preventing the plains of Kutchee from being again ravaged and to bring these tribes under subjection.

Lower Scinde

5th November

At a visit paid by Lieut Eastwick, the Asstt. Resident to the Ameers of Hyderabad, he was asked if it was true that another steam Vessel was to be employed in the navigation of the Indus. One of the Ameers also enquiring how many steam vessels were at the disposal of the British Govt. and wished to know if it would be possible to obtain one to make a pilgrimage to Mecca? Lieut E gave them the necessary information, and took the opportunity to remark that their Highnesses would not have thought of a pilgrimage to Mecca before the British Troops came to Scinde, and while the Sikhs and Afghans were looking with greedy eyes towards their Territories. "True", replied Meer Noor Mahomed Khan, "that is the result of your friendship. Formerly we could not even traverse our own possessions, but now we may plan journies to a distance."

15th November

Lieut Eastwick reports that sickness prevails at Hyderabad to a great extent. Of the escort and people attached to the Residency, nearly one-half are ill with fever. Remarking on the state of affairs at that Court, he states his belief that the Ameers are becoming every day more sensible of their position, and more willing to draw closer the links of alliance, not however, from a feeling of friendship, but from necessity, and a clearer perception of the irresistible nature of our power and resources. This does not extend to the Beloochee Chieftains, many of whom still preserve the tone of insolence and presumption which has so long characterized the Scinde Durbar.

Muscat

21st November

The Imaum, it is reported, is inclined to establish a commercial intercourse with America. It is his intention to send an investment of Gum

² Lt Amiel was attached to Shah Shuja's force, and given command of the Baluch Levy in August 1839.

Arabic, Ivory and such other articles as are in request in that Country. His Highness has written to say the French are anxious to establish Commercial relations with him.

Persian Gulf

20th October

Koorshed Pasha still holds Kuteef³ and the other places on the Coast of the Gulf, and his influence is still all powerful amongst the tribes. It is probable that Koorshed may soon move either against Bussers⁴ or in the direction of Muscat, or perhaps both; for whichever way he goes, he will find as many friends as enemies. If afraid of being molested by us, he will march overland now that the season is cool enough. If they do make a move on Bussorah,⁵ the Egyptian Army, now occupying or at any rate in the neighborhood of Diarbekir⁶ will simultaneously advance on Bagdad. Neither place could at present make any resistance. Sheik Nassir has turned his expulsion from Karrack to good account, having proceeded post-haste to Ispahan where he was received with distinction, and was immediately reappointed to the Bushire Govt.—He is, however, still there, as his uncle has taken forcible possession of Bushire, which, it is expected, he will be allowed to keep. The writer seems to think that we shall some day have to turn either Persians or Egyptians out of Bagdad; but the time may probably not be close at hand. The thing required in those parts is to shew the people that our strength, as our enemies carefully teach them to believe, is not confined to our Ships—Persia is just now prostrate, but she is by no means convinced that the fate of India is not at her disposal: to rectify this folly we ought now, the time serves so well, and we have such strong causes of complaint, the letter states, to come and punish them near their own homes, for this Bagdad offers as favourable a field as we could wish for, if the Shah would only invade it, which his Envoy, sent to Ali Pasha, openly talked of. This Ali Pasha of Bagdad is represented as a very poor creature, and it is believed he would make no stand against either Persians or Egyptians. It is the writer's firm conviction that he is sold to Mehemet Ali.

Joudhpore

24th November

Affairs are progressing very quietly here—Maun Singh continues to act towards us and others in a manner which does him, in the opinion of Col Sutherland, the highest honor. The Colonel has gone through, to some

3 Kuteef for Al-Katif.

4 Bussers (Bushire), a port of call near the head of the Persian gulf on a sandy peninsula. Terminus of a trade route to Shiraz, Isfahan, and Teheran. Founded in 1736, it was occupied by British forces in 1856-7 and again during World War I.

5 Bussorah (Busra), the second largest city and the biggest seaport of Iraq, located on the Persian gulf. Founded by Caliph Umar in 636 A.D.

6 Diarbekir, situated on the banks of the river Tigris and once part of Asiatic Turkey.

considerable extent, with the adjustment of landed property. A code of rules, prepared almost exclusively by the Maharaja, the Chiefs and Ministers, is nearly completed. In noticing the subjects legislated for, Col S mentions that Surna or asylum, which is held a sacred thing, but as now practised, it is acknowledged by all classes to be a great evil—will be greatly modified. Suttee is the only thing, he remarks, which it is impossible to legislate for. Infanticide is not practised by the Sovereign or the superior chiefs, but is prevalent to a great extent among the inferior orders. It will not only be abolished, but a provision will be made for such, as are destitute, which, it is hoped, will effectually prevent this atrocity. Mutilation will be abolished.

Nipal

22nd November

No abatement is yet manifest in warlike preparations that have been long afoot—64 Cannon 4 & 6 Pr., have been prepared within the last 12 months. The Artillery Khalashees of the Forts of Cheesapani and Sundhuli are come into Catmandhoo to help in the making of powder: But it is said the Chiefs generally speak with great contempt of all this parade or warlike zeal, saying that neither a hand nor a heart will be found ready to strike, and that since there is no safety for property or for person, the sooner the Company rule Nipal the better. With the exception of the Kala Pandeys, great and small, rich and poor, are disgusted from one or other cause. The result of Ran Jang Pande's inquiry into how many men between the ages of 12 & 60 yrs are forthcoming to bear arms, is reported to be 4,00,000.

22nd November

The Resident has agreed for a Nipalese Party to go in quest of brides for the Heir Apparant to the Goruckpore Zillah, and to the neighboring ones as far as Benares, in return for tolerably satisfactory proceedings and pledges on the Durbar's side in regard to denial of justice. It was reported to the Resident by the direct commands of the Raja that he regretted the violation of his recent engagement with him, that His Highness would carefully see to the future prevention of misdoings in the Courts of Justice; and that with a view thereto, His Highness had directed returns to be made to himself of all the causes of British subjects now pending in each of the five adawluts of the Capital with the date of the institution of each cause, and the reason of the delay in investigating it.

25th November

The Resident reports that the ostentatious proceedings for a mission from the Durbar to the Governor General have been abandoned under the avowed pretext that His Lordship had been recalled and was about to proceed immediately home in consequence of disapproval of His Lordship's aggressive

policy towards Dost Mahomed and other powers. Such gross perversions of ordinary foreign news constitute, it is said, a regular portion of the Pandey politics with the design of deluding the Raja as well as the Chief, and illustrates alike the caprice and arrogance and the low cunning of that party.

Arracan

28th October

Captn Bogle writing from Akyab states that there has been no incident yet to interrupt the present peaceful state of affairs. He has made some good preparations in the event of a War with the Burmese. He has now a fleet of 100 splendid Mugh boats in readiness, and could move a column of 3,000 men immediately, besides being able, he states, to lay hands on twice or thrice the above number whenever they may be wanted. A number of good roads have been made by which troops and stores could be easily transported from the landing place near the mouth of the Aeng River to Tharamah—and also from the Naf to Aeng via Arracan town and Talak by means of which cattle in any numbers may advance from Chittagong. The internal state of the Province of Arracan, Captn Bogle reports, as very satisfactory. The dacoities, which were a few years ago so very prevalent, are now quite unknown, and of petty offences there are but few. The most perfect tranquillity reigns from the one end of the Province to the other, and the whole population seems contented and happy. The taxes have been reduced, still the revenue goes on increasing—the improvement for 1838/39 exceeds half a Lac—and the export of rice from Akyab is now nearly equal to what it is from Calcutta—more than 8 Lacs of Rs. worth were exported last year. But the most pleasing test of all is that during last season, no less than 1,133 families emigrated from Bengal, and about 4,500 acres of waste land were taken up—and we have “no sickness in Arracan,” says Captn Bogle—“Even our Jails are positively the most healthy in India.”

Items of General Intelligence

In consequence of Abbas Ally Khan, Jagheerदार of Woodiagunj in the Collectorate of Nellore, having failed in his allegiance to the British Govt., in having been detected in intrigues and rebellious designs, thereby forfeiting his claim to the Jaghire, the Govt. of Fort St George has promulgated a Proclamation permanently resuming the Jagheer in conformity to the condition of the grant.

Dr Richardson has returned to the Tenasserim⁷ Provinces from his

7. *Tenasserim*, a tract of mountainous country along the east coast of the Bay of Bengal; once a part of British Burma. A chain of Islands, called the Mergui archipelago, runs along its coast.

mission to Siam which seems to have been very successful, and of good effect in partially restoring the intercourse with the Shan tribes.

Camp Deeg⁸
the 10th December, 1839

H Torrens
Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

(Executed by
Charudeod
Confidential Clerk)

(Ref :—Foreign Deptt., Miscellaneous, Vol. 332, pp. 495-526)

8 *Deeg*, a town and fortress in the erstwhile Bharatpur state, lies in an isolated marshy tract amid numerous shallow lakes, fed by the stream of the Manas Nai. Here on November 13, 1804, a British force under Genl Fraser defeated Holkar's army.

Newsletter 26 : December 20, 1839

Peshawur

23rd November

Col Wheeler's advance guard, consisting of only 43 men of all ranks of the 37th and 48th NI, was attacked, on clearing a Pass at day-break of the 19th, at a place called Lundi Khana¹, by at least 500 Khyberces. The enemy was most gallantly repulsed and thrice charged with the Bayonet, and, ultimately, driven off without the loss of any thing whatever. On the 20th, he reached Ali Musjid, with the Field Commissariat Treasure and Cattle, and, though assailed for the last three miles, succeeded in reaching that post without any loss. On the 22nd, the troops moved from the Musjid, the hills were on every height covered with people who were waving flags—this was observed to Capt Mackeson who said that the Chiefs had promised to assemble with the more influential of their followers to prevent any infraction of the Treaty made with them regarding the free and safe passage of the Pass—and that though no faith could be placed in them, he hoped that all would remain quiet. On the troops halting to allow the baggage to close up, at a point which covered a broad ravine, in which and its neighborhood a great many had assembled but still preserving every appearance of being friendly, exchanging salutations with the people, giving them fire, and telling them to pass on without fear that no one would molest them. He had scarcely resumed his march when a most treacherous attack was made on the baggage. Col Wheeler immediately threw the light Company of the 48th NI up the heights to take the enemy in flank—which it did, effectually driving them from them. In the meantime, the sepoy posted at the Ravine and others with the baggage, pursued and though hotly opposed, brought off all or nearly all the camels that were not hamstring². There is every reason to believe that Col Wheeler has inflicted severe chastisement on the enemy from the great number of dead seen. Our loss has been—Rank and File 3 killed and 25 wounded, of the latter, 2 have since died.

1st December

Mr Macnaghten reporting the measures taken with respect to the Khyberces thinks that coercive measures would have had a salutary effect,

1 *Lundi Khana* (Landi Khana), a most difficult part of the Khyber, lying about 23 miles from its eastern entrance, and seven from the western. Here the pass descends steeply to the west and is both narrow and rugged, through which wheeled carriages can but barely pass. It is, in one place, a mere hole, about twelve feet wide, with the lefty rock, rising like a wall on the north side and a deep precipice on the south. Its elevation is 2,488 ft. above sea level.

2 *Hamstring*, should read hamstring.

did we possess a sufficient knowledge of the people or the nature of their country. On both these points nothing more is known than that the Country is strong, and that the people are more united, and more bold and skilful in their depredations than any other tribes yet met with. Under all the circumstances, he has deemed it prudent to resort to measures of conciliation rather than of force—and by the arrangements entered into with them, the Khyberees relinquish all claims to tolls and every other description of exaction, undertaking to provide for the safety of the road, and engaging to make good any losses that may hereafter be incurred. With a view to establishing the influence of HM more firmly in that quarter, Mr Macnaghten proposes to raise a Corps of Khyberees and Kohistanees, and to meet its expenses, he proposes to make a corresponding reduction in Col Wade's levies. The Sikh allies, Sooltan Mahomed Khan and his brethren, are determined intriguers. They have been trying to get the Chiefs of Sewat and Bonur to acknowledge the Sikh Supremacy. Deer³ too is another place into which the Sikh allies are trying to insinuate themselves, and to which they have not the faintest title.

1st December

Sir W Cotton, remarking on the Khyber people says, "the nature of the country, the bravery of the inhabitants, and the very great difficulty that exists in getting at them with their numerical strength, offers no analogy between them and the Ghiljey tribes against whom Major Laren acted. The opinion of Genl Avitabile, who having been there for some years and being an excellent officer and a sensible man, is worth knowing—is, that "it would require 7,000 men to move against the Khyber Country and 3 Columns (on Choura, Terah, and Ali Musjid & vicinity), that the driving them from these places might be easily effected, but that the pursuing them owing to the difficulty of conveying provisions and the nature of the Country would be attended with many serious obstacles and hazardous in the extreme, and that the moment the troops returned, they would again occupy the caves they usually live in, and with aggravated feelings recommence their plundering habits—these have been the causes that they have always been paid for the passage through their country, and I should say, it was the best line to adopt." The strength of the three Corps now encamped at Khwolsir, 8 miles from Peshawur, under the command of Brig. Sale, exclusive of sick is—

European Regt.—about	350	Bayonets
37th Regt. Beng. NI about	533	„
48th —do—	418	„
	Total :	1,301

3 *Deer* (Dir), an administrative unit incorporating the towns of Dir, Swat and Chitral, in the NWFP. Inhabited mainly by the Yusufzai Afghans, its capital Dir, lies on the bank of a small stream of the same name, an affluent of the Panjkora.

3rd December

Mr Macnaghten's negotiations with the Khyber Chiefs have terminated successfully, and matters have been restored to tranquillity in the Pass.

Cabool

Mr Macnaghten notes that affairs are going on smoothly and prosperously in all parts of the Country. His Majesty is very attentive to business, and seals all papers with his own hand. Lieut Pottinger, who has just visited the Cantons, mentions to Mr Macnaghten that the inhabitants are all anxious to throw off the Dozbe⁴g Yoke and to come under the rule of Shah Sooja. Lt Conolly says the same of Seistan as regards the Herat Yoke, and all the provinces subject to the tyranny and slave dealing of Yar Mahomed would be delighted at a change of masters. Two of Kamran's sons are now common plunderers on the highway.

3rd December

Sir Willoughby Cotton returns to Jellahabad about the 10th December—and assumes the command of the troops in Afghanistan.

Bokhara

19th November

The Bokhara troops, 4,000 in number, have been defeated by the Budukshees at Roostakh. The reason assigned is this—It appears that the Troops had publicly declared that after conquering the Budukshees they were ordered to take back not only Dost Md. but Morad Beg, the Walee, and the Khan of Muzar, into the presence of the King. The consequence was that the three latter consulted together, got the Bokhara troops into a defile and brought the Budukshees down on them.

Khollum

20th November

Mr Lord has received a letter from the brother of the Walee of Khoolum announcing that Dost Mahomed was on the point of starting for Persia. A person had arrived at Bameean who had left Khoolum on the 12th and stated that he had seen with his own eyes, the ex-chief's Pesh Khana drawn out the day preceding, and it was universally believed that he would certainly march on the 16th for Persia. It appears that he will start with about 400 followers and it was expected that these will drop off every stage so that if he reaches Meimuna he will not have one hundred.

⁴ *Dozbe*g refers to Amir Dost Muhammad

Herat

22nd October

Major Tood⁵ has little doubt of the existence of intrigues by Yar Mahomed Khan, the Vizier, with the Persian Authorities, of which he has direct evidence in his possession. At a private interview which he had with the Minister, he pointed out distinctly the ruinous consequences which he would inevitably bring upon himself and his country by breaking his engagements with a powerful Government. The Vizier denied the truth of the reports of his carrying on intrigues and argued against the possibility of the Persians entertaining any but the most deadly feelings towards himself. He added that he had no hope but from the British Govt. and proposed as an expedient for restoring confidence to depute his brother Sheer Mahomed Khan and an influential person from each of the Tribes on a Mission or as hostages to remain at Cabool or at the Durbar of the Governor General. The Candahar Brothers have left Mehsed and proceeded to Tehran by the invitation of Mahomed Shah. Reports have been lately prevalent at Herat of the advance of the Salar (one of the Ausuf-ood-Dowleh's sons) with a large force in that direction. By the last accounts, he had reached Toorbut-i-Sheik I'am⁶ with 2 or 3,000 men; but the object of this movement, Major Tood believes to be, the intimidation of the Turcoomans who have been recently infesting the road between Ghorian and Meshed.

8th November

The state of things at Herat is much the same as when last reported. The Mission of Shere Mahomed to India will do much, Major Tood thinks, towards settling that country, but, until we establish a contingent under British officers, our influence there, it is his opinion, will neither be useful nor permanent. The importance attached to the intended Mission may be gathered from the fact that, since the subject was first discussed, Major Todd has received messages from persons of all classes to the effect that they had been prevented calling upon him by dread of the Minister, but that, when Sheer Mahomed crossed the frontier, they should feel themselves at liberty to display their friendly disposition towards the English without fear of injuring themselves by doing so.

2nd October

According to Lt Conolly, the most powerful of the four Chiefs of Seistan is Mahomed Reza Khan Serbundi—he has about 30 forts or places called forts, and on emergency might probably be able to collect some 5,000 men—footmen and good soldiers. Hashem Khan Sharokhi has 15 forts and

⁵ Tood for Todd.

⁶ I'am for Imam.

his force is proportionately less than that of the above-named. The Sharokhis have the reputation of being the best soldiers in the Country. Next to Mahomed Reza Khan in power is Ibrahim Khan—his strength is not in forts—he has but one stronghold. This tribe, possessed of the best lands in Seistan, are scattered along the rich banks of the Helmund for some 30 miles west of Rodhar. Of their numbers, Lieut Conolly can give no accurate estimate, but he has “been astonished at the thickness of the population”—who were generally well-armed. The fourth chief is Dost Mahomed Khan Nahroee who is the most popular of the heads of Seistan, but the least in consequence—his power is, however, very little, less than that of Hashem Khan. He has only 2 or 3 forts, but one of them called Boorji-i-Kona is said to be one of the strongest in those parts. All these Chiefs profess the greatest reverence for, and submission to the English Government—that they are its slaves, & are ready to execute any orders it may please to impose. All would be easily brought to pay allegiance to Shah Sooja, but the name of Kamran is cursed thro’ the Country—it can hardly be conceived the depth of the hatred which the Chiefs and people entertain for Kamran and the Vizier. The accounts received from Lt Conolly verify the reports of the peculiar destructiveness of the climate towards horses. Of the number taken with him, 3 have already died, and the remainder have swollen legs and white gums—according to the natives, a certain sign of speedy death. He represents the Country as a wretched place, hotter than Hindostan, unless when it blows a hurricane of dust, with more mosquitoes than the banks of the Mississippi, and larger flies than any country in the World.

Lower Scinde

28th November

Capt Outram arrived at Kurachee on the 24th Inst. via Beyala and Soumeanee in $7\frac{1}{2}$ days on a camel, a distance of 350 miles. He reports this route impracticable for troops.

25th November

Meer Meer Mahmed Khan & Meer Nussar Khan have evinced symptoms of a desire to emancipate themselves from their subserviency to Meer Noor Mahomed Khan. The latter Ameer has lately issued orders for increased activity in forwarding the building of a Fort at Lokat, about 15 Coss from Hyderabad, which he commenced two years ago, and which he has once or twice laid aside and then resumed. He has expressed his intention of making that Fort, when completed, his Head Quarters and thus separating himself and his interests from the three other Ameers.

6th December

In consequence of the continued great Sickness at Tatta, the Officer Comdg. Scinde Reserve Force has ordered the immediate removal, as a

temporary measure, of the whole of the Troops from that station to Garrah with the exception of such small non-commissioned officers' Guards for the protection of the public property there as may be considered necessary.

Kelat

22nd November

The Bombay Column of the Army of the Indus under the command of Maj Genl Willshire CB marched from Kelat on the 21st Novr. towards Gundavah via the Morah Pass. Rusheed Khan and Fuzzul Khan, chiefs of Juhulwan and Noshki have intimated their intention of paying their respects to Shah Nawaz on his reaching Kelat.

23rd November

Shah Nawaz Khan arrived this morning from Daddur under the customary salute, and was taken to the "Meeree" or Gitadel where the audience hall had been duly prepared and was placed on the Musnud by the Political Agent, amidst the congratulations of the assembled Durbar, when a second salute was fired to announce the event to the populace—Captn Bean on reporting this event observes that Shah Newaz Khan is very likely, from his, particularly, mild and gentle manners, to become a great favorite with the people of Kelat.

Persia

25th October

A person lately arrived at Herat from Tehran brings intelligence that the whole of Persia is in a most disturbed state—He states that the country is every where infested by the unpaid and lawless soldiery of Mahomed Shah—that H M is in the greatest possible state of alarm at the events which have lately taken place in Afghanistan (though when this person left Tehran, the news only of the fall of Candahar had reached the Persian Court)—that it was in his contemplation to dispatch Mirza Mussood Khan (Minister for Foreign Affairs) on an embassy to the English Court—and that the Shah is most anxious to settle, on any terms, his differences with the British Government.

Joudhpore

17th November

The influence of the Naths, it would appear, still exists. Some of the Thakoors entreated for the release of Jhoongar Sing, who is in confinement, stating that he had committed no offence against the state and that they would consider it a great favor conferred on themselves, the Maharaja replied that that person as well as others had been confined by Luckmeenath; that some of them had procured their release by paying 50,000 Rs. to the

Nath, but that the Durbar had no power to discharge those that remained in confinement. The Thakoors begged that one of them might be allowed to go to the Nath, and entreat him to grant a release to those who were still confined but the Maharaja would not agree to this. Zorawur Mull had an audience, and it is said that a loan was effected from him of 5 lakhs and 40,000 Rs. on the security of the proceeds of Sumbhur, Nawa, Deedwannah and Puchbudra. It is reported Col Sutherland has been urging the Maharaja to make a speedy settlement of the money due to the British Govt. He was promised that arrangements should be made on their part for the payment of the tribute due.

1st December

Matters at Joudhpore appear to be in train of very satisfactory settlement. The Maharaja, it is said, is much gratified at the manner in which Col Sutherland and Capt Ludlow are carrying on business, and that plunder has been suppressed.

Nipal

26th November

The Durbar has been sounding Mr Hodgson through the Majhila Gooroo as to his disposition to grant a written acquittance for the past conduct of this State towards the British Government, or a pledge to make no further demands against it, in return for full liberty of excursion at that place. Mr Hodgson has given a decided negative to the proposition in both forms. On his enquiring wherefore the present application was made, he was told that similar questionings in shapes little varied, were perpetually addressed to him by the Raja whose anxiety could not be concealed notwithstanding his too great accession to the views of the ill-disposed.

Items of General Intelligence

10th November

The Hiyjamree branch of the Indus is reported not to have above 18 inches of water in some parts of it, but the Khedywaree or chief mouth is now stated to be navigable for sea going boats of the usual size and the "Palinurus" surveying Brig. has been ordered from Kurachee to examine the whole. It is further said that the Indus is already lower than it has been at any period for the last ten years.

H Torrens

Dy. Secretary to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

Camp Agra,
the 20th December 1839

Newsletter 27: January 1, 1840 (No. 1 of 1840)

Lahore

25th November to 7th December

Maharaja Kurruck Sing quitted Adinanagar on the 20th Nov. with the intention of proceeding on a pilgrimage to Jowala Mookhee, and from thence to return to Lahore. Nao Nehal Sing has promised to confer the districts of Afghan Kot and Noorpoor in Jaghire on Sirdar Mungul Sing if he will procure from the Maharaja a Razinameh, absolving him from the murder of Cheyt Sing. The Maharaja observed to the Koonwur and to all the Sirdars present that if they wished to please him they would produce Hurdut Sing, the brother of the late Cheyt Sing, and release Misser Beilee Ram and his brothers forthwith from confinement. Raja Dhyan Sing, it is said, is engaged night and day in looking after Troops and managing the affairs of State, but he does not appear satisfied, having no confidence in the Koonwur. Sirdar Tej Sing¹ has great influence with Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing and is, desirous of getting the charge of the Deodhi. He remains in constant attendance on the Koonwur, but Raja Hcera Sing also attends him with equal assiduity. Raja Dhyan Sing appears in a very unsettled state of mind—Nao Nehal, on account of the approach of Sir John Keane, is very attentive to the Maharaja for fear he should make any disagreeable representations to the Comdr. in Chief.—The Bhaees² enjoy much influence over the Koonwur's mind, but they are not on good terms with the Raja. Some Sepoys of Dhyan Sing armed with Carbines remain as orderlies in attendance on the Koonwur. Tej Sing has ordered 100 men of his own Battalions to remain with him also. Nao Nehal Sing has resumed some of the districts as well as the Salt Mines from Raja Golab Sing, who maintains a perfect silence.

Dera Ismael Khan

1st December

There has been no rain for many months past at Dera Ismael Khan, and grain is consequently very scarce. The three Ghiljye Chiefs, viz., Guroo

1 *Tej Sing*, originally Tej Ram, a Poorbiya Brahmin from Meerut district, and a nephew of Jamadar Khushhal Singh. He took service at the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1811 at the age of twelve, embraced Sikhism in 1816 and became Tej Singh. After this he rose rapidly and soon became a distinguished army commander. In 1831 he had 22 regular battalions under his command; eight years later he succeeded General Avitabile as Governor of Peshawar. The Lahore Darbar instructed him to aid the British against the Afghans.

2 *The Bhaees*; Bhai Ram Sing and his younger brother, Bhai Govind Ram.

Khan, Abdool Rehman and Mama, have arrived at the vicinity of that place from Khorassan. On their first arrival in that neighbourhood, they had with them about 200 followers, but not having sufficient funds to maintain so large a number, the greater part of them have been dismissed to their homes—Being suspicious of Capt Besant's intentions towards them the two latter have left the place and proceeded towards Peshawur to throw themselves under the protection of Sooltan Mahomed Khan, the half-brother of Dost Md.—Guroo Khan is still in the neighbourhood and contemplates delivering himself up to that officer.

Peshawur

15th December

Mr Macnaghten, writing from Camp Ali Musjid, states that every thing in the Pass is tranquil, he has 18 Lakhs of Treasure with him, and met with no molestation on the way. He notes that Khyebree Recruits are coming in fast, and hopes soon to have an efficient Corps of Khyber Rangers.

Cabool

The emissaries Proceeding to Bokhara and Khiva from Cabool have been instructed to ascertain the fate of Lieut Wyburn, and the two missing couriers of the Persian Mission, supposed to be enslaved in Toorkistan. Sir A Burnes has also taken advantage of the services of Ullahdad Tokhee, a merchant proceeding to Khiva to convey authentic intelligence from that Quarter.

The following is the present state of Her M's and the HC's Troops serving in Afghanistan under command of Major Genl Sir W Cotton:—

With Head Qrs.	{	2 Co. 6 Bn. Arty. 2d. Lt. Cavalry 1 Eur. Regt. 27 Regt. NI 48 Regt. NI Detacht. of 1st Local Horse
Cabool	{	Detail of Artillery : HM's 13th Lt. Infy. 35 Regt. NI
Ghuznee	{	16 Regt. NI Detach. of 1st L. Horse.
Moostung	..	31st NI
Quetta	..	42d. NI
Candahar	..	43 NI

Bameean

27th November

The attack on Syghan by Mr Lord has not only enabled him to annex that place to the Territories of HM Shah Sooja, but has given him an influence over all the surrounding Chiefs. He has confirmed the Chiefship of it to Mahomed Ali Bag who stipulates that the practice of driving away men into slavery shall be abolished. This arrangement will not only diminish the slave dealing practices which prevail to such a dreadful extent in Central Asia, but the submission to the Shah of numerous Hazara tribes who are particularly the object of this practice. The Chief of Kahmund waited on Mr Lord begging for assistance against Walee who has captured some of his Forts. Soofi Beg has sent his Nim Bashee, and Sirdar Syud Mahomed (the Tartar Chief of the Country between Bajgah and Doat), his son, both requesting his orders. Baba Beg's man is also with Mr Lord, so that, it may be said, the road to the gates of Khoolum is open to our advance. Of the Hazara Chiefs towards Deh Zinger, some have come in, others sent messengers. From the East, he has had numerous visitors—and by the measures in progress, he is confident in being enabled to open the road from Bameean to Ghorabund,³ and to maintain the communication to Cabool, the whole year uninterrupted.

29th November

Mr Lord has received positive intelligence that Dost Mahomed Khan has gone towards Bokhara. The King of Bokhara, it is said, not liking to be trifled with, sent a peremptory message requiring his attendance. Dost Mahomed sent the Nawab to Bulkh to make terms for him, but Abdool Jubber Bee had no sooner got hold of the Nawab, than he declared him a prisoner and not to be released until the Ex-Chief should arrive. Hereupon, Dost Md., leaving his wives and one of his sons in Khoolum, set off with his other sons and 100 Sowars for Muzar on the 22d. Octr.

Upper Scinde

6th December

The fall of Kelat and death of Mihrab Khan produced a great sensation throughout Cutchee, and had the effect of preventing any coalition amongst the different tribes of marauders. Mr Ross Bell has taken measures for putting down the plundering Beloochees by maintaining the line of posts

³ *Ghorabund*, a village in northern Afghanistan, on the southern slopes of the Hindu Kush, gives its name to the valley of Ghorbund and a small rivulet which, flowing down the valley, falls into the river of Punchshir. The valley of Ghorbund is fertile and abounds in minerals.

between Kanghur⁴ and Lehree⁵ until the whole of the crops shall have been gathered in, and intends afterwards to detach a strong party for the purpose of taking possession of the Forts of Kahun, Peer Chut⁶ and Kotie.⁷

Lower Scinde

28th November

Authentic intelligence having reached the Assistant Resident in charge of the Scinde Resy. of the success of the British Troops against the Fort of Kelat, the tidings of this event were communicated to the Ameers. A salute of 21 guns was immediately fired, and orders issued for an illumination of the Town. A deputation from their Highness also waited upon Lieut Eastwick to beg him to convey their congratulations to the Resident in Scinde. Detailed accounts of Mihrab Khan's fate also reached Hyderabad from other quarters and very great excitement prevailed throughout the City, many of the Beloochee Chieftains and their followers remarking that "Mihrab Khan had died like a man which was far more honorable for a Beloochee than to live like a woman." In the Durbar, Meer Noor Mahomed Khan lauded his own prudence and foresight in having saved Scinde from the grasp of the English whose power, it was now evident to all, was irresistible. Had he and his family, he observed, followed the advice of many who had surrounded him, their fate might have been that of the Brahoee (Mehrab Khan) or they might now be at Mecca in want of bread.

5th December

His Highness Meer Roostum Khan has agreed to pay a share of the expenses in deepening the Begaree Canal near Shikarpore. He has also promised to send Futty Mahomed Khan Goree to assist in freeing the country around Shikarpur from plunderers. On receiving intelligence of the arrival of a portion of the Bombay Troops at Shikarpore, their Highnesses deputed Syud Zynoolabdeen with instructions to afford every assistance during the march of the Army through Lower Scinde. Immediately on the return of Meer Noor Mohd. from a hunting excursion, he proposes to make arrangements for the payment of the balance due to His Majesty Shah Sooja-ool-Moolk.

-
- 4 *Kanghur*, in Sind, a town on the route from Shikarpur to Shahpur, and twenty-two miles north of the former place. It was situated in a tract with stunted jungle, from where the country assumed the aspect of a desert, stretching to the north-west.
 - 5 *Lehree*, a town of Cutch Gundava, situated near the southern base of the mountains, connecting the Sulaiman range with the Hala. Here, in the beginning of 1841, Nussir Khan, son of the late Mehrab Khan of Kalat, was defeated by Lt Col Marsh.
 - 6 *Peer Chut* (Chutta, a lesser saint), in Baluchistan, a shrine of a Muhammadan saint, situated at the north-eastern extremity of the Mulla pass. Here a stream, falling into the Mulla river was deemed sacred by the superstitious Baluchis.
 - 7 *Kotie* (Kote), in Afghanistan, a fort on a small stream which, flowing from the northern slopes of Safed Koh, falls into the Kabul river.

Persia

24th September

It appears to Col Sheil that there is a considerable alteration in the tone of the Persian Govt. and that it is more subdued than it has hitherto been since the withdrawal of the Mission. The Minister for Foreign Affairs intimates in a letter to Col Sheil that the Commercial Treaty will be granted on the restoration of amicable relations between the two Governments. This is a spontaneous offer on the part of the Persian Govt., no allusion having ever been made to that subject in any of the communications addressed to the Minister by Col Sheil. The Town of Tabreez is at length tranquil, and the apprehensions entertained of a massacre of the Georgians and others have ceased. The vigorous and energetic measures adopted by the Ameer-i-Nizam, the Military Governor of Azerbaijan, have restored tranquillity to that City which he completely overawed by the large number of troops he had collected in the vicinity. Kuhuram Mirza has been appointed Governor of the Province and made his entrance into the City on the 18th August.

27th November

The news-writer at Shiraz reports the severe indisposition of the Shah of Persia. He is afflicted with the gout in his foot, the physicians have (it is reported) in consequence amputated the Limb. Dr Bell, who was in constant professional attendance on the Shah up to the time of his leaving Persia with Col Shee's Detachment, gives it as his opinion that if any part of the leg be amputated, it will prove fatal, and that whether or no, the health of HM is so exceedingly precarious that there is great probability that his life may terminate before many months pass over.

Bushire

26th October

The districts in the neighborhood of Bushire have been the scene of much disorder and some bloodshed owing to the contests between the different Chiefs. The Chief of the Tangistan tribe having been successful in repulsing the inroads of his rivals, has compelled them to sue for peace, to which he has consented—for the present therefore, a temporary tranquillity has been restored.

Aden

20th October

The Pol. Agent reports on the hostile designs of certain Chieftains of Aden is an attempt to plunder and retake that place. Sultan Mahomed Houssain Tudthel of Lahedge has strenuously exerted himself secretly by the influence of money and luring promises of plunder in collecting the men of as many tribes as possible in joining his own to attack the British in Aden.

He wrote to the tribes of Houshebees, Haffaees, and others to join him, but they declined to render any assistance, for, as they said, they had always received kindness at the hands of the British. During the whole period, these treacherous designs were going on, supplies of all kinds have been plentiful, & Captn Haines apprehends it will require strong compulsory measures on the part of the Sultan to prevent every thing to be brought in for the regular and certain mart, has made the dealers evince a degree of determination, they are not accustomed to observe—for even during the few days, Dhtubie and other petty Chiefs were permitted to plunder the owners of the different Bazars; items collected; and started together armed in a large Kafilah which intimidated the Marauders, and they were quietly permitted to reach British Territory without molestation. Captn Haines fully expects to be able to frustrate every treacherous intention without bloodshed.

Turkish Arabia

18th December

A report has reached Karrack that the exportation of date rafters, timber and other stores from Kateef has been prohibited by the Egyptian Authorities, in consequence, it is said, of orders having been received from Koorshed Pasha for the erection of a Fort at the Port of Ajeer, the nearest point on the main land to the Island of Bahrein. This report if true must be regarded as an important indication of the designs in the Gulf of the Pasha of Egypt. Monsr Arton, the French Medical Attendant of Koorshed Pasha, has arrived at Karrack. He is the bearer of a Lr. from the Egyptian Genl. From the terms in which Brymee is spoken of in the Pasha's letter, no doubt can exist that the Egyptian Authorities entertain a great desire to obtain possession of that place—and it also appears evident that the removal from the Coast of Oman of Sued Bin Mootlack is viewed with the greatest dissatisfaction by the Egyptian Commander. From Mehemet Ali's orders to Koorshed Pasha it would appear that the former by no means gives up his claim upon the Island of Bahrein, but merely suspends it, pending the receipt of reply to a communication which he has made to HM's Government on the subject through Col Campbell.

Sattara

The Rajah of Sattara proposes to reform the corps now in his service, amounting to 1,100 Sebundies by selecting from them 5 or 600 men to be armed, dressed and trained under the superintendence of a European officer, so as to render it an efficient local Corps. The proposed reform is considered highly desirable since it will combine both efficiency and economy—and the Govt. of Bombay has deemed it advisable to afford such aid to His Highness the Raja for the attainment of the object in view.

Joudhpore

Pattas for Lands continue to be distributed by the Maharaja to the

Thakoors. The Dufter Darogha was urged to issue speedily the remaining Pattas. When His Highness is at a loss for a decision, it is reported that he generally consults with Col Sutherland on the subject. 75000 Rs. has been received from the Salt Mart at Sambur and Nowa; the Maharaja has ordered 40,000 from this amount to be retained in part payment of the five lakhs (£ 40,000) of tribute due to the British Govt. which sum was accordingly paid to Colonel Sutherland.

Nipal

A violent effort was made by the Ranee on the 2d. Decr to procure the Premiership for Ran Jang Pandey, and the rumour was rife that the effort had been successful. The Raja, however, resisted and declared that such powers as Ran Jang seeks were inconsistent wholly with his own authority. Ran Jang gives out that he has no intention to take office, and, in the meanwhile, he is exercising all the usual powers without any of the responsibility of a Minister. The Chiefs were called upon to attest under their hands that they freely gave up to the State all the lands held under rent-free tenure, which have been lately seized by the Durbar. The confiscation of these lands has been universal, including those acquired by private purchase. Such sweeping invasion of property, when added to the existing necessity of service without pay, for 1, 2 or more years, has created deep disgust, and a great desire to escape into the British territories.

Ava

8th November

Notwithstanding the assurances given by the Woonduck of Rangoon and officers lately arrived from the Capital of the King's desire to maintain a friendly understanding with the English, the inimical feelings of HM towards us continue manifest by every report from the Capital, and the Woonduck's own admission at times. Captn Macleod does not, however, apprehend any hostile movements against us at present, and hopes, after the Woonduck's arrival at the Capital, he will be able to regain his influence over the King's Council and succeed in checking the intrigues of our enemies as his own, which have induced him to be so urgent to be relieved.

24th November

Though there appears no change in the King's temper towards us, still the Woonduck continues to push Captn Macleod in very urgent terms to continue at Rangoon and support him in the efforts he is making to have all causes of complaint or suspicion removed & an amicable understanding re-established, & the Residency, he hopes, invited up and received in a becoming manner. The removal of the Residency in the opinion of the Woonduck would be productive of persuading the public mind that we are on the point of invading the Country.

The Country is described as in a very distracted state, much dissatisfaction exists in consequence of the King's Proceedings, and he is becoming more unpopular daily.

Items of General Intelligence

All is quiet in the N & E frontier—Capt Vetch⁸ writes on the 24th November that he is on the point of coming to a settlement with the Majoo Gohaing which will probably end in his resigning the Mattock⁹ country to the Company.

The Iron Steamer "Comet" intended for service on the river Indus is in a state of forwardness and, when ready, will be dispatched to the mouths of the Indus with the least possible delay. The "Indus" steamer entered the river upon the 7th of December drawing 4 feet water. It was intended that she should be lightened at Tatta, but it was apprehended that She could not ascend much higher than Hyderabad.

Custom Duties will be levied on all goods, merchandize &c., landed at the sea-port of Kurachee, save bonafide Govt. stores and supplies, but no customs duties, or fees of any kind are demandable according to treaty made with the Ameers of Hyderabad on goods sent by the Indus River—merchants and others, sending goods by that route, can avoid the charges they will henceforward incur at Kurachee.

As it is of very great importance at the present juncture when the war and peace parties are said to be struggling for mastery at the Court of Ava, to maintain appearances on the Coast, it has been resolved to send HMS "Conway" under command of the 1st Lt to Moulmein—Her Commander, Captn Bethune, being the Senior Officer on the Station remaining in the meantime at Calcutta. The Brig. "Childers" of 18 Guns, is expected shortly and that Vessel after the departure of the fleet for China will constitute our whole naval force in the Bay of Bengal.

H Torrens

Camp Agra, The 1st January, 1840
Executed by Charucleod
Confidl Clerk

Dy. Secy. to Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt., Miscellaneous, Vol. 332, pp. 563—596)

8 *Capt Vetch*, divisional commander of British troops in Upper Assam. In May 1839, he was given charge of the Sadiya Agency.

9 *Mattock* (or Muttuck), a region in upper Assam inhabited by the Muttucks, a branch of the Singpho tribe.

Newsletter 28 : January 11, 1840
(No. 2 of 1840)

Lahore

27th December

It is reported that Misser Beilee Ram and his family have at length had their fetters removed, but continue otherwise in strict confinement. Maharaja Kurruck Sing is said to have insisted on their release in terms which appear to have intimidated Koonwur Nao Nehal and his advisers into their present measure. The Maharaja is stated, however, to be very dissatisfied, and to have quitted the Palace and retired to his own residence in the City.

Moultan

27th December

The state of affairs in the Southern districts of the Punjab is reported as very bad. Sawun Mull, the Governor of Mooltan, Dera Ghazee Khan and other provinces is playing his own game, and his desire to maintain his influence amongst the inferior Chiefs induces him to wink at all their irregularities. Thus the Muzaree Tribe is in arms, and has declared war against Meer Roostum of Khyrpore—and the other Chiefs between Mithancote and Dera Ismael Khan are levying arbitrary taxes on Commerce—The Punjab is described as verging towards a state of anarchy.

Cabool

21st December

Mr Macnaghten returned from Peshawur to Jellalabad on the 21st. By the measures adopted by him, there is every hope that the whole country between Cabool and the eastern extremity of the Khyber Pass will now speedily be tranquillized.

Bameean

13th December

Mr Lord has positive intelligence that the Walee of Khoolum is about attacking Kahmund. Sir A Burnes thinks this is in retaliation for the "Chupao" on Syghan. Mr Lord has addressed a letter to the Walee stating, he would consider his doing so a mark of hostility, and proposed adding force to his remonstrances by sending a few men and a couple of Guns into the Fort of Syghan which it is thought would effectually deter him.

Dost Mahomed passed the Oxus on the 4th of Decr. and was expected to have reached Bokhara about the 13th or 14th.

Bokhara

20th October

Lieut Col Sir A Burnes' correspondent at Bokhara writes that there is great disturbance in Russia on account of the collection of the army against Khiva. The Chief of Khiva has proceeded towards the Cossac Country, and it was generally believed in Cabool and mentioned in another letter from the same place that it was for "Chupao".—The Russian Agent, a native of Bokhara, had not received his dismissal upto the date of that letter—all the objects demanded by him, it is said, have been obtained. He has also demanded the surrender of Col Stoddart to him for the purpose of taking him to Russia. The writer thinks that he will be given up to the Russians, and that they would have left Bokhara about the 24th Oct.

Herat

18th November

The emissary of Dost Mahomed Khan who went to Meshed has returned to Herat, having, as Major Todd has been informed, met with a very cold reception from the Auseef-ood-Dowlah, who referred him to Tehran. He is now going back with Yar Mahomed's reply to the ex-chief's letter which was dictated by Major Todd. He is a person of no rank or influence, and not worth apprehending. Major Todd reporting on the state of affairs at Herat, does not now apprehend a rupture with Yar Mahomed, or any immediate necessity for a hostile demonstration in that direction—but still continues to think that we shall never have any firm footing in that Country until we have established a Contingent under British Officers, and have thus laid the foundation of a permanent and useful influence in the Country.

Upper Scinde

27th December

Mr Ross Bell reports very favorably regarding the progress of proceedings in Kutchee. He has succeeded in blockading the marauding tribes within the barren hills on the North of Kutchee—all their leaders, with the exception of one, have surrendered themselves prisoners at discretion and the arrangements to be made for the purpose of securing the peace of Kutchee for the future, are now easy. It was Mr Bell's intention to entertain a certain number of the best men of the plundering tribes in place of the Beloochees who were disbanded. They are all well-mounted, and represented as bold and resolute, and it is thought would prove a more efficient Police than any other which could be raised in Kutchee.

Capt Codrington has arrived at Candahar with the Treasure under his charge. The Cholera has entirely ceased, and the Troops both at Sukker and at Larkhanah are in excellent health.

Kelat

15th December

A private letter from Kelat mentions the probability of the early departure from thence of the 31st Regt. which, it was hoped, would be effected by the 20th or 21st. The Troops are said to be in a sickly state. Shah Newaz Khan, it is reported, after obtaining the sanction of Government, proposes to strike medals for distribution to the Troops engaged in the capture of the Fortress of Kelat on the 13th of Novr. in grateful commemoration of the gallantry displayed by them on that occasion, and by whose assistance, he was restored to the throne of his ancestors.

Lower Scinde

18th December

The Bombay Troops, stationed at Tatta have all left that place but 100 men; yet, observes Col Pottinger, there is no thieving or any apprehension entertained. Both Lieutts Eastwick and Leckie, Asstts. in the Scinde Resy., have been compelled to leave Hyderabad on account of severe indisposition. Lt Whitelock¹ has assumed temporary charge.

14th December

His Highness Meer Noor Mohamed Khan has agreed to pay on the 22nd Instant, the balance of 11 Lakhs of Rs. due to HM Shah Sooja-ool-Moolk; which amount will be immediately forwarded to Mr. Ross Bell, Pol. Agent in Upper Scinde.

Muscat

28th December

His Highness the Imam has fitted out an expedition under his son to recover a place called Munch which was wrested from Mahomed bin Nasir Jubree by Rashid bin Humeed. His Highness has dispatched a person to Egypt with instructions to make purchases; but the secret object of the Mission was to carry letters to Mehemet Ali Pasha and the people of that quarter.

28th December

The Native Agent reports the arrival of a Buggalow from the Persian Gulf bringing intelligence that a vessel with 500 Turkish Troops belonging to Mehemet Ali Pasha, had put into the Port of Sheik Shoab for a supply

1 Lt Whitelock of the 11th Bengal Native Infantry was appointed Extra Assistant to the British Resident in Sind in April 1840 and was promoted Political Assistant in May 1841.

2 Buggalow (Baggalah), an Arabic word which means a vessel or a boat. The buggalows were, in fact, Indian vessels, manned almost entirely by Indians, which traded all the way from Cutch, Gujarat, and the Malabar coast to the Persian gulf and the coast of Arabia.

of water. She was bound for Bussora and it was reported that she was to be followed by 4 other vessels.*

Arabian Coast

21st September

The Arab possessions on the Coast still continue unsettled and disturbed owing to the different Tribes indulging in their feuds. Hostilities had commenced between the tribes of Sheik Khuleefa bin Shakboot and the Naeem tribe. The former is assisted by portions of the Monasir, Moozara, Benyar and Beni Jillub tribes. The Bedouins have most of them joined the Benyar Chief, in consequence of the reports he is propagating of an Egyptian Force coming to his assistance. Every thing is in the greatest confusion and disturbance in consequence.

5th October

From a subsequent report it appears that peace has been concluded between Sheik Khuleefa, and two of the three Sheikhs of Biymee. The roads are now said to be open, and Caravans arrive and depart as heretofore.

Aden

Sickness has broken out to a considerable extent in the 24th Regt NI stationed at Aden. The Hospitals were crowded with patients laboring under scurvy, and on a careful examination of the men by Asst. Surgeon Malcolmson, he reports that nearly 2/3ds. of the Regiment show unequivocal signs of Scrobutic Diathesis. In consequence of this lamentable state of the Regt., no time has been lost in adopting measures for the relief of that Corps by sending the 10th Regt. NI

Persian Gulf

The Island of Fulega, or as it is termed in the Charts, "Pheleechee", which lies off the entrance of Koweit Harbour near the opening of the river Eurphrates³ was considered from its position, as a suitable situation for a Naval and Military Station in the event of it being considered expedient at any future period to evacuate Karrack. Captn Hennell deputed his Assistant, Lieut Edmunds, to make a personal examination regarding its adaptation in point of Harbour, climate, produciton, size, &c. The opinion of Commodore Brucks is decisive of its unsuitableness for a naval station.

*N.B. This report wants confirmation.

3 *Euphrates* : the largest river in west Asia which along with the Tigris, once formed the life-line of the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia in the east. It rises in Turkey and flowing south crosses Syria and Iraq, divides for a time into two streams. Eventually it is joined by the Tigris at Ourna, and the two together make the Shatt-al-Arab, which empties itself, into the Persian gulf, 60 miles below Basra.

Its unfitness for a military post is equally shewn in Lieut Edmund's report. The Island, about 8 miles long by 2 or 3 wide, is described as low, swampy and unhealthy—almost wholly unproductive and dependent for its supplies on foreign parts, and moreover deficient in good water.

Kurnool

17th December

The following is a return of the property which fell into Lieut Col Dyce's possession on the occasion of the action near Zarapore⁴:

Cash contained in 26 bags, amounting to upwards of 20,000 Rs.

1 Bag of Gold Bangles, and a number of Silver articles, weight unknown.

13 Elephants

85 Horses

Howitzers—133 of Brass and Iron

Mortars—3

Guns—161

Jingals—285

Matchlocks—11

Wall pieces—7

Gunpowder loose 2,11,663 lbs.

Saltpetre 8,57,601 lbs.

Sulphur 2,73,020 lbs.

and an immense quantity of other ordnance and military stores, too numerous to be detailed here.

Joudhpore

29th December

Our demands against Maun Sing's Govt. are in a train of liquidation—One half of them, including those of the past year, Col Sutherland expects, will be paid immediately, and are partly paid already; whilst the remainder will be paid within the twelve months. The questions connected with the resumption and restoration of landed possessions in Marwar are nearly completed—the Govt. records having been taken as the foundation of all decisions as to the right to each village in the country. It has been a tedious operation, but Col S is of opinion, it will be a complete and lasting one, for upon this almost every thing connected with the prosperity and tranquillity of Marwar depends.

4 Zarapore (Zorapur), a suburb of Kurnool, on the right bank of the Tungabhadra river. In 1839, Alif Khan, the Nawab of Kurwal was defeated here by a British force and was taken prisoner to Tiruchchirappalli where he was assassinated by one of his own dependents.

December

Col Sutherland reporting on the financial arrangements with Joudhpore recommends the evacuation of the Fortress to Maun Singh, and notices that the conduct of all parties there has been such as to merit every consideration on the part of the British Govt. "In every thing (he observes) in which the spell of Nath influence cannot be thrown over him, I am persuaded that there is no Sovereign Prince in India on whose fidelity we may more rely than on that of Maharaja Maun Sing. After 5 months' acquaintance with him, I have no hesitation in saying that I have never met a native of this Country in whom I would so much trust as, or who, I believe, would more implicitly trust in us than Maun. Sing.

3rd December

Lt Col Sutherland in submitting information regarding Appa Sahib, the Ex-Rajah of Nagpoor, states that when he saw him he was much recovered from the condition in which Dr Russel found him in the month of May. Lt Col S told him that he had authority to arrange with him regarding a provision for his subsistence during life provided he chose to retire within our territories and to place himself under the protection of the British Govt. He at the same time explained that the only object of the British Govt. was to relieve him from the misery and confinement to which he described himself as being subject in the Maha munder. The ex-Raja replied that there were only two things for him in this world, a throne or a wallet—and that he preferred for him short of the possessions of his ancestors.

Nipal

An Agent of the Zamindar of the District of Purneah has arrived at Nipal with handsome presents for that Court. He has sedulously kept out of the way of the Resident, and the secrecy of his mission renders it very liable to suspicion. The Zamindar has been called upon for an explanation, since notorious as is the temper of Nipal towards our Govt; it is difficult to imagine any lawful reason for our zameendars sending Agents loaded with presents to Cathmandhoo.

Mr Hodgson also notes the arrival of a party of Brahmins from the Punjab who represent themselves as Horse dealers, but their conduct and bearing appearing very suspicious. Mr Hodgson doubts their pretensions. He has accordingly taken measures to watch their proceedings closely. He seems to think that they are emissaries of Koonwur Nao Nehal Sing and the Minister Dhyan Sing.

Items of General Intelligence

19th December

The British Detachment lately serving in Persia under command of Lt Col Shee arrived at Bombay on the 14th Inst., on board the "Salsette."

Camp Gwalior,
the 11th January 1940

T H Maddock
Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

(Ref:—Foreign Deptt. Misc. Vol. 332, pp. 597—624).

Newsletter 29 : January 25, 1840

(No. 3 of 1840)

Lahore

22nd December

By a letter received from Lahore of the annexed date, it appears that Maharaja Kurruck Sing continues to demand, with great pertinacity, the liberation of those who have been put in prison for their attachment to his interests; but his applications are not attended to. It was reported that Hurdut Sing, the brother of the Maharaja's favorite, the late Cheyt Sing, and Sirdar Vuzeer Sing,¹ who were in confinement in the fort of Kangra, raised a conspiracy in the Garrison and effected their escape. The administration of affairs at the Court was much neglected. It is said that Suitors cannot have their business transacted. The influence of Sirdar Tej Sing is represented as daily increasing in the councils of the young Prince.

15th January

Misser Beilee Ram and his family have been at length released and restored to their old situations, and had attended the Durbar, which circumstance appears to have given considerable umbrage to Raja Dhyan Sing, who is reported to be ready to retire to his residence in the Hills. The Koonwur, in concert with the Bhaees, is trying secretly to get every thing under his own hand, and is appointing his own men to every Dept.

Peshawur

6th January

A report has reached Loodianah that the Ex-Chiefs of Candahar had arrived in the Peshawur territory; and that they had been treated with every mark of hospitality.

This report is evidently false, though it may be true that some members of the family have found an asylum with Sultan Mahomed.

Cabool

The State Prisoners under charge of Captn McSherry, who accompanied the troops under the command of His Excellency Sir John Keane from Cabool,

¹ *Sirdar Vuzeer Sing*, cousin of Chet Singh, a favourite of Maharaja Kharak Singh.

arrived safely in the Provinces on the 4th Instant. The temporary residence of Hyder Khan, the son of Dost Mahomed, will be fixed at Bombay, whence he may be allowed to proceed at any convenient time to Persia, there to join his father, should the latter have sought refuge in the Dominions of the sovereign of that Country. Hajee Khan Kakur is to proceed from Ferozepore towards Chunar, the place destined for his residence.

Bokhara

20th December

It had at one time been reported that the King of Bokhara had resolved to send Col Stoddart who is a Prisoner there, to Russia; but this resolution has since been abandoned, in consequence, it is said, of the disturbances of the Road and the march of the Russian Army towards Khiva.

Khiva

The Khan of this State has sent a Confidential Agent with letters to Major Todd with a view of establishing friendly relations with the British Government. A Persian Envoy who had been sent by Mahomed Shah with proposals of friendship and alliance was dismissed by the Khan without an answer. It was confidently stated that a Russian Column of 6,000 men had taken possession of the Kuzsak country, and that a skirmish had taken place between the Russian and Khiva Troops, which ended in favor of the latter. It was not positively known at Khiva of the exact strength of the Russian Force proceeding against that State but by some it was supposed that this Column was merely the advance Guard of a larger Army.

Herat

30th November

Major Todd has received Intelligence that a Cafilah from Candahar and destined for Herat had been plundered on the road by a party of horsemen under command of a notorious freebooter by name of Moola Vuzeer Noorzye—Report estimates the damage at no less than Four Lakhs of Rs.—the booty is said to have consisted chiefly of Shawls &c.—Major Todd in concert with the Vuzeer adopted immediate measures to apprehend the plunderers by the dispatch of a body of 300 men, and thinks there will be little difficulty in seizing them.

10th December

In another letter, Major Todd states his belief that Yar Mahomed is no longer engaged in intrigues with Persia—his dread of any immediate hostilities on our part having been allayed, and the Persian Game appearing to him desperate—The Vizier's son Syud Mahomed Khan, Shah Pussund Khan of Laush, and Mahomed Reza Khan Seestaunee have assembled a

force in Seistaun for the purpose of quelling the inroads of the Beloochees, but, it is believed, the affair will be arranged by negotiation.

Muscat

28th November

The Imaum received a communication from Sultan Bin Suggar informing him that a report had reached him from Bahrein that the Shafee and Bin Budtal tribes contemplated an invasion of the Oman—His Highness immediately addressed a Letter to the Sheikhs of Shewamis, advising them to resist, and pledging himself to assist them both with Troops and money.

Jyepore

29th December

Col Sutherland reports very favourably of the working of the Panchayet at Jyepore, and expresses his conviction that the form of administration lately introduced there has already, under the supervision, first of Major Ross, and since of Major Thoresby, done much to restore that country to a condition of tranquillity to which it had long been a stranger, and that at no very distant period entire tranquillity and comparative prosperity will reward our labor there.

Ava

1st January

By recent dispatches received from Captn Macleod, it appears that the conduct of the Burmese Government still continues unfriendly. He had fully made up his mind to remove the Residency to Moolmyn for many reasons, and informed the Burmese Authorities of his determination, but in consideration of the concession made by them with respect to the location of the Residency to outside the Town in the house formerly occupied by Col Burney,² he deemed it advisable to accede to the urgent solicitations of the authorities at Rangoon not to quit. It is stated by a person in the King's confidence that everything is going on wrong, that the whole country was in a state of ferment, and a rumour was abroad that the Zimme Shans³ are preparing to make War against the Burmese.

Items of Gen. Intelligence

As Armenian Priest of the name of Petroos, a native of Ispahan, has recently arrived at Bombay. It is stated that it is his intention shortly to

- 2 *Col Burney* of the 20th Marine Native Infantry, learnt the Malay language, acquired knowledge of the archipelago and was appointed Political Agent to the Siamese states in 1825. Later Deputy Commissioner of Tenasserim (1827-9), and British Resident at the court of Ava (1829-38).
- 3 *Zimme Shans*, inhabitants of the northernmost Shan state on the Siam border. They had a great dislike for the Burmese.

proceed to Candahar and Cabool, and that his mission is solely in the cause of religion. It is also reported that he was appointed to the office by the Patriarch of Julfa on the nomination of the Russian Authorities. It has been resolved that the Priest be kept under surveillance of the Police till such time HM Shah Saoja's views and wishes on the subject of such a person proceeding to Cabool be ascertained.

It is very satisfactory to learn that on the death of the Rajah of Ahmednugger on the 6th of December last, no attempt was made to perform Sutte by any of his widows on that occasion. This circumstance shews that the influence of the British Government in the cause of humanity prevails, where properly directed.

Capt Drummond employed in examining the Mineral resources of Afghanistan has discovered an exceedingly promising appearance of Copper in the mountains in the vicinity of Moosye about 14 miles SE of Cabool, and from thence in the same direction to Baghzye and Kohi-ase muk in the country of the Ahmedzyes. The ores which he observed are, Copper Pyrites, and the richer varieties, Grey Copper Ore, and purple copper Ore—the reous sulphuret has been also detected. Capt Drummond has not succeeded in discovering any ores of the precious metals. It was his intention to proceed to the Koorum & Wuzeeree districts where Iron is said to be found, and Coal also. It is stated that in the Salt range of Hills on the right or western bank of the Indus, Iron, Coal, Timber and Copper, all occur on one line of communication from that river to Cabool by the districts above-mentioned. These are also said to be famous for wool, the great staple commodity of Afghanistan. With regard to other mineral districts, Capt Drummond has no doubt that Iron abounds in Bajor, Antimony in Ghorbund and Lead in Warduk. Gold is found, it is said, in several streams and silver may be found associated with some of the ores of lead and antimony.

TH Maddock
Secy. to the Govt. of India
with the Govr. Genl.

Camp Hirodee
25th January 1840.

Executed by
Charucleod
Confidential Clerk.

Newsletter 30 : January 1, 1841

(No. 1 of 1841)

North West Frontier : Jellalabad

Late letters from Captain Nicolson report the arrival of Dost Mahomed at Peshawar, and the surrender of Azim Khan and Sherrah Khan, the two sons of Dost Mahomed who escaped from Ghuznee. The troops escorting the Dost consisted of the 1st European Regiment, the 48th NI, 1 squadron 2d Cavalry; and a detachment of Coll. Skinner's Local horse, with 2 Guns of Captain Garbett's battery. The remaining two Squadrons of the 2d Cavy. were to halt at Jellalabad until Dost Mahomed's family arrived, when they were to accompany them to the provinces.

Afghanistan

December

The Governor General's Agent in the North West Frontier reports that Colonel Shelton's¹ Brigade crossed the Chinab on the 27th Novr. and were encamped on the right bank of that river; and letters have since been received from Col Shelton, announcing his having crossed the Jhalum and his confident expectation of being able to reach Peshawar on the 22d.

Candahar

3rd October

In accordance with the permission granted him by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General and with the view of substituting an unobjectionable system for the harsh & unpopular practice of impressing carriage cattle for military purposes, Major Rawlinson, Political Agent Candahar, has advanced to private individuals Rs. 45000 for the purchase of 500 Camels. These Camels will be maintained for the use of the Commissariat in that Quarter, & the cost of their purchase will be gradually repaid.

Kohistan

November

At the instance of the Envoy and Minister at Cabool, the Right Hon'ble the Governor General has been pleased to appoint, as a temporary arrange-

1 Col John Shelton, of the 9th Foot British Army took part in the French revolutionary wars where he lost an arm, was sent to India in 1822 and commanded a brigade in Afghanistan in 1841. On the British retreat from Kabul in January 1842 he was detained by the Afghans as a hostage along with several others.

ment Lieutt C Rattray as Officiating Political Assistant in charge of the affairs of Kohistan in succession to the late Dr Lord.

Herat—Mymouna

November

The Envoy to Herat intimates that in consequence of the illness of the son of the Wallee of Mymouna; his uneasiness at being detained for such a length of time at Herat; and his suspicions that it was intended to keep him there, as a hostage for an indefinite period, he (the Envoy to Herat) has consented to an arrangement concluded between Hukoomut Khan on the part of the Wullee, and Yar Mahomed Khan, on the Part of the Herat Government, and has allowed him to return to Mymouna. The following is the substance of the arrangement above alluded to.

1st. The Wullee of Mymouna pledges himself to be a trustworthy and faithful servant and friend of the Herat Govt. and to perform at the risk of his life whatever service may be required from him by it.

2d. Whenever a Contingent of horse may be required from him by the Herat Govt. it shall be furnished without delay at any place appointed.

Scinde—Upper

6th to 12th December inclusive

The precis of intelligence from Upper Scinde is as follows :—

1st. The consequence of the late victory near Peerchutta (vice Newsletter No. 21 under head of "Scinde Upper") has been the retirement within the hills of the large bodies of Brahoees who had entered Kutchee, and it was hoped that they would not have sufficient courage to re-enter the plains before our Cavalry arrived.

2nd. Nasseer Khan fled from Kotrah to Yehree where he is said to have taken up his quarters.

3d. The Jhalawar chiefs are divided in opinion as to war or peace. The war party, at the head of which is Gool Mahomed, point to Dost Mahomed. The advocates for submission under Mahumed Hussein, urge the impossibility of our arms being successfully resisted.

4th. Nusseer Khan is said to be entirely under the sway of Gool Mahomed.

5th. Major Genl Brooks had directed the prisoners taken in the action near Peerchetta to be sent to Sukkur.

6th. 157 Recruits for HM 13th Lt. Infy. are said to have arrived at Kurachee.

23rd December

The Military Dept. intimate that orders have been issued to the Mily. Board to take the necessary measures for supplying, with all possible expedition, the tent equipage &ca., required for the use of the troops assembling in Upper Scinde.

Muscat

3rd November

Captain Hamerton, on a mission to Muscat, reports that His Highness the Imaum returned to Muscat on the 8th Ultimo from Bunder Abbass.

Nothing of a particular nature regarding His Highness is said to have transpired during his trip to the Gulf. He was chiefly employed making arrangements of a fiscal nature, with the different chiefs, subject to his authority at Buka, island of Kishm, and on the Persian Coast. Overtures were made to His Highness by many Chiefs, to induce him to supersede the Governor of Bunder Abbass Shaik Saif bin Nabhan, by offering to pay a larger amount for the bunder than is paid by Shaik Saif. But the Imaum was determined not to accede to the wishes of any one to the prejudice of Shaik Saif who is very favourably spoken of, and in whom the merchants are said to repose confidence. Captain Hamerton has been instructed if His Highness should proceed to Zanjibar to follow him and wait on him thither.

Egypt, Syria, The Mails

19th November

A private communication to the address of the Right Hon'ble the Governor General from Egypt received by Express on the 22d December last states that Mahomed Ali had for some time shewn a strong inclination to come to an arrangement with the Sublime Porte through the mediation of the Four Powers without reference to the position or pretensions assumed by France, but it was not until the 8th November last that a public and unequivocal demonstration of this important change in his feelings and opinions had taken place.

On that day, in Public Divan, he declared that, in future, he would be guided by his own views.

The following day, he received the intelligence of the fall of the important fortress of St Jean-d-Acre and for a time was thrown into deeper dejection by this than by any of his previous reverses. No time, however, was lost in despatching a Courier with instructions to Ibrahim Pasha to evacuate the whole of Syria, and he intimated to those in his confidence that he was now prepared to give up the Turkish Fleet and comply with all the

demands of the Sultan provided he could be ensured in the quiet possession of Egypt.

All intention of resistance having been abandoned, unless Egypt itself should be attacked, the disposable crews of the ships and the workmen of the arsenal had been incessantly occupied in dismantling the Fleet, on the completion of which they were intended, in case of necessity, to man the batteries on shore.

The French Consul General on having learnt this determination was most indefatigable in his endeavours to dissuade Mahomed Ali from any attempt at an arrangement with the European Powers in which France should not be the mediatrix; and, for a time, he seemed to waver till the arrival of the French Post Office steamer on the 15th Novr. last with the intelligence of a change of Ministry in France, appeared to confirm him in his previous resolution.

Being desirous of ascertaining the true state of affairs, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General called on the Minister of Mahomed Ali, Boghos Bey, who confirmed what is stated above in the most positive manner. The Consul General observed that it might be advisable to acquaint Sir Robert Stopford with the change which had taken place in the determination of Mahomed Ali to which he replied that the French Consul General had assured Mahomed Ali that there was now every prospect of propositions being made to him regarding which there would be no difference of opinion between the Govts. of Great Britain & France; and that, consequently, he had decided on taking no step till such propositions were made, but that he, nevertheless, adhered to his resolution of evacuating Syria, and giving up the Turkish Fleet on being ensured the Govt. of Egypt. The "Oriental" Steamship arrived at Alexandria on the 19th November last, and was immediately admitted into Port, Mahomed Ali affording every facility for getting the mails on shore, appointing *Carasses*² to escort them to Suez, and giving renewed assurances to the Consul General that, in the event of either war or peace, every facility would be afforded to the transmission of HM's Indian Mails through Egypt.

Kishengarh

28th November

With reference to Newsletter No. 18 dated 20th November last, under head of Kishengurh, to coerce certain of his disaffected Chiefs, the Governor General's Agent in Rajpootana reports that His Highness's troops marched from Kishengurh with a considerable artillery; and, in short time, succeeded in gaining possession of their principal stronghold—Narana. There has

² *Carass* (Carrack) was a sort of commercial vessel.

been but little bloodshed, the Governor General's Agent adds, on either side, and no disturbances either within the Kishengurh frontier, or on the borders of the states during the operations against the place indicated. As the Raja anticipated, none of the other chiefs joined the rebels, and "contrary to what we have experienced in most other cases of this kind," continues the Governor General's Agent, "there was a disposition on the part of other states to assist the Sovereign and not the rebels".

Bhopal

19th November

The Poll. Agent in Bhopal states that the Raja of Bhopal had ordered a proclamation to be issued, notifying the appointment of Moulvees in his territories and ordering his subjects to send to them their children with a view to their being taught to read and write.

Darjeeling

18th December

On a representation made by the Superintendent at Darjeeling, the Right Hon'ble the Governor General has sanctioned the advance of 1000 Rupees to the new settlers at that place to enable them to support themselves till their houses are built and their crops sown.

Nipal

10th to 24th December inclusive

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Diary of the Nipal Residency :—

1. The new Minister has commenced at length to exercise his functions by making some material appointments.
2. The report of Col Oliver's³ Corps of observation fixing itself at Segowly is said to be salutary; 3 small parties of soldiers have been sent into the Terrai to watch and report its movement.
3. The Raja wishes to make the number of the new Ministers to consist of 7; the addition is utterly objected to but pressed by the Ranee.
4. The Court consists of 5 individuals.
5. The new Ministers wish to criminate the Kalla Pandey's; they waited on the Ranee to apprise her of the practical steps requisite to be taken.

³ Col Oliver, attached to the Army of Indus, was present at Kabul on November 2, 1841 when the Afghan insurrection started. He it was who broke the fateful news to General Elphinstone at 7 a.m. that day.

6. 50 new appointments are said to have been made.

7. The followers or train of the Premier are becoming extensive, indicating a great accession of practical strength.—

8. No symptoms of warlike preparations; nor is the defence of the Terai undertaken.

China

7th December

The Commander of HM's Sloop "Cruizer" intimates that should the exigencies of the case render it necessary, he will proceed direct to Chusan⁴ without touching at Macao. The above Vessel has on board Sir Hugh Gough, appointed to the command of the Eastern Expedition.

17th December

The Right Hon'ble the Governor General has sanctioned the grant to the Marine Board of a Treasury order for C. Rs. 2,30,710-4-8, to be applied in payments on account of transports taken up for the expedition to China.

The latest letters from Chusan dated Novr. 8th, report the continued sickness of the troops and many casualties, but they promise improvement—large detachments of invalids had been embarked for Manilla—Supplies on the Island had become more plentiful—A Truce, pending negotiations, had been proclaimed on both sides—Laborers were procured with readiness—The Harbour was covered with boats plying for hire, and there was a steadily advancing demand for British manufactures by small but eager native Traders—The demand had originally been for Yarns; their prices had been asked for and subsequently bales had been taken—The purchases were principally of cottons—the woollen cloths in the market were said to be too coarse—The payments had first been made in dollars, but latterly samples of tea and of raw silk had been exhibited. The Admiral with the three Line of Battle & other Ships had arrived in the 20p in the Canton River—and a few shots had been exchanged between one of our steamers, and posts of the Bocca Figris—but it is asserted that this collision arose from misconception and that it is not likely to lead to serious consequences.

Indus Steam Navigation

21st November

The Commander of the steam Flotilla on the Indus reports the arrival at Bukkur on the 15th Instant of the "Meteor" steam boat, from which

⁴ *Chusan* (Chushan), in Chekiang, east China. The largest island (230 sq. m.) of a small like-named archipelago, commanding Hangchow Bay and the mouth of the Yangtze, off the east coast.

place, she was despatched on the 1st to Tatta. The "Meteor" performed her downward voyage in $3\frac{1}{2}$ days and was $31\frac{1}{2}$ hours under steam. At Tatta she received on board 5 officers and 30 followers with their baggage and 3 lacks of treasure under the charge of a guard consisting of a Havildar and six Sepoys which increased her draught to 2 feet 2 inches forward, and 2 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches aft. Excluding stoppages, she made the upward voyage in $9\frac{1}{2}$ days, was 109 hours under steam and descended the river at the average rate of rather more than 3 miles per hour, having thus performed it in two days less time than her last trip.

Financial

1st December

Captain Bygrave's statement shews that on the 1st December cash balance in the military chest at Jelalabad amounted to Rs. 3,72,356-2 $\frac{3}{4}$, nearly four lakhs having been left at Cabul.

Miscellaneous

29th September

The Honorable the Secret Committee have despatched to this Presidency from England two Iron Steamers viz., "Phlegethon" and "Proserpine" for the service of the Government of India : the former Commanded by Richard Francis Cleaveland Esquire, and the latter by John James Hough Esquire, both of the Royal Navy.

The "Phlegethon" is of 157 feet 6 inches length, 26 feet beam, and 11 feet 3 inches depth—She is divided into eight water-tight compartments of different dimensions, and has two sliding Keels which descend 7 feet below the bottom. She has fixed engines of 90 Horse collective power, and two boilers which may be worked separately.

The "Proserpine" is of 145 feet length, 26 feet beam, 9 feet 3 inches depth. She is divided into seven water-tight compartments of different dimensions, and has two sliding Keels which descend 5 feet below the bottom. She has fixed engines of 90 horse collective power, and two boilers which may be worked separately.

H V Bayley
Asst. Secretary to the
Govt. of India

Fort William,

The 1st January 1841

Newsletter 31 : January 10, 1841
(No 2 of 1841)
North West Frontier

3rd to 9th December

The Punjab Ukhbars of dates noted contain the following items of intelligence :—

1st. The Council ordered the Akal Regiment to march to Futteghur without delay to protect that Fort against the Koonwur Sher Sing who has left for Battala, and who the Rajah Dhian Sing was apprehensive, would probably raise disturbances in the way.

2nd. The Chiefs of the Council asked General Court to be one of their number.

3d. General Ventura reported that he had despatched the family of Rajah Dulbur Sein of Mondee¹ to Beel under safeguards from Kumlaghur.

4th. Several Chiefs concerted between themselves, that no order issued by Rajah Dhian Singh, without Mae Chuud Koonwur's knowledge, should be obeyed: each of them took an Oath to this effect and deputed Teiz Chund to the Mae to represent that she was the mistress of the State, and that she should issue whatever orders she might please through him, or Sirdar Ajeet Sing.

5th. The Mae, at Bhyram Sing's suggestion assembled all the Military Officers and desired them to give a written engagement to let no Sepoy of theirs go anywhere without her orders. They signed an engagement of the kind accordingly.

6th. The Mae sent for Rajah Dhian Sing and prohibited him from putting his signature upon the state documents in future.

7th. Great enmity is said to prevail between Rajah Dhian Sing and Tej Sing.

8th. A system according to the English practice was directed to be introduced for preserving the peace at liquor shops.

9th. The Military officers asserted that they were servants of the Khalseh Government, but obedient to Rajah Dhian Sing's orders, and none of them attends the Durbar in consequence.

¹ *Mondee* (Mandi), now in Himachal Pradesh; then one of the native hill states of the Punjab.

Peshawur

21st November

The road through the Khyber Pass is now said to be perfectly secure against all plundering through the exertions of Captain Mackeson.

6th December

Lieut Nicolson, in charge of Dost Mahomed Khan, intimates the safe arrival of the Ex-ruler at Camp, 2 miles East of Peshawur, where, agreeably to the instructions of the Envoy and Minister at the Court of Cabool, he had halted, till joined by the family of the Ex-Chief.

17th December

The latter joined Lt Nicolson's camp at Peshawur on the 17th Decr. last.

Afghanistan

17th December

The Agent to the Governor General on the North-West Frontier reports his having received a communication from Lieutenant Cunningham, reporting that Colonel Shelton's Brigade crossed the Indus on the date indicated in the margin and were encamped on the right bank of that river.

Jellalabad

13th December

The Major General Commanding the troops in Afghanistan states that His Majesty Shah Soojah with the Envoy and Minister reached Jellalabad from Cabool on the morning of the 13th Dec. last, accompanied by Captain Craigie's Regt. of Infy. HM's Body Guard and some Irregular Cavalry.

Candahar

19th November

Major General Nott, Commanding in Candahar and Shawl, reported his arrival at Koochlack on the 19th November last with the 3d. Regiment and heavy guns *en route* to Candahar.

Khiva, Lieut Wyburd

10th September

From an extract from a despatch addressed to Lord Viscount Palmerston by HM's charge d'affaires at Erzeroom, it appears that the person who was known to have been murdered by a Yamoot Turcoman Chief, whose dress, hair &c. were minutely described and who had found his way to the Camp of the Turcoman Chief from Astrabad,² could be no other than

² *Astrabad*, in Persia, capital of the province of the same name, 25 miles from the Caspian coast.

Lieutenant Wyburd of the Indian Navy, who in the summer of 1835, left Tehran (when Sir John Campbell was Envoy in Persia) with the view of penetrating to Khiva, and of whom no information has been received since he left Astrabad.

Khiva—Russia

13th September

Lieutenant R Shakespear, in charge of the liberated Russian subjects from Khiva, in a letter to the address of the Envoy to Herat, reports his arrival at the Russian Fortress of Dush Killah, situated on the Eastern Shore of the Caspian on the 11th September last. The Russian slaves with him were as follows :

Men	..	384
Women	..	18
Children]	..	13
		<hr/>
Total	..	415
		<hr/>

The Officer Commanding the Fortress gave Lieutenant Shakespear two receipts for his liberated Countrymen, one of which he forwarded to the Khan of Khiva and the other he retained in his possession for the satisfaction of the officers of the Russian Government. The Russian captives had been sent back by the Khan Huzrut well-clothed and in health. His Highness's generosity enabled Lt Shakespear to give to each man, one ducat³, to provide one Camel for every two of the Russians, and, from his own stores, HH disbursed to each (man, woman, and child) one Batman (a Khivan measure) of flour which was sufficient for their consumption until their arrival at Dush Kullah. Lieut Shakespear states that, with one exception, the whole of the Russian subjects arrived at Dush Killah in safety notwithstanding the numerous, long and difficult stages between Khiva and the Fortress. He also states that the Russian Officers appeared very grateful for the restoration of their countrymen. The Khan Huzrut, in making over to him all the Russian prisoners, stated to Lieut Shakespear that whenever a Russian subject would inform him of a captive still being detained, Lt Shakespear had only to mention the circumstances, and the man would be liberated. HH's words were "if one or two have been overlooked, and still remain, a Russian Ambassador at my Court will certainly hear of them and they also shall be released."—With the Prisoners, the Khan Huzrut had been pleased to grant Lieut Shakespear an order to all his subjects forbidding under the penalty of death, any molestation to the persons and property of Russian subjects. On Lieut Shakespear's arrival at the fort

³ *Ducat*, a gold or silver coin of varying value, formerly in use in most European countries. The gold ducat was worth about 9s. 4d. silver (of Italy) about 3s. 6d.

of Dush Killah, he learnt that 9 of the subjects of Khiva were in confinement in it, and on his requesting the Governor to release the captives he replied that seven of them had been long in imprisonment; that their crimes had been forwarded to the Officer Commanding at Orenbourg⁴: that, therefore, he could not release them until an order arrived from Orenbourg; but sent to him the remaining two whom Lt Shakespear forwarded to the Khivan Ambassador to hear an order from the Khan Huzrut read, forbidding molestation to the Russians or other property and set them at liberty. The fortifications at Dush Killah, Lt Shakespear states, are constructed with considerable skill and, though not expensive or extensive they are sufficiently strong for the purpose for which they were erected. He adds that there is a slight outwork erecting to protect the people when employed in loading and unloading ships, but sees no reason to suspect any considerable addition to the fortifications nor has he heard any thing which could lead to the belief that a force was expected at Dush Killah or about to move from Orenbourg.

Merve

14th November

The Envoy to Herat writes that he had received intelligence of the safe arrival of Capt'n A Conolly at Merve *en route* to Khiva.

Bokhara—Kokan

24th October

A communication of date marginally noted states that the King of Bokhara had made a treaty with the Khan of Kokan and disbanded his troops. The same communication adds that Coll. Stoddart had been at length partially set at liberty.

Khorasan

10th October

From a private letter to the address of the Poll. Agent, Turkish Arabia, it appears that the roads in Khorasan are full of danger from the quarrels of the Khans of the territory, who, it is said, put the Turkomans in motion to plunder travellers.

Meshed—Herat—Ghorian

10th October

A private communication from Meshed reports that Shah Kamran of Herat had written to the Asef Govr. of Meshed, that with reference to the

⁴ *Orenbourg*, a city, administrative centre of the Orenbourg oblast of Russia, on the Ural River, founded as a fort in 1735.

affairs of Ghorian, he (Shah Kamran) was in doubt, whether he would join the English or submit to the Asef, and that the letter proposed starting to Ghorian with the Minister of foreign affairs, and reinforcements to see what was requisite to be done.

Persia—Hamedan⁵—Bagdad

10th October

Her M's Charge d'Affaire at Erzeroom mentions that HM the Shah of Persia was still encamped on the 9th August last with a considerable number of troops at Hamadan. Baron Bode, First Secy, to the Russian Mission, proceeded past from Ispahan to Hamadan in the early part of July last. Subsequently to his arrival in Camp, two regiments had been dismissed to their homes, and a considerable number of mules engaged for the transport of stores and ammunition, discharged. A belief prevailed among the people that HM the Shah, who was suffering much from gout and general ill-health, was shortly to return to Tehran, with an intention of remaining some weeks on his way at Cazmeen⁶ for the sake of the mineral waters at that place. His Excellency Sarun Effondi, the Turkish Ambassador, remained in Tehran, where Khudadad Khan, formerly Ambassador at Constantinople, had been sent to confer with him respecting the settlement of the frontier questions. An Agent from the Wullee of Bagdad who had arrived in the Shah's Camp, had also proceeded to Tehran. Ali Effendi, Turkish Agent at Tabreez, having been sent for by his Ambassador, quitted it for the same destination.

The Mikree district (a Koondish district of Azerbijan), continues the charge d'affaires, was in a perfectly lawless state. No governor had been appointed, nor arrangements made for tranquillizing it.

Scinde Upper

28th November

The Quarter Master General of the army of Bombay reports the departure on the 18th November last of the 20th Regt. Native Infantry from Bhooj on field service to Upper Scinde as follows :

- 1 Lieutt Colonel; 2 Captains;
- 9 Subalterns; 1 Asst. Surgeon;
- 16 Native Officers; 49 Haveldars;
- 860 Rank & File; 18 Drummers;
- and 16 boys.

⁵ *Hamedan* (Hamadan), a Persian town in the province of Irak-i-Ajam, 180 miles south-west of Tehran.

⁶ *Cazmeen* (Kazmeen), a town 3 miles north of Baghdad, on the west bank of the Tigris. It was inhabited, at the beginning of the 19th century, by about 8000 Persians, who had been induced to settle there owing to its being the burial place of Imam Mussa Kasim (the father of Imam Raza), and became a place of pilgrimage for Shi'a Muslims.

8th December

The Qr. Mr. Genl. of the Army of Bombay intimates the arrival at Balliaree in Scinde on the 27 Novr. last, *en route* to Sakkur, of the 4th troop of Horse artillery under the command of Captain Leeson.

9th December

Captain Brown, who after the retreat of Major Clibborne, continued to hold the fort of Kohan with his detachment, opened a communication with the Chief of the Murees' to the effect that, provided he (the Chief) would pledge his word that the British troops would receive no hindrance from his people of their return to the plains, he would give up the fort into the hands of the Murrees, observing, at the same time, that unless such a pledge was given he intended to occupy the fort for two months longer, adding that he had sufficient Provisions for that period. The Chief & his followers agreed to these terms and, as an evidence of their sincerity, took a solemn oath on the Koran that they would not annoy the British & would, moreover, be answerable for the conduct of the Murees. Upon this assurance Capt Brown left the fort of Kahun, and the Murees, besides fulfilling the terms of the treaty provided him with guides to facilitate the March of his detachment.

13th December

At the recommendation of the Poll. Agent, Upper Scinde, the Right Hon'ble the Govr. Genl. has been pleased to sanction to Shah Bhag Boojtee a pecuniary reward for the important services rendered by him to Government in having volunteered at a considerable personal loss to show our troops the road to Kahun, & from thence the short cut to Phollajee over the hills, in supplying Captain Brown when shut up in the Fort of Kahun with sheep and other supplies at a time when the troops were much pushed for provisions, &, particularly, in affording every facility for opening a communication with the Murees before Captain Brown made the arrangements for the return of his detachment to the plains.

13th to 19th December

The following precis of intelligence is extracted from the Scinde Diary of dates included in the Margin :—

1. The Brahoes are said to have collected in great force at Full, variously stated to be from 5,000 to 9,000 fighting men, but hesitate to make any movement before hearing from Nusseer Khan. The latter is at a village named Sohar near Zehree & Kumal Khan along with Raheem Khan & severel other leaders are endeavouring to assemble a force. Our troops
7. *Marees* or *Murree*, a people occupying part of Baluchistan. The town of Kahan in Kach Gandava belonged to the Doda Maree, a branch of the widely dispersed Marce. They were said to be a brave race known for producing daring desperadoes.

are between the two camps, and the Major General Commanding has intercepted the enemy's letters from each other so that they are in ignorance of each other's force and intentions.

2. Futteh Mahomed Ghoree, the Minister of Meer Roostum Khan, is said to be opposed to the alliance of his Master with our Govt.

3. The Major Genl. ordered 50 Camels to be stationed at Janadeera for the service of the detachment at that port, to enable it to move on the shortest notice.

Kelat—Moostang—Quetta—Dadur

19th March

Major Genl. Nott *en route* to Candahar states his having left the 42d Regt. and fifty Cavalry men in garrison at Kelat & HM 2d. Regt. of infy. & 50 Cavalrymen at Moostang. The Major Genl. also states that there were available, for Captain Bean at Quetta, HM 1st Regt. of infantry, a complete Troops of Horse Artillery and a party of Cavalry, and that there were 3 Regts. close at hand at Dadur. He concludes by observing that, up to the date quoted, the whole country appeared to be quiet.

Scinde Lower

3rd December

The Poll Agent, Lower Scinde, reports that on Meer Nusseer Khan receiving a Persian letter from Abdullah Luteef, one of the adherents of Meer Nusseer Khan, the rebel conveying sentiments prejudicial to British interests, HH stated that the letter was quite uncalled for and not acceptable to the Scinde Government.

Soomeeanee⁸

2d. November

The British Agent at Soomeeanee states that affairs at that place have re-assumed a tranquil appearance, and that the people seem to be inspired with the conviction which is everywhere gaining ground that the principal object of the British Govt. in stationing an agent of Soomeeanee is the extension of commerce, and the protection of those engaged in carrying it on.

8 *Soomeeanee* (Soomæanee), a small town in Baluchistan, on the shores of the Arabian sea and inhabited mostly by fishermen. In 1808 the place was plundered and burnt by Arab pirates. Even otherwise, the predatory Baluchis after interrupting its communications with the interior for which reason, it could not develop into a good trading centre.

Kaluk*24th December*

The Gov. Genl.'s Agent in Rajpootana reports intelligence relating to the attack on the fort of Kaluk by the Jyepore Raj troops. This fort had been taken possession of by Kishen Sing, a Rajpoot of Jyepore, in collusion with the Killadar of that place. The Raj troops employed to regain the fortress, were, it is said, in the thickest of the fight, and performed their duty with eclat. The siege train designed to be used against Kaluk would have reached it on the 28 Decr. last but accounts have been received of the surrender of the fortress to the Jyepore troops under Major Forster; the detachment of British artillery will return to Nisseerabad. The Gov. Genl.'s Agent further states that Kishen Sing had gathered together about 300 of the loose and predatory horsemen who are generally to be found in Rajpootana ready to engage in any enterprize under promise of pay or plunder. These took up a position at Kundel about 12 miles from Kaluk towards the Marwar frontier. But notice having been given that those who joined the standard of the rebels would have their lands confiscated, most of them returned to their homes, on the 19th Decr. not more than 100 or 150 of these men were to be heard of, and even they had not committed any outrages.

Burmah**(Tenasserim Provinces)***7th December*

The following is the return of the Force serving on the Coast of Tenasserim for the month of December, 1840:—

Moulmein	Officers	Non-Comd. Officers	Gun Lascars	Pension Boys	Rank & File
Detachment HM 63d. Regt.	31	41	..	..	756
31st Regiment NI	11	87	..	8	840
Detachment 33d. NI	9	63	..	1	663
Do. 4th NI	16	76	..	4	513
Do. Artillery	3	13	26	..	83
Do Sappers & Miners	..	1	..	..	14
Tavoy					
Detachment HM 63d. Regt.	1	2	L	..	28
Do. 33d. NI	3	16	..	..	172
Detail Artillery	1	1	4	..	15
Mergue					
Detachment HM 63d. Regt.	1	1	..	..	28
Do. 33d. NI	2	10	..	..	88
Amherst					
Detachment 40th NI	1	8	..	..	72
Total	79	327	30	13	3,251

Ordnance & Commt. Dept.

Warrant & non-Commnd. Officers	..	12
Artificers, Lascars, Workmen &c.	..	1,492
Apothecaries & Medical Apprentices	..	18
Durroga & Bullock Drivers	..	132
Natives attached	...	185
Commanding and Staff Officers	..	10

China*19th October*

The Agent for Transports in the Eastern Expedn. reports that on his sailing from Chusan at the instance of Commodore Sir I I G Bremer in the "Indian Oak" for Singapore to assume the duties of Resident Agent for Transports at that port, he was wrecked on the Great Loochoo Island and was, together with his crew, treated with great kindness & hospitality by the Islanders from the moment of their landing to the date of their departure. The Agent further states that the Islanders not only built for him & people a vessel of 150 to 180 tons, but gave him a plentiful supply of provision during his stay of 46 days on the Island, & one month's provision for every person with him, they also furnished HM's ships with water & fresh supplies during their stay there, declining to receive any thing in the shape of payment, in return, but only wished that in the event of any of their own vessels falling on the coast of any of our settlements in distress, we would treat their people with the same kindness and send them back to their country. The only return they accepted was a telescope from the Agent and one presented by Captn Barlow with 12 copies of the Saturday and Penny Magazines, a small print, and a looking Glass in the name of Her Britannic Majesty.

74 Malville	The Steamer "Queen" with a flag of truce flying having been fired upon at the Bocca Tegus on the 21st Nov., it has of course become necessary that such a circumstance should be explained before further negotiations could commence. The force, therefore, named in the margin, was actually out and moving towards Churupée on the date noted with a view to such proceedings as circumstances might render necessary in that and in other respects.
74 Wellesly	
74 Blenheim	
44 David Callipoe	
18 Sarne	
18 Hyacinth	
28 Modeste	
18 Columbine	
(Steamers)	
1/48/Nemesis	
2/68 Queen	
2/48 Enterprize	
2 Transports	
with 400 Native	
Troops MNI	

His Excellency the Rear Admiral has resigned, in consequence of ill health, the command of the Naval forces in China, to Sir I Gordon Bremer, and is shortly to return to Europe in HM's ship "Volage". Sir Gordon Bremer succeeds him in the Naval Command.

Indus Steam Navigation

26th October

The Commr. of the Steam Flotilla of the Indus reports the arrival of the 'Comet' Steam boat at Bukkur on the 30 Sept., last. The 'Comet' left Soodanah with treasure to the amount of 3 Lacks of Rupees on the 8 Aug. and arrived at Ferozepore on the 13th the voyage of only a distance of 90 miles, having in this torturous and shallow river occupied 3 days at Ferozepur, she was detained until the Political Agent in Upper Scinde on which date she left that place for Bukkur with 4 lacks of treasure and an escort of 10 Officers and 39 men of the 38 BI, drawing 3.1 in forward, and 3 ft. 2 ins. aft. She arrived at Bhawulpore on the 21st where she was detained 4 days having performed the whole voyage in 21 days excluding stoppages, at the average rate of nearly 24 miles per day. In the course of her upward voyage from Bukkur and in her subsequent ones to Soodanah and Roopur, the 'Comet's' speed gradually increased to 7 Knots and on her way down was found to be 5 knots, with only one engine at work.

22nd. October

Capt Carless⁹ also reports the arrival of the "Meteor" Steam boat at Bukkur from Tatta on the 17 Inst. with 4 officers, 35 Golundage, 20 followers and treasure to the amount of 1½ lacs of Rs. The Meteor was despatched from Bukkur at the request of the Asstt. Poll. Agent in Upper Scinde, on the 8 ulto. and reached Hyderabad on the afternoon of the 9th where she remained at the disposal of the Poll. Agent in Lower Scinde. On the 2d. Inst. she was sent down to Tatta, which place she reached the same evening, having been 28 hours under steam during the whole voyage; and ran down with the engines working generally at full power at the average rate of nearly 12 miles p. hour. On the 6th, Meteor left Tatta with a detachment of Gobindaze, 4 officers proceeding to join these Regiments and 3½ lacs of treasure drawing 2 ft. 8½" aft. and 2-2 forward. At Hyderabad 2 lacs were removed but as a large quantity of baggage was sent on board, her draught remained the same. She performed the upward voyage to this place in 11½ days, during which time she was 123½ hours under steam and advanced at the average rate of nearly 2½ miles p. hour. The Meteor has made her last voyage in less time (2½ days) than any of her former ones.

Fort William,
10th January 1841

H V Bayley
Asstt. Secy. to Govt. of India.

⁹ Capt Carless, an engineer who acted as superintendent of boats on the Sutlej and the Indus during the march of the Army of Indus. In May 1841, he fell ill and was permitted to reside at Karachi.

Newsletter 32 : January 22, 1841

(No. 3 of 1841)

North West Frontier

20th to 25th December

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Lahore Ukhar of dates included in the margin :—

(1) Two Chiefs were ordered to prepare swords, shields & ca., as presents to the Queen of England which are to be transmitted to Calcutta with the concurrence of Mr Clerk.

(2) Opium to the amount of 8 or 9 lacks belonging to Merchants of the Punjab is said to have been destroyed, some considerable time ago, outside of one of the gates of Yarkund, a dependency of China, by order of the Chinese Emperor*; and

(3) The Chiefs were ordered not to issue Purwanahs without the Mace's signature.

(4) Busunder Mull, Kardar of Hooshiarpore, reported the apprehension of 11 "Kuzzaks" who had given much trouble to travellers on that road.

(5) In an action between the Sikh troops and those of Kuppoo Vazier of Koolloo, the latter were routed and the district fell into the hands of the Khalseh.

(6) The Mace told certain of the Chiefs that Rajah Dhian Sing had authority to do every-thing and that they must all obey him. They replied they would attend the Durbar, but would have nothing to do with the administration. The Mace observed that no one was so vigilant and mindful of the public interests as Raja Dhian Sing. The Raja desired permission to go to his native country for two months. The Mace insisted on his remaining and performing all the duties of the State, but the Raja declared, saying that the chiefs no longer stood in fear of any one. Another statement however is that all the Chiefs have entered into an engagement to serve the state with loyalty, zeal and cordiality according to the orders of the Council.

*Raja Golab Sing is reported to be desirous to make use of this ground of grievance with a view to obtain permission from the Durbar to effect the conquest of Yarkund, an object, which his agent, Vujeer Jorawar Sing, represents to him as of easy accomplishment.

26 to 30th December

The following items are extracted from the Lahore Ukhbar of dates noted in the margin :—

1st. a general order was issued by the Mace to all the Khalsa servants directing them to call her Maha Ranee Sahibab.

2d. Fakeer Shahdeen¹ reported the preparation of a British Kafila for Cabool in the month of January and requested the appointment of a Sirdar to accompany it to Peshawaur as required by Mr Clerk.

3d. It was observed that General Avitabile was dissatisfied with his situation in Peshawur, but that no other officer, so well qualified, could be found to replace him.

20th January

The GG's Agent on the NWF with reference to the State of Parties at Lahore writes:—(1) That the struggle at present between the adherents of the Mace and Raja Dhian Sing was for the command of the army. Teij Sing, the nephew of Jamadar Khooshal Sing, aspired to the command and he had the support of most of the partizans of the Mace. (2) Reverses in Kulloo had led to the recall of the order for General Ventura's return to Lahore, and Sirdar Lehna Sing Sundhunwalla had, moreover, been despatched to that quarter with reinforcements.

9th January

The Governor General's Agent on the NW Frontier states that Lieut Nicolson, incharge of Dost Mahomed Khan, had crossed the Attock in² the ex-chief on the 28th December last.

9th January

The GG's Agent in the NWF in a letter of date noted in the margin, states regarding affairs at Lahore as follows:—(1) Genl Ventura had arrived at Lahore, but nothing was yet known of the effect which his arrival was calculated to produce on the factions in the Durbar. (2) The chiefs of the council are said to be resuming much of the authority which they had vested in Chund Koonwur. They did not appear to act in the unity of views and purpose. (3) Chund Koonwur is reported to be very unwell. (4) The state of things now existing at the Court is such as to render it almost impossible for any of the principal foreign officers there present, to avoid being or incurring the suspicion of being prominent political characters. The most retiring and cautious among them, General Court, is regarded as

1 *Fakeer Shahdeen*, son of Faqir Azizuddin, assistant vakil or agent of the Lahore Darbar at Ludhiana and Ferozepur.

2 *in* should read 'with' or 'in the company of'.

including to the cause of Koonwur Shere Sing. (5) Insecurity to trade and to travellers is said to be increasing in the Punjab.

Hill Intelligence

19th December

It is stated in the paper of Hill Intelligence that in the Nuddonn and Munde districts some people of the lower classes, taking advantage of the late commotion in that quarter were wandering about in bands and murdering people, who travelled through the tract.

Peshawur

2nd January

Capt P Nicolson in a letter to the address of the GG's Agent in the NWF of a late date speaks in high terms of the civility shown him by General Avitabile. The GG's Agent in the NWF states his having heard from Lieut Cunningham that the troops under Colonel Wheeler with Dost Mahomed Khan had left Peshawur for the provinces on the 25th December last.

Afghanistan

21st December

The Govr. General's Agent at Peshawur reports that the troops under Brigadier Shelton reached that place on the 21st December last where the Brigadier proposed halting a day or two.

2nd. January

Major Swayne, Comdg. the Convoy which left Ferozepore on the 8 Novr. last, writes to the GG's Agent on the NW under date, the 18 Ultimo, from Nowsherah near the Chenab, that all went well with the convoy. The Lahore Durbar has appointed a chief to take charge of the Second British Convoy which, it is said, will depart for Ferozepore from Afghanistan about the middle of January.

Jellalabad—Col Selton's Brigade

2nd January

The Govr. Genl.'s Agent in the NWF states from information received to that effect that Col Shelton's Brigade was to march for Jellalabad on the 26th Decr. last; it appears that the Brigade had reached Kheirabad in safety.

Herat

21st September

Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Erzeroom mentions his having

received intelligence from a source on which he places much credence, of the unceasing intrigues of Kamran Shah & Yar Mahomed Khan, who had renewed their solicitations to the King & Ministers of Persia for the advance of Persian troops to Herat.

30th November

The Envoy to Herat mentions that Vuzeer Yar Mahomed Khan on hearing of our successes against Dost Mahomed appeared to be anxious to exhibit a more friendly feeling towards the British Govt. and that he had done every thing in his power to prove at least his present sincerity of purpose. With the view of facilitating a satisfactory understanding with Yar Mahomed on the nature of our future relations with the Govt. of Herat, Major Rawlinson was considering the expediency of detaching a Regiment to the vicinity of the Helmund.

Herat—Candahar

1st December

The Political Agent in Candahar states that during the month of November last several parties arrived at Candahar from Seistan consisting of members of, or deputations from, almost every family of consequence in that province. They stated that they suffered much barbarities from the Govt. of Yar Mahomed Khan, that under no circumstances would they willingly acknowledge allegiance to it.

They were first, they said, led to look to the British for protection against their arch enemy by the visit of Captain E Conolly at Seistan; and having since had opportunities of comparing the peace and security enjoyed by the Afghan subjects of Shah Soojah through the mild interposition of British influence with the cruelties and oppression of Yar Mahomed's Government, they had come to Candahar in the hope of obtaining of those blessings for their own country, either immediately by the open and avowed annexation of Seistan to the territories of His Majesty Shah Soojah or indirectly; and in prospect by the entertainment of the young Chiefs in His Majesty's service at Candahar, and by the issue of letters to the heads of their families in Seistan assuring them of our protection against the tyranny of Yar Mahomed and of our willingness to accept of their aid in restoring Herat to the Crown of Cabool. The Right Hon'ble the Governor General, in reply to these representations, remarked that although it was not the policy of the British Govt. to entertain such propositions as those of which the Agents from Seistan were the bearers, yet His Lordship was most anxious to preserve, with the Chiefs of that province, the most friendly relations, consistent with those which still existed between the British Govt. and the ruler of Herat. His Lordship further stated that he would regret exceedingly to hear of those Chieftains connecting themselves in any close alliance with the Government of Persia.

Sinde—Upper*19th to 25th December*

The following items are extracted from the precis of Sinde intelligence of dates noted:—

1. With a view to relieve as many as possible of the troops in Shawl at an early date, the Poll. Agent in Upper Scinde requested Major General Brooks to issue orders for the march of the 38th Regt. Bengal NI from Dadur to Quetta. The place of the former Regt. was to be supplied by the 2d. Bombay Gr. Regt. proceeding in charge of a convoy to Dadur. It was expected that the 38th would march from Dadur on or about the 30th.

2. From the reports of the various Kardars in Cutchee, it appears that the proclamation which the Poll. Agent issued sometime ago encouraging the peaceable Brahooees to descend into the plains of Cutchee with their flocks, has induced many to do so.

3. Information from the Camp of Bebee Gunjam now at Futtee states that several of the Sirdars had expressed a wish to come to terms. Bebee Gunjam herself, however, was still endeavouring to persuade the Murree tribe to make common cause with the party of Nusseer Khan, but the latter is determined to keep separate from the insurgents, & appears moreover anxious to come in and stipulate for terms. In this, however, he is restrained by Gool Mahomed who is said to be exerting all his influence to induce the Jhalawar Sirdars to re-assemble their followers with a view of making a last effort to obtain possession of Cutchee.

4. It is reported from Hajee Kasheir a good deal of plundering was going on in that Direction, & that a body stated to consist of 2,000 Petans had descended from the side of Sooistan & taken up their quarters at a place within the hills skirting the Kujjuck country from which they made incursions into the plains.

Sinde—Lower

The Poll. Agent in Lower Sinde states that the intercourse between Meer Nusseer Khan & Meer Mahomed Khan since the death of Meer Noor Mahomed Khan has greatly increased & that they are both of one mind regarding the division of the late Ameer's property and lands between Meer Shadad Khan & Hossein Alli. The territory of the deceased, adds the Poll. Agent, has not been divided between the legatees.

Turkish Arabia*23rd November*

The Poll. Agent in Turkish Arabia reports that the Chief of the Mamasennies, a hill tribe between Bushire & Shiraz, & notorious for its robberies

& lawless habits, pays no attention to any orders from Shirz, & that altogether there was every prospect of the provinces soon being in a disturbed state, & all authority being as little regarded as previous to the late tour of the King of Persia notwithstanding the beneficial effects, it was at the time believed, to have produced.

Aden—Yemen—Lattedge

28th November

The Poll. Agent at Aden writes that up to the date noted, the Country had been remarkably tranquil & the market abundantly supplied from the interior. "But " he adds, "I fear we shall soon have to lament a charge, a new enemy having presented himself in the person of Sheik Tukel Sayd, under the title of Maadee el Moutethec & Sultan". So entirely is this man said to command the superstitious devotion of the Bedowins to himself that nearly all the Chieftains have most unhesitatingly yielded allegiance to his claims. The principal inducements he holds out to them are:—1st. the abolition of taxation altogether, & 2d. the rekindling the religious enthusiasm of the Mahometans, by which latter he promises to recover Yemen from the hands of infidels or Christians. By way of amusing his followers, he has permitted them to plunder, & destroy several hill forts, declaring that no duty or tax of any sort shall be levied in Yemen.

4th December

In a subsequent Commn. of date marginally noted, the Poll. Agent at Aden intimates that Imam Mahomed Ebn el Meatawokkal, better known as the "Saief el Kulafa" of Sana had collected a force of nearly 20,000 men & had reached Yemen, & that Sheik Fukee Sayd, the individual named in his first letter had collected 12,000 men ostensibly for the purpose of assisting the Lahedge Chief to remove the British from Aden. On the 1st Decr. last, the Sultan of Lahedge despatched 10 Chieftains of his tribe to meet the troops of Fakee Sayd & escort them to Lahedge. With reference to these hostile intentions of the Arabs, the authorities had adopted every means in their power for strengthening the assailable points of the Turkish Wall at Aden.

Karrack

23rd November

The Poll. Agent in Turkish Arabia reports that sickness again prevailed to a considerable extent up to the date noted, among the field force at Karrack & that no less than 28 of the Europeans & 70 of the natives were in hospital. The prevailing disease was fever, but not generally of a very severe nature, one casualty had happened among the Europeans & others were likely to occur. In other respects of the Poll. Agent adds, that "affairs on the island were in a satisfactory state."

Bagdad—Bussorah—Nejd

The Resident in the Persian Gulf reports that he had desired the Commodore of the Indian Navy to receive on board the Schooner Royal Tiger a convoy to Karrack & probably ultimately to Bombay, the Lieut of the Pascha of Bagdad with his suite, bound for Arabia.

17 th November

The Poll. Agent in Turkish Arabia reports that the Gomrookhee Agha had left Bagdad for Bussora to open commns., with the Shaik of Nejd through the Montifick Sheikhs.

Muscat—Rusulkhyma—Shargah³

17 th October

The Resident in the Persian Gulf reports that to the westward of the territories of the Imaum of Muscat, on the Arabian Coast, in the interior of Rusulkhyma, Shargah and Aboothabee, affairs by latest accounts, still continued in a very disturbed state. The roads were said to be unsafe, and a general feeling of insecurity prevailed from the constant incursions of the different tribes upon each other and the unsparing manner in which all persons falling in their way were killed & their property plundered.

Bahrein

17th October

The Resident in the Persian Gulf states that on the date noted in the margin, affairs on the Island of Bahrein continued in a tranquil state.

Bushire

23rd November

It is reported from Bushire that two tribes in the vicinity called the Tangoostan & Dushtee tribes between which a feud had long existed, were committing aggressions on each other and that a battle had been fought in which a considerable loss was sustained by both parties.

Persia

9th November

The latest intelligence from Persia mentions that Agha Khan Mahalattee who had rebelled in Kerman against the Shah in favor of Abe Shah I, whom Sooleman Mirza had just gone to join as representative of that party, had been seized at Bam in that province & sent a prisoner to the Shah.

3 *Shargah* (Sharja), a seaport in eastern Arabia and chief town of Trucial Oman, located on the Persian Gulf; used for a time as a halting station on the air route to India.

23rd November

The Poll. Agent in Turkish Arabia reports the intention of the king of Persia of coming to Ispahan & making it the Capital of his Kingdom, had undergone a change that the near approach of the cold season and empty state of the Treasury were likely to prevent him from going to Khorasan and to detain him at Tehran during the winter; that one of his brothers named Firhad Mirza had been nominated to the Govt. of the province of Fars, & was expected to reach Shiraz about the 24th Novr. last; that the province of Kerman continued in a very disturbed state, on account of the depredations of Agha Khan, but that he had lately met with a check which had compelled him to raise the siege of Babeek and to retreat in the direction of his former stronghold, the Fort called Bom of which, it would appear, he had not yet been able to take possession.

Tehran*17th November*

The eldest son of Ali Shah lately confined at Tehran is reported to have joined his father, having succeeded in flying from the capital.

Shiraz*17th October*

From a communication from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, it appears that the energetic Governor of Shiraz styled, the Sahib-i-Ikhtiar, had recently died and that the province was partly from this occurrence again in a disturbed state.

Kerman—Persia*21st September*

From a despatch from Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in Erzeerom it appears that Kerman was in a state of insurrection and Agha Khan Mehlatee had again rebelled and placed himself at the head of the Kermancees.

Johana—Madagascar*4th January*

The Government of Bombay report that affairs at Johana are still in a disturbed state owing to differences existing between the King of Johana and Prince Ramantika of Madagascar. The former states that an engagement took place between his subjects and the troops of the Prince in which the Johanees suffered considerably. The King of Johana attributes this calamity to his having renounced the slave trade and states that those of his subjects taken prisoners by the opposite party have been sold to the Arabs. As the King of Johana has solicited the aid of the British against Prince "Ramantika" the Government of Bombay have, with the concurrence of the

Right Hon'ble the Gov. Genl. forwarded him a small quantity of warlike stores and have suggested to the Governor of the Mauritius as also to the Senior Naval Officer on the Cape Station, the adoption of such measures as may appear to them expedient for the settlement of the disputes in question.

Hyderabad

26th December

The Resident at Hyderabad reports having received a communication from the superintending Surgeon of the Nizam's army requesting that authority may be given for assembling a medical committee for the examination of the pupils of the medical school there.

Kundell

7th December

The Governor General's Agent in Rajpootana reports that a considerable body of sowars, chiefly, it is said, from Marwar, had committed several acts of plunder, and that he had, in consequence, written to Major Forster, Commanding the Raj troops at Kuluk, to send a detachment with the view of punishing the Marauders.

Oudh

20th December

The Resident in Lucknow mentions that the Zemindars of Ruth Hawellei had made an incursion into the company's Provinces, and had driven away the cattle of the inhabitants and committed other depredations. The Resident also states that the inhabitants of Ramnugur and Dhamcre complained of daily decoities and thefts in those provinces.

Nepaul

26th Dec. '40 to 10th January '41

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Diary of the Nepal Residency of dates included on the margin: —

1. The Raja was reported to be anxious and fretful, fearing the Br. troops might advance and assume the Terrace which was then totally bare of the means of defence.

2. The Ranees was said to be bent on evasion and determined to resist effectual change.

3. The new Minister was cautious from his position between the Raja and Ranees.

4. Another placard had been put up in the city, appealing to the , and saying that the Raja was a dolt, the Ranees but a woman &

the Heir Apparent a child; and that the soldiery were the only hope and stay of the Raj.

5. Raja had guaranteed to the Ranee from all evil consequences if the new Ministry were allowed to take the practical steps demanded by them to be taken at once.

6. Raja & Ranee affected acquiescence and satisfaction.

7. The incessant journeys of the Ranee have given rise to violent complaints even among her own allies and dependents for the harassing and misery which have been caused by them. The latest reports from Mr Hodgson represent the position of the new & friendly Ministry as improved, and that at least an important advantage has been gained by his recent endeavours of obtaining a written engagement from a great number of the Principal Chiefs of the State, binding them to the open support of the British Alliance.

Burmah

28th December

Intelligence from Rangoon mentions that great activity had been shewn in clearing away the Jungle to afford space for the Palace building for the King's reception on his arrival; that troops were to accompany H Majesty on his visit to Rangoon to amount, it is said, to a hundred thousand men, and that a Wooduck, Mounq Nyo, had been ordered down to superintend operations previous to the King's visit. It is further reported that Monst Sire had started from Rangoon in progress to the Capital on the 8th December last.

China

13th November

The Deputy Commissary General with the Expedition reports great improvement in the local supply of provisions at Chusan. Cattle and fowls, since the official declaration of the truce between England and China, had become more plentiful and fresh Beef was served out to the force thrice a week and it was hoped would be oftener, as facilities for purchasing Bullocks increased.

27th November

As there will be an ample supply of provisions for the expeditionary force amounting to a year's stock, including what was already in China and what was expected from Manilla, the Naval Commander in Chief has suggested the discontinuance of further provisions being despatched for the expedition, with the exception of that necessary for the natives attached to the force.

6th January

The Mily. Board have directed the Commissary Genl. to despatch to

Singapore, two months' sea provisions for 500 natives for retention in depot at that place to meet any demands for native troops passing that island.

The Rev. Mr Stanton, in a remonstrance from Capt Elliott has been released by the Chinese. He states he was well treated during his confinement as could possibly be expected by him. Kishen was negotiating with Captain Elliot at the Bogue.

Indus Steam Navigation

7th November

Capt Carless reports the arrival of the "Planet" steam boat at Bukkur on the 1st November last with Major Genl. Brooks, Brig. Valliant⁴ R H, three officers of the staff, 80 individuals of the commissural Dept., and a guard of 12 Sepoys in charge of treasure amounting to two lacs of Rs. The Planet left Tatta on the afternoon of the 24th Ultimo and arrived at Hyderabad next day, where treasure was sent on board which brought her draught to 2 ft. forward and 3 ft. aft. Excluding stoppages she performed the whole voyage in $7\frac{1}{2}$ days, and was 84 hours under steam and ascended the river at the average rate of 4 miles per hour. Captain C Mentions that great improvement and extensive alterations have been made by the Pilots in the course of the river Indus between Gopang and Cachar.

21st November

The Commander of the Steam Flotilla on the river Indus also reports the arrival on the 15th November last at Bukkur of the "Meteor" Steam boat whence she was despatched on the 1st to Tatta at the request of the Political Agent in Upper Scinde to bring up troops. The "Meteor" performed the downward voyage in $3\frac{1}{4}$ days and was $31\frac{1}{2}$ hours under Steam. At Tatta she received on board 5 officers and 30 followers with their baggage and 3 lacs of treasure under the charge of a guard consisting of a Havildar and six sepoy which increased her draught to 2 ft 2 inch. forward and 2ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ " aft. Excluding stoppage she made the upper voyage in $9\frac{1}{2}$ days, was 109 hours under steam and ascended the river at the average rate of rather more than 3 miles per hour, having thus performed it in two days less time than her last trip.

3rd December

The Commander of the Steam Flotilla further reports the arrival of the Planet steam boat at Bukkur on the 21st Novr. with 72 public and private followers and a quantity of baggage estimated at about 40 tons belonging to Major Genl. Brooks, the officers of the staff, and the passengers.

4 *Brig R H Valliant* (1784-1845), entered the Company's army in 1804; rendered service under Major Ochterlony and later commanded the reserve of the Army of Indus in February 1839. While commanding a brigade at Maharajpur, he was seriously wounded.

The "Planet" was despatched from Bukkur on the 4 Ultimo at the request of the Poll. Agent in Upper Sinde and reached Tatta on the afternoon of the 8th. During the downward voyage which was performed with the engines going at half power, her draught was 2-8 aft. and 2-0 forward. On the 13th, she left Tatta for the upward voyage, her draught having been, by the passengers and baggage received on board, to 2.8 forward and 3.3 aft., and although more deeply loaded, performed it in exactly the same time (84 hours excluding stoppages) as her last trip.

Miscellaneous

22nd January

The December mail reached Calcutta yesterday at 12 P.M. bringing despatches from England up to the 4th December last.

Fort William,
The 22nd January 1841

H V Bayley
Asstt. Secy. to Govt. of India

Newsletter 33 : February 1, 1841

(No. 4 of 1841)

North West Frontier

10th to 17th January

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Lahore Akhbars of dates included in the margin :—

(1) Orders were issued to the Officers to collect boats on the Jehlam and the Chenab for the passage of the troops with Dost Mahomed Khan.

(2) General Ventura observed to some of the Sikh Chiefs that Raja (Dhian Sing) had acted wisely in sending for Koonwur Shere Sing to conduct the Government of Lahore, and that the administration of Mace Chund, in anticipation of a child being born to Koonwur Nav Nehal Sing, was losing a substance to catch at a shadow.

(3) The Mace's health is said to be impaired and there is great anxiety about her.

(4) General Ventura and Court are supposed by every one to favor Shere Sing and all the troops have a liking to him. The citizens of every rank and description desire the Koonwur to be the ruler.

(5) It was observed in the Durbar, with reference to the feud in the state, that the Governor General's Agent was merely a spectator.

(6) Rajah Dhian Sing had arrived at the village of Moorlan and intended entering the town of Lahore after the disturbances had subsided. The Rajah had written to some of the Chiefs requesting them to offer no resistance to Shere Sing.

17th January

In a letter dated as per margin, the Governor General's Agent in the Punjab states that on the 14th January at noon, great consternation was caused to the inmates of the Fort of Lahore by the unexpected arrival of Koonwur Shere Sing at the Shalimar Gardens. The garrison was immediately ordered to be reinforced by the three battalions of the late Genl Ameer Sing Maun, and the Artillery of Sirdar Lehna Sing; guns were moved upto each of the city gates; the troops of Rajah Soochit Sing & the Charyaree Horse¹ were

¹ *Charyaree Horse*, or Charyaris sowars, a cavalry regiment of Maharaja Ranjit Singh that belonged to his Fauj-i-Khas.

brought in from the Shadera Cantonment, and drawn up in front of the fort; and an officer of Genl. Golab Sing's Battalions waited on the Koonwur, welcomed him and tendering him his allegiance, invited him to remove to the General's lines. The Koonwur presented the Officer with a Khillut and they set out with him and encamped amid the Battalions, which received him with a salute from their Artillery.

18th January

The Governor General's Agent in the NW Frontier reports that in the morning of the 15th January, a considerable proportion of the Sikh army marched & joined Koonwur Shere Sing, who, the day before, had encamped in the Begumpore lines amid the Battalions of Genl Golab Sing Pohoovindua. By noon the troops tendering their allegiance to the Koonwur amounted to 14 or 15,000 men with 21 pieces of ordnance. Soon after the "Charyaree" Sowars in the command of Soocheit Sing, who was absent, joined his standard & not less than 26,000 Inftry., 8,000 horse & 45 Guns, eventually went over to the Koonwur during the night of the 15th Jany. On the other hand, Mae Chund Koonwur was strengthening the guards of the gates of the City, 2 Companies & 2 guns additional on each gate. Rajah Golab Singh had undertaken to prepare these guards for her as well as the garrison within the fort, the latter amounting to 5,000 horse and foot. The Rajah visited all the posts in person, distributing ammunition, pay and donations. The replies of the troops to his exhortations were such as he probably hoped for, viz, that they were prepared to resist all enemies, but not their ruler or "Malik".

19th January

In a letter dated the 19th Instt., the Governor General's Agent mentions that on the morning of the 16th Instt., Koonwur Shere Sing marched from his camp in the Begumpore lines in great state attended by General Ventura, Court, Coll. Courtland² and many Sikh officers and entered the City of Lahore without opposition.

An engagement took place between the party of Mae and Shere Sing, in which the latter suffered considerably. A great portion of the Mae's adherents subsequently tendered their allegiance to the Koonwur and joined his standard. No outrages had been committed in the town, where all was peace, and the people were generally speaking of Shere Sing as the rightful

² *Coll. Courtland*, an Anglo-Indian who secured employment in the Sikh army in 1832, was personal body-guard of Maharaja Sher Singh and saw active service on the north-west frontier. In 1845 he proceeded on leave to Mussoorie after which Major Broadfoot did not permit him to go back to Lahore; instead, he was enrolled in the Company's army.

Maharajah.

19th & 20th January

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Lahore akhbar of dates noted in the margin:—

(1) On Rajah Dhian Singh refusing to come to Shere Sing, the Koonwur went himself to fetch him and brought the Rajah on his own Elephant to the fort garden, a long conference was held between them when Rajah Dhian Sing, with his hands joined, assured the Koonwur that he had ever been a well-wisher to the Koonwur.

(2) The Koonwur said that he would be guided by the advice of Rajah Dhian Sing in all matters.

(3) A Jageer of 7 lacks of Rupees pr. annum was proposed to be given to the Mae together with the Kooshe Khannah of late Maharaja, the usual respects also were to be paid her, and the late Maharaja's house in the city should be assigned for her residence. These propositions were submitted to and signed by the Governor General's Agent in the Punjab States.

(4) The Sundunwallahs and the Jemadar are bitter against Koonwur Shere Sing.

(5) The Koonwur was dissuaded from blowing up the Summonboorj from respect to the British passing through the Punjab. (6) The Koonwur had ordered the hostilities in the city to cease.

(7) Captain Cunningham received assurances of every assistance from the Durbar, and the deputation of our Agent to attend on him if he required.

(8). The Koonwur assured the Mae that respect to her person as well as her maintenance would be duly preserved, if she quietly departed to her house outside the fort. The Mae consented to this reluctantly.

(9) At Rajah Dhian Sing's request, orders were issued to all the district officers to guard the road against plunders.

(10) Orders were also issued to all the officers announcing the Koonwur's installation and desiring them to fire 21 guns each in their districts and (to) proclaim the event, like orders were issued at Munde and the hills.

(11) The plunder of some travellers being reported, orders were issued to all the officers on the several roads to take measure to check the evil.

(12) Koonwur Shere Sing renewed his engagement with an oath that he will consider Rajah Dhian Sing in the light of his brother, and admit both Rajahs Golab Sing and Soosheit Sing to the Ministry.

21st January

In another communication from the Punjab the Governor Gen's Agent states that Fakeer Shahoodeen spoke of the Koonwur as "Maha Rajah Shere Sing" & that the guards appointed for that purpose continued to preserve the city from plunderers. The Governor General's Agent adds that the Mae had deputed Sirdar Ajeet Sing to him across the Sutlej soliciting, with reference to the dissensions in the state, the aid of the British Govt., in her favor but that he declined receiving the Sirdar owing to his having crossed the river without observing the usual rules in respect to passports & that he explained to the Vakeels of the Mae that the British Govt., would not interfere in these dissensions by supporting her claim.

25th January

The Governor General's Agent in the Punjab states that :—

(1) Racc Kishen Chund³ had informed him that he received the intelligence of the accession of Maharaja Sheir Sing.

(2) That the Koonwur's success has as yet been marked by no severity, though the cries of the soldiery had been loud for vengeance on some of the chiefs and their adherents, whose houses they are said to have plundered, and were indulging in plundering the city, throughout more or less up to the night of the 20th.

(3) The Koonwur's party sustained a great loss on entering the garden of the fort (Huzzooree Bagh). They pointed a gun against the inner gate of the citadel, but before they had discharged many round at it, without effect, the garrison brought down to the rear of it, guns loaded with grape. They then themselves opened the gate and the besiegers thinking it had yielded to their fire, pushed up to the entrance, where they encountered rounds of grape which killed some hundreds of them and drove back the remainder. The garrison then re-closed the gate and secured it.

(4) It is said that Sultan Mahomed Khan Barukzye sided with the party of the Mae in these commotions.

(5) Sirdar Ajeet Sing Sundhunwallah has re-crossed the Sutlej at the direction of the Govr. General's Agent.

(6) Col Wheeler's detachment was on this side of the Chinab on the 17th January, intending to be at Ferozepore on the 3rd February. They were marching, it is said, in perfect comfort.

(7) Attempts had been made by the Mae's party to induce Col Wheeler to make a demonstration with his detachment at least of marching

3 Racc Kishan Chund (Rai Kishan Chand) was the wakil or agent of the Lahore Darbar with the British Political Agent at Ludhiana.

it on Lahore to suppress disturbances and thus to overawe Koonwur Sheir Sing. But the Govr. Genl.'s Agent had lost no time in prescribing to the Colonel as also to Lieut Cunningham, the observance, of perfect neutrality with reference to the agitations in the Punjab.

(8) Mr Clerk intends detaining the convoy till the Lahore Durbar formally announce that all is ready for its passage through the Punjab.

Bhawulpore Intelligence

10th January

Some disturbances having been raised by the Baloochees assembled at Hing Dagul & Roghan, Lalla Jawahar Mull had been appointed to these places with troops from Peshawur by the Maee.

Peshawur

9th to 20th December

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Peshawur News. (1) There had been a fight between the Sikh soldiers and the Kakries⁴ in Kohbund, the former, it is said, were defeated. (2) It is reported that Sadut Khan will come over to the English with all his family. (3) The Khyberees sent secretly to D M Khan offering to release him from the hands of the English. He replied that he surrendered to the British of his own accord and could not listen to such a proposition. (4) The Solargyes have settled among themselves that it is advisable to become friends with the English. (5) The sons of Peer Mahomed Khan continue to exercise much violence and oppression.

Karnaul—The Ghilzyes

8th January

The Gr. G's Agent on the NWF reports that the Ghilzye chiefs lately imprisoned in the fort of Luadeeana marched on the 2 Inst. from that station under charge of Major Leadbeater and two companies of NI with a Rassallah of the 4 Local Horse in progress to Kurnaul, where Major General Boyd was preparing the fort for their reception.

Afghanistan—Jellalabad

8th January

The GG's Agent on the NW F reports the departure of the family of HM Shah Soojah ool Moolk, together with Shah Zaman and his family from Luadeeanah to Jallalabad.

4 *Kakries of Kohbund* : an Afghan tribe who initially belonged to the extreme south-east corner of Afghanistan, once known as Kohbund. The Gakkars who inhabited the territory along the banks of the Jehlum in Kashmir and Punjab, were said to have been an offshoot of the Kakries.

Afghanistan**Dost Mahomed Khan***2nd, 3rd, and 9th January*

The Officer in Charge of Dost Mahomed Khan reports the safe arrival of the Ex-Chief at Dhamuk and Rawul Pindee on the dates noted respectively.

Scinde Upper*2nd January*

The Bombay Govt. report the arrival on the 17 Decr. last at Sukkur of a wing of the 3 Regt. Lt. Cavalry, under the command of Lt Colonel Wilson.

The Bombay Govt. further report that the left wing of the 1st Regt. Lt. Cavalry, under the command of Captain Siddell, expected to arrive at Sukkur on the 21st December last.

Scinde Lower*31st December*

The Officers deputed by the Ameers of Hyderabad for that purpose having safely conducted the several detachments of troops from Wanga Bazaar⁵, and Balleearie on the borders of the desert, through lower Scinde, to the confines of the Khyrpore state the Right Hon' ble the Gr. General has approved the grant to them of a pecuniary compensation from the Bombay Govt. for the satisfactory manner in which they fulfilled their trust.

7th January

The Political Agent in Lower Scinde reports that the will of the late Meer Noor Mahomed Khan was read in open Durbar and was recognized by his sons as the true will and testament of their deceased father. The first item of the will provides that the tribute to the British Govt. is first regularly to be paid from the treasury and the balance to be divided among the sons Meer Shahbad and Meer Hosein.

Kelat*8th January*

The Right Hon'ble the Governor General has been pleased to advance 10,000 Rs. to the political Agent in charge of Kelat for current expenditure. From this sum C. Rs 3,000 are to be given in security to the cultivating classes, with reference to their impoverished condition, for the purpose of enabling them to sow the deserted adjacent lands with wheat, barely, &c.

5 *Wanga Bazaar*, a small town in Sind, situated on a tributary of the Indus, called Phurraun or Purana.

Bagdad

8th January

The Bombay Government report that it had received a communication from the Pascha of Bagdad stating his intention of deputing his son to Judda as Viceroy of that place & requesting that Govt. would cause a vessel to be provided for conveying him to the above port via Karrak & Bombay.

Khorasan—Tursheez—Kerman

12th October

Intelligence from the Persian Gulf up to the 12th October last, mentions that the Beloochees & Turkomans had taken by surprize Tursheez, a strong place in Khorsan, that Aga Khan continuing his depredations, had taken Kerman and was endeavouring to capture Berbeck, & that the King of Persia was perplexed with this intelligence & had ordered a force to proceed to Karman. By the latest accounts the King was still at Tehran.

Meywar

29th December

The Political Agent in Meywar reports that he had received a communication from the Vakeel of Dooungapore stating that the mutual claims of the subjects of that state and those of Myhee Kanta have been finally and satisfactorily settled.

Gwalior

18th December

The Resident in Gwalior reports that he has received a communication from the Vukeel of the Maha Rajah's Durbar intimating that H H had appointed Kurreem Khan to the command of a detachment against Omrao Sing's sons, with a request that the different Political authorities in the vicinity of the Raja's dominions might be called upon to adopt measures which would prevent these outlaws from meeting with a refuge in their respective districts.

19th December

The Resident in Gwalior mentions that the Maha Raja of that place had been indisposed but that H H was now recovered, having been bled from his right arm, an operation which afforded him much relief.

Mysore

6th January

It appears from a report by the Resident in Mysore that HH the Rajah of Mysore, some time since, established an English Free School in the city and placed it under the general control of the Resident; also that HH has

assigned a good house for the accommodation of the School, and intends gradually to supply it with a library. The number of scholars already at the School is 63.

The Resident further states that the Rajah keeps up a charitable hospital in Mysore at his own expense. This hospital is superintended by the Residency Surgeon. The number of in-patients treated in it during the year 1840 was 414. These were fed and clothed at the Rajah's expense. The number of out-patients for the same period 2,252. The building consists of a surgery and dispensary, visiting room and library. A male hospital capable of containing 70 patients, and female one for 30. A store room is attached to the hospital. The dispensary is supplied with every description of European and country medicines in general use. There are surgical instruments and every requisite in the surgery and the library contains about 100 vols. of medical works. The medical subordinates consist of two apothecaries, and one assistant apothecary, 2 medical pupils, 2 native dressers etc.

The hospital is stated to be conducted in every respect as those under the Company's Government.

The satisfaction of the Supreme Government was expressed to the Rajah on the Governor General in Council being made acquainted with the above facts.

Hyderabad

19th January

The Resident at Hyderabad in a private commun. mentions that the whole of the Nizam's country was in tranquillity on the date quoted in the margin.

Oudh

14th January

The Resident at Lucknow mentions that much disturbance prevails throughout the country in Oudh. The Amil of Byswarrah⁶ is at present engaged in the siege of Shunkurpore, a part belonging to Bance Madhoo recently expelled from Samurpaba. An assault on Shunkurpore was lately repulsed with a loss of 76 killed and wounded on the part of the assailants. The Resident attributes these disorders to the present revenue system and the state of the army.

Botan—Nipal

5th January

The Supdt. at Darjeeling reports that he has discovered a Bootan Emissary with various letters to persons at Katmandhoo *en route* to their destination

6 *Byswarrah* (Biswara) formed a separate administrative unit under the Nawabs of Oudh and included within its fold, a number of parganas in the eastern half of Unnao, the western half of Rae Bareilly and the extreme south of Lucknow.

via Darjeeling, at which place they are at present halting until their ulterior motives and objects can be ascertained.

Nipal

13th to 26th January

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Diary of the Nepal Resy. as noted in the margin :—1. The Durbar has received fresh petitions from the Terai praying for adjustment with the British Govt. & saying that the Ryots are ready to run away for lack of salt and other necessaries. 2. The Placarding system is discontinued, and marriage missions to the plains are again on the tapis. 3. Many of Bhim Sen's old dependents & official allies have been reinstated in office more for their ability than for any leaning towards them. 4. The Kala Pandeys are said to be getting up another address to the Viceroy of Lassa, notwithstanding the ill success of past efforts. 5. Intrigues abroad which were so rife for the last 2 years seem to have ceased entirely for the present. 6. The new Premier is obliged to proceed very warily and slowly against his adversaries & it seems he wishes to complete the rotation of office of Panjane & to make himself popular before grappling with them. The appointments made by him are alleged to have given much satisfaction & his proceedings are generally well spoken of.

Burmah

12th December

The Comr. in the Tenasserim Provinces reports that a system of dacoity, was in course of organization by the people of Berling and directed against our frontier villages. The Commissioner has taken the necessary measures for the defence of the villages and the restoration of confidence among them by posting parties of the Talain Corps in some of the larger villages & stationing Gun boats at different points along the banks of the river. This is expected will soon put an end to any cause of apprehension or annoyance to our subjects from the proceedings of the Burmese.

China

5th December

The Secretary to the Naval Commander in Chief reports that 8 Transporters have, at His Excellency's request, been discharged from the China service and that others will be sent thence as their services are no more required.

Indus Steam Navigation

9th December

The Commander of the Steam Flottilla on the Indus reports the arrival of the "Comet" steam boat from Tatta, on the 4th Inst. with a Detachment

of HM's 41st Regt. and baggage. The "Comet" was despatched from Bukkur on the 2nd Ulto. and proceeded down the river with only one engine at work. She arrived there on the 8th but was only $36\frac{1}{2}$ hours under steam. On the 24th she left Tatta, drawing 3 ft. 5 ins. forward and aft. She performed the upward voyage in ten days, was, excluding stoppage, $100\frac{1}{2}$ hours under steam, and advanced at the average rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour.

Fort William
1st February 1841

H V Bayley
Asstt. Secy. Govt. of India

Newsletter 34 : February 10, 1841

(No. 5 of 1841)

North West Frontier

20th to 23rd January

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Lahore Ukhbar of dates marginally noted:

1st. A Khurreetah (the receipt of which, however, has not yet been reported) to the address of the Governor General was forwarded to Mr Clerk.

2d. All those who were inimical to the accession of the Maha Rajah were pardoned, after being first fined, and after giving written engagements for their future fidelity.

3d. Rajah Dhian Sing suggested the propriety of Mae Chand being kept within the "Summonboorj" for a few months.

4th. The troops committed great depredations in General Court's property from a suspicion that he suggested to the Maharajah the expediency of giving them an increase of 1 Rupee per month only and not 4 Rupees which His Highness promised them in condition of their aiding him in his elevations to the throne. General Court betook himself to General Ventura's house who, to protect him, placed 4 guns at his gate, and got the Maharajah's order for 2 Ressillas with two guns being detached to protect the General.

5th. The Barukzyes presented a Nizzur of 1,000 Rupees.

6th. Orders were issued to escort the British Convoy from Ferozepore with 100 sowars; orders were also issued for the collection of boats on the Rungulpore Ghaut for the passage of Dost Mahomed Khan's party.

7th. Maharajah Shere Sing holds his Durbar in the same manner as his father used to do. He issues his orders without reference to any body and with apparent firmness. He proposes to reform the Ministry.

30th January

The following particulars are extracted from a letter from the Governor General's Agent in the Punjaub of date marginally noted:—

1st. The ceremonials of the accession of Maha Rajah Shere Sing to the Musnud of the Punjab were observed at Lahore on the 27 January.

2. Pertaub Sing, the Maharajah's son was publicly declared as Heir Apparent and Rajah Dhian Sing as Vizier.

3. The insubordination of the troops which was excessive for three or four days after the evacuation of the citadel has abated.

4. Since his accession, the Maha Rajah has treated his opponents with the utmost kindness and generosity; he distrusts them, however, and seems little inclined to employ any of them. His treatment towards the Maee is kind and familiar by which he proposes to win her affections.

5. There is at present a total cessation of hostilities in the Kooloo and Mundee Hills.

Afghanistan

7th January

The Political Agent in charge of Dost Mahomed Khan reports that Mahomed Hussein Khan, son of the late Yar Mahomed Khan and nephew of the Ex-Chief of Cabool, arrived in his Camp, stating that he had run away from Lahore. This individual was not permitted to accompany the Ex-Ruler without previously obtaining the sanction of the Govt. of Lahore to that effect:—

Dost Mahomed Khan

4th January

The Political Assistant in Charge of Dost Mahomed Khan has furnished the following abstract of the family & followers of the Ex-Ameer proceeding in company with him to the British provinces:

Total females	..	34
Relations	..	46
Slave girls	..	120 (200)
Total males and servants	..	524
Slave boys	..	52 (576)
		<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
Grand Total	..	776
		<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>

With the above there are several adherents of Dost Mahomed Khan as soldiers of fortune who, with their servants, amounting in all to 238 individuals, also compose the retinue of the Ex-Chief—Orders have been issued to the Poll. Agent in charge to desire these retainers of the Ex-Ameer to leave the Camp with all expedition.

19th January

The Officer in Charge of Dost Mahomed Khan reports that the Ex-Chief and his family crossed the Chenab on the morning of the 19th January.

Candahar**Zamindawur***23rd December*

The Major General Commanding at Candahar mentions that at the requisition of the Political Agent at that place, the detachment in the margin under the command of Captain Farrington, marched on service towards the 2d. Regt. Bengal NI Zamindawur district on the morning 2 Guns, Shah's Horse Arty. of the 24th December last. The result 1 Resselah, Shah's 1st Cavy. of this movement is to be found at length in the Gazette of Wednesday Evening, Feby 10th, but the following may without inconvenience find a place here.

5th January

A demi-official communication mentions that the movements of the British troops on the rebellious Candaharees upon the Helmund, had been completely successful. This insurrection was planned when Dost Mahomed Khan was threatening Cabool. His surrender, however, caused a temporary lull, but there was discontent with the local authorities and the storm gathered again & latterly the insurrectionary spirit having exhibited itself in violent opposition to the government, the Poll Agent sent a force into the field to suppress it. The rebels had taken up a strong position amongst some hills; the guns were soon brought into play; the Infantry followed up and in about 3/4 of an hour the enemy fled. They have lost about 60 killed; the number of the wounded is not ascertained—The loss on our side has been very small. The Officer commanding intended to destroy the forts of the rebels, which are 3 in number.

Sinde—Upper*26th December 1840 to 1st January 1841*

The Diary of the Political Agent in Upper Sinde of dates noted contains the following items of intelligence :

1. The Brahoa and Belooch Chiefs of Nuseer Khan's party were represented to be still hesitating whether to attempt continued resistance or to submit at once to such terms as our Govt. might propose.

2. Captain Brown wrote from Lahore that Dost Allee, the brother-in-law of Daur Khan, was on his way from Kahun for the purpose of tendering the submission of his chief and tribe. Several Brahoe chiefs also, hitherto in rebellion, had offered to join him under a safe conduct. Capt Brown's replies to all have been conciliatory & assurances have been given by him that all who visit him shall be free to return to their respective residences whenever they desire to do so.

2nd to 8th January

The following items are extracted from the precis of Sinde Intelligence dated as per margin :

1. The Political Agent has settled on Shah Newaz Khan as a temporary measure (in consideration of himself and his followers who are without any other means of subsistence); a salary of Rs. 1,000 per month to be paid from the Shikarpore treasury.

2. Capt Brown states that the Muree tribe has kept itself totally distinct from the Brahouees at Tulle and that he is satisfied Dadah Khan is sincere in his desire for terms.

8th January

The Political Agent in Lower Sinde reports that the Company of European Artillery required from Kurrachee for service in Upper Sinde has been remanded to the former place.

12th December

The Quarter Master General of the Bombay army reports the arrival of the 20 Regt. NI at Sukkur on the 27th Decr. last; strength as follows:—

1 Field Officer, 9 Subalterns, 17 Native Officers, 885 Non-Commissioned rank & file.

21st December

The Govt. of Bombay intimate the arrival of the 4th Troop of HA at Raree near Sukkur on the 28th Dec. last for service in Upper Sinde.

25th December

The Govt. of Bombay report the march on the 20th Jany. from Sukkur to Bagh, on field service of a force under the command of Major Genl. Brooks¹ as follows:—

1st troops HM 3d. Compy. 1st Batt. Artillery; Wing 3d Regt. Lt. Cavy; Wing Bengal Local Horse; HM 40th & 41st Regts & 20th & 21st Regts. NI

Sinde—Tehran*18th November*

The Resident in the Persian Gulf reports that on instituting further enquiries as to the Secret Agent from the Ameers of Sinde to the King of the Persians, he was informed that the nominal Agent was still at the Court

¹ Major General Brooks appointed commandant of the Sind contingent in February 1841 but developed differences with Ross Bell, resigned his command and was replaced by Brigadier England.

of Tehran on the date quoted in the margin, to whose proceedings but little importance is to be attached.

Kolapore

6th January

In compliance with the wishes of the Govt. of Bombay to that effect, the Raja of Kolapore has adopted measures for the entire suppression of the practice of "Suttee" which prevailed in some degree in his dominions.

Aden—Sena

29th December

The Political Agent at Aden reports that some skirmishes had taken place between the Imaum of Sena and Sheik Tukee Sayd and that the forces of the latter were rapidly diminishing. Another account states that the whole of the force which Sheikh Cassim Sherzarabee had collected on the part of Tukee Sayd had dispersed on hearing of the repeated defeats and losses sustained by the troops of the latter.

Aden—Abyssinia

1st January

The Political Agent at Aden reports the arrival at that place, about the middle of December last, of the French Ship "Aukobar." Captain Bogrinaint, with Mons E Combe, Controller of French operations in Abyssinia.—From a conversation with the above-named gentlemen, the Political Agent learned that they had purchased land for France near Eyd, in Abyssinia to the extent of 38 miles along the coast by 10 miles inland. The natives of the places give a different statement regarding the limits of the land and assign the extent of the grant as the village of Eyd alone. The "Aukobar" on the 1st January, had on board 10,000 stand of arms, a few guns & presents of all kinds.

Persian Gulf

18th January

With reference to the inefficient state of Naval means in the Persian Gulf, the Govt. of Bombay have despatched to the Gulf the Steamer "Sesostris" with instructions to the commander of that vessel that he should in the first instance proceed with it to Muscat, afterwards to Karak, & then to make a tour of the Gulf, shewing himself at all the principal ports in that quarter.

Bahrein

18th January

The Resident in the Persian Gulf intimates that affairs remain quiet at Bahrein & that tranquillity prevails generally in the Gulf.

Fars*18th November*

From a communication from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, it appears that Ferhid Mirza, a brother of the King of Persia, has been nominated to the Government of the province of Fars.

Kerman*18th November*

The Resident in the Persian Gulf mentions that in the direction of Kerman, Aga Khan continues his depredations; that the attempts of the local authorities to oppose him have been invariably defeated & that the province was in a state of great disturbance.

Karrak*18th November*

The Resident in the Persian Gulf states that the field force at Karrak was again suffering considerably from sickness. The diseases were not generally of a severe nature, but there were some bad cases at the time, the Resident wrote, 24 of the Europeans & sixty of the Natives were in hospital—In other respects affairs were in a very satisfactory state.

Muscat*18th November*

The Resident in the Persian Gulf reports that the misunderstanding which threatened to arise between the Imam of Muscat and his Kinsman Hamoodbeen Azan, has been removed & that they have again been reconciled to each other. HH intended to remain at Bunder Abbass thirty or forty days in expectation, it is said of the arrival of a Persian Princess, HH having long wished to form a matrimonial connection with Royal family of Persia.

Mocha²*3rd January*

The Poll. Agent at Aden states that to the North West of Mocha the Asseys had collected themselves in great force at a place called Subeya, for the purpose, it is said, of enforcing tribute money from Sheriff Hussein on the sea-port towns of Hadeida Zebid, & Mocha in accordance with the agreement entered into by Sheriff Hossein ben Ali Hyder with His Excellency Ibrahim Pascha prior to the Egyptian troops evacuating Yeman. The Sheriff,

2 *Mocha* : a seaport on the Arabian coast, and once capital of Yemen, the town is said to have been founded in 1430. In the seventeenth century, both the English and Dutch East India Companies established factories there and carried on a lucrative trade with Indian ports.

the Poll. Agent adds, declined paying one fraction of the tribute demanded. Another account states that the immediate vicinity of Mocha was perfectly quiet on the 30 Decr. last.

Egypt

13th November

Advices from Egypt dated the 13 Novr. last mention that the Egyptian troops had abandoned all their northern positions as far as the vicinity of Antioch & that they had been taken possession of by the Turkish troops in addition to all the rest of Syria, with the exception of Aleppi, Hams Hana, & Damascus.

16th December

The Consul at Alexandria, in a letter to the address of the Rt. Hon'ble the Govr. Genl., states that on the 22d. Novr. last, Commodore Napier appeared off the port of Alexandria with 6 sail of the line & having learned that Mehemutt Ali would be favourably disposed towards an arrangement with the Sultan & the Four Powers through England entered into negotiation with him & on the 27th concluded a convention with him by which he was to evacuate Syria & restore the Ottoman Fleet on the hereditary Govt. of Egypt being secured him. It appears that this was the spontaneous & unauthorized act of Commodore Napier. The Convention had been disapproved by their Excellencies Viscount Personby & Admiral Sir Robert Stopford & protested against by the sublime Porte. Sir Robt. Stopford, in consequence of orders from Her Majesty's Govt., had sent Captain Fanshaw to announce to Mehmet Ali that on his complete submission to the Sublime Porte, the four powers would recommend him to the clemency of the Sultan. Mehmet Ali, accordingly, on the 7 Decr. last, addressed a communication to the Sultan, consenting to evacuate Syria & restore the Turkish fleet & another account states that the fall of Acre produced a strong effect on Mehmet Ali who is now supposed to be ready to submit to the terms which the Sultan & the allies may propose for his acceptance. He expects, however, the hereditary possession of Egypt.

Lebanon

5th October

The Consul at Damascus states that the whole of the population of Mount Lebanon was arming against the Egyptians.

Aleppo³

1st December

The Political Agent in Turkish Arabia reports his having received intelligence mentioning that Ibrahim Pasha had withdrawn his forces from Aleppo.

³ *Aleppo* : an historic town, the largest in Syria, and capital of the then Turkish province of the same name. It was the centre of an agricultural district and was celebrated for its rich fruit gardens as well as textile industry.

Suez*10 December*

The Consul at Alexandria reports that some acts of pillage had taken place in the desert of Suez, but that according to the last advices, he had received, all was tranquil, & that it was the intention of the Local Government to provide an escort of Cavalry for the next Mails & Passengers.

Lucknow*10th December*

The Resident at Lucknow mentions that by the order of the King, proclamations have been issued at Lucknow, strongly denouncing the commission of any aggressions on the cultivators by the Aumil's troops.

Rajpootana (Kerowlee)⁴*6th January*

The Governor General's Agent in Rajpootana in a letter of date noted, mentions that Capt Trevelyan's mission to Kerowlee undertaken with a view to settle the dissensions between Maharaja Pertaub Paul & his feudatories has terminated very satisfactorily.

Kaluk*15th January*

The Gov. Genl's Agent in Rajpootana reports the death of Kishen Sing the rebel who lately surrendered the Fort of Kaluk. The man with the other prisoners brought from the Fortress was in Camp outside the City when he suddenly took it into his head to stab himself in the body near the navel, with a knife which had been secreted by one of his adherents, from the effects of which he died.

China*21st & 22nd January*

The Marine Board report that the transports "Issabella Robertson", "Braeinar", "Ranger" & "William Wilson," have been discharged from the China Service.

5th January

Official Despatches received from China of date marginally noted mention that negotiations between the Imperial Minister Ke-Shen & HM's Plenipotentiary for the settlement of peace had been interrupted on the

⁴ *Kerowlee* (Karauli), capital of a small princely state of the same name in Rajputana. The town said to have been founded in 1348 by Raja Arun Mal, was then encircled by a wall of red stone and other fortifications.

5 Jany; in consequence of the Imperial Court evincing no sincere disposition to adjust difficulties by peaceful means, or indeed to treat at all in a manner consistent with the dignity of Great Britain & the necessities of the Case. The demand made by the Plenipotentiary on the part of HM's Govt. is that a port besides that of Canton be granted to the British with privileges of residing in it and where the British flag may fly, as the Portuguese does at Macao. Indeed, upon this concession on the part of the Imperial Court depended the restoration to it by the English of the Island of Chusan. But from the Minister's reply it appears that the intention of the Court was to force the English back to Canton upon the old system, settlement upon the basis of which is incompatible with the instructions of HM's Govt. besides the grant of an indemnity to the Home Govt. in satisfaction of losses incurred by the violence of Lin, is, as the Minister explicitly declares, contrary to the pleasure of the Emperor.

Owing to this interruption in the negotiations for peace, HM's Plenipotentiary has led the Chinese Minister distinctly to understand that the Naval Comdr. in Chief has been furnished with instructions to commence hostilities after a reasonable time has been afforded to the Minister to know his intentions as regards the demands referred to. This time was limited by Sir Gordon Bremer to 48 hours. It was contemplated that after the expiration of this time, the fortresses should be attacked by sea & land & it was the Commodore's intention, after securing the command of the river as high as the entrance to Whompoa reaches, to establish the main body of the force on shore at Chuepnpe, dismantling all the forts except that in the last mentioned place and that at Wangtang, which latter is the key of the Bocca Fign's passage and which would therefore be strengthened & occupied by HM's forces. Capt'n Elliot adds that Chuepnpe is a very eligible position in every respect for easiness of position, a good harbour at all seasons of the year and possessing perfect healthiness of situation. He concludes by observing that upto the 27th Decr. last, the health of the force at Chusan was rapidly improving, the town filling with native traders, people & artizans and that supplies of every kind were abundant and cheap.

Indus Steam Navigation

5th December

The Commander of the Steam Flotilla in the river Indus reports the arrival of the "Planet" steam boat at Bukkur from Tatta on the 21st Nov. last, with 72 followers & a quantity of baggage, estimated at about 40 tons, belonging to Major Genl. Brooks, the officers of the staff & the passengers. The "Planet" was despatched from Bukkur on the 4th Nov. last and reached Tatta on the afternoon of the 8th. During the downward voyage which was performed with the engines going at half power, her draft was 2 ft. 8 in. aft. & 2 ft. forward. On the 13th she left Tatta, for the upward voyage, her draught having been increased by the passengers and baggage received on

board to 2 ft. 8 ins. forward & 3 ft. 3 in. aft., and performed it in exactly the same time (84 hours, excluding stoppages) as her last trip.

4th January

The Right Hon'ble the Gov. Genl. has sanctioned the "Medusa", being commissioned as 2d class Steam vessel for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of keeping up the Communication with Kuratchee & the Indus by means of her.

Financial

1st January

Capt Bygrave states that on the 1st Jany. current, Cash balance in the Military Chest at Jelalabad amounted to Rs. 2,80,795-7-11 $\frac{3}{4}$. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs more were made over to the Chest from Col Shellon's Brigade, which arrived at Jelalabad, on the 3rd January.

Fort William,
10 Feby. 1841

H V Bayley,
Asth. Secy. to Govt. of India

Newsletter 35 : February 19, 1841

(No. 6 of 1841)

North West Frontier

23rd to 30th January

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Lahore Akbar of dates included in the margin :—

1. The Sikhs went to seize Genl. Court, but the Genl. departed to Ferozepore at midnight. The Maharajah desired Mr Courtland to write the Genl. to attend on the Durbar & to assure him of safety.

2. Four Brahmins were apprehended for having engaged with the Mace¹ & some adverse chiefs to kill the Maharajah by magic. The party are for the present put in confinement.

3. Dhunna Sing Malovee represented that the Maharajah was fully authorized to marry the Mace Chund Koonwur according to the usages of the Sikhs.

4. The Mace met alone with the Maha Rajah for hours, agrees with him entirely and reprehends the conduct of her late counsellors.

5. It was reported from Ferozepore that the despatch of the British Kafila to Cabool was waiting the arrival of treasure from Loodianah.

6. Prohibition against plunder was issued to all the troops.

7. Racc Govind reported the preparation of Shah Shooja's family.

8. The Maharajah expressed his admiration of the British Government in having discouraged the proposition of the Mace Chund Koonwur of assisting her against himself.

9. All the Cavalry are mutinous & all is anarchy in the Army.

8th February

The following items of news are extracted from a communication received from the Governor General's Agent on the Panjab of date noted on the margin.

1. The Mutiny of the army at the Capital still continues. Robberies

1 *The Mace* : should read 'Mace'; reference is to Mai Chand Kaur, the widow of Maharaja Kharak Singh.

& murders are openly perpetrated in the streets by the soldiers with impunity. No body attempts to restrain them and the Maharajah fears that their rage will be turned against himself.

2. The Maharajah's tenure of the Guddee is at present enjoyed only by the permission of this licentiousness.

3. The pretext with the troops for their dissatisfaction, is their being 9 months in arrears, and the refusal of the Maharajah to liquidate more than five at present.

4. Of a request made to that effect by the Governor General's Agent the Maharajah has appointed 200 Sowars for the protection of the dawks thro' the Punjab.

5. The garrison of Govind Gurh has rebelled & closed its gate. The Maharajah has deputed one of his own personal servants to endeavour to reclaim them.

With reference to the uncontrolled military violence now prevalent in the Punjab as described in the Lahore Akbar & the despatch from Mr Clerk preceding the Right Hon'ble the Governor General has ordered it to be stated to Mr Clerk that His Lorship has no hesitation in sanctioning the proposition submitted by him that, "should a requisition for aid be made to him by the Maha Rajah & the National feeling seem to go along with the measure, he should march a body of British troops to Lahore to cooperate with HH for the restoration of tranquillity in the State."

At the recommendation of the Military Board, the Right Hon'ble the Governor Genl. has abolished the Commissariat Grain depots in the Panjab, supplies of all kinds being so abundant throughout the country that no inconvenience need be apprehended to troops passing through the Sikh territory from the abolition of the said depots.

Afghanistan

28th January

The Govr. Genl.'s Agent in the Punjab reports that the British convoy which left Ferozepore under command of Major Swayne on the 8th ultimo arrived in safety at Peshawur on the 19th Instant.

31st January

The Officer Commanding detachment of Gurkah levies for the service of HM Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk states that the detachment under his command (strength as per margin) crossed the Sultej on the 1st Feby. & form

part of the Convoy proceeding to Cabool under Coll. Oliver.

2	Lieutenants
1	Ensign
5	Jemadars
15	Havildars
15	Naiques
258	Privates

2nd February

The Governor General's Agent on the NW Frontier reports that Coll. Wheeler's detachment with Dost Mahomed Khan crossed the Ravi on the 29th January & were encamped on the left bank of the river. The Detachment with the Ex-Ameer, is expected to reach Ferozepore on the 3 or 4 Feby.

Mr Cunningham with advertence to the same subject states that notwithstanding the revolution, just effected at Lahore, every facility had been provided by those in power at the Sikh Court previous to the arrival of the Brigade & the greater number of the boats used (17 in all) were despatched from the Capital itself.

Dost Mahomed Khan

8th February

The Governor General's Agent on the NW Frontier reports that the troops under command of Coll. Wheeler guarding Dost Mahd. Khan arrived at Ferozepore on the 5th Feby.

Kurnaul

23rd July

With advertence to a recommendation made to that effect by the Major Genl., Coming² the Sirhpind³ Division, the Rt Hon'ble the Gov. Genl. has been pleased to sanction the erection at Kurnaul of permanent buildings for the accommodation of the Ghilzye Chiefs, at present confined in the fort of that place.

Sinde Upper

9th to 15th January

The following items are extracted from the *Precis of Sinde Intelligence* of dates included in the margin :—

1. The Political agent bestows a Khillit each (a dress of honor) on the

² *Coming* : for Commanding.

³ *Sirhpind* ; should read Sirhind.

part of Government on Mahomed Hussein and Ruhem Dad, formerly ^{ants} of the Ex-Chief of Kelat Mehrab Khan who had been for some time in confinement in Bukkur but are now employed by Mr Bell in gaining over the Brahoee chiefs.

2. The Political Agent has written to Bebee Gunjam urging on her the ruinous consequences which would result from a continuance of the present state of affairs and pointing out the advantages which must accrue to herself and her infant son from accepting the safe conduct which has been offered to her, and thereby proving that she has already avowed viz. her desire to revive such terms as the British Government may be pleased to propose.

3. Rupees 500 have been granted to Bebee Gunjam in consideration of her present distressed condition.

4. Meer Bohar Khan who was made prisoner at Peer Chatta has despatched letters to the various Sirdars of the Zuree tribe, urging them no longer to be misled by Gool Mahomed.

5. The Political Agent has received a letter from Nusseer Khan stating that he is most anxious to visit the Poll. Agent and submit to whatever terms the Government may dictate.

6. Captn Brown reported from Lehree that rumours are afloat regarding large bodies of Brahoes and Murrees being about to enter the plains for hostile purposes. Captain Brown gives no credence to this report and states that in his opinion, Dadah Khan and his tribe continue anxious for terms.

Ghorian

12th Oct.

A private communication from Tehran of date noted on the margin states a report that the Court at Tehran intended sending either Federation Meerza or Ferhad Meerza to Ghorian along with a Commandant of Artillery.

Persia

28th Oct.

Her Majesty's Charge d' Affaires in a despatch dated as per margin states that the influence of the Russian Minister in Persia was paramount; that the power of Hajee Meerza Aghasie was unabated; that the Treasury was in the customary state of emptiness; and that the army and the people connected with the Court were in the usual state of arrears. In answer to

4 ..ants : The original manuscript is torn off and half the word is gone; could be 'tenants' or 'servants'.

the enquiries of HM's charge d' affaires to the Envoy to the Sublime Porte from the Shah of Persia regarding the present feelings of the Persian Court to the British Government, the latter observed that he believed the Shah to be personally well-disposed towards the English and that HM would be pleased to see the re-establishment of the British Mission in his Dominions. The French Officers in Persia, adds the Charge d' Affaires, appeared to be without employment.

Bagdad

21st January

The Government of Bombay have received a communication from the Resident in the Persian Gulf dated the 27th November last, intimating that the Lieutt of the Pasha of Bagdad who is about to proceed on a mission to Arabia, was not expected to reach Bussora *en route* to Red Sea for a period of two months from that date.

Mocha

28th January

With reference to late events at Mocha and the absence of sufficient naval means immediately at command to demand and enforce reparation for the insult and injury which have been sustained at that port by Officers of the British Government, it has been stated to the Govt. of Bombay that it is in the Right Honorable the Governor General's opinion highly inexpedient that any British Agent should be allowed to remain for the present, at least at Mocha. The Office of Agent at the place mentioned has been suspended accordingly.

Nepanee⁵

16th January

The Bombay Government report that a number of Arabs, retainers of the later Siddoojee Rowe Naik Nimbalkar Sirlaskir, with 50 others, residents of the Nimbalkar's country had taken possession of the Fort of Nepanee and carried away the young Dessoy of that place. This party have been warned of the misconduct of which they have been guilty & ordered to evacuate the Fort & to liberate the young Dessoy.⁶ Should this negotiation fail, the Bombay Government have authorized a sufficiently strong force being moved to Nepanee with the view of quelling the opposition manifested by those refractory Arabs. As these people & their leaders received pensions and gratuities from the Bombay Government, they have been informed that for

5 *Nepanee* (Nipani), a town in Belgaum district, Bombay; the estate lapsed to the British in 1839.

6 *Dessoy* (Dessaye, Desai), a petty chieftain or hereditary officer of a district in southern or western parts of India.

taking up arms against their rulers, they have forfeited the rights which were conceded to them by Government. Orders have also been issued that measures may be adopted on the surrender of the Arabs to move them to the Coast preparatory to sending them to their own country.

Gwalior

Chunderee

20th January

The Resident in Gwalior reports that the sons of the late Oomrao Sing of Jacklone had, during the month of November last, been committing numerous disgraceful atrocities in the Gwalior district of Chunderee. On hearing of these outrageous proceedings the Resident made several serious representations to the Durbar Authorities & pointed out to them the disgrace which such a state of affairs entailed on their Govts. & Army. The native authorities, after some consideration, determined in sending off to the quarter indicated a detachment which consisted of some of their best troops. As, however, they latterly informed the Resident that the Insurgent Chiefs & their adherents had found an Asylum in the wilds of the bordering states of Bundelcund into which the Durbar's troops were not allowed to pursue them, he has directed a squadron of the Cavalry & four Companies of the Infantry of the Gwalior contingent under Captain Blake to proceed to the fortresses of Oomrao Sing's sons with the view to reduce them to obedience.

Darjeeling

21st June

At the recommendation of the Hill Board, the Right Hon'ble the Governor General has been pleased to sanction the amount of Rs. 4,775-9-6 for the construction of Military Buildings at Darjeeling.

Nipaul

27th January

The Resident in Nipaul had addressed a communication to the Nipalese Prime Minister Fateh Jung Sah to the effect that the instructions of the Goorkah Durbar addressed to all its Western functionaries requiring them to cooperate with Lieutenant Hollings in the suppression of Thuggee & Dacoity, so long unattended to, should now be acted on without further procrastination with advertence, also to the cases of denial of justice to British Traders by the Court of Nipal, for the immediate settlement of which the Durbar pledged itself so solemnly in October last, the Resident has written to the Premier that he will now feel the indispensable necessity of seeking these cases of oppression disposed of equitably.

1st to 3rd February

The following items of intelligence are extracted from the Nipaul Diary of dates included in the margin :—

1st. Idle rumours are still prevalent in the Terai about Goorkah Troops congregating there.

2d. A Candahar emissary is said to have just left Nipaul on his return.

3. The new administration is very popular, all people feeling a sense of relief from the espionage, false accusations, and spoliations under various pretexts, which had prevailed under the late Ministry.

4th. The Kala Pandeys are gone to their several homes.

5th. Affairs in the State are proceeding quietly and it is hoped that time will give stability to the new Ministry.

2nd February

The Resident in Nipaul reports that in investigating the subject of the public and private losses, consequent on the Nipaul Durbar's late lawless aggression in the zemindary of Ramnuggur, the Jt. Magistrate of Champaraun, who was especially appointed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General to conduct the investigation, stated the total amount of the losses to be 2,987-13-6 Rupees of the plains, equal to Nipalese Rs. 3,958-14-3. Out of the Durbar's deposit, therefore, viz., 5,000 Rs. made to the British Govt. in consideration of these losses, the sum of 1,041-1-9 as the surplus of the deposit has been returned to the Durbar by the Resident.

8th February

In a letter dated as per margin, Mr Hodgson states that the Nipaul Durbar has assented to the results of the investigation instituted by the Jt. Magistrate of Champaraun relative to the damages consequent on its aggression on Ramnuggur and has granted a receipt for Rs. 1,041-1-9 returned by the former out of the deposit.

Indus Steam Navigations*26th December*

The Commander of the Steam Flotilla on the Indus reports the arrival of the "Planet" & "Comet" steam boats at Bukkur from the lower part of the river with troops—the former on the 16th and the latter on the 20th Nov. last. The "Planet" was dispatched from Bukkur on the 1st Instt. drawing 2 ft. 9 in. aft. and 2 feet forward and proceeded down the river with the engines going at half power at the average rate of 8 miles per hour. A short distance below Hyderabad she fell in with a detachment of HM's 41st Regiment proceeding up the river in boats; and received on board 8 Officers, 84 ranks and file and 48 followers with about 20 tons of baggage, her draught

then being 2 ft. 3 in. forward and 3 ft. 2 in. aft. Her performance was nearly the same as in her last trip.

The "Comet" left Bukkur on the 9th instant and proceeded down the river to Gopang, a depot, 40 miles above Hyderabad; where she took on board from boats 5 Officers, 96 Men and 50 followers of HM's 41st Regiment with 5 tons of baggage. In her downward voyage, she was $21\frac{1}{2}$ hours under steam, proceeded at the average rate of nearly $10\frac{1}{4}$ miles pr. hour with the engines going at full power. The upward voyage, where she was drawing 3 ft. 3 in. forward and aft. was performed in 51 hours, which (the distance being 225 miles) gives nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ kuoss per hour, as the average rate at which she advanced. The Comet's speed on the whole was $7\frac{1}{4}$ kuoss per hour, throughout the trip, nearly double of what it was, when she first entered the river &, altogether, it is by her, the best voyage, she has ever performed.

29th December

The Commander of steam Flottilla on the Indus reports the arrival of the "Meteer" steamboat at Bukkur on the 26th December last. The "Meteer" left Bukkur on the 18th and proceeded down the river as far as Sehwan, where she met with some boats bringing up part of HM's 41st Regiment, from which she received on board 2 Officers, 61 rank and file, 47 followers, & $\frac{1}{4}$ ton of baggage. Her performance during the downward voyage was nearly the same as in her former ones, as she ran down to Sehwan 160 miles in $18\frac{3}{4}$ hours, at the average rate of $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour, but was rather better during the upward voyage, when she was drawing 2 feet 9 inches aft. and 2 feet 7 inches forward as she made it in $50\frac{1}{4}$ hours and advanced at the average rate of nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles per hour.

Sd.....

Fort William,
The 19th Feby. 1841

Secy. to Govt. of India.

I N D E X

INDEX

- Aden, NL 5 : 93—94, NL 9 : 130, NL 13 : 175—176, NL 21 : 277—278, NL 22 : 290, NL 27 : 342—343, NL 28 : 349, NL 32 : 379, NL 30 : 400.
- Afghanistan, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13—14, 23, 31, 33, 35, 43, 45, 47, 49—50, 64, 89, 97, 100—101, 125, 170, 201, 257, 357, 365, 376, 390—396, 397, 407, 408.
- Ali Masjid, 10, 12, 968, 969, 77—78, 99, 102, 119, 170—172, 181—182, 192, 201, 256, 287, 298—299, 323, 331, 332, 339.
- Ajit Singh Sandhwalia, 22, 24, 146, 167, 179, 231, 364, 388—389.
- Allard, Gen., 61.
- Amirs of Sind, 1, 3, 5, 6, 31, 38, 41, 47, 62, 70—72, 99, 135, see also under individual names.
- Arakan (Arracan), NL 25 : 329, NL 29 : 353.
- Army of the Indus, NL 1 : 55—57, NL 2 : 60, 64—65, NL 3 : 72, 73, NL 4 : 78—80, NL 5 : 90—91, NL 8 : 119—120, NL 9 : 125—126, NL 10 : 138, NL 11 : 149—152, NL 12 : 161, NL 13 : 172, NL 14 : 184—186, NL 16 : 201—203, NL 17 : 214—221, NL 18 : 234—235, NL 21 : 271—273, NL 24 : 317.
- Assam, 4, 105, 114—115, NL 10 : 144, NL 20 : 265.
- Asuf-ud-Dowlat, 235—236, 334, 347.
- Attar Singh, 89, 102, 167.
- Auckland, Lord, 5, 23, 33, 35—36, 39, 239—240.
- Ava, NL 1 : 58, 50, NL 2 : 65, NL 3 : 73, NL 5 : 95—96, NL 9 : 132—133, NL 12 : 163—165, NL 15 : 198—199, NL 16 : 210—211, NL 17 : 228—230, NL 27 : 344—345, NL 29 : 355.
- Avitabile, General, 10, 12, 19, 28, 29, 35, 53, 60, 178—179, 201, 212—213, 232, 256, 299, 315, 332, 375—376.
- Azizuddin, Faqir, 23, 24, 136—137, 178, 232, 255.
- Baghdad, NL 22 : 289, NL 32 : 380, NL 33 : 392, NL 35 : 410.
- Bahadur Khan, 12.
- Bahawalpur, 3, 110.
- Bahrein, NL 15 : 195, NL 23 : 309—310, NL 32 : 380, NL 34 : 400.
- Balbir Sen, Raja, 22.
- Baluchistan, 2, 33, 40—41, 43—44.
- Banpoora, 48.
- Banur, 12.
- Baroda, NL 13 : 73, NL 9 : 130—131.
- Basra (Bussorah), NL 18 : 243, NL 32 : 380.
- Beli Ram, Missar, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31, 137, 166, 256, 267—268, 338, 346, 353.
- Bell, Ross, 33, 40—46, 128, 135, 139—141, 153—154, 161—162, 303—304, 319, 326, 340, 347—348.
- Bentinck, William, 5.
- Bhopal, NL 9 : 131, NL 30 : 361.
- Bhutan, 2, 48, 393.
- Bibarak, 42.
- Billamore, Major, 42.
- Bithoor, NL 5 : 94—95, NL 7 : 113, NL 13 : 177.
- Bokhara, 8, 107, NL 15 : 193—194, NL 17 : 224, NL 18 : 235, NL 21 : 274, NL 24 : 316—317, NL 26 : 333, NL 28 : 347, NL 29 : 354, NL 31 : 367.

- Bolan pass, 7, 43, 47, 55, 79—80, 286, 326.
- Brown, Lewis, Captain, 40, 43, 319, 369, 398—99.
- Bugtis, 42, 46.
- Burma (Burmah), 1, 4 NL 7 : 115, NL 21 : 282—283, NL 23 : 312—313, NL 24 : 322, NL 31 : 371—372, NL 32 : 383, NL 33 : 394.
- Burnes, Alexander, 5—6, 8, 32, 36, 51, 56, 63—64, 69, 78—80, 285, 324, 339, 346—347.
- Bushire, NL 1 : 55, 65—67, NL 4 : 83—85, NL 5 : 93, NL 6 : 103—104, NL 23 : 309, NL 27, 342, NL 32 : 380.
- Candahar, see Kandahar.
- Chand Kaur, Mai, 14, 21, 26—27, 364, 374—375, 386—390, 396—397, 406.
- Chanda Singh, 255.
- Chet Singh, 19—21, 24, 29—30, 167, 255—256, 267—269, 284, 286, 338, 353.
- China, 4, NL 11 : 155—157, NL 24 : 322, NL 30 : 362, NL 31 : 372—373, NL 32 : 383—384, NL 33 : 394, NL 34 : 403—404.
- Chuni Lal (Choonee Lall), 117.
- Clarke, Walpole, 43.
- Clerk, G., 23, 99, 107, 161, 167—168, 213, 232, 246, 297, 374, 407.
- Clibbom, Major, 43.
- Cohistan, See Kohistan.
- Colapore, see Kolhapur.
- Connolly, E., 5, 248, 318, 333—335, 377.
- Cotton, Willoughby, 55—56, 64, 72, 80, 276, 284, 333.
- Court, General, 26, 28, 69, 179, 375, 396, 406.
- Cureton, Maj., 55.
- Daddur, 42, 56, 64, 139, 141, 378.
- Darhand, 24.
- Dera Ghazi Khan, 68.
- Dera Ismael Khan, NL 13 : 169—170, NL 15 : 192, NL 23 : 297—298, NL 27 : 338—339.
- Derajat, 28.
- Dhanna Singh, 146, 406.
- Dhian Singh, Raja, 30, 52, 60, 99, 117, 136—137, 146, 148, 158—159, 166—167, 178—179, 212, 231—232, 255—256, 267—270, 284, 286, 338, 353, 364, 374—375, 388, 396—397.
- Digest of Sind Intelligence, 47.
- Dilbagh Rai, Dewan, 146.
- Din Mahomad Khan, 46.
- Dina Nath, Dewan, 29, 137, 166, 178.
- Dombki tribe, 42, 46, 326.
- Dost Mohammad Khan, 10, 35, 52—54, 62, 68—70, 76, 78, 81—82, 80—90, 99—102, 108—110, 118—119, 125—127, 139, 147, 160—161, 171, 181, 184, 192, 202—204, 216, 218—220, 222, 233, 257—259, 271, 273, 284—285, 301—303, 315—316, 333, 335, 339—340, 347, 354, 357—358, 365, 375—377, 390—391, 396—398, 408.
- Drummod, Capt. 50, 80.
- Durand, Lt., 216, 218.
- East India Company, 1—2, 4—5, 16, 23, 31, 33, 38, 40.
- Eastwick, W. J., 36—37, 47, 71, 81, 91—93, 102—103, 110—111, 121, 139, 152, 161, 288, 320, 326, 341, 348.
- Egypt, NL 15 : 195, NL 18 : 239-240, NL 19 : 249, NL 22 : 289—290, NL 23 : 310, NL 30 : 359-360, NL 34 : 402.
- Elliot, Capt., 49, 155.
- Elphinstone, Mountstuart, 3, 6, 47.
- England, General, 47.
- Fatehgarh, 19.
- Fateh Mahomed Ghorri, 41, 44, 370.
- Fatteh Singh, 21, 161, 255, 284, 286.
- First Afghan War, 2.

- First Burma War, 4.
- Gian Singh, 212.
- Goa, 2, 48, 67.
- Gobindgarh fort, 21—22, 407.
- Gordori, Brigadier, 91—92, 110, 121—128, 161, 169.
- Govind Ram, Bhai, 20, 24, 29, 136, 147, 158—159, 166—167, 178, 231, 286.
- Gulab Singh, Raja, 13, 15, 18—19, 22, 24—26, 51, 89, 160, 212—213, 232, 256, 269—270, 338, 388.
- Gurdial Singh, 21.
- Gwalior, NL 8 : 122, NL 9 : 132, NL 10 : 142, NL 13 : 176, NL 18 : 244, NL 33 : 392, NL 35 : 411.
- Hardit Singh, 21, 31, 268—269, 353.
- Hastings, Marquis, 4.
- Herat, 3, 6, 35 NL 1 : 51, 54, 63, 64, 76, NL 4 : 82—83, NL 6 : 106, NL 7 : 107—108, NL 10 : 138, NL 11 : 148—149, NL 13 : 172, NL 15 : 194—195, NL 16 : 203—204, NL 18 : 235—237, NL 19 : 246—249, NL 21 : 274—276, NL 24 : 317—319, NL 24 : 324, NL 26 : 334—335, NL 28 : 347, NL 29 : 354—355, NL 30 : 358, NL 31 : 367—368, NL 32 : 376—377.
- Hira Singh, 17, 29, 137, 146, 159, 231, 269, 338.
- Hyderabad, 32, 34, 35—40, 43, 45, 59, 70, NL 9 : 131, NL 10 : 141—142, NL 11 : 154—155, NL 18 : 243—244, NL 22 : 290—292, NL 23 : 311—312, NL, 32 : 382, NL 33 : 393.
- Indus Steam Navigation, NL 17 : 226, NL 30 : 362—363, NL 31 : 373, NL 32 : 384—385, NL 33 : 394—395, NL 34 : 404—405, NL 35 : 412—413.
- Jaipur (Jeypore), NL 22 : 295, NL 29 : 355.]
- Jaisalmer (Jessalmere), NL 15 : 197, NL 19 : 253.
- Jakhrani tribe, 42, 46, 326.
- Jalalabad (Jellalabad), 11, NL 30 : 357, NL 31 : 365, NL 32 : 376, NL 33 : 390.]
- Jammu Rajas, 15, 17, 21, 24—28, 52, 269—270.
- Jassa Singh, 167.
- Jawalamukhi, 30, 338.
- Jhansi, NL 5 : 94.
- Jberruk, 38.
- Jind Kaur, Rani, 14.
- Jodhpur (Joudhpore), NL 4 : 85—86, NL 5 : 94, 97, NL 6 : 105, NL 8 : 122—123, NL 9 : 131—132, NL 12 : 163, NL 14 : 189—190, NL 15 : 195—197, NL 16 : 207, 208, NL 17 : 227—228, NL 18 : 240—242, NL 19 : 250—252, NL 20 : 260—264, NL 21 : 281, NL 22 : 294—295, NL 25 : 327—328, NL 26 : 336—337, NL 27 : 343—344, NL 28 : 350—351.
- John Company, see East India Company.
- Jwahar Singh, 146.
- Kabul, 1, 4, 6—8, 10, 12—13, 19, 23, 35, 42, 47, 53, 59—60, NL 3 : 69—70, NL 4 : 76—77, 82, 99—101, NL 7 : 108—109, NL 8 : 117—119, NL 9 : 127, NL 11 : 149, NL 13 : 170, NL 14 : 183—184, NL 16 : 204—205, NL 17 : 221—223, NL 18 : 233—234, NL 19 : 246, NL 20 : 257—259, NL 21 : 270—271, NL 22 : 284—287, NL 23 : 300—301, NL 24 : 315—316, NL 25 : 323, NL 26 : 333, NL 27 : 339—340, NL, 28 : 346, NL 29 : 353—354, NL 30 : 357.
- Kachhi, 33, 41—45, 47, 81, 340, 347, 358.
- Kakkar tribe, 43, 47.
- Kandahar, 1—2, 7, 9—10, 13, 47, 51, 54—56, 62—64, 69, 76—77, 79, 90—91, 97, 100—101, 117, 119, 125—126, 135, 138, 151, 172, 204—205, 273—274, 300, 356, 365, NL 32 : 377, NL 34 : 398.
- Kangra fort, 21, 22, 24, 31, 147.
- Kashmir, 2, 4, 28, 51, 269—270.

- Karrack, NL 6 : 104—105.
- Keane, John, 7, 23, 32, 36, 42, 51, 55, 64, 72, 79—81, 138, 150, 202, 217, 224, 233—234, 273, 338, 353.
- Kelat, 33, 41, 43—44, 63, 69, 71, 80, 91, 103, 110, 121, 135, 138, 162, 242—243, 276, 287—288, 319, 324—325, 336, 348, 370, 391.
- Kennedy, Captain, 40.
- Khairpur, 32, 34—36, 38, 40, 42, 103, 139.
- Khalsa army, 14—16, 18—19, 25—28, 32, 69, 89, 406—407.
- Khan of Kokan, 224.
- Kharak Singh, Maharaja, 14, 17—22, 24—25, 29, 52, 99, 136—137, 146—147, 158—159, 166—168, 171, 180—181, 201, 212, 213, 231, 232, 255—256, 267—269, 286, 338, 346, 353.
- Khina, NL 2 : 354, NL 31 : 365—367.
- Khorasan, 2—3, 64, NL 31 : 367, NL 33 : 392.
- Khuda Yar Khan, 258.
- Khushal Singh, Jamedar, 22, 24, 29, 89, 100, 147, 158—159, 213, 286, 375, 388.
- Khyber, 7, 9, 11—12, 136.
- Khyberees, 46, 60, 69, 287, 298—299, 331—332, 390.
- Kishan Chand, Rai, 389.
- Kishengarh, NL 30 : 360—361.
- Kohistan (Cohistan), 9, 82, 100.
- Kolhapur (Colapore), 48, 67.
- Koondooz, NL 18 : 233, NL 20 : 257—259, NL 23 : 301—303.
- Kot, 48, 74.
- Kurnool, NL 17 : 227, NL 18 : 240, NL 21 : 278—279, NL 22 : 291—294, NL : 23 : 310—311, NL 28 : 350.
- Lahore, 3, 11—12, 14—16, 19—20, 22—23, 26—30, NL 1 : 51—52, NL 2 : 60—61, NL 3 : 68, NL 4 : 76, NL 6 : 99, NL 7 : 107, NL 8 : 117, NL 9 : 125, NL 10 : 136—137, NL 11 : 146—148, NL 12 : 158—159, NL 13 : 166—168, 170, NL 14 : 178—180, NL 15 : 192, NL 16 : 200—201, NL 17 : 212—213, NL 18 : 231—232, NL 19 : 246, NL 20 : 255—256, NL 21 : 267—270, NL 22 : 284, NL 27 : 238, NL 28 : 346, NL 29 : 353.
- Lahore Darbar, 9—10, 13, 15, 18—19, 21, 23, 29, 231—232, 246, 256—257, 284, 286, 315, 374—376, 388, 406.
- Lalla Beg, 11.
- Lakhi Mal (Lukhee Mull), 297.
- Lambrick, 35.
- Lehna Singh, 89, 147, 160, 178—179, 255, 375.
- Loodianah, see Ludhiana
- Lower Sind, NL 7 : 111, NL 9 : 134, NL 11 : 154, NL : 12 : 162, NL 13 : 175, NL 14 : 188, NL 17 : 225—226, NL 18 : 237—239, NL 21 : 277, NL 22 : 288—289, NL 23 : 304—305, NL : 24 : 319—320, NL 25 : 326, NL : 26 : 335—336, NL 27 : 341, NL 28 : 348, NL 31 : 370, NL 32 : 378, NL 33 : 391 see also under upper Sind Amirs of Sind and individual names of Mirs.
- Lucknow, NL 14 : 190, NL 34 : 403.
- Ludhiana (Loodianah), 1, 6, 13, 22—23, 31.
- Lundi Khana, 11.
- Mackeson, Lt., 12, 78, 89, 169, 180, 182, 286—287, 315, 323, 331, 365.
- Macnaghten, William, 7, 8, 13, 51, 55—56, 64, 72—73, 78—80, 82, 90—91, 101, 104, 107, 117, 119—122, 138, 148—149, 172, 202—203, 224, 233, 238, 246, 257—259, 271, 273, 284—286, 302, 323, 331—333, 339, 346.
- Madhusudan, Pandit, 213.
- Mahomed Afzal Kahn, 89, 171.
- Mahomed Akbar Khan, 214.
- Maitland, Fredrick, 49, 103.
- Majithias, 15.

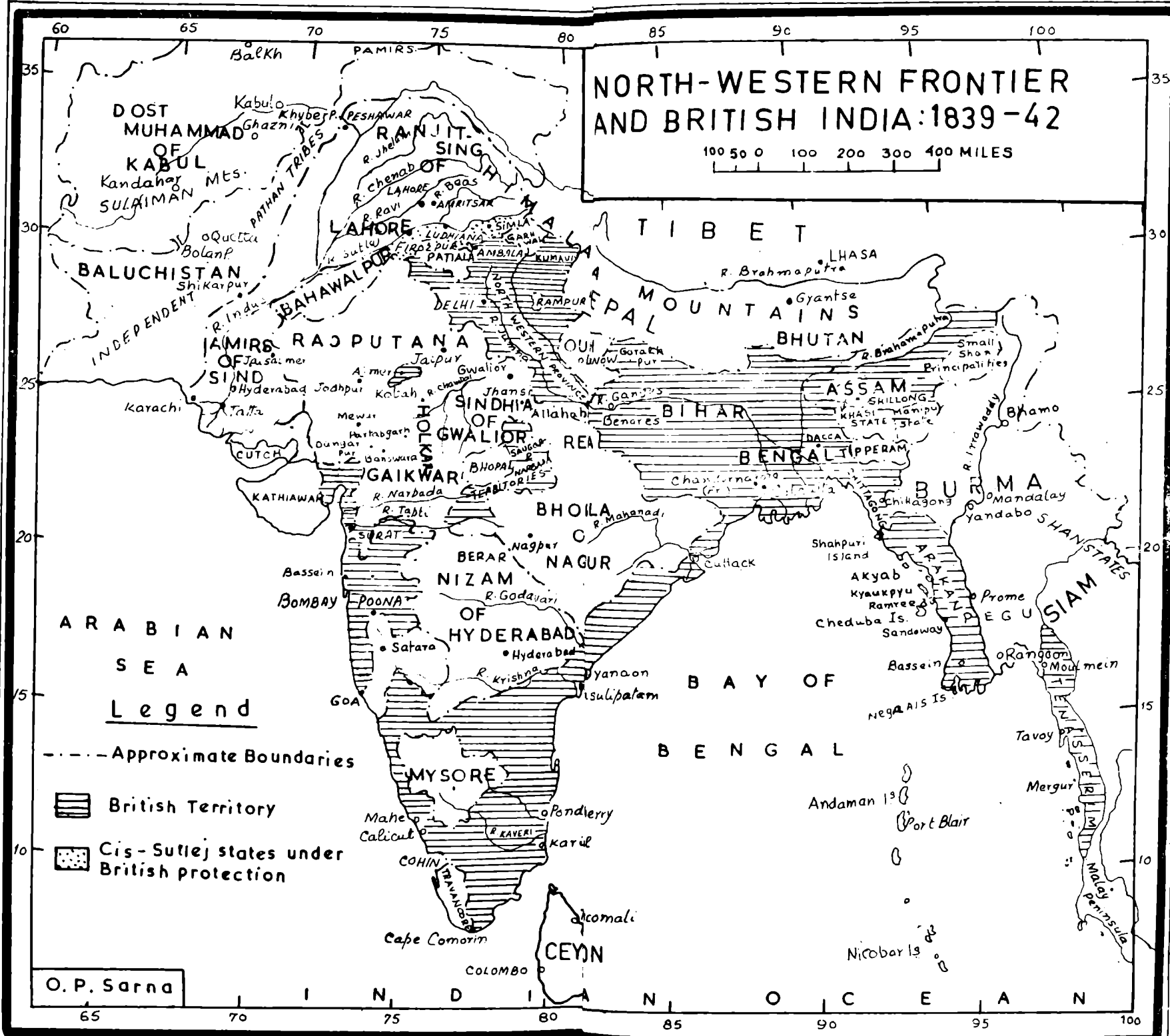
- Malcolm, John, 3.
- Mangal Singh, 19, 136, 146, 167, 338.
- Marris, 42—43, 47, 326.
- Marshman, 47.
- Megh Raj, Missur, 21, 268.
- Mehdi Ali Khan, 3.
- Mehrab Khan, 41, 276, 304—305, 319, 324—325, 340—341.
- Mehtab Singh Majithia, 26.
- Metcalfe, Charles, 3.
- Minawar, 25.
- Mir Ahmed Khan, 47, 139.
- Mir Akbar Khan, 11, 68, 89.
- Mir Ali Murad, 34, 40—41, 44, 45.
- Mir Fateh Ali, 39.
- Mir Futteh Mahomed Khan, 135, 341.
- Mir Ghulam Ali, 34.
- Mir Hussein Ali Khan, 47, 378.
- Mir Mir Mahomed Khan, 39, 47, 135, 238, 304, 335, 378.
- Mir Mubarak, 34—35, 40.
- Mir Murad Ali, 34—35, 81, 139—141.
- Mir Nasir Khan, 34, 39—41, 43, 47, 238, 304, 335, 358, 369—370, 378, 398.
- Mir Nur Mahomed, 34, 37, 39, 43, 45, 71, 139, 154, 238, 304, 326, 335, 341, 348, 378, 391.
- Mir Rustam Khan, 32—36, 38, 40—41, 44—45, 71, 135, 153, 341, 346, 370.
- Mir Shahdad Khan, 47, 378.
- Mir Shir Mahomed, 34, 37, 39, 43, 45—46, 71, 238.
- Mir Sobdar Khan, 33, 34, 35, 39, 47, 237—238, 304.
- Mirpur, 37, 43, 45.
- Mohammad Shah, 5.
- Mosstung, 45, 81.
- Morad Beg, 53—54, 273, 285, 301, 303.
- Multan (Mooltan), 4, 28, NL 8 : 119, NL 17 : 213, NL 18 : 232—233, NL 28 : 346.
- Muscat, NL 1 : 54—55, NL 3 : 73, NL 7 : 112, NL 12 : 162—163, NL 17 : 227, NL 23 : 309, NL 24 : 321, NL 25 : 326—327, NL 28 : 348—349, NL 29 : 355, NL 30 : 359, NL 32 : 380, NL 34 : 401.
- Muzaffarabad, 24.
- Mysore, NL 33 : 392—393.
- Nadir Shah, 2, 216.
- Nagpur (Nagpore), NL 20 : 260, NL 21 : 280.
- Napoleon, 3.
- Nathau, Captain, 29.
- Nau Nihal Singh, Kanwar, 10—11, 14, 18—26, 30, 61, 68, 76—77, 89, 125, 136, 147, 158, 160, 166—167, 170, 178—181, 192, 200—201, 212—213, 231—232, 255—256, 267—269, 284, 286, 297, 338, 346, 353, 386.
- Nellore, 48, 59, 75, 88—97.
- Nepal (Nipal), 4, NL 1 : 57—58, NL 2 : 68, NL 3 : 73, NL 4 : 86—87, NL 5 : 95, NL 7 : 113—114, NL 8 : 123, NL 10 : 143—144, NL 12 : 163, NL 13 : 177, NL 14 : 190—191, NL 15 : 197—198, NL 16 : 208—210, NL 17 : 228, NL 18 : 244—245, NL 19 : 252—253, NL 20 : 264—265, NL 21 : 281—282, NL 22 : 295—296, NL 23 : 312, NL 25 : 328—329, NL 26 : 337, NL 27 : 344, NL 28 : 351, NL 30 : 361—362, NL 32 : 382—383, NL 33 : 393—394, NL 35 : 411—412.
- Newsletters, 9, 12, 14, 19, 29, 34—35, 38, 42, 43.
- Nipal, see Negap.
- North West Frontier, NL 30 : 357, NL 31 : 364, NL 32 : 374—376, NL 33 : 386—390, NL 34 : 396—397, NL 35 : 406—407.
- Nott, Maj. Gen., 47, 365, 370.
- Nuruddin, Faqir, 286.
- Nuthall, Capt., 179—180.

- Opium War, First, 2, 49.
- Osborne, 14, 168.
- Oudh (Oude), NL 19 : 253—254, NL 22 : 296, NL 32 : 382, NL 33 : 393.
- Outram, James, 33, 40, 44, 45, 46, 47, 234—235, 246, 270—271, 285, 300—301, 315, 325, 335.
- Paenda Khan, 24.
- Panjab, 1—9, 13—23, 25, 27—31, 35, 51—52, 60—61, 68, 76, 99, 107, 117, 125, 136—137, 146—148, 158, 159, 166—168, 170, 178—180, 192, 200—201, 212—213, 231—232, 246, 255—256, 267—270, 284, 338, 346, 353, 374—376, 388, 406.
- Partap Singh Kanwar, 13, 397.
- Persia, 4—5, NL 16 : 206, NL 18 : 240, NL 23 : 305—309, NL 24 : 320—321, NL 26, NL 27 : 342, NL 31 : 368, NL 32 : 380—381, NL 35 : 409—410.
- Persian Gulf, NL 9 : 128—130, NL 21 : 278, NL 25 : 327, NL 28 : 349—350, NL 34 : 399—400.
- Peshawar, 1, 3—5, 9—13, 18—19, 22—24, 28—29, 32, NL 1 : 51—52, 60—62, NL 2 : 68—69, NL 3 : 69, NL 4 : 77—78, NL 5 : 89—90, NL 6 : 99—102, NL 7 : 109—110, NL 8 : 117—119, NL 9 : 125, NL 10 : 137—138, NL 11 : 147—148, NL 12 : 158, 160—161, NL 13 : 166, 170—172, NL 14 : 180—183, NL 17 : 212—214, NL 15 : 192—193, NL 16 : 200—204, NL 20 : 256—257, NL 22 : 287, NL 23 : 298—300, NL 24 : 315, NL 25 : 323, NL 26 : 331—333, NL 27 : 339, NL 31 : 365, NL 32 : 376, NL 33 : 390, see also North Western Frontier.
- Pirthi Chand, 167, 178—179.
- Portugese possessions, 48.
- Punjab, see Panjab.
- Punjab Ukhbar, 117, 125, 136, 146, 158, 160, 178.
- Pollock, 13.
- Postans, Capt., 46, 47.
- Pottinger, Henry, 13, 32—33, 35—37, 39—40, 54, 62—63, 70—72, 82, 106—107, 134, 139, 148—149, 154, 205, 224—225, 235, 237—238, 247, 304, 333, 348.
- Princep, 97—98.
- Quetta, 7, 43—44, 80—81, 110, 121, 125—127, 152, 370.
- Radha Kishan, 231.
- Rahum Dil Khan, 62, 79.
- Rajputana (Rajpootana), 4, NL 13 : 176—177, NL 34 : 403.
- Ram Krishan, 20, 166.
- Ram Singh, Bhai, 20, 24, 29, 137, 146, 158—159, 166, 286.
- Ranbir Chand, Raja, 178.
- Ranjit Singh, Maharaja, 3—9, 14—20, 22, 25, 29, 31, 35, 51—52, 60—61, 68, 76, 99, 107, 117, 125, 136—137, 146—148, 158, 159, 246—269.
- Ranjour Singh, 178.
- Rattan Chand, Mean, 167, 178—179, 212.
- Rattan Singh Gundanee, 146.
- Richardson, 5, 115.
- Roop Lall, Misser, 179, 267, 284.
- Sahib Kaur, 76.
- Sahib Khan Chota, 225.
- Satara (Sattarah), 48, 57, 88, NL 19 : 249—250, NL 21 : 279, NL 23 : 310, NL 24 : 321—322, NL 27 : 343.
- Sawan Mal, Dewan, 68, 160, 169, 232—233, 346.
- Scott, Brigadier, 42.
- Shah Kamran, 51, 76, 82, 247—249, 317, 324, 333, 335, 367—368, 377.
- Shah Passand Khan, 318—319.
- Shah Shuja, 3, 4, 6—10, 12—13, 31, 35—36, 53, 57, 101, 111, 141, 147, 149, 160, 297—298, 333, 340, 377, 406.

- Sher Singh, Maharaja, 13—14, 17, 24, 26—28, 136, 147—148, 158, 159, 166—167, 178—179, 181, 200, 232, 256, 268—269, 364, 376, 388—390, 396—397.
- Shikarpur, 13, 31—32, 36, 38, 42, 44, 47, 57, 62, 64, 81, 102, 111, 121, 152—154, 186.
- Shuja-ul-Mulk, 6, 149, 304, 341, 348, 390, 407.
- Siam, NL 7 : 115.
- Sikkim, NL 4 : 87—88.
- Sind, 1—4, 31—33, 35—37, 40, 42—43, 45, 47, 62, NL 3 : 70—72, see also Lower Sind, Upper Sind.
- Spiller, Col., 225.
- Stacy, Col., 45.
- Stoddart, Col. 62, 82, 107, 224, 235, 274, 316.
- Suchet Singh, Raja, 146, 159, 231, 388.
- Suez, 403.
- Sukkur, 38, 40, 42, 44, 47, 64, 71, 91, 127, 135, 139, 154, 161.
- Sultan Mohammad Khan, 1, 9, 11, 23, 52, 60, 69, 89, 299, 332, 339, 389.
- Syria, N: 15 : 195, NL 18 : 239—240, NL 19 : 249, NL 22 : 289—290, NL 23 : 310, NL 30 : 359—360.
- Taimur, Shahzada, 11, 19.
- Talpur, 4, 34—38, 40, 43—45.
- Tatta, 38, 70, 111, 134, 319, 348.
- Tej Chand, 364.
- Tej Singh, 24, 30—31, 267, 338, 353.
- Todd, Maj., 236—237, 247—249, 274—276, 317, 334, 347, 354.
- Treaty of Amritsar, 3.
- Treaty of Chanak, 3.
- Treaty of Tukomanchai, 5.
- Tripartite treaty, 7, 21, 31, 53, 60, 181.
- Turkish Arabia, NL 16 : 207, NL 18 : 240, NL 24 : 321, NL 27 : 343, NL 32 : 378—379, NL 34 : 402.
- Udaipur (Oodypore), NL 14 : 188.
- Upper Sind, NL 4 : 81, NL 5 : 91—93, NL 6 : 102—103, NL 7 : 110—111, NL 8 : 121—122, NL 8 : 126—127, NL 9 : 135, NL 10 : 138—141, NL 11 : 153—154, NL 12 : 161—162, NL 13 : 173—174, NL 14 : 186—188, NL 17 : 224—225, NL 23 : 303—304, NL 24 : 319, NL 25 : 325—326, NL 27 : 340—341, NL 28 : 347, NL 30 : 358—359, NL 31 : 368—370, NL 32 : 378, NL 33 : 391, NL 34 : 398—399, NL 35 : 408, 409, see also Lower Sind.
- Ventura, Gen., 10, 26, 28, 32, 61, 69, 118, 167—168, 170, 179, 212, 268, 284, 286, 386.
- Vienna Settlement, 3.
- Vikovitch, 2, 216, 316.
- Vitkevich, Ivan Viktorovich, 6.
- Wahabi Outbreak, 50, 154—155.
- Waterloo, 3—4.
- Wazir Singh, 21, 31, 267, 353.
- Wellesley, Lord, 3.
- Wheeler, Col., 315, 323, 331, 376, 389, 408.
- Wiltshire, Gen., 57.
- Wade, Claude, 7, 9—10, 19, 22—23, 29—30, 51—53, 60—61, 68—69, 76—77, 81, 89—90, 99—102, 109, 117—118, 136—137, 147—150, 158—161, 167—168, 170—172, 178—183, 200—201, 213—214, 231, 234, 287, 299, 332.
- Yar Mohamed Khan, 54, 82, 83, 247—249, 318, 324, 333—334, 347, 358, 377.
- Zaman Shah, 3—4.

NORTH-WESTERN FRONTIER AND BRITISH INDIA: 1839-42

100 50 0 100 200 300 400 MILES



Legend

- Approximate Boundaries
- ▨ British Territory
- ▤ Cis-Sutlej states under British protection

O. P. Sarna