

# EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS

TO MRS. | BAMFIELD FROM HER HUSBAND,  
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L -

DURING THE

## SECOND SEIKH WAR;

THE LAST LETTER HAVING BEEN WRITTEN WITHIN  
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF HIS RECEIVING  
A MORTAL WOUND AT

THE BATTLE OF CHILLIANWALLAH.

ALSO,

THE SUBSEQUENT LETTERS  
OF HER SON, &c.

BATH:

C. W. OLIVER, 24, MILSOM STREET.

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# P R E F A C E .

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*Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Almighty hath wrought this?*

*In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.*

JOB xii. 9, 10.

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A year ago, I had the privilege of hearing a very beautiful discourse from a much-esteemed minister on the above passage of Scripture, which was peculiarly touching to *me*, as it doubtless was to many others. He chose it for his text on the occasion of unexpected and deep sorrow in his own family, and by an effort which seemed almost too great, made his own then very recent affliction the means of much instruction, of much comfort and consolation to all those

who were able to appreciate it and to sympathize with him ; while he was himself a living example of humble and *entire* submission to, and firm faith and confidence in, Him who had inflicted the wound under which he was suffering. Often since then have these words recurred to me, and I cannot but feel that they are appropriately placed here.

Although the following extracts and letters explain themselves too clearly to need any interpreter, I feel that a few words of introduction are necessary from me in placing them even in the hands of my late husband's and my own nearest relations. It is now more than two years since I first expressed to some of them my intention of transcribing, and probably having a few copies printed, of those parts of their brother's letters which I wished to shew them ; and five years since the events recorded in them and in Albert's letters took place ; yet I do not think any one will

## PREFACE.

wonder that my promise had not been sooner fulfilled. I used to think I could do it only when *quite* alone, *quite* uninterrupted, and on such occasions have made the attempt, and as often have been obliged to relinquish it. But now, in the cheerful and cheering society of my mother and others, and amid various interruptions, I have accomplished that which I could not do in solitude. And although five long years *have* elapsed since those fearful and sorrow-spreading scenes, so ably and faithfully narrated by Captain Thackwell occurred, CHILLIANWALLA is still fresh in the memory of our country, still painfully fresh in the memory of those who personally suffered there, and in whose hearts the memory of those who nobly but *lamentably* fell there will *never* die. Therefore, this tribute, though late, is not unseasonable. And well can we who suffered *then* and suffer *still* feel for and sympathize with those who are suffering the same things *now*, and, alas ! must suffer more.



I would long ago have wished to thank Captain Thackwell for his noble, deeply-felt, and much-valued, because truthful, tribute to the memory of my late husband ; and if he reads these pages, he will be more fully aware of how just was his claim to the high testimony he has recorded ; and his prayer for the widow is not in vain, for although her loss is an irreparable one, there *is* much to cheer and console her under it, *not* merely in the remembrance of what we call the *glory* of a brave soldier's death on the field of battle ! *that* did indeed but add *bitterly* to her grief, to think that he should have been cut off in the midst of health and strength, both of body and mind, and that one so *good* and kind should have suffered a death so inconsistent with his whole life and character. *Yet there is one thought which is all-powerful to silence the faintest murmuring ; not only in the thought that he died as he had lived, in the zealous and intelligent performance of his duty, but,*

more than all, in the knowledge that his hopes of eternal life were firmly built on the “Rock of Ages,” that he “sleeps in Jesus” till that time when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and DEATH shall be swallowed up in VICTORY.

If I have left anything in these extracts from my late husband’s letters which it may be thought would have been better omitted, I must say that I have done it with reluctance as regards my own feelings ; yet as they will be read *only* by kind *friends*, I have the less scruple in allowing to appear some expressions of his love and kindness to myself ; and none will doubt my motive in so doing. Nor can I forbear to add the valued letters of some of our friends.

We are *all* and at all times subject to bereavements and affliction, and we all stand in need of having our minds directed and led to those powerful sources of strength and consolation to which, under the influence of crushing grief, we are sometimes unable to

resort ourselves. It is possible, therefore, that these letters may soothe and comfort *others*, as they did me. Many of those who felt for me then have since been called hence, and while I now write, Lady Elliot and Mrs. Mountain, two of my kind and sympathizing friends at Simla, are mourning under a similar bereavement with my own. May God comfort *them* under so heavy a stroke !

I would hope that the perusal of the late Sir Charles Napier's letters, which I have naturally been led to insert, may, although so well acquainted with his many acts of kind consideration and benevolence, afford a ray of pleasure to Lady Napier and his once loved daughters. His warm-hearted, unhesitating, unconditional compliance with my request was what *I wanted*, and felt it to be right and due ; he felt it also, and that in such a case the duty of setting aside a general rule seemed more called for than that of strictly adhering to it. The prompt



kindness and readiness with which Sir Charles entered into my feelings were indeed as soothing and cheering to me as anything in the world at that time could have been, and it was gratefully received by Albert, who soon, and with ease, more than fulfilled the expectations of his chief. It would appear from his first note to me that Sir Charles had been aware of my previous application to the Governor General, but this was not the case.

We also have much cause to feel extremely obliged to Lord Dalhousie, for the kind friendliness he manifested towards us, and for the handsome way in which he proved (at a dinner party in his tent, while at Hooshearpore,) the sincerity of the feelings expressed in his letter to me. Having requested Colonel Grant to bring Albert to him, he said that although *he had received his appointment before the time of service prescribed by the Court of Directors had been completed*, he need not be under any appre-

hension of being remanded to his regiment, but assured him that he was quite safe, and certain of retaining his position ; he then made Albert be seated on the couch by his side, and conversed most pleasantly with him as they took their coffee. He might indeed feel safe with two such friends, as also the Adjutants General of both armies.

Colonel Mountain had been his father's friend, and on that mournful and melancholy day of the burial at Chillianwalla, he assured Albert of his lasting friendship as he supported him at his father's grave. Although first appointed to the 14th Irregulars, he received his permanent appointment in the 7th, and the officer who was second in command of that regiment having recently been ordered to join his own regiment in Burmah, the same general orders contained Albert's appointment to act as second in command, in addition to his other duties.

He writes,—“ Rawul Pindie, Feb. 16th, “ 1854    You will have heard ere you get

“ this of poor Colonel Mountain’s death  
“ from typhus fever, at Umballa. Poor old  
“ gentleman, he was my best friend in India,  
“ and almost the last act of his life must  
“ have been getting me that appointment,  
“ I mean the acting second in command.  
“ I have been thinking of writing to Mrs.  
“ Mountain, to express our sincere sorrow ;  
“ but these letters of condolence, I always  
“ think, only serve in a great measure to  
“ keep open the wound in the heart of the  
“ mourner.”

I have spoken of some of my friends at Simla. When I went up in March, 1849, I stood much in need of such a friend as I found in the greatly-esteemed and beloved Chaplain who was at that time stationed there. I could not help feeling it Providential that I was led to his ministry ; it seemed, or rather it *did* throw, a sacred charm over sorrow. It is a time often brought to mind with grateful remembrance, of what I used to hear from him, and of his very kind



attention. In the November following he came to England, and has retired from the service. Since my own return, in August, 1851, I have had the true pleasure of meeting him again.

I should like to refer any of you, dear friends, who will take the trouble, to the life of Dr. William Gordon, by Newman Hall, which was put into my hands by a friend soon after I came to England, but who little knew how very deeply interesting it would prove to me. I refer especially to the fifth chapter, headed, "a night of distress." It was on the 13th of Jan., 1849, that Dr. Gordon was seized with those alarming and agonizing sufferings which were expected soon to terminate in death. This alone was to me a sadly interesting coincidence, but still more striking was his abrupt allusion to the awful contrast between his own dying circumstances and those of such who die on the battle-field, for he knew not that in the hour in which his words

were uttered hundreds of his countrymen were experiencing the extremity of that fearful contrast, and *some* of them were kindred spirits with his own. *He* is buried in a beautiful cemetery in his native land, with “flowers nodding over his grave,” and often visited by those he loved and who cherish his memory. *They* lie far away on that lonely mound, surrounded by the wild battle-field! *Their graves* are unmarked; but this inscription is on the monument which has been erected to their memory—

AROUND THIS TOMB WAS FOUGHT THE SANGUINARY  
BATTLE OF CHILLIANWALLAH,  
13th January, 1849,

BETWEEN THE

BRITISH FORCES UNDER LORD GOUGH,  
AND THE SIKHS UNDER RAJAH SHERE SINGH.  
ON BOTH SIDES DID

INNUMERABLE WARRIORS PASS FROM THIS LIFE,  
DYING IN MORTAL COMBAT.

*Honoured be the Graves of those Heroic Soldiers!*

TO THE MEMORY OF

THOSE WHO FELL IN THE RANKS OF THE  
ANGLO-INDIAN ARMY,

THIS MONUMENT HAS BEEN RAISED BY THEIR  
SURVIVING COMRADES,

*At whose sides they perished:*

COMRADES WHO GLORY IN THEIR GLORY, AND LAMENT  
THEIR FALL.



And *this* on the tomb of our little daughter, in Leckhampton Churchyard, near Cheltenham—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
 B L A N C H E    A G N E S    L O C H,  
 ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE LATE  
 MAJOR DANIEL BAMFIELD,  
 OF THE BENGAL ARMY, WHO FELL AT CHILLIANWALLA,  
 AND OF CHRISTIAN HIS WIFE;  
 WHO DIED AT CHELTENHAM, OF CONSUMPTION,  
 IN HER FIFTEENTH YEAR,  
 JULY 1ST, 1851.

*“Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden,  
 and I will give you rest.”*

She cried for “Rest! rest! Peace! peace!”  
 and she loved the text on her tomb.

They, whose names are written on that stone, how *widely* separated are their mortal remains! but their undying spirits are united in heaven, and for *ever* at rest and peace.

C. B.

*Bath; April 28th, 1854.*

# LETTERS.



*Camp Humber; 16th Sept., 1848.*

\* \* \*

I felt very much for you when the regiment passed along with the drums and fifes playing, because I knew that the cheerful sounds would be distressing to you. But I trust it will please God so to direct our movements that you will soon be with me again.

It is devoutly to be hoped that Albert will get an extension of leave, and not have to return to Benares. The tent is very comfortable, and I find the punka a great luxury.

All my things have come up nicely, and I shall have all the comfort which solitude in camp will admit of.

I trust you will soon inform me that Albert is not to return to Benares.

They are striking the tent, and I must pack up.

---

*5th March from Loodeana ;  
28th Sept.*

I was glad to receive your and Younger's letters this morning, but the intelligence regarding the Punjaub is very serious.

By the time of our arrival at Ferozepore much will be known, but it is impossible without further particulars for me to make any plan for ourselves.

My opinion is, that an effort will now be made to assemble as large an army as we can muster, and that a Proclamation will be

issued declaring the Treaty annulled, and annexing the Punjaub to British India.

In virtue of our disgraceful treaty with Goolab Sing, by which he is bound to render us assistance against all enemies, I suppose he will be required to attack the Seikhs in the Hazareh country, and the result will be that our treaty with him will soon be annulled also, and then we shall have to conquer the Punjaub, or we shall once more have the Seikhs as enemies in our own territories. When the Punjaub is again in our own hands we shall keep it, and there must be a large increase to the army immediately, or our old provinces will be endangered.

Brigadier Campbell at Lahore will act with firmness.

We should have garrisoned Govindgbur with our own troops long ago. We may fear for our few countrymen who are at Peshawur, and other distant parts of the country ; and no wisdom has been displayed in giving them protection.

I think, under present circumstances, Albert will get extension of leave, for every officer, old and young, will be required.

There was a dust storm just at the first bugle this morning, which lasted a couple of hours. There was also a little rain.

The greater part of the country we have passed through is sandy, and every thing scarce and dear.

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*Ferozepore ; Sept. 22d.*

We arrived here this morning, and are to halt for orders.

No dawks from Mooltan for three days.

I am glad to find Albert ranked at last, he will soon be posted.

Saturday, 23d Sept. I went to the Post-office and received your letter of yesterday, and also one from Brigadier Eckford. I trust you will soon be comfortably housed with Mrs. Eckford, and shall be glad if Anna and her infant join you.



Cocks will most likely be detached from Lahore, and his wife ought not to be there alone.

The 29th Queen's and 31st and 56th Native Infantry are held in readiness to proceed to Mooltan at a moment's notice ; but since this order was issued, the intelligence of our having raised the siege of Mooltan has reached head quarters, and we now look forward to a modification of the order. A strong force, in compact order, and consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry, should be sent ; and unless our rulers discontinue the practice of sending small parties under such circumstances, we shall have severe calamities.

Letters have arrived from Mooltan, both last night and this morning, and they seem to be in good spirits, and free from any difficulty.

They were quite astonished at seeing the order for raising the siege, as they could not perceive any necessity for it.

The Brigadier will perhaps be with you to-day ; if not, he will be with you soon on his way to this place, and he will tell you of our proposed movements.

We do not expect to leave this for many days, but nothing is known, and we have no guide in forming our own conclusions. The Mooltan force was sent there in detail, and with most unmilitary want of arrangement. The enemy might have cut up a great many of them ; but we got there without loss, and our authorities may not think it necessary to take ordinary precautions, unless we should experience some fearful calamities.

Mackeson came into camp at the last march from this, having come on horseback and on camel that day from Loodeana. He dined with me at the mess, and then continued his journey to this place. I was very glad to see him, and went to see him early this morning and had a talk about the Punjaub.

24th Sept. I received your letter this afternoon, mentioning Brigadier Eckford's arrival at our house, and that he expected to be here to-morrow evening.

I enclose a note from Captain Furgusson, the Major of Brigade. It appears that the 31st and 56th are to march immediately. I have not heard any particulars as to route, &c. The Commander-in-Chief ought to be here, which is the *rendezvous* of the troops ; then he might be expected to act more judiciously than he can at so great a distance. My opinion is that in a country such as we are about to enter, we ought to march with artillery, cavalry, and infantry united, so as not only to be able to defend ourselves, but to keep the enemy at a distance, and to follow up any advantage we might gain over him, in case of an action. Infantry alone cannot follow up the enemy's artillery and cavalry, and may be annoyed without the possibility of bringing the enemy to close quarters.

At present I am uninformed of our intended movements, but I suppose Bawulpore is to be the *rendezvous*, and that when we advance towards our troops at Mooltan it will be in due order and according to military maxims. You have heard that General Whish lost all his ammunition, but the accounts received here are not so bad. It appears that when he raised the siege and changed the ground, all the Durbar camels were amounting to about 3,000, and the Punjahee bearers were not to be found. A thousand maunds of wheat, for which there was no carriage, was set on fire, and some shells and shot were left behind; but the letters from Mooltan are written in good spirits, and I do not apprehend any difficulty in maintaining their position, if they can procure sufficient supplies. The siege must be renewed when we are fully prepared for the undertaking, and not sooner.

In one of my early letters to Younger, I said that we ought to take into the field a



sufficient force of our own to meet not only the avowed enemy but also whatever Durbar troops might accompany us as allies, for I felt assured that if we did not, the Durbar troops would turn against us, and so it has proved.

24th. My letter was too late yesterday, but I send it to-day without opening it, as the postage is not ruinous.

The Brigadier arrived in good time this morning. I had awoke some time before, and had the kettle put on the fire, so that he soon had a good cup of tea. He is in excellent spirits, and is quite well.

We have had the thermometer in my tent to-day at 104, and in small tents it must be much higher ; but thank God I am perfectly well. . . . It is doubtful whether boats can be procured for the 29th or not. The answer is expected to-night. But there is great objection to the river route under present circumstances. Moolrajh and the Seikhs have command of the whole country



on the right bank of the Sutlej, and in some places guns carry right across, and if the Seikhs take a battery to these parts, they can sink every boat, or oblige the troops to disembark. I think the three infantry regiments will march from this place, and leave about the 29th or 30th, but I am convinced that we ought to have artillery and cavalry with us when we leave Bhawulpore. I enclose a rough sketch of Mooltan and of our several positions, taken from a much rougher sketch.

Let me know what Mrs. Eckford says about Albert, that I may tell him how to act. With nearly the whole of the army coming, and casualties occurring in so many regiments, it is almost a certainty that Albert will be appointed to a regiment up the country, hundreds of miles above Benares.

*Ferozepore ; 26th Sept., 1848.*

I have again had the pleasure of a letter from you, and I trust you will write daily, for the postmaster of this place assures me that he will forward all our letters by “outside dák.” Continue to direct as at present, but after we have marched, put “Ferozepore, to be forwarded;” they will then be forwarded from this Post-office, whereas, if you were to direct them to Mooltan, they would be put into the Mooltan packet at Loodeana, and not opened here. I will not repeat what I have said to Albert; he will remain till you are comfortably settled in the Brigadier’s house, and if the 70th have marched, he can send on his tent with them, and follow by dák or on horses. But I do not *urges* his coming beyond Loodeana till posted, though I do not object to it. It is decidedly right not to return to Benares, for it is almost certain that he will be posted to a corps on the frontier.

It is decided that there are boats enough

both for the bridge and the 29th regiment, and consequently that corps will go by water. I hope the enemy will not give them a broadside some night from the right bank, and after sinking some of the boats, oblige the Europeans to desert the remainder and continue their journey by land on the left bank, without camp equipage. The Brigadier has not received any orders yet for the march, but we ought to be off on the 28th or 29th.

Some Queen's regiments are coming up from the Bombay Presidency to Bhawalpore, and we may perhaps meet them there and go on in force to join the troops near Mooltan. But it will be nearly a month before we can reach them.

The Brigadier and I are to dine at the Furgusson's this evening, and I suppose if any news has reached the station, we shall hear it. We had a pleasant evening at the Davises; they are very friendly, and asked most kindly after you and Agnes.

This is such an extensive station that I do not attempt to call on any person except those I have mentioned, and on the authorities when I have to refer to them.

All the men of the regiment are in the highest spirits, and are anxious to meet the enemy.

We leave their heavy baggage here, and I purposed leaving a havildar and eight sepahees to take charge of it, but though we have several havildars who are fit subjects for the invalids, and would be passed by any medical committee, yet not one is willing to remain behind; and to encourage their military spirit I have told them they shall all remain with the regiment. I have now appointed an infirm Naick and eight miserable specimens of Sepoys to remain behind with the baggage.

The Brigadier found 104 degrees rather too hot, and to-day we have taken possession of the bungalow belonging to Major Lloyd, of the 49th. . . . .



Dák time is upon me, and I must close. We shall certainly be off in a day or two.

27th Sept. Last evening, when we were dining at Furgusson's, the Brigade Major's, we were told the arrangements had been altered, and that it had been determined on to send the three regiments by land, to start on the 2d of October. It would really be madness to send an infantry regiment by the Sutlej, while the whole country on the right bank is in possession of the enemy.

Your letter of to-day leads me to expect Albert soon, but to-morrow's letter will let me know to a certainty what his arrangements are to be.

If you are left without either Albert or myself, I still hope, my beloved C., that you will be supported in your solitude by comfort from on high. May our Father in heaven bless you !

It seems now certain that we are no longer engaged in endeavouring to establish a strong Seikh Government, and we may hope



for a blessing from the Almighty ; but while we were attempting to restore power to the Seikhs we could not prosper. . . .

Write daily, my beloved C., then I shall have some pleasure daily amidst the inconveniences of camp. I shall take every opportunity of writing to you ; and if it please God for me to be in action, I trust I shall be an instance of the fact that no person can be so fearless of man as those who have grace to love and fear God.

As Albert is coming, it seems best for him to borrow a palenkeen or doolee and be off by dák at once. You will be lonely, my beloved C., but may the consolations of religion, and the love of your devoted husband, serve to keep up your spirits !

We ought to be off, but the delay is not occasioned by us.

Our military arrangements are always incomplete, because of the paucity of troops.

*Ferozepore ; 29th Sept.*

I sincerely hope Albert will start by dák, so as to be here on the 1st of October some time. If he does not arrive till after our departure, he must go to Captain Davis's, of the 32d ; he asked me very kindly yesterday to send him to them. But it is far preferable that he should join us before we march, even if he travel night and day to effect it.

Sept. 30th.

. And

I hope the fruit of this campaign will be happiness and honour to my beloved wife. Your dear image will be present to my mind. In God will my trust be placed. The result is in the hands of our heavenly Father, and let us pray for resignation to say, "Thy will be done." Our Creator and our Preserver can protect us now as he has mercifully done up to the present time, and while we pray for grace to live in preparation for eternity, we may encourage the hope of

being restored to each other, and GREAT will be the joy of our meeting. . . .

To-day's letters from our dear Albert and yourself have quite set my mind at ease. I shall anxiously expect our dear boy to-morrow morning, and have tea in no time.

I have the greatest hope of his being a comfort to us through life.

Colonel Congreve, commanding the 29th, has just come in to say there are one sergeant and 27 men of Her Majesty's 10th on the way from Lahore for Mooltan, and it seems determined that our Brigade wait for them. This will delay us a day, and perhaps we may not march till the 4th of October, which is a day when you will remember me particularly in your prayers and in your thoughts.

*Ferozepore ; 1st October.*

Our dear boy arrived this morning in the highest spirits, and quite well. May he be preserved to us, and ever be a source of happiness!

We shall get on very well, I am sure. Every officer of the corps has joined the mess, and Albert, Watson, and Lieut. Quagle of the Artillery are honorary members ; the two last are proceeding to join their regiments at Mooltan.

The date of our march depends on the arrival of the 48 men I mentioned yesterday. It appears they cannot arrive till the 3d, in which case we shall start on the 4th.

We are all three to pass the day in our tent, and sleep in that of the Brigadier, which is a large single-pole tent, with a partition *kanaut*.

Albert shewed much kindness of heart in his attention yesterday at the *dák* bungalow



to poor Mrs. Taylor, whose husband was shot at Mooltan, and if she went to you I am sure you have given her a most friendly reception; tell me all about the distressed young widow.

We came into Major Lloyd's bungalow after breakfast, and remained till sunset. The house is furnished, and Albert is asleep on a nice charpoy, on which I am seated.

The accounts are favourable from all quarters. It seems as if Providence, having driven us to relinquish that line of policy which opposed the manifested will of God, by attempting to establish a strong Seikh Government, is now using us as instruments in fulfilling his own designs and terminating for ever the Seikh rule in the Punjaub.

2d October. Your letter of yesterday has just arrived, and I am very glad you have had the opportunity of comforting poor Mrs. Taylor.

We are not to march for a few days. The convalescents cannot make long marches.



Everything at Mooltan will be very dear, and perhaps very few things procurable.

I am glad to find Albert very aspiring, and prepared to qualify himself for responsible duties.

3d October.

When at the Post-office I heard a letter read from a native at Bhawulpore, giving intelligence that the troops at Peshawur had at length refused to obey Major G. Lawrence. The rebellion will of course spread to every corner of the Punjaub.

Orders have come to continue in readiness to march, but the date of our departure is undecided, and it is now thought that other branches of the service will be sent simultaneously with our Brigade, that from Bhawulpore we may be a well-organised force, prepared for whatever may be required.

We are now a long way from the occupied part of cantonments, and to-morrow morning we shall change our ground.

4th October.

If it please

God to preserve us, I do not anticipate a long separation, and the Punjaub, when annexed, will be as secure as the lower Provinces.

When Mooltan is captured and garrisoned by British troops, families will be able to go there with safety, and if that or Lahore is our destination, you will soon be with me.

We have not had any orders to-day, but it is now understood that a complete force is to proceed to Mooltan, and that General Gilbert will accompany it. You might ask Mr. Bowstead to send you any news of interest he may hear, especially about the marching of our Brigade, and the formation of new regiments. This latter would either promote me or bring me very near the top of the list of Majors, and will post our dear Albert.

I shall be glad when you are in the Brigadier's house, and to know that Mrs. Eckford and dear little Maria are with you. A letter from Anna to-day, but no news.

I am anxious about Mrs. G. Lawrence, and our deluded Politicals in the out-stations of the Punjaub.

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*Ferozepore ; 5th Oct. •*

There is a nice garden to the house, and a wide walk perfectly shaded from the sun, in which we enjoyed a walk last evening, and wished for you to be present. But our movements are quite uncertain, and depend more perhaps on those of the enemy than the wishes of our rulers. It would not therefore do for you to come here, for when we least expect it we may be ordered off.

It is supposed that no troops will move from here till it is seen how the Dussareh passes off at Lahore. Colonel Cureton, who is to command the Cavalry Brigade, is expected here on the 7th, and we may then learn the intentions of the authorities at head quarters. I expect soon to see long

general orders which will prove that the Governor-General has not been idle. As the Government expect their instructions from home by the mail now due, they seem to be waiting for their despatches before declaring their determination ; but it is to be regretted that any time should be lost in raising recruits.

6th Oct. We do not know when we are to march, or whether the report mentioned by Mrs. Dempster is likely to prove true ; but if the Commander-in-Chief does not set out with us, I think he will not be long in joining us at Mooltan

7th Oct. The Lahore Politicals have been more in the dark as to the real state of the Punjaub than could have been supposed, and we do not know that Sir F. Currie has even now ceased to confide in the natives around him and Captain Abbott, whom the politicals scoffed at as an alarmist, should be openly rewarded for his foresight and honesty in bringing the truth



to light, although he knew it would be unacceptable to those who had registered themselves as admirers of the Hardinge policy.

This is the anniversary of the birth of our sweet little infant at Saugur. May we have a well-grounded hope of rejoining the lovely babe in the realms of glory, then we shall derive happiness from our darling child, which we were deprived of here by his early removal.

May our beloved Albert and I be preserved amidst all danger, and after performing our duty to our country in a manner becoming those who fear God and not man, may we be restored to you.

I hope Mrs. Taylor has the support and consolation of religion in her affliction, and that she will have grace to bow with resignation to that dispensation of Providence which has removed her beloved husband from this scene to eternal happiness, and that she will find comfort in the hope of

being with him throughout eternity. Our dear Albert is in some other tent at present. I hear his voice. I remained in camp to-day, as this is the day for poojahing the colours by the sepoy, and all the officers make a point of looking at the performance. I shall go for a few minutes, though I endeavour to point out the distinction between my prayers to God and these ceremonies.

8th. We are playing the game which our enemies desire, and sooner or later we shall smart for it.

A regiment of infantry and two guns have gone with Cocks as the political to a fort 25 miles from Lahore, where there is a refractory chieftain.

The Seikhs only want us to disperse our troops here and there, that they may cut them up in detail.

Mrs. George Lawrence, it appears, was unable to reach Lahore, and with the assistance of Lieut. Nicholson she has returned

to Peshawur. The whole country is against us, and we ought to have been prepared for this result, which was the natural consequence of the policy. If the Europeans are not massacred, it will be through the mercy of an overruling Providence.

Our authorities seem to be deaf and blind, and that which other persons hear and see does not reach them. Plot after plot has gone on for a long period, and the politicals, whose arrangements should ensure immediate information, not only of peoples' actions but even of their intentions, have been deluded into the belief that everything is quiet and just as it should be.

The Seikhs throughout the whole Punjaub have now brought their schemes to a crisis, and we must trust to the Almighty to counteract them. We are doing little or nothing. Politicals are still detached, and if the enemy pursue their purpose, not one can escape through any assistance of ours. Colonel Abbott had a letter yesterday from

James Abbott, who is in daily expectation of being attacked by Chuttur Sing, and is well aware that the armed peasants with him would not attempt to stand before the Seikhs.

Now that the overland has arrived, Government must act, and I expect to see a Proclamation declaring the Treaty of Lahore null and void, and that the Punjaub is declared a portion of British India by right of conquest. Then must follow an army of annexation, and every effort be made to raise new regiments. The siege of Mooltan will be a great military affair, and it will give to Lord Gough an opportunity of proving to the world that he knows how to avail himself of artillery for the destruction of the enemy and the preservation of his own men, and that he is something more than a bulldog General.



*Ferozepore ; 9th Oct.*

Our Brigade (the 3d Brigade) was inspected this morning, and Brigadier Young remarked that he had never seen three finer regiments ; and even if there is a large army assembled, the same may be said of our Brigade.

The rumour to-day is that 9,000 men are about to proceed to Mooltan from the Bombay Presidency, and that *our* Brigade will perhaps not go to Mooltan after all. I have, as you know, had thoughts of Cashmere, but I fully expected to go to Mooltan first. This is more conjecture, and we must wait as patiently as we can to know our destination.

10th. It is now expected that we shall form part of the army under Lord Gough.

11th. Albert's leave is in orders up to the 1st of January, before which time he is sure to be posted, but it is to remain at

Loodeana, though no objection will be raised to his being with the corps, I imagine.

I am much pleased with Charlotte's letter, and I have every reason to think she and our dear Albert will be very happy, if it please God for them to be united.

I am always satisfied with home wherever it be, and I fervently pray that our heavenly Father will soon restore us to each other.

12th. We heard yesterday that Colonel Mountain is coming up to take a Brigade command. He is attached to Her Majesty's 29th, and is senior to Brigadier Eckford. If they do not give him another Brigade immediately, he will deprive me of the command of the corps, but I do not think it will be for any time.

Poor Struthers died very suddenly. Mackeson dined with us at the mess, and mentioned the particulars. Struthers had a slight fever, and the surgeon attended him two days. When he called on the morning of the third day, Struthers sent word that

he was so much better he would dress and see the doctor afterwards. The doctor then drove on to the hospital, intending to see him on his way back, but before he reached, a servant overtook him and said Struthers Sahib was dying. The doctor came back immediately and found Struthers dressed and seated in a chair—quite dead! How awfully sudden. It was found on examination that the heart was diseased, and one lung and the liver.

The Brigadier has just sent me a note as follows :—“ Should the battery and artillery men come in to-morrow, we shall march the following morning, Saturday, the 14th Oct.”

14th. Chuttur Sing is carrying out his intentions without any interruption from us, and has the entire control of an immense tract of country.

If our rulers can justify the loss of time in endeavouring to check the insurrection, it will be well. But when we consider that every person who did not wilfully close their

eyes could see clearly the absolute necessity of recruiting for the Native Infantry, it will require strong reasons to justify the Government in allowing so much time to elapse without making arrangements for raising recruits.

The dust storm of yesterday has brought down the thermometer four degrees, but even 98 degrees is warmer than agreeable. Our tent seems to be the coolest in camp.

Albert will remain here as long as possible, in hopes of something occurring to justify his remaining with the regiment.

We are now in suspense on all points, not only with regard to the campaign, and the destination of the Brigade, but also with reference to Albert's movements.

15th. There was Divine service this morning at Brigadier Young's, and we both went. Mr. Maltby was the clergyman; he preached on the subject of war, and dwelt on the importance of being satisfied that the cause of war is good before asking the Almighty to grant success.



17th Oct. Younger and I are passing the day in the bungalow. Albert did not think it worth while : he stands the heat very well, and is looking stout and well. No news about our Brigade.

18th. The brigading of the army of the Punjaub is in orders. Ours is now designated the 3d Brigade of the army of the Punjaub, and we are in the 2d division, under command of General Gilbert.

If we remain till the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief, I have no doubt that Albert will be allowed to remain with the corps for the present. About nine vacancies will bring him on the list of posted Ensigns.

19th October. Yesterday brought us the orders deciding the formation of the army of the Punjaub, and it seemed certain that our Brigade would not have to march to Mooltan, but an express from the Commander-in-Chief arrived last evening and ordered Brigadier Eckford to march without delay for Mooltan with the 30th and 56th

and some artillery. We are to leave this to-morrow morning, and our dear Albert's dák is laid for Loodeana for this evening.

May it please God to watch over and protect you, my love, and preserve me in the midst of danger. . . .

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*Camp, 1st March from Ferozepore towards Lahore.*

We marched this morning, and I suppose shall proceed to Lahore. The 9th Lancers are here, and I am to dine with Major Grant.

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*Camp, One March from Ferozepore.*

We are on our return to Ferozepore, and are to march back to that cantonment to-morrow morning.

Cocks, in his letter this morning, says he does not think there will be much fighting, after all. If not, our destined stations may soon be assigned to us, and then I fully hope you will be enabled to join me.

I am very much pleased with dear little Agnes's letter.

*Ferozepore ; 23d Oct.*

Here we are again, and I suppose we shall await the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief.

The 2d European regiment and 70th Native Infantry marched for Lahore during our absence, and if we had not been sent on towards Mooltan, we should have gone in their stead.

On our arrival, I rode to the Post-office, as I had not received a letter from you yesterday, and I was rewarded by receiving yours and Albert's of the 21st. I am glad for your sake the dear boy is with you. You had made up your mind to go to Simla, but my letter about Anna may have caused you at first to defer your departure, and my second letter, regarding Mrs. E.'s speedy return, may also have influenced your plans.

I think Albert ought not to leave Loodeana till the Commander-in-Chief has passed through, though he might have done

it without impropriety, if Anna had gone up from illness, and you had accompanied her ; but now that Mrs. Eckford is coming down so very soon, it seems to me better to remain where you are till she goes to visit Mary, and then you must endeavour to make some arrangement that will hold good until, through God's mercy, we are restored to each other.

The 9th Lancers were encamped near us yesterday, and I called on Major Grant ; he inquired after you, and spoke of your accor-dion in the Táj with delight.

24th Oct. Yesterday I received the missing letter, it contained dear little Agnes's letter to brother Albert, and I will send it. She is a very affectionate child, and has great good sense.

25th Oct. The postmaster shewed me a letter containing the route of the Com-mander-in-Chief ; he is to be at Loodeana on the 28th and 29th, and I sincerely hope



you and Albert. will be there, that he may call on Lord Gough and Colonel Grant.

The Seikhs set fire to the bridge of boats over the Ravee at Lahore, and the fire was not extinguished till two boats were destroyed. They have it all their own way, and we are doing nothing.

26th. Your letter of this morning has set my mind at ease again. You will now remain at Loodeana till Mrs. Eckford goes to Mary or to Anna, which is now talked of, and then we shall know how to act. If Moolrajh has really offered to give up the fort, and disclose the whole of the intrigues of the Durbar, we may hope for a speedy settlement of the Punjaub affairs, and you and I, through God's mercy, may be very soon reunited.

27th. I rode to the Post-office this morning, and received your letter a couple of hours sooner than a hurkurra or orderly would have brought it. The ride there and back is about three miles, and as the

Loodeana dák comes in about 8 o'clock, I got back in good time for breakfast. It would not do for either you or me to go the other, for at any moment our Brigade may be ordered on to Lahore.

29th. Brigadier Young did not act on the Commander-in-Chief's express and send us off this morning, because he thought the order had been sent in ignorance of the march of the 2d Europeans and 70th Native Infantry towards Lahore on the 23d, and a counter order was expected during the day ; it did not arrive, however, and now the express is to be acted upon, and we are to march for Lahore unless some order to the contrary arrive to-day.

I hope our dear boy may soon be posted, that he may be removed to the 56th on the first vacancy.

*Kana Kutch ; 1st Nov.*

Yesterday we marched 18 miles, and only 8 this morning. We are now about 18 miles from Lahore, and are to make it in two marches, and on arrival to cross the Ravee.

Cocks rode out this morning, and is with the Brigadier.

General Cureton had reported to the Resident that the wells here had been injured wilfully. Our Brigadier has not complained on the subject, though with only a few wells for thousands of persons the water cannot continue clear and pure.

The want of rain is much felt in this district, and our grass-cutters cannot find even a root of grass for the horses, though the country from being covered with bushes does not appear barren.

There is a frankness in Cocks which I like.

I have not gleaned much information yet,

but when at Lahore I expect to be able to form an idea of what is to take place.

I did not write to you yesterday, for after the long march, and attending the Court of Inquiry, I was tired and sleepy, and indulged in a long nap ; but I hope to succeed in getting this forwarded outside dák to-night.

I hope the music is much practised, and that you get Albert to sing with you. Encourage him to take trouble ; it is good for him at his age to apply himself earnestly to his amusements as well as to his studies and I hope he will excel in every thing.

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*Camp Lahore ; Nov. 3d.*

I believe the dák leaves this at 1 o'clock, I therefore write a hurried note to be in time.



Brigadiers Campbell and Keiller came out to meet the Brigade, and there was a very cordial meeting between the Brigadier and myself; he is looking very well, and inquired kindly after you and dear little Agnes.

Anna came out to camp in her carriage. Poor thing, she has been very ill, and now looks in very delicate health.

I am to dine there to-night and to-morrow at Brigadier Campbell's.

4th Nov. No more news about our movements. Yesterday, Godby's Brigade, with two troops of Horse Artillery, a light field battery, and some Cavalry, advanced to a place 25 miles off, where some of the enemy are said to be assembled, and we are waiting to hear the result.

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*First march from Lahore.*

We had a pleasant march this morning, but as we cannot send on tents to be

pitched for our arrival it was very hot before we had shelter.

It is said that Cureton took possession of the town, and the Cavalry went 6 miles beyond it at a good pace ; they did not see any enemy.

A part of the news I sent you yesterday was from Cureton's own letter to Brigadier Campbell, which I read ; but the Politicals have been so repeatedly wrong in their information that I question whether the town was in possession of the enemy when the gates were closed on Nicholson's Affghan Horse, and I think Col. Cureton must have been misinformed.

We expect General Gilbert to join us very soon, and it is right he should be with his division.

We are ordered out as a reinforcement, because the enemy are collecting in force, and I grieve to find the Brigadier is going the next 20 miles in two days.

The Brigadier has not retained the

strength with which he returned from Simla, and, as his friend, I should rejoice to see him posted to a station.

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*Second march from Lahore.*

The weather is becoming sensibly cooler, and the snowy mountains of Cashmere are visible in the morning. I am delighted with the sight of the hills again, and would like always to be within sight of mountains or the sea.

There was a letter this morning from Brigadier-General Cureton to the Brigadier, mentioning that the enemy was in force at Ramnuggur, and that he was advancing to attack him. Cureton directs Brigadier to halt after to-morrow's march for further orders, but hopes to write again during the day. My opinion is that we ought to be much nearer to Cureton's troops than we shall be to-morrow, for the object of a force in reserve is to co-operate with the attacking

force if necessary, or to present a point of defence on which they can retreat if requisite, and I therefore think we ought not to halt till within a few miles of our troops which are in advance.

We have the 31st and 56th regts. N.I., and Dawes's light field battery, but no Cavalry, and we ought not to be without Cavalry ; but there is no system, no arrangement, and the minor authorities seem to admit the want of means to do that which wisdom dictates, and to be satisfied with meeting circumstances in the best way they can without loudly proclaiming to Government the inefficiency of their measures.

Cureton has a fine body of Cavalry and light Artillery, but not sufficient Infantry, and we ought to push on direct as a reinforcement, and other troops should now be following us as a reserve.



*Third march from Lahore.*

It was intended yesterday for us to proceed to-day to Goojrawalla, about ten miles, and the first bugle was to be about 3 o'clock, but we were roused out at 1 o'clock, and ascertained that an express had arrived during the night from General Cureton, requiring us to join his camp as soon as possible, and mentioning that he was advancing to Ramnuggur, where Shere Sing and his troops were waiting with the forces under a Sirdar named Lall Sing.

We were to have marched 17 miles to-day, and join General Cureton to-morrow at Ramnuggur ; but about 7 o'clock this morning another express met us *en route*, directing the Brigadier to come on easily, and as we were near a village we encamped.

Cureton has been ordered from head quarters not to commence offensive operations, and he is encamped two or three miles ahead of us, and we are to join him to-morrow and not to advance to Ramnuggur.

Our authorities decided not to commence the campaign with detachments, but to collect a large force before making an advance. This was wise, but there has been culpable delay in bringing troops to the frontier and in the late arrival of the Commander-in-Chief, and the result has been false moves and repeated counter orders.

The Doáb, which lies between the Sutlej and the Ravce, and likewise that between the Ravce and the Chenab, are very thinly inhabited, and only cultivated in the immediate vicinity of towns, although the soil is capable, with labour, of yielding fruitful crops.

This has been caused by the turbulent reign of the Seikhs, and continued by our unwise policy, which proclaimed the re-establishment of Seikh rule after a few years.

When a British Government is established in the Punjaub, we may hope to see agriculture and commerce flourish, and the inhabitants to multiply in the land instead of

being reduced year after year by sanguinary wars.

10th Nov. We are thirteen or fourteen miles from the enemy, and are ordered not to attack them till the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief.

Holmes, of the 12th Irregulars, was out yesterday with a party and killed a Seikh, who wounded two of his sewars, and brought in ten prisoners. This is the opening affair of the campaign. The Commander-in-Chief is to be here on the 15th. I shall take an early opportunity of speaking to him about our dear Albert.

Yesterday, at 5 o'clock, an alarm was given that the enemy was coming down upon us, and the troops turned out, but it was a false alarm, a picquet of the 8th Cavalry, which was a mile and a-half in our front having taken a party of the 12th Irregular Cavalry for the enemy.

11th Nov. Our men fell in yesterday when called to arms with great alacrity, and

Brigadier Eckford was very quick in getting on parade, and it is now said that he is not to command at Lahore, because he has come on beyond the frontier.

I shall be very glad when the Commander-in-Chief arrives, because if we do not commence the campaign soon it will not be terminated during the cold weather.

This fine country is lying waste, and Lord Hardinge's settlement, and the assurance that the Seikh soldiery had taken to agriculture, seem to be without any foundation.

When we take the country, and declare it to be under British Government, we may hope to see the inhabitants employed in agriculture and trade, and then the Punjaub will flourish.

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*Camp, near Alipore ; 17th Nov.*

Albert has after all been appointed to do duty with the 56th, which is very desirable, and much as you will miss him I am sure you will not delay his departure.



Oh that we may all have grace to exercise faith in our heavenly Father, and to commit ourselves entirely to him. May He watch over us, and reunite us and our beloved Albert and Agnes in health and happiness.

The Brigadier read the service in our mess tent this morning. In the evening there is to be service in our own tent. On Thursday last there was a prayer-meeting there, which is to be kept up whenever practicable ; several attended, both officers and men.

Yesterday, Dr. McCash, of the 31st, took my likeness by the Caleotye, which he manages admirably, but it was too late in the afternoon, and he intends taking it again to-morrow. I shall be glad when I can send it to you, and it can afterwards be sent to our dear little Agnes if you like, and copied.

*Saturday, 18th Nov.*

Yesterday our reconnoitering party of Cavalry was fired on by the enemy at Alipore, at which place it is said there are 800 Seikh troops. No damage done.

During the day it was reported that Shere Sing, with seven regiments and 6 guns, had crossed over to Ramnuggur, and another report said that he had gone back again on hearing that we had come to our present position.

About sunset we received after orders for each regiment to furnish two companies as out-lying pickets, two companies as in-lying pickets, and one as rear guard, all under European officers. The troops had previously been ordered to march at 5 o'clock in the morning; we were thus prepared for them either by night or day.

There was distant firing during the night, but the Seikhs must have had it all to themselves, and it would seem to be their custom

to have a good deal of firing by night, although beyond reach of the enemy.

This morning we were drawn up in readiness for a march, tents struck, and camels laden ; but at sunrise it was known that the Seikhs had crossed over from Ramnuggur to the opposite bank of the Chenáb, and we then encamped on our former ground. It is not for the interest of the Seikhs to be attacked in detail in an open ground, and I think they are wise enough to avoid both these occurrences.

Their plan will be, I suppose, to levy contributions throughout the whole country, and to retire before us, in the hope that when we are at a distance from our resources, and in a hilly country where Cavalry cannot act, and where Infantry must be separated into small parties, some occurrence will turn the scale in their favour, as at Caubul.\*

They cannot have any expectation of

\* The Caubul massacre and Chillianwalla were both on the 13th January.

overcoming us in an open field, but they will not submit to our sovereignty throughout their native country, the Punjaub, and they will resist our holding possession of it without having a definite idea of the manner in which they hope to repel us.

We call them "*Rebels*," and they designate themselves, "*Patriots*," and so they are to all intents and purposes.

Their Sirdars betrayed the Khalsa troops in 1845-46, and the soldiery still say that but for that betrayal they would have conquered us. Again the Sirdars made a treaty with us, which the troops repudiate, because it deprived them of their influence in the country, and enjoined the discharge of thousands of them from the army; and it must be remembered that the delegates of the army, termed "*Pouches*," before that treaty influenced every question of Government.

We, on the other hand, were advancing on the capital as conquerors, and the Sirdars, who formed the executive government,



brought the little Maharajah to our camp, and all threw themselves on our mercy. We had the right to say, You invaded British India as enemies, and now that we are conquerors we will retain your country. But we should have had to take it at the point of the bayonet, and Lord Hardinge admitted that he had not the means of doing so. Therefore, instead of attempting the annexation, he made a boast of assumed moderation, and entered into a treaty, the basis of which was that we should establish a strong Seikh Government, and rule the country in the interim in concert with the durbar.

The treaty was, I consider, most hateful in the sight of God, and doomed to certain failure. It *has* failed, the majority of the Sirdars who signed the treaty have openly broken it, and it must be considered as null and void.

The Maharajah was a minor then and is so now, and therefore has not been a responsible person in the transaction. We

have nothing to claim from him, and he cannot claim anything from us. The Sirdars and the British Government are the only parties to the treaty during the Maharajah's minority, and as they have broken it, it becomes us to proclaim that we are in the same position as after the battle of Soobraon.

We must now proclaim the Punjaub ours by right of conquest, and proceed to take possession of it. This we are justified in doing by the laws of nations, and I believe it to be in accordance with the designs of Providence. But still the Seikhs are patriots and not rebels; and I suppose it was to explain my reason for saying this that I have written such a long letter on the subject; I as little thought of writing about Japan when I commenced.

*Camp Deeda Sing ha Killa ;*

*Thursday, 10th Nov.*

No letter from you to-day, or for the Brigadier, which shews that there is something wrong with the dák.

Last night, about 60 camels out of 400, which were sent from this to Pope's Brigade in our rear, were carried off by the enemy. The want of correct intelligence even around our camp is very culpable in the politicals, and some new system should be adopted to secure rapid intelligence of the enemy. The Commander in-Chief was to leave Lahore to-day, accompanied by Cocks.

We require a very large force to enable us to hold military occupation of the whole country through which we may pass, and to secure our communication with Lahore.

. . . I wish you had a modern map of the Punjaub, to trace our progress. Albert might trace one for you on thin paper, if he can borrow a good one.

Our darling Agnes's letter is very pleasantly written, and I hope to send her one in reply all to herself. At her early age, and with her abilities, she may be thoroughly educated by the time we wish her to leave school. Brigadier Campbell, or, as I should have said, General Campbell, was talking of her yesterday, and desired to be particularly remembered to her. He said he considered her a very fine child, and was often surprised at her conversation, and that he often rode with her for the gratification of hearing it. May it please God to give her his Holy Spirit, that she may become a devoted Christian, and to bless her with health ; and if she be kept to her studies she will be one of the first among the well-instructed.

17th Nov. We marched this morning about eight miles towards Ramnuggur, and at 8 o'clock we heard the enemy's guns at a distance. I suppose they are at practice on the opposite side of the river. I have not



heard to-day's report of the strength of the enemy at Ramnuggur, but we understand they have no intention of meeting us on this side of the Chenáb.

It is supposed we shall halt here till Monday, and then move towards Wazeerabad and unite with the troops accompanying the Commander-in-Chief.

I am very sorry to hear of the death of Major McDonald, of the 8th Cavalry I called on him and Mrs. McDonald twice at Ferozepore, for I was very much pleased with his mild and gentlemanly manners, and she was always very friendly.

Loodeana is not a bad place of residence at present, especially as you occupy what I consider the best house there.

I had a note from our dear Albert yesterday from Lahore. I have cautioned him not to come except with a sufficient force ; but things will not, I should hope, remain long in their present state. General Wheeler has gained some advantages over the enemy, and

he will, I dare say, be very active in dispersing them. Our despatches have been seized within four miles of our camp, so that the particulars are not known here, and our express, with the account of the ill-judged and fatal skirmish, was also seized by the enemy. Thus, they know all our affairs, while we remain in ignorance of theirs.

We have no idea what is the plan of operations. It is said that the enemy are quarrelling among themselves, and it is reported that Shere Sing has put Sall Sing in irons because he wanted to give himself up to us. It is now generally supposed they will not make a stand against us, till they have retired to the hilly country, and you know that is the idea I formed long ago, that is, I saw it was the wisest plan for them, and I thought they would not be blind to their own interest.

The Governor General's decision is not yet published, and I have not heard what it

is, but there is no choice regarding our taking and holding the country permanently, but whether in the name of Dhuleep or the British Government remains to be seen.

I have been having my likeness taken holding one of your letters and looking on it, but I was obliged to keep it closed, to prevent it being blown by the wind. It will be a day or two before the likeness is transferred to other paper, and then I will send it to you. To-day I send a map of this part of the country ; General Campbell lent it to me this morning, and I got Byers to copy it for you. He has done so very nicely. I have put a pencil-mark of our route, and we are now a short distance from Akhalghur, which some people call Alipore.

Thackwell's division is within a few miles of us, and the Commander-in-Chief is a short distance behind. General Campbell has gone out to Thackwell's camp, where the Commander-in-Chief is to meet him. I suppose on his return something will be

known of our plans, and then we will think about *our own* plans.

21st Nov. The Commander-in-Chief's camp is within two or three miles of us, and officers are visiting their friends.

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*Camp, Ramnuggur ; 26th Nov.*

There is nothing very active occurring, but preparations for our large batteries are progressing quietly, and some guns are expected to-morrow. Shere Sing sent letters to the Commander-in-Chief and the Governor General by the European soldier who was taken into his camp on Friday and released yesterday ; and he protests that he has done nothing without orders from the durbar. He submits a number of proposals, but it is thought he is only endeavouring to gain time, that our attack may be deferred till he has been joined by Chuttur Sing and his forces. They fire a shot occasionally, but we do not notice it.



There has been Divine worship to-day at more than one place. The Brigadier read the service at 11 in our mess tent, and I attended in preference to going a long way to the Commander-in-Chief's camp.

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*Camp, Ramnuggur ; Tuesday, 28th Nov.*

Your welcome letters arrive more regularly now as we are all encamped together, and the letters go to the postmaster of the army.

I found out Mowatt this morning ; I was glad to see him looking quite well ; he sent you his kind regards.

Mercer and I have had a long conversation, and are mutually gratified that our families are together. I hope soon to have the pleasure of Mrs. M.'s acquaintance, and in the mean time I shall not regard her as a stranger, as she is your companion and friend.

Nothing of any consequence has taken

place yet, but the action will very soon follow the arrival of the big guns.

Our dear Albert will, I suppose, soon have an opportunity of joining.

I am glad you are pleased with the map. I now enclose you one circulated with the "Delhi," which arrived to-day. You can, if you think it worth while, enclose it in the next letter to our beloved Agnes.

The Commander-in-Chief has issued a general order about the affair of the 22nd, but putting a good face on a bad cause, and every one in camp is surprised at the old gentleman's assurance in writing such an order. There is an anecdote in camp on the subject, but I only give it on report. The Commander-in-Chief, it is said, went to the Field Hospital, and addressing the wounded Dragoons, said, "My men, you have suffered in your arms and legs, but it was in a glorious cause." On hearing which, one of the wounded raised himself and said, "*It was a rash affair, my Lord.*" And his

Lordship being taken aback, walked off in silence.

Every life lost on the 22nd may be considered as having been uselessly sacrificed by the Commander-in-Chief in his impetuosity and absence of that calm judgment which every general officer should possess. Every person expects he will, as usual, make some fearful blunder, and occasion unnecessary loss of life.

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*Ramnuggur ; 29th Nov.*

The big guns have not yet arrived.

Last evening, a petty Sirdar, the brother of Utter Sing, who was defeated a few days ago by Brigadier Penny, came into our camp, with two followers, and gave himself up. He was drunk, and frankly said he hated us and our cause, but he felt that we should be victorious, and therefore he thought it wise to take care of his own interests.

*Ramnuggur ; 30th Nov.*

I did not get a letter from you to-day; which makes me think your letter has been sent to Lahore.

I am again to-day on the court martial.

I have despatched a letter to S., and enclosed one to our darling Agnes. You must excuse me from writing a long letter to-day.

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*Camp, Tuesday Evening ; 5th Dec.*

This afternoon I received five of your dear letters, which are a great source of enjoyment : there was also one from you to our dear Albert, although directed to the care of “ Mrs. Cocks, Lahore.”

I will now “ bring up arrears ” in my correspondence with you. . . . .

On Tuesday evening, the 30th Nov., Brigadier Eckford returned from the camp of the Commander-in-Chief, and informed



us that General Campbell's division, the 1st Brigade Cavalry and Infantry, were to start at quarter after 1 o'clock in the morning, taking with us two days' supplies, and leaving our tents standing. We had to "turn out" at midnight, and move up to the position assigned us in the column, and after a tedious march, owing to the uncertainty of our destination, we reached the bank of the Chenáb at Mazeerabad at sunset, and our Brigade was directed to cross over by the ford without delay.

There were three fords, with intervening sand-banks of some extent, and the passage had to be marked out by placing sticks on either side, as the fords are narrow, and beyond the track there are quick sands, with deep water.

Before the sticks were placed we had only the young moon to light our path, and expedition was necessary to get over before she disappeared.

The first ford was crossed without

difficulty, except that some of the party had a little experience of the treacherous nature of the bed of the river.

On the border of the second ford I was following a man on foot, and my horse sank in a quicksand. The animal, in his efforts to extricate himself, fell over on his side, and, of course, I was in the same position. My sword fell out of the scabbard and disappeared in the quicksand, but was recovered ; and I am glad it did, for the scabbard was bent under the horse, and if the sword had been in it I should have found it in two pieces. With assistance, the horse was got out, and I crossed the second ford, and was well advanced over the third and last, when the Sepoys in advance exclaimed that they could not proceed owing to the depth of water.

Major Corfield, Dr. McCosh, and I were together, and when the Sepoys turned we had to do the same, and to order all following us to turn likewise.

Just before this a zumboork was fired on the right bank, but at some distance, and we did not think anything of it ; but the portion of the Brigade which was still on the sand-bank, seeing us coming back, without knowing the reason, and having heard the zumboork, concluded that we had been driven back by the enemy, and many of them loaded. One or two fired in the air, but in our direction, and we heard the shot whirl above us.

Carfield and I reported to the Brigadier that the ford was impassable, and it was contemplated to bivouack on the sand-bank. At this time Tait's Irregular Cavalry arrived for the purpose of crossing, and I went up to him and said it was so deep that our Sepoys, after being nearly to the other side, had been forced to return, and that as the stakes could not be perceived in that light, the passage would be attended with great risk. He went, however, because he had been ordered, and the Brigadier then deter-

mined to follow ; but whilst Corfield and I were repeating the impossibility of our Sepoys getting across with their arms and ammunition, a message came from Tait to say the water was too deep, and he was losing his men, and the Brigadier then decided on remaining.

Tait lost three men and four horses in crossing, although by remaining till morning this might have been avoided. We then bivouacked on the sand, and enjoyed some cold meat and beer, which were very acceptable after twenty-two hours' marching. The next morning we crossed, but it was so deep that the Sepoys had to carry their accoutrements and clothes on their heads ; and the ford is so narrow that all saw the propriety of not persevering at night. There were quicksands and narrow escapes, but I think only one person was drowned, and he was a grass-cutter, who remained too long with his Tattoo when carried down the stream.

The men cooked, and we had a stew, and



at 3 o'clock we renewed our march, and did not halt till moonlight, when we again bivouacked.

On Sunday, the 3rd, we marched at sunrise and halted about 11 o'clock, by instructions from the Commander-in-Chief, who desired that our force should not advance beyond a certain ghát, till reinforced by the 2nd European regiment and 70th regiment, and that we should not previously attack the enemy. A portion of Tait's Irregulars, and the left wing of the 56th, under Nembhard, were detached to the ghát to prevent the enemy from taking possession of it, and there was great delay in crossing over the reinforcement.

In the mean time, the enemy appeared in our front, and came down upon us boldly. We were situated very disadvantageously behind sugar kates, and the Seikhs availed themselves of the cover they afforded to fire on us unseen. Our Brigade was on the extreme left with a portion of Tait's Irre-

gulars, and the attack commenced there. The enemy sent their shot with vigour, and our columns deployed into line.

We were informed of the Commander-in-Chief's order not to attack the enemy nor to advance beyond the ghát till reinforced by Godby's Brigade, and were directed to stand our ground, but that if the centre column moved back, we were to conform to it. The enemy approached and kept up their fire ; our men lay down by order, and were then ordered to rise, right about face, and retire about a hundred yards, to be further from the sugar khates. They dressed as coolly as on parade, and again lay down, and I had the colours unfurled. Some of the men said if they only had the order they would soon charge and take their guns, but I rode up and down occasionally in front of the corps, talking to the men, and saying that we were only waiting for the enemy to come close to us, when our artillery would commence.

The enemy kept up their fire and gradually approached, till we heard their trumpets and drums, and then their shouts, as they evidently thought from our retrograde movement and silence that they would have it all their own way. But after bearing their fire for a long time, during which shots of various descriptions, from eighteen pounders to matchlocks, were flying around us, the order was given for our artillery to take post and fire. Two troops of horse artillery went to our left, one of them immediately in front of the 56th, and others in different parts of the line, and their fire took the enemy by surprise, and soon drove him from the field. It is supposed by all that had General Thackwell not been shackled by the Commander-in-Chief we might have captured every gun and obtained a signal victory ; whereas, the order not to advance was carried out to the letter, and after the enemy had retired we did not even send out cavalry to see if any guns had been disabled.



The next morning we were told that four guns had been left behind in the retreat, and that the Seikhs had come by night and carried them away, and also their wounded.

From what I have heard, the Seikhs lost about 100 killed on the field, and the same number of horses.

Our loss was much less, but this affair is one of those unaccountable circumstances that attends on warfare. We gained a victory by our artillery, and were restrained from following it up by cavalry and infantry, though, in all human probability, if we had not remained passive so long, but acted according to the opportunity, we should with even a less sacrifice of our men have captured all their guns and completely routed the enemy. Lord Gough is very much censured for the restriction put upon General Thackwell.

I am happy to say the 56th did not lose a man, although exposed to the enemy's fire. My grey did not flinch in the least when a



six-pounder fell close to him. That night I remained beside the men, as I expected a visit from the enemy, but everything passed off quietly.

About noon on Monday, the 4th, we marched, and at night halted in our present position, a few miles short of the ghát opposite Ramnuggur.

I have only spoken of what occurred on the left of the line, but the right was attacked also with equal vigour.

This morning the cavalry and some horse artillery have gone in pursuit of the enemy, but I have not heard the result.

When our passage of the Chenáb at Wazeezabad was known to the Commander-in-Chief, he opened his heavy guns upon the enemy's batteries opposite Ramnuggur, and made them decamp.

I will now say good night, and leave this in the hope of adding to it in the morning.

Monday morning, 6th Dec. Our meals from the 1st to the 5th would have formed

amusing views for the pencil: they were perfect picnics, without the usual arrangements for convenience and appearance. On the morning of the 4th, I came upon the breakfast party of the 46th, and accepted a very friendly invitation from several of them. There were Brigadier Hoggan and the officers of the 46th seated on the ground, and I saw that all the corps were much in the same situation.

Our breakfast was not ready till 12 o'clock.

The 46th was immediately on our right during the attack, and I saw Mercer more than once. I also saw him this morning, and am glad to find he was able to send off a letter yesterday, which I could not. I am glad to find Mrs. Mercer is now with you.

I really cannot keep up my correspondence with my friends with any regularity. I have filled this with trifles, but you know I do not attach any importance to the roughings of a campaign, and we have all

continued cheerful and contented. Albert will, I hope, be with us in one or two days.

I now close this, and send it to Ramnuggur to be despatched.

Let us continually thank God, our merciful Father in heaven, for his goodness to us, and pray for grace to confide in him for the future.

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*Camp, Right Bank of the Chenâb, a few miles from Ramnuggur.*

The troops at this place paraded this morning for the inspection of the Commander-in-Chief, who was lavish in his commendation of the cool behaviour of the troops under fire on Sunday, the 3d inst. I find that we were an hour and a quarter under their fire before our artillery returned a shot. The attack commenced at twenty minutes to 2 o'clock, and our fire ceased about sunset.

The Commander-in-Chief said to me it was a great pity we had not an opportunity

of doing more, but that it could not be helped.

It is certain, however, that we lost an inviting opportunity of capturing the enemy's guns, and of completely routing their troops.

Our force is not to advance beyond this doáb at present, and it is expected that we shall occupy Goojrât, Mazurabad, and Ramnuggur.

I am so glad I was able to send you the map. I also enclosed a copy which I took of it to S. in my last letter.

It is now raining, and the weather will be delightfully cold.

There is still some delay in the receipt of your letters, because the head quarters of Gilbert's division is at Ramnuggur, across the Chenâb.

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*Camp, Right Bank of Chenâb, a few miles  
from Ramnuggur ; Thursday Night,  
7th Dec., 1848.*

At 1 o'clock this afternoon, our dear Albert arrived, and I am happy to find him quite well. He managed very well on his journey, and received great kindness from several companions.

It is understood that we shall move our ground to-morrow, and I write a few lines to-night, as our letters have to be despatched from Ramnuggur, which is thirteen miles from this.

To-morrow we may hear what is to be the next move.

Mackeson is coming up to be with the Commander-in-Chief.

It is raining, I like the sound.

We are to move our ground after the men have cooked, though our tents are very wet.

*Camp, Hailey ; 9th Dec.*

It appears that the Governor General has forbidden most positively our advance beyond this at present. The enemy are 10 or 12 miles between this and the Jeylum, in a jungle. We cannot do them much harm where they are, but can prevent them coming into the open country, and they may suffer from want of supplies.

I saw Mackeson yesterday ; he had come on from the Commander-in-Chief's camp on a camel, and was returning with such intelligence as he had gleaned ; he said he thought the enemy were entrenching themselves.

We have now a strong force, in an open country, and if the enemy attack us again we shall do much more than merely beat them back, as was the case on the 3d.

I suppose we shall remain in this neighbourhood till the fall of Mooltan ; but it is

unaccountable why the Governor General does not proclaim the intentions of our Government ; and if we are to take the Punjaub, why he does not make it known, and promise the inhabitants our constant protection if they return to their villages.

Under present circumstances there is the apprehension of the Government of the country reverting to the Seikhs after five years, and the inhabitants regard them as their destined rulers, and therefore uphold their cause at present.

After this fall of rain, it is of the utmost importance that the culture of the ground should not be neglected, and I believe the inhabitants might be induced to put their land to the plough at once, if assured that it would not be given over to the tender mercies of the Seikhs.

*Camp, Hailey ; 10th Dec.*

No change since I wrote yesterday, but it is reported that the Commander-in-Chief will join this force in a day or two with some big guns, and attack the enemy ; but our big guns travel slowly, and I think the Seikhs, on hearing of their being this side of the Chenáb, will take themselves off to the right bank of the Jeylum.

The rain has cleared off, and the weather is very pleasant.

How happy we shall be if our long-cherished hopes are realized, and we are spared to return to dear Old England, and to follow those pursuits which are congenial to us. I do not despair of this, but hope, on the contrary, it may soon be our happy lot.

Yesterday we dined with Major Grant, of the 9th Lancers. He is a very agreeable companion, and a pious man. He and another officer encourage prayer-meetings



among the men of the regiment, and make a point of attending themselves, I believe twice a week, when practicable.

Head quarters camp continues at Ramnuggur ; if any corps are stationed on the left bank of the Chenáb, after the termination of the campaign, I think the families of officers may forthwith join their husbands there. But we must wait a little before making any arrangements on such a supposition. . . . May every blessing attend you and all dear to us.

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*Camp Hailey ; 11th Dec.*

On Saturday morning Albert received yours of the 5th, and yesterday morning that of the 6th, but poor I was doomed to disappointment. However, last evening, yours of the 5th for me arrived, and this morning I got those of the 6th and 7th. You thus see how irregular the Post-office arrangements are, and how uncertain the receipt of letters.

They (the enemy) have taken up a strong position between a dense jungle and the left bank of the Jeylum, and we cannot get through the jungle in any military formation, nor can we move round it, as it is said to extend the whole length of the doab. It is now intended for us to fall back on the right bank of the Chenáb for the convenience of water and forage, or to move to Goojrât. The enemy are harmless in the present position, but it shows good management on their part, and makes us appear at a disadvantage in not being able to attack them.

General Campbell told me this morning that it was ascertained that the Seikhs in their retreat threw two guns into the river, and that they have 6 or 7 guns fewer than they had.

It is supposed they had been concealed underground or in sugar kates.

The Commander-in-Chief insists on blaming Sir Joseph Thackwell for not following

up the enemy on the 3d, and Sir Joseph maintains that the letter he received from the Commander-in-Chief on the line of march precluded him from doing so. . .

General Campbell saw Albert this morning, and asked to be introduced to him ; he said he was a little like you, and desired him to give his compliments to you. .

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*Helah ; 12th Dec.*

Your letter of the 8th, with a budget of reports annihilating the enemy, made me smile. You now know how far they are from being true.

There seems to be some fatuity attending our cause, and I shall expect far different results when our Government disconnect themselves with the Seikh durbar in the government of the Punjaub.

Two 18-pounders and four 8-inch howitzers were to have come into camp this morning, and I suppose they are now here,

but it seems to be decided that we are not to attack the enemy.

Yesterday our commissariat officers lost 100 camels, but it is supposed that the Surwans connive at this driving away of camels for the compensation they receive from Government, and that they recover the camels again.

A few days will perhaps shew the turn which affairs are taking, and it may appear that you, my beloved C., may soon be with me. . . . .

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*Camp, Hailah ; 13th Dec.*

I am delighted with your letter of the 9th, which shews that you are in good spirits, and I trust you will continue so, and be as happy as possible during the remainder of our separation. May the happy time soon come for our restoration to each other, and from what we hear this is not very distant.



Our dear Agnes's letters are very gratifying. Mrs. U.'s account of her is very satisfactory. . . .

There is nothing new spoken of to-day, and I am anxious to know what is likely to be the next turn of events.

It is supposed that some of the enemy have crossed the Jeylum, but as far as *this* force is concerned the campaign is considered to be at an end, though the troops cannot be sent to their destinations till the fall of Mooltan. . . .

May every blessing be yours, and may I promote and share your happiness.

14th Dec. . . . I can feel with you that all will be overruled by Providence, and prove to be for the best; but, judging from experience and appearances, the Commander-in-Chief cannot escape censure. .

The fact is, we are not well provided with a commander and generals in India. Look at our old superannuated men in command of divisions, yet the regulations of the

service place them in authority, and they do not make way for younger and efficient officers. The exceptions are few, and General Gilbert is one of them. General Campbell is also 'energetic, and acquainted with the science of war, but one inefficient person in high command may render useless not only the qualifications of others, but a well-equipped army.

We are now quite inactive, though I suppose the Politicals are at work in some way, though the public are not in the secret. It is supposed that we shall not do much on the offensive till after the fall of Mooltan, but there are rumours of the enemy submitting to terms soon.

I should suppose the ladies of the 29th will soon be able to return to Hajipore, but Mrs. Mercer and you are likely to have to remain at Loodeana, about the same time, as the 46th and 56th will probably be detained in camp, till after the fall of Mooltan.

15th Dec. I receive your letters now with

great regularity, and they are a great happiness to me. I am very anxious to know our destination, or rather *when* we may be together again, for the *when* is of much more consequence than the “where.”

Albert will, I think, be posted in the next orders. His application has just been forwarded to be removed to the 56th regiment after he is posted.

No news whatever this morning. I have seen the Commander-in-Chief's despatch to the Governor-General regarding the 3d. It is not the case, as stated, that the exhaustion of the men and horses prevented an advance after the enemy. . . . .

The killed and wounded on our side were, I understand, 75 men. The 2nd European regiment was in the reinforcement, and was not under the enemy's fire, as the despatch would lead one to suppose.

*Camp, Hailah ; 16th Dec.*

Our Brigade has broken up. The 31st has been posted to Godby's Brigade, and the 56th to Colonel Mountain's. It is supposed we shall move our camp on Monday, and proceed in the neighbourhood of Gujrát. Nothing is said about the enemy, except that Shere Sing is offering to negociate.

I saw Brigadier Mountain to-day, and we remembered our meeting at Hong Kong. He is looking very well.

Brigadier Eckford wandered away from his brigade on the morning of the 1st, and I believe he kept close to the regiment which preceded our Brigade ; but as the 31st regiment was leading, and I kept close to it with our own regiment, I could not tell what occasioned our detention on the morning in question. We lost two or three hours on starting, which was very unfortunate, but I did not hear much said about it. I am



much pleased at having Col. Mountain for our Brigadier.

19th Dec. There are not any orders out yet about a move for to-morrow, and none may take place ; but it is generally understood that no active measures will be adopted here until the fall of Mooltan, and many suppose that the campaign is over, and the affair will terminate with a treaty.

We had a noble view of the snowy range this morning. This would be a very productive doab, with good culture, but at present it is much neglected, and the male inhabitants seem to be in the ranks of our enemies.

19th Dec. Yesterday the order was issued for the camp to move this morning at half-after 6 o'clock, and it was known that we were to proceed towards Gujrat, but during the night the march was countermanded, and we were told it was because something had gone wrong with the pontoons.

Mountain's Brigade has crossed to this

side, and the 56th regiment will join it at our next encampment.

We do not hear anything of the enemy, but must suppose our authorities get information regarding them.

There seems to be a strong reluctance on the part of Government to retain possession of the Punjaub, and I think we shall delay and try one expedient after another, and at last retain the Punjaub under British rule. This will keep the army in the Punjaub, where ladies cannot come, and I am well pleased for you to go to our darling Agnes. I shall rejoice in your happiness, and shall hope to be with you in England as soon as possible. .

We had a thunder-storm last night, with rain. . . . .

I hear that we are to march to-morrow.

20th Dec. We are still at Hailah, and do not know when we are to move towards Gujrát, as some of Moolraj's troops have come upwards to collect revenue,

and if we were to go to Guzerát they might come to the vicinity of Lahore with safety. The fact is we have not sufficient troops to conduct the campaign with vigour, and to put down the enemy at all points simultaneously.

The weather is sensibly colder, and I enjoy it very much. Yesterday Albert and I went for a ride between 3 and 4 o'clock.

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*Camp, Hailah ; 22d Dec.*

It is said we are really to change ground to-morrow, and that the direction is to be towards Goojrat, but it seems unknown what distance we are to go.

Our authorities seem to feel that we have to cope with a formidable enemy, and that any want of success on our part would be

attended with serious consequences. We are therefore kept inactive, and in the mean time the ranks of the enemy are increasing in numbers. A very important point to be now ascertained is whether Dost Mahomet and the Affghans will side with us or with the Seikhs. It is generally understood that both parties are willing to procure the assistance of the Affghans by giving up to them Peshawur and the tract of country on the right bank of the Indus.

If the Affghans side with the Seikhs, the campaign will be prolonged considerably, but if they become our allies, the Seikhs will soon have to disperse in small parties, because they would otherwise be between the British and Affghan troops advancing upon them simultaneously from opposite directions. But under all circumstances, a large British force must occupy the Punjaub, and I do not think any of the regiments now here can rely on being sent into the Provinces for a couple or three years.



It seems right that the time of our separation should be passed by you in England. I hope you will not have to return to this country, but that I may be spared to retire from the service and to join you in England.

23d Dec. Until about sunset yesterday the expectation of moving to-day was general through camp, but we then heard we were not to move.

. . . . As the English papers now say, "We have striven to avoid the annexation of the Punjaub, but Providence is overruling our designs."

My opinion has long been, and I have expressed it more than once, that as long as we are avowedly concerned in upholding the idolatrous and abominable Seikh Government, we shall experience reverses and difficulties, but as soon as we openly cast off all connection with it, and carry out the evident designs of Providence, everything will be made easy for us.

. . . . No one seems to think the campaign will be over this season.

24th Dec. Annexation  
is generally expected, and an increase to the army.

25th Dec., 1848. May you, my beloved C., have a happier Christmas next year than this. May it please God to bring you in health and safety to our beloved Agnes and our families in dear Old England, and may there be a prospect of my being with you soon afterwards.

. I suppose the people in the Governor General's camp are just as ignorant of the future as we are; they may know what is wished, but not what will occur. A great point to know is what part will be performed by Dost Mahomet.

Cumberlege, in a note to me, says there is not to be any increase to the army, but I think it will be indispensable, in spite of the wishes of Government to avoid it.

I shall be glad to receive your letter

to-morrow, in reply to mine on the subject of your return home.

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*Camp, Heila ; 26th Nov.*

Mowatt is pitched close to us, and I had told him that I had written to you to go home ; but this morning I said you did not intend going, and his remark was, “ I think she is quite right.”

The future is concealed from us all, and it was because I could not see any prospect of a speedy termination to the campaign, that I felt so confident of the advantage of your immediate return to England.

Mowatt thinks another month will quite alter the appearance of affairs, and that on the fall of Mooltan something decisive will take place in this neighbourhood.

Here we remain week after week, with the enemy a few miles off, and although the

season is so far advanced, we have not done anything to our advantage.

The affair of the 22d Nov. was a positive loss to us, and that of the 3d Dec. was no gain ; but a greater proof of our want of generalship cannot be given than the fact that if we had to go through the campaign again we should act quite contrary to what we have done.

I cannot *urge* my love, my very life, to go further from me ; but still I shall keep myself prepared to hear that you have made up your mind to take the journey, for which my letters have contained all necessary arrangements.

27th Dec.

*The* desire of my heart is EVER to be with you throughout our lives, and in all eternity.

Yes, stay as you propose, and may our heavenly Father soon restore us to each other.

It is expected that the enemy will be disconcerted if Mooltan falls, which we may



hope will soon be the case, and that Dost Mahomet will then declare for us openly.

Many people are sanguine that affairs will soon assume a favourable appearance, and I can enter into the feeling, though I cannot see how it is to be brought about. If we knew the intentions of Government we might form a correct opinion, instead of building our hopes on our ignorance.

Albert is at his studies, and will get on well.

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*Healah ; 28th Dec.*

and though we are quite stationary, and no one seems to know what is to be done, I think the fall of Mooltan will be followed by important results in this campaign.

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*Camp Heilah ; 29th Dec., 1848.*

Your letter of Christmas-day contains a similar wish to mine, that *happier* returns of the season may await us.

Let us keep our return to England in view.

. . . How delightfully we could pass our time there, and how satisfactorily. The society of congenial minds and the services of religion would be a privilege we have not often in this country.

England has the advantage over India in every way.

I hope Mooltan will soon be ours, and then something will be done here towards bringing the campaign to a close. If the 56th regiment is sent to Lahore, you can be there by the time we arrive, and we shall not dislike the place as a station.

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*Commander-in-Chief's Camp ;  
30th Dec.*

Yesterday the Commander-in-Chief's camp moved up to within two miles of us, and this morning Albert and I rode in here and have made several calls.

It appears that the Seikhs have moved a short distance, but our intelligence is of the most uncertain description, and no one seems to know exactly what the Seikhs are doing.

We are now in Brigadier Huthwaite's tent, where I write this in a hurry.

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*Camp Heilah ; 31st Dec., 1848.*

This morning, the following regiments marched from this camp, namely, the 9th Lancers, 5th & 8th Light Cavalry, Fordyce's and Duncan's troops of Horse Artillery. They move downwards to a fort about 20 miles on this side of the Chenáb, and a Brigade under Penny move simultaneously on the opposite bank of the river. The object is to intercept a Chief named Narain Sing with 3000 men and a couple of guns. This party left Mooltan some time ago to collect revenue, and was followed by Sheik

Emam-oo-deen (the ex-Governor of Cashmere), and some troops.

Narain Sing is thus prevented from returning to Mooltan, and our detachment will endeavour to prevent him from joining Shere Sing on the bank of the Jeylum. Cocks accompanies the detachment.

It seems understood that on the fall of Mooltan the Governor General will declare the intentions of Government regarding the Punjaub, because the force which will then be available will, it is hoped, be sufficient to carry our views into effect.

We have not any communication at present with Dost Mahomed, and Government feel that it would be derogatory in us to make overtures to him at present, because our enemies are unconquered ; but when we are victorious, it is supposed we shall gladly give him Peshawur.

Goolab Sing is now an independent Rajah, and though we disgraced our rule by selling him a kingdom and a people, yet having



received the price we cannot cancel the abominable transaction ; whilst he is faithful as an ally, our Government will abide by the treaty. But the question is with the Lahore Government, and it is to be hoped that immediately after the fall of Mooltan we shall declare the treaty with that State at an end, in consequence of the treachery of the durbar and the majority of the chiefs by whom the treaty was signed. . . .

I saw Dawes this morning, who expressed himself quite pleased that you were not going home, for he thinks the opposition against us will fall to pieces very soon, like a pack of cards.

It is now said that the Seikhs moved their ground yesterday, to get to a clean spot, and that they are very sickly.

*Camp Heilu ; 1st Jan., 1849.*

I wish us all a happier New-Year's Day in 1850 than this is, and I hope it will please God for us very soon to be re-united.

As the Commander-in-Chief's camp is so near, our letters are not forwarded to the branch Post-office in this camp as heretofore.

Toulmin kindly rode in for our letters, but did not find one for me. After breakfast I despatched an orderly to "try again," for your letters are my enjoyment in your absence.

I was walking outside the tent, thinking of the expected letter, when Young Mercer approached on horseback, and put his hand in his pocket. I immediately knew that he had brought my letter from the Post-office, and this accounted for Toulmin not finding it there.

We must soon hear something decisive from Mooltan, because whether we renew the siege or have recourse to negotiation

through Lieut.-Colonel Lawrence, the time has arrived when something must be settled there, and then affairs will be brought to a crisis in this quarter.

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*Camp Healah ; Jan. 2nd, 1849.*

May that be very soon, and may we not again be separated for years and years.

Yesterday we received accounts that our troops at Mooltan had taken possession of the suburbs, and expected to capture the town within a few hours. May this prove the case, and then I hope the fort will soon be ours also.

When the Commander-in-Chief advances to attack Shere Sing, I think the enemy will cross the Jeylum with all his guns, and then it will be difficult for us to follow the allied enemy with success. But some persons think we shall leave them to themselves

when they have retired from the plains, and only act on the defensive to prevent their return.

I want to see a public declaration that we have disconnected ourselves with the Lahore Government, and ceased to act with the remaining members of the durbar. This will perhaps be done after the fall of Mooltan.

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*Camp Healah ; 3rd Jan., 1849.*

Young Mercer and I rode into the Commander-in-Chief's camp this morning for our letters, but I narrowly escaped being disappointed, for we examined the heap of letters without finding one for me. Mercer happened to take a sealed packet for the 36th regiment, which is in his Brigade, and on opening it found your letter to me. This blunder occurred at Lahore, and is another proof of the carelessness of the Post-office department.

On looking over the letters to-day I saw



one for Dr. Pemberton, Field Hospital, Army of the Punjaub ; so George Pemberton is at Ramnuggur, and I hope to see him soon.

Yesterday, a commander of the Bunnoo troops with Shere Sing, accompanied by another person of some rank, and about 30 followers, came into camp and were duly escorted to the Commander-in-Chief, who will, I suppose, send them to Lahore. The Bunnoo Chief in question is Ram Sing.

It is supposed that the fall of Mooltan will have a great effect in the aspect of affairs in this part of the country, and will be the great step towards drawing the campaign to a close, and I hope I may add in drawing you and me to each other.

The news to-day that I have heard from the detachment under Brigadier White, which went after Narain Sing, but it is not expected that we shall catch him or overtake his troops.

It appears that Penny's Brigade was countermanded, and did not leave Ramnuggur.

4th Jan. Mercer and I again rode into the Commander-in-Chief's camp for our letters, and received them without difficulty to-day. .

We are anxious to hear of the fall of Mooltan, but it may not be ours for many days, and it is sad to think of the loss of life which will take place, if the enemy defend the citadel with vigour.

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*Healah ; 5th Jan.*

I had a solitary ride this morning to the Post-office, as Mercer had to attend parade, and so had Albert.

The enclosed sketch of the action of the 3d came in to-day's "Agra Messenger," and you will be glad to see it.

*Camp, Heilah ; 6th Jan , 1849.*

Yesterday afternoon a despatch from General Whish announced that at 9 o'clock on the 30th December a 9-inch shell from one of our mortars blew up the principal magazine in the citadel at Mooltan. It was in the Chief Mosque, and the quantity of powder must have been very great, as the explosion was tremendous and the effect quite destructive to the Mooltanees, but you will have received the particulars from Mrs. Dempster long ere this reaches you, and I need not mention them.

We hear that immediately on the fall of Mooltan, the Governor-General will issue a proclamation annexing the whole of the Punjab to British India, and that an order for additional regiments will be published at the same time. If this is done, some of the troops will occupy the newly-acquired country, and ladies can join their husbands in those corps. But a large force will have to

proceed to Peshawur, perhaps, and no ladies will be able to go there at present.

I am all anxiety to know the arrangements of Government, and hope to be soon promoted.

Captain Hake, of the 34th, is with Kempland, and he also will call on you and tell you how well I was when he was in camp.

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*Healah ; 7th Jan.*

It is said we are to move 4 miles to the right to-morrow, and I hope we may, that the 56th may get into its position in Mountain's Brigade.

We have intelligence that our troops captured the town of Mooltan on the 2d January, and were to storm the citadel on the 3d. I trust the loss has not been great, and that to-day or to-morrow we shall receive the pleasing intelligence of the fall of Mooltan. . . .

I met Tremenhere at Lahore, and discovered that our families are connected, my cousin, Mrs. Scott, being his cousin also.



I often think of our contemplated return to England, and sometimes talk of my retirement from the service. . . . May God, in his mercy, bless us, my love, and our darling children, and may you and I soon be restored to each other and be happy !

---

*Camp, Healah ; 8th Jan., 1849.*

. The anniversary of our happy marriage. . . . I read till late last night that very beautiful work “Elisha,” and felt very forcibly several passages dwelling on the mercy of God in his Providence. We have experienced many instances of his love, and have seen how truly all things work together for good to those who trust in the Almighty. Many circumstances, which at one stage of their progress appear to be great afflictions, prove in the end to have been the means of imparting a blessing. This is exemplified in the book by a reference to Naaman the leper, and

others, and the aim of the writer is to show the propriety and advantage of exercising faith in the mercy of God, and not repining at his Providence.

What a night of distress was the 7th of January, 1836, when it appeared that you, my beloved C., who were the happiness of my life, were about to be removed from this world, and to be separated from me, till, through the love of God, and the atonement of our Redeemer, we were united in eternity. . . . And yet it pleased God not only to spare you, but to grant a safe birth to our darling Agnes, who will, I fervently pray, be a source of happiness to us throughout our lives, and a devoted disciple of our blessed Redeemer.

My thoughts kept me awake, and when 12 o'clock struck I hailed the return of the 8th January, which is the day of our happy union, and of the birth of our darling Agnes.

We have completed twenty years since our marriage, and I pray our heavenly

Father to spare us to each other for many years of happiness yet to come.

Good day, my love, my wife ; I am your unchangeably devoted.

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*Camp, name unknown ; Tuesday, 9th Jan.*

We moved our camp to-day, marched soon after 9 o'clock in the morning, and were here at noon. We are about the centre of the line, and in our own Brigade, between the 29th Queen's and the 30th Native Infantry.

My first care was to get your letter, and I had a long ride for it, as no person knew the position of the several regiments. But I lost no time in bringing my search to a "successful issue," as ——— would say, and your cheerful and delightful letter of the 5th was my reward.

Albert sends his love, and a message that he cannot write, and I am writing at Jones's desk, as our tent is in a cornfield, and I am

having the corn rooted up and removed, to prevent dampness before pitching the tent.

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*Camp, Lussoarie ; 10th Jan.*

All the army is now encamped here, I believe, except Penny's Brigade, which is to join from Ramnuggur to-day or to-morrow, and except also the 13th and 22d regiments, which remain to guard the bridge.

It is said that as soon as we hear of the fall of Mooltan our force will advance and attack the troops under Shere Sing ; but I do not expect they will remain on this side of the Jeylum to receive our attack, and if they escape to the other side with all their guns they will make a much better stand in a hilly country than in the plains.

It is to be hoped that Dost Mahomed will take an active part on our side immediately after the fall of Mooltan, and we may then hope for a speedy termination to the campaign.



It is quite a new idea to me that the Scriptures afford any sanction for races, as you say ——— thinks.

Paul illustrates some of our duties by a reference to the efforts made by racers who strive for merely an earthly reward. In the same manner he terms our Saviour the captain of our salvation, enjoins the disciples to take upon them the whole armour of God, illustrating it by a reference to the weapons of a soldier, and exhorts them to fight the good fight of faith ; but this cannot be construed into any sanction for war : and horse racing and betting, if justifiable in a Christian, must be upheld by other arguments than a reference to the mention made of races and fights in Scripture.

I hope we may meet Mrs. T. some day and become acquainted ; I shall be glad to hear that her husband has the same ideas as she now entertains on baptism. .

Brigadier Mountain has just been here, and we are to parade at 4.

*Camp, Lussoarie ; 11th Jan.*

There is not any letter from you to-day, but I am sure you write as usual. Some overlands have arrived to me direct ; I will forward them to you to-morrow. . . .

I dare say our dear child will pass her holidays pleasantly.

There is a letter from Blanch. . . . .  
Also one from Charley. . . . .

We are to march to-morrow to a place half-way towards the enemy's camp.

Colonel Lawrence is now in the Commander-in-Chief's camp. Attock is in the hands of the Affghans, and Lieut. Herbert a prisoner in Chutter Sing's camp.

The crisis is now approaching, and we shall soon know whether there is to be an action on this side of the Jeylum or not.

All the troops were inspected to-day by the Commander-in-Chief, by Brigades.

Brigadier Mountain is very deaf, and it was miserable work endeavouring to convey the Commander-in-Chief's orders to him.

I purpose going to see Georgey Pemberton by and by.

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*Camp, near the Left Bank of the Jeylum,  
and a few miles from Dinghy ;  
12th January, 1819.*

My beloved C., we marched this morning soon after 7 o'clock, and have encamped at this place, five or six miles, it is said, from the enemy.

Yesterday, a proclamation from the Governor-General was sent to Shere Sing's camp, offering pardon on the surrender of their guns and arms, but it is not likely to be acceded to by the majority. It now remains to be seen what will take place.

I was very glad to see George Pemberton yesterday and again to-day on the march ; he is attached to the 2d European regiment. Instead of the round-faced boy, he has now sharp features, and is thin. Maria is going to England for her health.

I enclose all the letters except Charley's, which I find was sent yesterday by Albert.

We are now close enough to see the hills distinctly.

I am a little tired after the long march through a hot sun, and am now going to lie down.

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“Elate indeed were the spirits of the soldiers who composed the ‘general army’ of Hugh Baron Gough, when they encamped at Dinghee on the evening of the 12th January, 1849. Dinghee, a small town, was situated at a distance of eight or nine miles from the heights of Russool, where the Seikh forces under the command of Shere Sing were posted.

“Their right rested on Moong, their left being protected by the natural strength and field works of Russool. The Jhelum flowed behind their camp, while the front was covered by the jungle. On the evening of



the 12th it was bruited about, and was the firm conviction of every one, that a general action would take place on the morrow, and few indeed were the men who did not indulge in the most sanguine expectations of a brilliant crowning victory.

“Late in the evening the Generals of division, Thackwell, Gilbert, and Colin Campbell, the Brigadiers White, Pope, Tennant, Brooke, Hathwaite, Mountain, Hoggan, Pennyquick, Godby, and Penny, and the commanding officers of regiments, were summoned to the tent of the Commander-in Chief, to deliberate on and concert the preparatory arrangements for the active operations of the morrow.”—*Thackwell's Narrative of the Second Seikh War.*

*From Rev. Mr. Bowstead.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

My horse is at the door saddled. I am just about to ascertain the cause of the salute. When I hear I will inform you.

Yours sincerely,

J. BOWSTEAD.

*January 18th.*

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*From Major Cumberlege.*

MY DEAR MRS. MERCER,

I merely heard from Mrs. Becher, at the Post-office, that Major Bamfield was severely wounded, but *where* or *how* is not mentioned. He is the only officer named at present. Many officers get severely wounded, and recover quickly. I was myself severely wounded at Soobraon, but soon got over it. We must hope for the best.

No doubt Albert will write to his mother by next dawk all the particulars of the action.

Yours sincerely,

J. CUMBERLEGE.

P.S. Keep up your spirits, all will no doubt be well, and good news come to-morrow.

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*Camp ; Sunday, January 14th, 2½ p.m.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

I have just been over to see my dear good friend, your poor husband, and found that your son had not written, owing to his being occupied in attending on his father. I, however, made him write these few lines. The wound, no doubt, is a severe one, but the doctor says he has reason to believe that no vital part has been touched. The ball passed through the arm, entered the side, and lodged itself in the back. It has been extracted, and he appears much easier, and

was sleeping calmly and breathing easily when I left him. The spine is not touched ; in short, from what I have heard, I consider he is doing very favourably. He has been spoken of in the most noble terms ; his regiment was exposed to a most terrific fire, and their loss has been very great.

I have advised Albert to get him removed back to Ramnuggur as soon as the doctors consider it prudent to do so.

I have the greatest reason to be thankful to the Almighty for preserving me through such an awful battle, and I know too well what my own poor wife's feelings would have been to have been unmindful of my duty in writing you this few lines for your comfort.

Whenever Albert is unable to write, you may rely on my giving the latest accounts of your husband in my letters to my wife.

Believe me, yours very sincerely,

J. W. MERCER.

*14th January, 1849.*



MY DEAREST MOTHER,

I could not write yesterday, but you will have heard from Mrs. Mercer of the engagement yesterday, and the sad news of my dear father being wounded.

The wound was considered *very* dangerous at first, but Dr. Mac Rae has extracted the ball, and there is now *a little more hope* of his recovery. Through the blessing of God we shall all be united again. He will have every care taken of him by me, and I will give you daily accounts.

Good bye, my dear mother, and may God bless you and keep your spirits up. Look to HIM for support, and pray for my dear father.

With my love,

Your affectionate son,

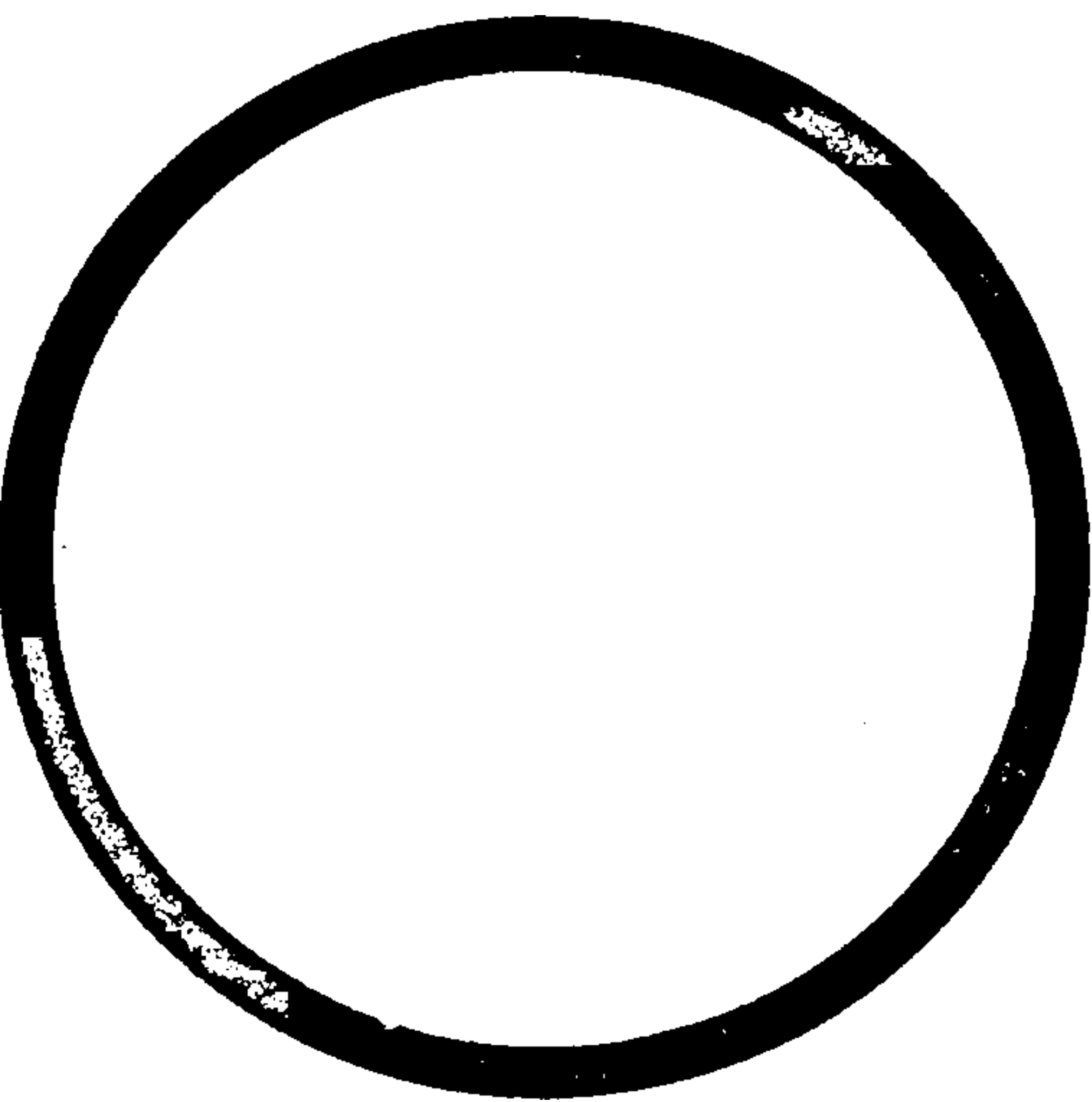
ALBERT.

4 o'Clock, Monday morning.

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

It is my sad but bounden duty to tell you that half-an-hour since my dear father passed from this to another and better world, where there is no pain. He died without moving : just as he slept he died.

Dr. Mac Rae and George Pemberton told me yesterday, as now, that there was *no hope*, when they saw him in the evening, after the ball was taken out, and could feel no pulse.



The ball, which was an iron one, and about this size, first went through the left arm, then entered the side, and passed through the liver, and was taken out on the right of the back bone. His lower extremities were paralysed from the time he first received the wound.

His last words about you were uttered a few minutes after he was shot, and they were, "I feel I can't last long, for I know the nature of my wound. Tell mama." Then, after a minute or two, he added, "and Agnes too."

He did not speak after this except when spoken to, and then with great pain. You will be glad to know that W. had nothing to do with him. I took him to Mac Rae, who has been very kind and attentive to him. He is to be buried this afternoon, with Christian rites. I shall write to Mr. Whiting immediately.

I hope it will not be long before the army returns, for I long to be with you and add my endeavours to comfort you.

Our regiment suffered dreadfully, Robinson and Warde, *killed*, Jones, Jervis, Dela-main, Gott, Bacon, wounded.

We fought in a jungle against the Chief's wish, but he had no help for it, as the enemy began.

May God bless you and preserve you from all danger, and may He, in his great mercy, grant that I may soon be with you.

With my best love,

I am, your affectionate Son,

ALBERT.

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*From Colonel Eckford.*

*Lahore ; 19th Jan. 1849.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

I received a letter from Albert yesterday, accompanied by one for you, which I forwarded.

I have hardly recovered from the stunning influence occasioned me, first by the alarming intelligence of your beloved, lamented husband being badly wounded, and next post brought the heartrending tidings that one of the best of husbands, fathers, and of the men of Israel had been removed to an early grave, from which, humanly



speaking, he might have been preserved for many years. O how I mourn over your sad bereavement.

The sympathy of a Christian friend may soothe the heart of the bereaved widow to some extent, but it is to the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief that we must betake ourselves and seek for that comfort and consolation which he only can impart.

He has left us on record all that is needful for us, all that is calculated to yield us the necessary relief and consolation on such an affecting occasion. “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous.” “Nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them that are exercised thereby.” See Heb. ch. xii., from the beginning to the 12th verse, and in Ps. xciv. 12,—“Blessed is the man whom thou chasteneth, O Lord, and teacheth him out of thy law, that thou mightest give him rest from the days of adversity.”

The answer of the Psalmist to such blessed and comforting declarations—“It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes.” “I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.” “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” “Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.” Again, “as many as I rebuke and chasten.” “Though the Lord cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies, for he does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.” The Lord only knows what is needful for us, and not one stroke of the hammer less would answer his purpose. He is continually consulting the wellbeing of his people, and “no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly.”

I should wish it was my lot to be near you at such a time as this, but I am

constantly reminded who am I? Is not the “Lord the comforter” with you? Of a truth must he be, for he is with all who seek him; and I am well persuaded you have sought him, who is nigh unto all who call upon him, and “a very present help in time of trouble.”

O then, my dear friend, seek him unceasingly, whom your soul loveth, and you will derive comfort exceedingly abundantly above all that you can ask or think.

Your dear son cannot possibly, under present circumstances, obtain leave of absence, and it is impossible to say when the operations in the field may terminate; no one, not the best informed, can venture to conjecture. Our loss has been most appalling.

I have no doubt Mrs. Eckford has written to you since your sad bereavement has been communicated to you. I shall be thankful for a few lines from you.

May the Lord comfort you, my dear

friend. It is from him we can derive that consolation you stand so much in need of on so painful and trying an occasion.

You are assured of the heartfelt sorrow I feel ; but I bless God I sorrow not as those who have no hope. No, your beloved husband, when on earth, had Christ formed in him, the hope of our salvation, and is now with the Lord, from whom you would not, if you could, separate him, and place him again in this world of sin and sorrow.

Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Bamfield,

Your affectionate friend in Christ,

JAS. ECKFORD.

*From Mrs. Eckford.*

*Seharempore ; Sunday, 21st.*

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

We this morning received letters from Lahore and camp, which told us of your most heavy loss.



O my dear friend, what consolation for you to know that your beloved husband is now in glory, that he is now uniting in the song of praise with all the redeemed, free from every pain and every anxiety, now expecting to meet you and his dear children in the Lord's good time, and be with you for the "for ever" of eternity. I deeply feel for you, and earnestly pray the Lord to support you. O that I could be with you to try to comfort your nearly broken heart. The Lord alone can comfort you.

O, may you, when we meet, be able to tell me of the Lord's goodness to you in leading you to dwell on his love to his children. The blessed Saviour feels for you. Remember how he wept at the grave of Lazarus. "We have not an High Priest who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities." In all our affliction he is afflicted. His blessed Word is full of comfort. Converse much with him in prayer, my beloved friend, and remember you have

your dear children to live for. In the Lord's good time you may see dearest Agnes ; and Albert, I trust, was near his sainted father when he died. I have heard no particulars. When you are able, write me a few lines.

I mean to leave this in a few days. I wish to see you and try to comfort you.

My dear Anna is nearly well ; so are Mary and Maria and Henry. With fond love from us all,

Ever believe me,

Your affectionately attached friend,

M. ECKFORD.

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*Camp, Chillianwallah ; Jan. 16th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

I must still continue to write on the sad subject of my dear father's death, although I know, by *my own feelings*, how very, VERY distressing it must be to *you*.

His body was interred yesterday, on a mound with all the others that suffered in the action.

Brigadier Mountain was very kind and attentive to me, and marked the grave, in order to have something erected over him if possible.

*Everybody* feels his loss ; the whole regiment say, “ What are we fit for, now that the Major is gone ! ”

You can imagine, my dearest Mama, how lonely and destitute *I* feel. He was a father whose like was not to be met with amongst a thousand ; and now I am *alone*, without his good and valued advice, what can I do ! I put my whole trust in *God*, who has promised to be a father to the fatherless, and the comfort of the widow ; and my prayers are continually offered to *HIM* for you, that *HE* would bless and support you in the trying time of affliction.

We have at present made no arrangements, but as soon as we are a little quiet,

and the weather a little finer, we shall see what is to be done.

Let me hear from you, my dearest mother, and do not be too much depressed. We know my dear father is *happy* now in heaven, and therefore we should not grieve as those who have *no hope*.

I hope, please God, to be with you ere long. Good bye, my dear mother.

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

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*Camp, Chillianwallah ; Jan. 19th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MAMA,

As yet, no arrangement of my dear father's property.

I have received all your letters to him, and locked them up. I am very unwell, and wish I could accept Dr. Mac Rae's offer to go and live with him. I shall write and see if I can.



I cannot write much to-day, my dearest mother. God bless you ; good bye.

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

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*Chillianwalla ; Jan. 18th.*

MY DEAREST MAMA,

I dread the receipt of your first letter, in answer to the sad intelligence which Mercer's of the 14th conveyed to you.

I pray God it will not be long before I am able to join you.

No one knows what are to be our movements, but I trust the last action will have taught the Commander-in-Chief a lesson which will not easily be effaced from his memory.

I think the Seikhs are *determined* to make a stand here, but God being our guide, we shall put them down effectually this time

*I* have no spirits left in me, and I am sure I know your feelings, my own dear mother, but *you* know where to look for comfort, and that it will not be denied you.

Sutton and I live together, and I find him a very nice companion.

I must now send this off, as it goes through Cocks. Good bye, my dear mother.

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

P.S. I am rather better to-day.

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*Camp, Chillianwalla ; January 20th.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

This morning a Committee assembled to look into my dear father's will, and as you have a copy, you know that everything in camp was to be made over to me, to be disposed of as *you* should direct.

I have disposed of nothing yet, and shall wait till I hear from you.

The camels will be very expensive, but I cannot help it. I do not like to sell his things. . . If there is an opportunity, I would send everything back to you, including the large tent.

I am so dreadfully miserable all alone now! Please send the enclosed with yours to Agnes, and see if I have written in a proper way to her.

It is so very, very sad to me to be receiving your letters directed to dear papa, and written in such good spirits, not thinking he cannot read them. I am obliged to open them, dearest Mama, because mine are enclosed in them, and there might be something that required answering. I know you will not like my doing it, and I would not but for the reason I have mentioned.

Good bye, my *dearest* mother.

Ever your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

*Camp, Chillianwalla ; Jan. 21st, 1849.*

I have just returned from church, which was held in the Commander-in-Chief's tent. The Sacrament was also administered, and I partook of it.

It is an event in my life, and I hope a happy one, for I never took the Sacrament before, and now I have commenced a new period in my life. I hope I shall be able to act up to my resolutions, and, by the grace of God, I will be as good a man as my dear father was.

I am glad the weather has cleared up again, for rain has a very saddening influence on the mind, particularly when labouring under so heavy an affliction as the loss of my dear father.

We were disturbed in church by all the cavalry and artillery officers being called out, but afterwards it was found to have been nothing. A party of Seikh cavalry came



down, and an officer fired a 9-pound shot at them, and they all went off again.

I hope my letter reached you yesterday. They go by Cocks's private camel dawk, and the Brigadier forwards them on to Loodeana.

Your ever affectionate son,

ALBERT.

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*Chillianwalla ; Jan. 23rd.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

It is now three days since I heard from you ; the rain, of course, has hindered the dawk ; but I am very much afraid the intelligence of your sad loss will affect you too much to allow of your writing. The weather, too, is most distressing ; I am sure *you* must feel it very, *very* much.

I used to say I thought nothing would make me cry, but I did not know then what an affliction and bereavement I should have to undergo ; but still with all this, and

unwell as I now feel, I am *obliged* to do my duty. To-night I shall have to visit all the guards of our Brigade twice, once at sunset, and again at midnight. I do not like to go on the sick-list, though I am much more fit for that than anything else. . . .

I know you will not feel inclined to write to me about what is to be done with the things, but you know some arrangement must be made, and if you leave everything to my management (I mean as regards camp), I will do what seems most right and advisable.

It is fearfully cold, and we cannot stir out of the tents without getting wet feet.

I hope I shall hear from you to-day, dear Mama.

Your affectionate and altered son,

ALBERT.

*Camp, Chillianwalla ; Jan. 24th.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

No dawk has come in to-day. I am very anxious for them now, as I long to hear from you.

I have been out calling on Cocks and Capt. Ramsay ; the latter said there would be an opportunity of sending the things back to Lahore in a day or two, but on my return to my tent I found a note from Sir R. Shakespear, saying he would take the tent.

There was a talk yesterday of the Poorbeas wanting to come in, and I think Mackeson wrote saying they would be received, if they laid down their arms at certain pickets. I hope they will come in, as that will lessen Shere Sing's force by 4,000 men.

Elahie Bux, the General of Artillery that came in, is to be set at liberty, and sent to occupy some fort in our rear with a few hundred men.

When will all this be over? There is a report that some troops are to go back to Ramnuggur.

Your letters would come more quickly if you were to send them to the Brigadier; he would forward them by Cocks's private dawk.

Do not grieve too much, my dear Mother, but think that my poor dear father is now far happier than he was in this world, and that will lessen the blow; as Colonel Mercer said to me when I told him I did not know how you would get over it, "Your mother's *sense of religion* will teach her not to be too much cast down."

I hope, my own Mama, you will endeavour to keep your spirits up, so that you may not get ill. May God protect us both.

Your own affectionate son,

ALBERT.



*From Mrs. Colin Mackenzie.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

I cannot tell you how truly we both sympathize with you under so heavy an affliction. Your name has been constantly mentioned both in our private and family prayers, and I can say the same for Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph.

May God himself, who has laid so sore a trial upon you, reveal himself more and more to you as the comforter, and give you such a sense of his infinite love who died for us, that it may swallow up your present grief, and enable you to rejoice in the Lord as your Saviour and strength even in the midst of such a trial. May he enable you to look forward to that blessed place where no foe can enter and no friend departeth thence, and where you shall be reunited with your dear husband, through the merits of that blessed Lord in whom he trusted. All the sad circumstances of his summons hence,

which probably aggravate your sorrow, were all appointed by Him who maketh *all* things to work together for good to them that love God. This thought will comfort you and enable you to feel that all was ordered rightly *in love*.

Do not take the trouble of answering this, but whenever it would not be painful to you to see me, ask Mrs. Mercer to let me know, for it would be a satisfaction to me to try to express part of the sympathy I so heartily feel, and

Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Bamfield,

Very sincerely yours,

HELEN C. MACKENZIE.

*25th January, 1849.*

*From Mrs. Rudolph, wife of a German Missionary  
at Loodeana.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

I take at the same time occasion to apologize for not having called upon you, but knowing too well what a sore distress it had pleased the Lord to send upon you, and how much wounded your heart must have been made by the loss of the dearest on earth, we feared it would have been too much for your feelings. But as Mrs. Mackenzie mentioned last Sabbath to me that you would accept my call, I shall avail myself of your kindness, not meaning to make a formal call, but to show you our Christian sympathy.

May the Lord, whom it pleased to afflict you, not as if he took pleasure in afflicting the children of men, grant you the comfort of his Holy Spirit, that you may feel and

know that it is the hand of a father which chastised you—the hand of him who gave his only begotten, his beloved Son for the remission of our sins. For our transgression he was wounded ; our stripes were laid upon him, that we sinners who dishonoured their God might be cleansed from their sins and be saved ! Oh, could he, the God of infinite mercy, do anything that was not for our good ? Let your heart, therefore, rest in Him, and his peace, which passeth all understanding, be with you ever more. With true sympathy,

Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Bamfield,

Yours very sincerely,

OTTILI RUDOLPH.



*Camp, Chillianwalla ; Jan. 25.*

Mrs. Mercer's kind note to me arrived yesterday afternoon. I am very glad you have such a kind friend with you in the sad time of bereavement.

I hope her endeavours to console you will be blessed, and that you will look on your loss as done for the glory of Christ, and that it has caused my dear father's eternal happiness.

Worldly matters *must* come with my letter, although I know how little you will care about them.

I hope I shall hear from you to-day, my own dear mother, as I am very anxious for a letter from you.

The enemy fired a salute last night, which we suppose was on account of Chutter Sing's arrival. This morning all their forces turned out in front of the camp for inspection. A great number of these men want to come in, but cannot get away.

*Camp, Chillianwalla ; Jan. 26th.*

Your letter of the 21st arrived last night. I am most thankful to find that Mrs. Mercer is such a comfort to you.

Mercer dined with me last night, and we had a long talk together after dinner. I like him exceedingly, and hope to see a great deal of him.

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*From the Rev. Henry Beddy.*

*Patna ; 26th Jan., 1849.*

My much-esteemed, bereaved, and  
deeply-afflicted Friend,

How shall I find words to tell you *how* I feel and *what* I feel, at the deeply distressing and heartrending bereavement with which you have been visited ! My heart mourns indeed, and I am deeply distressed. Oh, Bamfield ! dear, esteemed, and valued friend—a real friend, one such as I never was privileged to have, one who surpassed all the friends I ever had !

Forgive me, my esteemed and sorrowing

friend, for opening your wounds afresh. This morning the sorrowing and afflictive account of his death was communicated to me. It was like a clap of thunder ; we were paralysed ; my powers of action were as it were frozen ; I looked as if I could not admit the fearful truth ; I walked about, as if unconscious of what I was doing.

Yes, Albert, you have lost a father indeed, a treasure, one who was able to counsel, and who carried with his counsels a conviction that they were entitled to every respect and deference. But is it not said a hair cannot fall to the ground without our heavenly Father's knowledge and permission ? Oh, may that tender hand that has permitted this bereavement, be mercifully and graciously stretched towards you ; may the balm of consolation be administered to you, so that while you mourn over the beloved husband of your youth, in the sweet assurance of his happy and emancipated spirit being among the happy throng that sur-

rounds the throne, you may be able to acquiesce in His ways and designs, which are inscrutable.

May the Lord mercifully be with you ; may His grace be imparted to you, and His Holy Spirit be vouchsafed to you ; may the Divine Spirit so sustain and comfort you that you may be able to bear up against this visitation. May He who has afflicted comfort, and may He so aid, bless, and support you, that you may be able to realize that though no affliction is otherwise than grievous, yet in God's rich mercy it may be blessed to your soul's prosperity.

Every member of my family mourns with you. There has ever been something talismanic in the honoured and beloved name of Bamfield, associated with the rare and valued qualities its dear possessor bore.

Margaret looked the picture of despair, and the house was hushed into silence ; every sound that could indicate lightness or mirth was hushed.



The Lord, in tender mercy, look upon you, and soothe your sorrowing heart, and regard you with an eye of pity, tenderness, and compassion. My heart is full, I cannot write, and scarcely know what I am writing. May the God of all grace and consolation be with you, pray

Your sincere and deeply-afflicted  
friends, one and all,

H. BEDDY.

---

*Camp, Chillianwalla ; Jan. 27th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

Yesterday we fired a royal salute for the taking of Mooltan. They made an unconditional surrender, and Moolraj is a prisoner.

This morning Bowie came in on parole

from Shere Sing's camp. He says the Seikhs will not surrender, and will not serve under our Government in any way, nor will they hold jageers under us. The only condition on which they will give in is that they have the whole of the Punjaub given them, and if we do not choose to agree to this, they say they have taken up their position and that we had better come and fight them.

Whish's force will soon be here, and unless they give in or run away before that, we *shall* attack them.

They will never attack us, as they have made strong entrenchments and batteries, which we can see plainly with a telescope.

I find it is not safe to send the tent, &c., back, unless with a strong escort, as Nicholson says the enemy have patrolling parties all over the country.

*Camp, Chillianwalla ; 28th Jan.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

I must just write a little to you before going to church. . . .

Unless they send us back to be an escort to the *wounded*, I am afraid it will be some time before I see you.

Wheeler's force is on the way to reinforce us. I hear the enemy are moving down some guns towards our right flank, and a squadron of the 9th Lancers has been ordered out. . . .

I was very much struck with the first three verses of the first lesson this morning—Isaiah lvii.

The enemy are now firing away, but I suppose they are simply amusing themselves.

Bowie went back to their camp last evening.

I hope, my dear mother, you are gradually getting over your severe loss, although I

know it must be a very long time before either of us can cease to think of it.

Your own Son,

ALBERT.

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*Chillianwalla ; 29th Jan.*

. . . . There was not time to have a coffin made. . . .

On his right-hand was our Quarter-Master Sergeant, and on his left another officer, whose name I could never find out.

All our officers that were not wounded attended the funeral. It rained the whole time. All of them were buried on a mound in front of our camp, and *he* was in the middle of one row, 6th from one end and 7th from the other. I am glad people have had some respect for the dead.

There has been no running over the graves, but they are all as they were the first day.



I hope my letters reach you regularly, my dear mamma, for if they don't I am afraid you will think I do not write *every* day.

I have sent off overlands to Charley and uncle S., and I have told uncle W. to write to grandmamma.

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*From Captain Wakefield.*

*Governor-General's Camp ;*

*Jan. 29, 1849.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

I feel you will think I have made delay in answering your note of the 22d instant, containing the sad tidings of Bamfield's death, but immediately on receipt of it I went to Mr. Elliott, who, after reading your note, asked me to answer it, and say how sorry he was to be unable to help you ; and, painful as it must be to you, we agreed that the request would not be acceded to.

I am, however, thankful to see that your

dear boy's regiment is to be relieved by one of those at Ramnuggur, so that I do not anticipate any further risk of life in his going into action again.

I return your dear boy's note. I am rejoiced to see that he seems to place his confidence in God.

What a blessing that he looks forward to his dear father's example. He is, I doubt not, the child of your prayers, and you must know that a mother's prayers, still more a widow's prayers, will be heard.

Do pray over the 46th Psalm, to be enabled to realize the precious promise to believers in its first verse.

You know the Scriptures, I am thankful to say, and I trust the Sun of Righteousness will soon arise with healing on his wings to you. My poor prayers are made daily for the realization of this. In the mean time will you command my services, as you would a brother's, in consulting me about anything I can aid you in ?

Blessed be God that you may take comfort in your dear Bamfield's being fit for the change, sudden as I believe it was.

I purpose writing to-morrow to Albert, as one of his father's old friends.

I must now conclude by assuring you of my affection, in which, I am sure, my dear wife would join me. She begged to be affectionately remembered in her last.

Believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

J. H. WAKEFIELD.

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*From Colonel Wilson.*

*Benares ; 30th Jan.*

MY DEAR ALBERT,

It was, believe me, with feelings of the deepest regret, we have heard of the melancholy event of your excellent

father's death, and of your having been wounded, I hope not severely.

Your poor mother, how deeply we sympathize with her in the bereavement it has pleased the Almighty to visit her with! When you write to her, pray offer her our united feelings of condolence and regards. We shall be glad to hear that she bears up under all her late trials, with resignation to the will of our heavenly Father. May He continue to bless and protect her, and grant her strength through all her sufferings.

What a sad affair the lamentable 13th appears to have been, and from all we hear but strangely managed.

The poor 56th, and my late corps, the 30th, have suffered dreadfully, proving at the same time how gallantly they must have done their duty.

When sufficiently recovered, and able to do so, I shall like to hear from you.

I see my young friends, Sutton and Toulmin, have, through God's favour and



protection, escaped. Make my kind regards and congratulations to them, and tell Master Tom to write to me. The latter has, I hope, now seen what fighting is.

Poor Delamain, I knew his father very well; we were many years in the same corps together. I hope he is doing well.

I saw Dorin yesterday: they are all quite well.

Accept, my dear boy, our united kindest regards, and

Believe me ever to be,

Yours most sincerely,

R. W. WILSON.

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*Camp, January 30th.*

Major Mowatt, of the Artillery, told me to give you his kind regards and deepest commiseration and sympathy for your loss. I am going to see him to-day; he was a great friend of dear papa's.

Byers went out the other day with the animals to graze, and was attacked by a marauding party of about 100 Seikhs. He fired a volley, and killed about half-a-dozen men and 4 horses, and brought in two or three prisoners.

Yesterday Tait's Irregulars had a scrimmage with some Seikh horsemen, and killed 16 men and brought in two prisoners.

I rode out this morning to look at a new battery we are making on our right flank to command the hill and to prevent any one going round to the rear.

---

*Camp, Chillianwalla.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

Yesterday I received two letters from you, one enclosing Major Palmer's very kind note, which I have answered, and have told him all that I have done, and have asked him to put you in the way of making all necessary applications.

We have not marched yet, and I do not expect we shall till the Mooltan force joins us.

I believe some troops have come in from Ramnuggur this morning. Holmes's Irregulars; 53d Queen's, and 53d Native Infantry, both are on their way out here. I believe they have arrived at Ramnuggur.

The wounded are, I believe, to go to the rear (Ramnuggur) on Tuesday, but we do not know who goes with them.

The Commander-in-Chief issued an order yesterday that no indents were to be made for private camp followers, meaning servants, as the Bunneahs got more than was necessary, and sold it to Seikhs. So now our servants cannot buy atah or dhal in the bazaar.

This will be a short note, my dear mother, but you will not mind that for once.

Your ever affectionate son,

ALBERT.

*Camp, Chillianwalla ; Feb. 1st, 1849.*

. . . . I should indeed be sorry and anxious if I did not get your letters daily, dearest mother ; but I am glad to find that you are bearing the dreadful blow with such fortitude, and that you are able to look to the bright side as well as to the gloomy.

It has been my consolation ever since to think that he is now in heaven, fulfilling with joy the will of his Lord.

He is now clothed in garments made whiter than snow in the blood of the Saviour, and, in fact, his happiness exceeds any thing we can conceive.

---

*From Major Younger.*

*Camp, Deenanuggur ; Feb. 1st, 1849.*

MY DEAR ALBERT,

It was with great regret that I heard of your father's death. We had been intimate for the last two-and-twenty years, and from the changes which have taken place in



the 56th I considered him the last tie that bound me to it. I certainly had hopes of our meeting in England, after all our fagging in this country, but it has been ordered otherwise.

There is one tribute I must pay to his memory, and I mention it as the one best able to reconcile us to his loss, and that is that I have seen few, if any, who strove more to be prepared to meet death, or who had acquired a firmer hope of mercy.

I ought to have written to you ere this, but time, and not any condolence, must reconcile you to your loss.

Palmer told me that he had written to you, offering his services should he be able to assist you in your troubles. I need not also say that in as far as I can do the same, I hope that you will apply to me.

I suppose that you will have no trouble in settling all your father's affairs.

His will was made when we were at Ferozepore, I and another officer (whom I

forget) signed it. It was signed by your father in our presence. I trust that your poor mother is able to bear up against her bereavement ; after so many years of happiness her loss is great indeed.

I trust that these wars will soon be at an end, and that we shall in future manage as not to be subject at any time to such severe loss.

As matters have lately been conducted our lives are doubly uncertain.

I shall be happy to keep up the correspondence with you, which I have lost in your dear father.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

T. R. YOUNGER.

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Feb. 2. Yesterday afternoon we received orders to strike our tents simultaneously, but immediately after a counter order came

that we were not to strike them, but to have them ready to come down at a moment's warning. The cause of this was a move among the enemy. A large number of them went away to the right, and this morning the whole of their camp that was on the left is *gone*.

I suppose Mackeson has got good information. One is that they are going down, at least half of them, to cut off supplies that are coming up to us ; another is that they are gone to stop Whish ; another that half of them are going to attack us in the rear ; another in the front ; another report is that they are going to Goojerat ; and, in fact, there are reports and opinions without number. . . . .

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*Camp, Chillianwalla ; 3d Feb.*

I had no letter from you yesterday, dearest mamma. Mercer received one, so yours must have been missent somewhere,

and I suppose it will turn up at some future time.

All yesterday we were ready to move, but are still here. The position of the camp has been changed, and was done so quietly and quickly that even *we* did not know it till some one told us who had been where it is altered.

We now form a large square, facing outwards. There is one piece of good news. The convoy, with 15 days' provision and 15 lacs of rupees, arrived safely yesterday. Her Majesty's 53d Regiment, and the 53d Native Infantry, have arrived at Ramnuggur, and will be here in a day or two.

The wounded are to go back on Tuesday, but under what escort is not known.

I hope, my own mamma, that you are in health, and that your spirits are gradually being restored.

I suppose you have seen the despatch of which the Mofussilite has made a copy.

Sir F. Currie and Lawrence both affirm



there is to be no more fighting ; I can hardly think so, but God grant it may be the case.

Feb. 4th. There is nothing said about going back, and I suppose we shall have to remain.

They have a very good opinion of the 56th.

Sewdeen is sitting on the ground by me, going to count out my pay to me : he desires his salaam.

---

*Camp Chillianwalla ; Feb. 5th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MAMMA,

We have not yet heard anything about our being relieved, but I suppose when the other corps arrive there will be an order.

Mr. Whiting did not give us a sermon yesterday, although there was no Sacrament. The collection which had been made in camp for the benefit of the European soldiers who were killed on the 13th of January, amounts already to more than 3,000 rupees, and it is

just as gratifying to think that out of all the European privates killed on that day, there are only thirteen that have left widows, and among those thirteen there are only twenty-six children, so the 3,000 rupees will go a great way with them. I gave ten.

You asked me if I was near dear papa when he fell? I thought I had told you all about it, at least as much as I know.

We had been deployed into line, and as the round shot were falling pretty thick all about us, we got the order to lie down. We remained on the ground about half an hour, with the shot flying over us. Papa and Sutton kept on their horses, and walked up and down the line. Then we got the order from the Commander-in-Chief to rise and advance: immediately we went on at the double, the grape and matchlock balls whizzing, and the round shot hissing over our heads, so near that we could not walk or run straight up, but had to stoop the

whole way. We had gone within a few yards of the battery we had taken when somebody told me *he* was wounded. I ran up the line, and not finding him, went a little way back in the rear amongst the dead and dying, but as I could not see him I ran on again and joined my company, and waved my sword and called them on. We had not gone far when so many of the Sepoys that were wounded on the ground told me he was wounded in two places. Well, I determined to find him, and after about half an hour's search, I found him being put into a dooly. Then I went to the rear with him, and never left him until he died. Once when our cavalry retreated they ran right through the hospital, frightening camels and elephants, which came in a mass through the heap of doolies that was there. Everybody fled, but I could not leave my dying father, and I sat down by his dooly, and felt sure that God would keep all danger from him. Several were upset, and

the poor wounded thrown out on the ground. A camel came and knocked over the dooly next his, but avoided the pole, and so he was saved.

Now, my dearest Mamma, I have told you all, except about the taking out the ball. This seemed to give him no pain, at least he said it did not hurt him much. Now he is happy in heaven, and has no pain.

Good bye, my dearest Mother,

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

*Chillianwalla ; Feb. 5th.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

I write this now because I have to go out to-morrow at sunrise with the camels to graze. What miserable work it will be, standing in the jungle all day long, doing nothing.

6th Feb. At dinner time last night I got



a note saying that I was Brigade Subaltern of the day, so of course I could not go out with the camels. You see how fortunate I have been with regard to duty.

I believe we are going to change ground, as the enemy have taken and fortified a pass in the low range of hills on our right. . . .

Papa was in his own tent when he died. I had it put up in the field hospital, and he was removed into it and into his own bed on the afternoon of the 14th.

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*Monday Morning, 8 o'clock.*

An order has just come for the 29th, 30th, and 56th camels not to go out to graze, but to be kept ready for a move. The Brigadier just told Capt. Holmes that he thought *we* were going back with Her Majesty's 29th, but now he thinks *not*, and that we are on the force to go to Peshawur.

*Camp Chillianwalla ; Feb. 8th.*

I have just finished a plan of the battle of the 13th for Jones, which he is going to send to be published in the *Agra Messenger*. I copied it from a plan which was done for the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief. I am now going to do another, which I will send to you.

I expect we shall see the whole of the campaign.

About twenty of the enemy were killed yesterday by one of our reconnoitring parties.

Our regiment is much weaker than it was. Pearson, Nash, and myself, are the only officers that are on duty, and two of us are generally on in the same day, so you may fancy we get pretty well worked, night and day.

I hope, my dearest Mama, you are recovering your spirits, because, although it

was a severe loss to us all, yet we ought not to grieve as those who have no hope. David himself mourned when his child was ill, but when he died he got up and ate bread.

Feb 9th. I yesterday received yours, with Major Palmer's, &c. Major Palmer is very kind indeed, and I shall be glad if he joins the army. There is some talk of Wheeler's force joining us.

The Mooltan force is expected here on the 12th, at least the first part of it. .

There seems to be a regular break up in our regiment. This, however, you must not mention; it only shows what a loss a commanding-officer, and such a one as Papa was, is to a regiment. I shall be delighted to get away from the corps for a little while.

*Chillianwalla ; Feb. 12th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

They say the sick are to go back to-day at 1 P.M.; that is, in half an hour hence.

Yesterday, just after I had sent off my second letter, the three guns, the preconcerted signal for the whole army to turn out, were fired, and we all turned out.

A large body of Seikhs came down into the jungle with some guns, but in half an hour we were allowed to go back again.

This morning all the Seikhs are *gone* from their position, and I have this moment heard that General Gilbert has been into Rassool, their strong position, and may now be seen returning.

No dâk except the Commander-in-Chief's came in yesterday. Some Seikhs came down on the runners, and the one carrying the Chief's dâk (which is always done up in a separate bag) had the presence of mind to



throw it into a thick bush. The Seikhs took away all the other bags, and then the man went back and got the Chief's.

13th. The Seikhs have completely left their late strong position at Russool.

Yesterday General Gilbert and the Chief rode up to it with some other officer ; they say it is a very strong place. Had we attacked it, we should have had to go through a ravine 100 feet deep, and their guns would have been playing on us all the while, and our work have been worse than useless.

I went over the battle-field yesterday ; a number of bodies are still on the field, and we have just received an order to send out a party of 30 men, under a European officer, to bury them. It falls to my turn of duty to go, so I must get this off before I start.

*Camp, Lussoorie ; Feb. 15th, 1849.*

MY DEAR MAMA,

This morning we left Chillianwalla at half-past 4 and arrived here about half-past 1 or 2 o'clock.

The sun was fearfully hot, and we were all knocked up.

Now I have left Papa altogether. I felt a kind of tie which bound me to Chillianwalla, but now it is *past*, and most likely I shall never see the spot again.

To-morrow we march again, the 1st Brigade at half-past 1 A.M., and the 2nd at 3 A.M. We go, I believe, *towards* Ramnuggur. Our regiment has been moved out of Mountain's Brigade into Hoggan's. The latter is a *Native* Brigade, and is always put on the baggage duty.

*Camp ; February 17, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MAMA,

Yesterday, when we arrived at Sadoolapore, I wrote to you to say we were to halt for three or four days, but this morning, just as I had given the order to my classei to put up the other kanauts, I heard Bacon say “koonchai” (we are to march), and so we had just to strike our tents.

We marched in order of battle as we were going straight toward the enemy. I do not know the name of our present camp ; in fact, I suppose it has no name.

We expect to have a battle to-morrow. I shall put my trust in God, who is able to protect me from the dangers which surround me in battle, as well as he is from the many unknown dangers which daily surround me.

We are not yet moved out of Mountain's Brigade, so I imagine we are sure to be engaged.

They say the enemy attempted to cross the Chenáb, but he found we had some troops the other side of the river, all ready to receive him, and gave up the idea.

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

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*Camp, near Guzerat ; Feb. 19th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MAMA,

I received your letter of the 1st ultimo only yesterday ; it had been into the Seikh camp with a number of other letters.

It is thought we are to attack the enemy to-morrow But you must not be anxious, dear Mama, if you do not hear from me, because we are often ordered to strike our tents all ready for a march, and after waiting some hours, just pitch them again.

I will always write when I can. . . .

The country round here is magnificent.

Good bye, darling Mama,

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.



*Camp, Morangabad, opposite the city of Jheyllum,  
and about a mile on this side of the river  
Jheyllum ; 25th Feb., 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

It is now some days since I have written, or indeed since I have been able to write to you. My last letter was, I think, dated the 19th ; on the 20th we had our tents struck at 9 A.M., and did not march till 2 P.M. We went about 4 miles only. On the 21st, Wednesday, we marched to the attack at 8 o'clock in the morning, and about half-past 9 the battle commenced.

Our troops behaved just as if they were on a common parade, beautifully steady. How I wished dear Papa had been there ; it would have pleased him very much to see the artillery allowed to do their work.

After cannonading for about four hours on both sides, the enemy began to give way.

As our batteries and horse artillery advanced, the infantry were taken on. We,

the 56th, were close to the heavy guns, lying down. The round-shot came bounding and hissing over us, and one came right through my company, close to me. We heard it coming, and it pitched once before us, so all of us went flat on the ground, and a few men fell back, so that it went through and did not hit anybody. Only one of our men was wounded, and he by a spent round shot, in the knee.

Our regiment did not fire a shot! Some of the regiments on the right had a little work, but *very* little. Major Macansland was wounded through the thigh. Cocks was cut through the thigh by a talwur right into the bone, and they say if it does not cause amputation his leg will always be crooked. . . .

At any rate, we gained a complete victory this time, for the whole of the Seikhs halted, and we marched through their camp, which they left standing. The cavalry chased them for about 7 miles. We have in the park

fifty-seven or fifty-eight guns, taken on the 21st. Of course you will see a better account of the battle in the newspapers than *I* could write.

How thankful I ought to be for having been saved from all the dangers to which I have been exposed !

I was in hopes I should soon return to you, but now I fear I shall not for a long time.

The morning after the battle, the 2nd division of the army and the Bombay column were detached under General Gilbert, to go in pursuit of the fugitive enemy. We marched the first day about 20 miles, the next day we marched about the same distance ; but it seemed longer, as we had to go through a pass in the low range of hills, the ugliest place I ever saw.

We encamped about three miles from the bank of the Jheylum.

Yesterday we marched again. Membhard and I were on the rear guard, and were 10

*hours on the road*, from 9 A.M. till after 7 P.M. We are now encamped about a mile from the river, and I believe are to halt here for some days, and when the heavy guns and some more troops join us, we go on to Attock. At least this is the general opinion, and General Gilbert told some of the officers that all here are looked for the hot weather and Attock. The Commander-in-Chief, with the 1st division of the army, has gone to Bimher, in Goolab Sing's territory.

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*Camp, on an Island in the Jheylum ;*

*Feb. 28, 1849.*

We crossed over the first ford this morning, and are now encamped on an island.

Her Majesty's 29th have not crossed, as they are to go back. Now that the Seikhs have regularly run away, we may possibly go back, but I am afraid not.



The stream runs very fast where we crossed this morning, and it was rather deep.

I am sure, my dearest Mama, I can and *do* feel for you ; but I have lost an equally as good a father as you have a husband, and I am sure every one knows what our loss is. However, as you say, he is happy now, even happier than he would have been had he returned to you safely. When I think of how he used to talk of what he would do when he came back, it makes me grieve *very* much.

My dear Mother's affectionate Son,

ALBERT.

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*Camp, Right Bank of the Jheylum :*

*March 2d, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MAMMA,

I was not able to write to you yesterday, as our tents were struck at 8

o'clock, and we did not finish crossing the river till after sunset. . . .

Yesterday, some Irregular Cavalry, I think, took two mortars and about 9000 rounds of ammunition at Goojerat.

The Jheylum here is perfectly intersected by islands. Wild ducks and geese are very numerous. . . .

I think I have told you that dear papa received no letter either on the 12th or the 13th, but I received four altogether on the 15th.

He knew me all the time, and spoke to me, but very seldom, unless to ask to be turned over to the other side, or to answer me a question. . . .

He did not suffer at all from the wound in his arm, the pain in the back was too great to let him think of the other. He *had* the use of his arm, because the ball had not touched the bone. He was very pale; but it is always the case that a person having received a gunshot wound assumes the

appearance of death very shortly afterwards.

However, I am thankful I was with him, and that he was not killed outright in the field without my seeing and speaking to him.

Good bye, my own dear Mother,

Your very affectionate Son,

ALBERT.

*Camp, in the Hills ; March 4th, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

We had a long march from the bank of the river to the fort of Rhotas. It is a very large old fort, three or four miles round, built on a ridge of hills, with a small river running at the foot of it. I had not time to go over the fort. . . . I have also just heard that Shere Sing sent into the Governor-General to say that he would come in and lay down his arms, if we would spare his life and his father's ; and

the Governor-General told him their lives would be spared.

I don't know if this is true, but I hope it is, although if they were to give in *now* it would not prevent our going on to Peshawur.

It is fearfully hot here, surrounded with hills, and pitched on the sandy bed of a river.

I believe we march to-morrow, and again the next day, and after that we halt till the Bombay column comes up.

---

*Camp ; March 5th.*

I heard to-day that Shere Sing was coming in, and that we should return in May: that will be fearfully hot through the sandy bed of the river.

Our march for the last three days has been along the dry bed of a river, with hills of rock on either side of us.



*Camp, General Gilbert's Field Force ;*

*March 7th, 1849.*

Yesterday we were ready to march at half-past 4 A.M., and did not reach our ground till half-past 4 P.M.

We came through the Bukreally pass, and the last part of it was steep and narrow. The infantry had to drag the guns up.

Happily this morning we have a halt.

I have just been out to see the Bombay column come in. I believe we go to-morrow to receive the Seikh guns, arms, &c.

We are to go five miles and they come six. . . . .

---

*Camp, Pukkee Serai ; March 8th.*

. News has come in that Abbott, with his Hazareh troops and 4 guns, has occupied the pass in the next range of hills, and that Shere Sing is on the Mydan between us. Abbott says he could defend

that pass against any number of troops ; so I fancy Shere Sing will find it his best policy to give in. We are pitched to-day in a ravine, and for the first time since we have been out we have had clean water from a small rivulet. . . I fancy by the time this reaches you, you will be at Simla.

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*Camp, Pukkee Serai ; March 9th.*

This morning Shere Sing, with Lawrence, Mrs. Lawrence, and the children, came in, but we have heard no more than the simple fact that they had come in.

March 10th. This evening about 1000 or 1200 Seikhs, with their officers, came and laid down their arms before their late prisoners, Lawrence and Herbert. Everybody was very anxious to get something as a trophy, but the General ordered that nothing should be taken, and that an auction would be held to-morrow of all the valuable articles.

I asked Major Lawrence if there would be any objection to my taking a pouch? He said, "No; take anything you can."

I have got a very handsome set of pouches, and should also have got a talwar, but the one I had set my eye on got mislaid somewhere, and I could not find it.

Sunday, 11th. I am now one march farther from you, my dearest mother. *All* the Seikh Sirdars are in, Shere Sing, Chutter Sing, and the whole of them.

---

*From Mr. Bidwill.*

*Felix Well, Exeter; March 12th, 1849.*

MY DEAR ALBERT,

I will not dwell upon events which we were as unprepared for as they were distressing to us all. But from our own feelings, who only knew your honoured father through his actions and his character before the world, we understand what must be your feelings and those of your mother,

and sympathize with you in your affliction, and pray that you may be both strengthened to bear up against it, with fortitude and resignation.

Did I know nothing of your father from others, his letters would assure me that much as he loved his family, and no one, I think, could possibly love them more, yet no one was better prepared to meet the fate allotted to him than he was ; and this will be your and your mother's great consolation, when time shall have mitigated the first intensity of your sorrow, and the duties of life press themselves upon you.

Your mother will now naturally turn to you, and look to you for her comfort and mental support ; and in the performance of this duty your heart will find relief, in the consciousness that you are fulfilling your father's wishes, and justifying his opinion of you, which was a proud and happy one for him, and will be gratifying to you when you read his feelings as uttered in his last letter



to Charlotte, written but a few days before his death.

You have sustained a great, a very great loss, my dear Albert, but you must endeavour to bear it, as the son of such a father should ; and sore as is your present affliction, the darkest night will have an end.

I was at Liverpool when the fatal news arrived by the telegraph of a great battle having been fought with Shere Sing, in which he claimed the victory, and in which a hundred British officers were said to have fallen, with three thousand men.

I cannot tell you the anxiety which reigned in Liverpool all that day, and on the following, Sunday. When the paper with the accounts arrived there was a general rush to the Post-office, and the different news-rooms, but though so many thronged the table, none spoke, and the silence was very painful. One after another the parties, as they got the paper, ran their eyes over the fatal lists and passed them to their

neighbour, some walking away, others waiting to read the particulars. At last it came to my turn, and the first name that met my eye was that of your father.

Frederick Carne saw it at the same time, and pointed at it. I was not prepared for it, for I thought the 56th was before Mooltan, and seeing that it had surrendered without storm, I had hoped that you and your father were safe. After a little I ventured to look further down, and read over the whole without seeing your name, and I felt in a degree relieved; but on taking up another paper, the *Standard*, there I saw your name as “Doubtful:” my legs failed me then, and Frederick got a fly and took me home. He went out again, however, and at 10 o’clock returned with the information that the *Times* had the official list, in which your name did not appear. You may suppose this was some comfort. Still there was too much for regret remaining for me to remain in Liverpool, and away from my home under

such circumstances, therefore I started by the following train ; and on reaching Exeter your personal safety was confirmed, but there was nothing like congratulation, and the prevailing gloom will not speedily pass away.

A vague thought sometimes crosses my mind that your mother's return may, in some way or other, cause your return with her, and that hence we may meet once again, and I need not say, were it so to happen, how happy we should all be. But though this flitting idea will occasionally cross my mind, yet sober reflection speaks differently, and in the natural course of events it is more than probable that when you visit England I shall not be here to bid you welcome ; but I may say, my dear Albert, that you have not a sincerer friend, that no one esteems you more, nor more fully enters into all your father's feelings for you than I do.

Although unknown to your mother, we all desire to be most kindly remembered to her; and wishing you health, and every good you wish yourself, or that your best friends could wish for you,

I remain, my dear Albert,

Your affectionate and sincere friend,

J. G. BIDWILL.

*Camp, on the Banks of the Sone ;*

*March 13th.*

MY DEAR MOTHER,

We have a halt to-day, as all the field guns are coming in. I was at the Park just now, and saw twenty-one guns; since then two more have arrived, and eleven are on the road.

The Sirdars went back yesterday, and are coming in again to-day. The Politicals were doubtful yesterday whether these



fellows would agree to the terms or have another fight for it.

But now I fancy there is no doubt about it, since they are sending in all their guns. They have also sent in 92 zumboorkas or camel guns, besides about 50 they sent in when those men of Khan Sing's laid down their arms.

I saw all the Sirdars yesterday.

Outer Sing, who was the man who brought four guns and several thousand men in our rear, is a lad of 15 or 16, plain, but very intelligent looking. He seemed struck with some guinea fowls which he saw, and asked me what they were called ; I told him that the natives of the country called them "Balait ke teetur," but we had a different name, guinea fowl. He immediately tried to repeat the word, and succeeded pretty well.

Some of the Generals are very handsome men. . . .

*Camp, Ramul Pind ; March 14, 1849.*

. . . All yesterday the Seikhs were laying down their arms. Last night our right wing was ordered out to see all the Sings clear of camp, and this morning the left wing was ordered out to keep the pass clear for our troops to pass through. When all the troops had gone we formed up, and joined the right wing, and marched on to camp here.

The Sings are here in thousands, laying down their arms. At our last ground there was a heap of talwars, matchlocks, shields, spears, &c., I should think full forty or fifty feet square, and about 4 feet in depth.

On our arrival here we found our colour which we lost at Chillianwalla. You cannot think how delighted we all were, both men and officers !

I suppose by this time you are at Simlah.

My hand is shaking so with exertion and heat that I can scarcely write.

*One March from Ramul Pindée ;*

*March 15th.*

The Bengal column marched this morning from Rawal Pindée. The Bombay's come in to-morrow, and the 22d and 13th Native Infantry, with the heavy guns, are a march behind them.

All the Seikhs have given up their arms, but it was thought yesterday some of them would not, so the guns were all ready to pour in their volleys upon them.

I hear Dost Mahomed has left Attock, and is crossing the Indus as fast as he can.

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*. Camp, Attock ; March 18.*

The day before yesterday we had a march of 14 miles, and reached our ground about 12 o'clock. Our things did not come up till 4 P.M., and just then we received an order to march again at 6 P.M. towards Attock. We marched all night and all

yesterday, and reached this place between 2 and 3 P.M. You may fancy how tired both I and the men were, after a 14-mile march, and resting three or four hours, to set off and take another march of thirty-one miles, for that was the distance of yesterday's march ; so that in 28 hours we marched 45 miles. Of course we all enjoyed a night's rest, but this morning the 30th and 56th have to march again to the other side of the Indus.

March 20th. . . . . To-morrow we expect to be at Peshawur, which is 21 or 22 miles from this place. Our march is along the banks of the Caubul river. We have just had a bathe in it. I have bathed in this, in the Indus, and in the Jheylum.

Notwithstanding the promise of the Klyber people to prevent Dost Mahomed from entering the pass, news has come in to-day that they opened the pass for him, and he has bolted. So now there is no more occasion for forced marches. So far so good.



But it would have been much better if we could have caught him.

We have a very nice Brigadier now—Colonel Bradshaw, of H.M. 60th Rifles.

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*Peshawur ; 21st March, 1849.*

We marched at 1 A.M. this morning, and arrived here at about 1 or 2 P.M. I suppose we shall halt a day or two.

We have come up from Googerat in a month.

March 22nd. I have just returned from a visit to the fort and city. The latter is a very fine place ; the streets broad and clean.

It is fearfully hot. Grain is cheap here but the Commissariat always spoils the market.

The country is the most beautiful I have ever seen.

*Camp, on the right bank of the Indus, opposite  
the Fort of Attock ; March 19.*

MY DEAR MERCER,

You will be surprised to find that we are at Attock already ; on the morning of the 16th we were four -marches from this place, and on that day made a fourteen-mile march, reaching our ground at noon, two hours afterwards receiving orders to march again at 6 P.M. Accordingly, at 6 P.M. we set off, and about 2 P.M. on the 17th halted at Attock, thus having made thirty-one miles in 19 hours, including halts to the amount of 4 hours.

When within 8 miles of Attock, we heard that the Dost, with three regiments and four guns, were in the fort, and the rest of his troops across the river.

The General, with the Cavalry and Horse Artillery, went on a-head, and found that *all* were across, and they were destroying the boats as fast as possible.

A few shots were exchanged, but the enemy directed their fire at the boats, and succeeded in sinking four. Our object in pushing on was to secure these boats.

I think our force deserves great credit for having pushed on with the zeal and willingness they have exhibited. The Sepoys did not grumble at all.

When the Infantry came up the Affghans were scuttling as fast as they could go. We encamped about a mile from Attock. Our hopes of a halt for two or three days were driven away by the evening's orders directing the 30th and 56th to get ready to cross at 10 A.M.

On the 18th (yesterday), we were under arms at 9 A.M., but as the bridge of boats was not completed, we were kept standing on parade a long time. At 12 o'clock I was sent on with an advance guard to secure the boats as soon as the 30th had finished, but on my arrival on the bank of the river, I found they had not begun their crossing,

and that even the artillery were still on the left bank. I calculated, and, as it proved, very correctly, that *we* could not cross that day, so I ordered my men to pile arms, undress, and bathe, while I went up to look at the fort and town.

The fort is very large, but I cannot see how Herbert managed to defend it at all, as there is no place where a gun could be put. The eastern wall was terribly bruised and battered by round shot.

One thing I got, grain in the bazaar very cheap. We had been getting ever since we left you 8 and 12 seers of jao for the rupee ; grain not procurable for love or money.

Yesterday I bought enough of both to last me a fortnight ; jao 31 seers per rupee, grain 11 ditto ditto.

The Bunnyah's were afraid to open their Dookâns at first, but soon gained confidence, and now there is no lack of anything. Attah, too, sold at 28 seers per rupee.

Well, I have left the thread of my relation



of our movements. My calculations proved perfectly correct, for when I came down again, I found our camp pitched on the left bank of the river.

In the evening we all bathed ; it was delightful.

By night the bridge was completed, 500 rupees reward having been promised if they would get it ready by the evening. The 30th crossed during the first part of the night, and at 3 A.M. we were roused out, and crossed by 7. This is rather a pretty spot, with the fort of Attock on a rock, the sides of which are covered with herbage, the river running at the bottom, and then green hills again on the other side. We are now encamped on the right bank, but march, I believe, twelve miles at 10 o'clock.

The Khyberees have sent to say that they will prevent the Affghans from coming to the pass, if we will come up quickly and back their endeavours.

I doubt not that this will soon all be over.

I believe there has been an official report sent in to the Commander-in-Chief, saying that the General and Brigadiers are much pleased with the conduct of the men during that long march.

Will you please send this to my mother, as I have not time to write another letter, and I want you to have the news. I received yours yesterday: many thanks. Excuse haste, and

Believe me,  
Yours very sincerely,

ALBERT H. BAMFIELD.

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*Camp; 24th March.*

MY OWN DEAR MAMA,

In case I should not be able to write to-morrow, I shall just get a few lines ready to put in the post.

The 56th, a squadron of the 14th Dragoons, and two guns, have been ordered

to be ready to accompany the General at 5 o'clock to-morrow morning to Jumrood. We may possibly not come back till late, and perhaps be ordered to remain there.

25th. The 61st Queen's has just joined us; they belong to our Brigade. The Colonel has asked me to go into the city with him and Jones, so I have not much time.

26th. Yesterday we did not accompany the General to Jumrood, as was intended. I suppose he thought he could go faster without us.

27th. There seems little chance now of our going back, as a Committee assembled to-day to fix on a site eligible for a cantonment. In a day or two I hope to be able to tell you what corps stay and what go back, for some are sure to return.

28th. . . . I have a great desire to get into the Irregular Cavalry, and am studying so that I may be able to pass in July.

The enclosed little flower is a wild one that grows here : it has a very sweet scent. There are a great many wild flowers in this part of the country.

The hills (Khyber pass) are about five or six miles to our front. It is not safe to go out far, for there are a great number of men over whom the Sirdar of this country has no control, and who range about the hills robbing everyone they come across.

I don't think we shall attempt to force the pass, but it could be easily done.

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*Camp, Peshawur ; March 29th.*

MY DEAREST MAMA,

I have the most unexpected piece of good news to tell you, though I dare say you will have heard it before this reaches. The relief is just out, and we *go back to Lahore*. I am sorry it is to Lahore, but anywhere is better than staying here. Now I shall, I



hope, be able to get leave and come to you. How delightful! We are all in the highest spirits at the thought of going back. The 30th are much luckier than we, for they have got Meerutt. I am so full of going back, I can scarcely write.

Your affectionate son,

ALBERT.

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*Camp, Peshawur ; April 1st, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

At last we have got our orders about going back. The 14th Dragoons go on Tuesday, the 3rd; the 2nd Europeans, 30th, & 56th Native Infantry, with Duncan's troop, on Wednesday, the 4th instant.

The General inspected the whole of the troops yesterday afternoon, and this morning he went to Peshawur. He stays there, I believe, till we go, and then goes back with us.

2nd. We hear that the orders are out about the Punjaub, and that it is to be annexed. I believe General Gilbert has applied for his force to have a Maltese cross as well as the medal, if there is one.

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*Camp ; April 3rd.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

I have this moment received your letter of the 22nd of March from Simla, and am glad you have arrived there all safe, and that you found your house a comfortable one. The journey up must have been very pleasant.

---

*April 5th ; 2nd march from Peshawur.*

We march now early in the morning, so as to reach our new ground at about breakfast time.

What an unfortunate thing it is that the marching should put an end to my studying

for the present. However, I intend doing so when we reach Lahore in good earnest.

April 8th. We ought to have been at Attock to-day, but a note came last night from Colonel King, commanding the 14th Dragoons, who are a march in advance of us, saying that he was still this side the river, as he had not been able to get across, the bridge of boats having been broken by the violence of the stream, and begged we would not come on ; so we only came about 6 miles on the road.

I got yours of the 29th of March to-day. I hope, my dearest Mama, I shall always be deserving of your praise, which is the best reward I could have bestowed on me. I wish it were in my power to go home with you, and always live with you and be a comfort to you.

9th. We have been obliged to remain here all day again, as the bridge of boats is not yet ready.

*Attock ; April 10th.*

I have not been able to write the whole morning, as we have had our traps packed all day long, and have only now crossed the Indus.

My cow gets on very well so far ; her little calf travels on one of my camels !

The mornings are dreadfully cold now, but the days equally hot and disagreeable.

April 16th. . . . We marched from Rawul Pindie this morning, and are pitched just where we were when the Seikhs gave up their arms.

This morning I received yours enclosing the remainder of C.'s letter.

She winds up by talking about Agnes, and says, she is the most lovable little thing she ever met with. They hope to see her again soon, and that she will stay a long time with them.

April 20th. We are almost through the



Buckerally pass, and to-morrow go to Rotas by a short cut through the hills.

April 22nd. All the officers except myself have received overland letters in answer to theirs immediately after Chillianwalla, congratulating them on their being preserved. But I cannot look forward with pleasure to the letter *we* shall receive, for they will reopen the wounds in our hearts dear Papa's death made.

May 3rd. Our two Sergeants have got leave to go on ahead to Lahore, and I shall send this by one of them.

I am so glad all the campaign is over, for it is sad, expensive work. You would scarcely credit the amount of a month's expenditure. . . .

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*Lahore; May 7th.*

Yesterday we got into our new quarters, and wretched ones they are. I shall be delighted if I can get to Simla, but

leave is now so uncertain that I am afraid even to send off my servants and traps, till it is in orders.

May 9th. I now hear that the Governor-General will not be here till the 28th, and that when he gets to Mooltan he will leave her Ladyship under our charge and proceed to Bombay, thence by sea to Calcutta, and dawk up to Simla, while we bring the Lady to Kalka.

May 11th. Yesterday I received a letter from Colonel Mountain, saying he could not do anything for me. This letter was sent through Sir Henry Lawrence, and with it came an invitation to dine to-night at the Residency ; so I am going.

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*Lahore ; May 16th.*

My leave arrived yesterday, and this morning I was relieved from the Kiddaree gate. I start on the 18th, shall be at

Ferozepore on the 19th, Loodiana on the 20th, and Kalka on the 23rd, I suppose. How delighted I shall be to reach Simla, and be with you, my dearest mother.

---

*From Colonel Sleeman.*

*Lucknow ; 1st July, 1849.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

We were very glad to get your letter, and to find that your son and you were well, but it has reminded us of a duty neglected. We ought to have written to you before, and often resolved to do so, but the subject was a sad one, and, like other painful duties, it was deferred from time to time, till we thought it was too late. You have had much to suffer, but I hope many happy days are still in store for you ; and we rejoice to find that your son is likely to be a source of so much comfort to you.

I should be glad to assist him, but all the influence I had in the Gwalior contingent

has passed away, and here I have none whatever that could avail him. His having lost a father in action, and been himself wounded on the same field,\* will always be a ground of claim upon the Indian Government; and if he studies to qualify himself for staff employ, he will be sure to get it by and bye. He has been but a short time in the country, and must not be impatient; a regimental staff appointment should be the first object of his ambition. I was ten years with my regiment, and my nephew, the only relative I have in India, was nine, before I asked anything for him, and we are, I believe, both the better for having been so long in so good a school. I shall be glad to avail myself of any occasion to aid him, but I must in candour say, that I have little sympathy with the impatience of very young men to get away from their regiments. If he can at any time come to see his birth-place, Mrs. Sleeman and I shall be delighted

\* The report of his having been wounded was incorrect.



to see him, and make him happy during his stay.

There can be no harm in your asking the Governor-General to give Albert employment in the Punjaub on the grounds I have stated, and many opportunities may offer during your stay at Simla ; he might get into one of the new corps, or into civil employ, which would be still better. In the mean time he should make the best use of his time in steady application to the languages.

I will not congratulate him on his approaching marriage, because I think he is too young to put on the yoke ; but as the thing has been settled, I will say nothing more about it.

I wish you had told us a little more about yourself and plans for the future. As Albert's intended is to be with you in a few months, and stay with you till they are united, you perhaps intend to make Simla your home ; a nicer one could hardly be

found in India, and much do I wish that I could spend a year there.

Mrs. Sleeman joins in kindest regards, and

Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Bamfield,

Yours very sincerely,

W. H. SLEEMAN.

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*From the Marquis of Dalhousie.*

*Government-House ; July 20th, 1849.*

MADAM,

I had the honour of receiving yesterday your letter of the 19th, regarding your son.

I can truly assure you that nothing would gratify me more than to have the power of marking my sense of the gallant services of the father by giving advancement to the son.

Unfortunately, the orders of the Court of Directors, that no officer can receive an

appointment until he has served three years, are too peremptory and too strictly enforced to admit of the possibility of my making an exception in favour of your son.

When he is eligible in respect of standing his application would be favourably considered, though no promise can be made.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

DALHOUSIE.

---

*From Albert, after his visit to Simla and return to his Regiment.*

*Lahore ; Oct. 16, 1849.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

I arrived here last evening about 6 o'clock all right, and have taken up my quarters for a day or two with Jones. . . .

I must look sharp and buy a tent, as we are on the Governor-General's escort, and go from here to Mooltan with him.

The order came that two flank companies of *any* European regiment, two guns of *any* troop, and the 56th regiment, were to be held in readiness to go with the Governor-General.

Sunday. The relief is out, and I find as I expected we go to Umballa after our escort duty. I am going this afternoon to see Captain Wakefield, and then shall go to church at the Residency.

25th October. I am now reading very hard to go up on the 15th proximo for P. H.

Your affectionate Son,

ALBERT.

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*Lahore.*

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

It is now some days since I have written to you, but we have been so busy with all the levees, &c., that we have scarcely done



anything but get in and out of our full dress. . . .

On Monday there will be a grand field day at Meean Meeah. We shall have about three miles to get to the place, and then Sir Charles is going to take us about twelve miles around and about, manœuvring. What a delightful prospect for light companies ! All the troops in the station, and those passing through, will be at it.

I went and spoke to Courtney the day before yesterday about getting an appointment ; he said the Governor-General wished to give me one, but could not, as I had not served four years, three of which must be regimental duty. He also said *he* (Courtney) would not forget me.

I had almost forgotten what is the principal piece of intelligence.

The 56th are not to go, because they are too weak : the 9th go on.

On the 28th Nov. the Governor-General

arrived here. All the troops were drawn out in full dress to receive him.

29th. Breakfasted with the officers of the two flank companies of the 18th Royal Irish, who were on the escort. The Governor-General gave a dinner to the escort who came here with him.

30th. Rode out with Gott and Cafe to see the Commander-in-Chief come in, but missed him. Bought Gott's horse, Rory. Dinner at the Governor - General's to commanding officers and heads of departments.

2d Grenadiers came in from Umballa. First levee at the Commander-in-Chief's at 11 A.M. Called on Mrs. Mountain; went to the Durbar at the Governor-General's. The Maharajah and all the Sirdars were there. The Governor-General gave the Maharajah about 40 trays of shawls, silks, muslins, cloths of gold and silver, chogas, and a very handsome silver urn or ewer, and

two drinking cups, besides a musical box and gun.

The Sirdars had also each a tray of shawls presented to them. . . . .

Your affectionate Son,

ALBERT.

*From Sir Charles Napier.*

*Wazeerabad, Camp ; 3d January, 1850.*

MY DEAR MADAM,

I have received your note ; your claims on the public for your son are, in my estimation, sacred, and ought to supersede *all* rules and all claims but those of a like nature.

Your son shall have the *first thing* that it is in my power to give him ; his claims *shall* supersede all others.

Yours faithfully,

C. NAPIER,

Commander-in-Chief.

I will appoint him to do duty with some irregular corps, so as to strengthen his powerful claims, in case any accident should remove me. For there is really *so little* in my gift that I know not when I may have the power to serve your son, whose simple and beautiful letters I return to you. I wish I had received your letter at Lahore, that I might have made acquaintance with him. Tell him to come to me when I return there, and to study hard at his drill and at the languages.

C. N.

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*Lahore ; January 13th, 1850.*

This day last year at this time we were marching towards the dreadful field of Chillianwalla. It was nearly at this time, half-past 10, that the enemy's out-post was taken, or rather I fancy about an hour or so later than this.



I don't like to talk or write about the later occurrences of the day.

The officers are, I believe, going to commemorate the day by drinking champagne. .

I shall most decidedly not go to mess, for it is anything but a day of rejoicing to *me*. It certainly ought to be one of thankfulness for having been allowed to come out of the action untouched. And yet it is one of the deepest regret, for on this day the best of fathers received his death wound; but I need not talk of this to *you*, my dearest mother, any more, for I am sure you will be thinking of it yourself.

I must now say good bye, with my best love.

My own mother's affectionate Son,

ALBERT.

P.S. I have this moment heard from Major Palmer that I have the adjutancy of the 14th Irregular Cavalry at Hooshearpore. I shall start as soon as I see the general orders.

*From Sir C. Napier.*

18th January, 1850.

MY DEAR MADAM,

Your own and your son's claims were, in my mind, undeniable: you give me great pleasure in saying you feel their *justice*, which ought not to be so rare or to demand more than simple thanks, if *that*. If you knew how much pleasure it gives me to think that I have in some degree alleviated sorrow, you would think *I* should rather be grateful to *you* than you to me. The appointment I have given your son is, I am sorry to say, only an acting one, still it is for two years, but it was all I had at my disposal; and if a permanent one turns up which I can give him, I will. Pray impress upon his mind that he must study hard to make himself fit to be an adjutant of Cavalry. I have done for him, or rather I should say for *you*, what I could not and would not do for any other young man in this army; and the only thanks I either want

or care for is to see him devote himself to his work, so that when I see his regiment I may find him in some degree equal to his duties. He has a great deal to learn, and I shall be very strict with him; I hear he is a smart young man, with good abilities: I saw by his letters he has right and religious feelings. There is, therefore, nothing wanting to make him a good officer, but application, and this I expect from him, and I am sure you do also. I have duties to perform; I am rigid, and must be so, against idleness of all kinds, and it would grieve me to be disappointed in your son.

Do not think what I say harsh, nor that I have any fears that he will be all that is right. I only wish to make him exert himself as he ought, that I may not find my expectation disappointed.

Yours faithfully,

C. J. NAPIER.

*From Sir C. Napier.*

*26th July, 1850.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

I perfectly understand all you say, and feel a sincere and deep respect for your conduct.

Allow me to say that if any difficulties or worries thwart you that are in my power to remove I hope you will privately tell me, and believe that I shall have the will, whether I have the power or not, to be of use to you.

I am, my dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

C. J. NAPIER.

I hope your son is well and likes his appointment ; he seems a very fine lad, and if he will *persevere* and study I am sure he will do well. Tell him to believe an old



soldier of 70 years of age, when I tell him that there is a great field open in India for a young man of *perseverance*, and who has *industry* and *honour*; for these three things we are answerable to God, because he has left them *in our own power*.

I feel great interest in all the young men of the Indian army, and am sorry that my great age obliges me to leave them before I can do them any good.

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*From Dr. Macgowan.*

MY DEAR MRS. BAMFIELD,

You would do injustice to those in China who knew you were you to suppose they had either forgotten you or were indifferent to your affliction.

For myself I can assure you that, beyond the immediate circle of your relations and

those of your lamented husband, no one sympathized more deeply with you in your loss. I feel still grateful for your kindness to me when I first landed on this island. It was a source of pain to me that I have been deprived of communication from my friend Major Bamfield: some of the blame doubtless attached to me: I should have written till I got replies. On your arrival at Hong Kong the place was, I believe, in a blaze, on account of my anti-opium tirades, so you could have heard nothing calculated to endear me to you, to say the least.

Like most of the missionaries, we have repaired to this place to escape from the suffocating heat of that city. My dear wife, whose health has been feeble at best, has derived benefit from the change. She feels, and always has felt, a deep interest in you and your family.

We often speak of you as in our walks on the Bund we pass your once beautiful cottage. Now, alas! how changed! an

emblem of all that is fair and beautiful on earth. It is used as an out station to the Custom house, which is the former hospital. We occupy what was once the Commissariat, which, with Waterhouse's place, are the only dwellings habitable for foreigners.

I must say to the credit of the Chinese, and for the benefit of any of your friends who may have left the remains of earthly treasures on the hill side, that the graves remain undisturbed, except by the ruthless hand of time, and so will they remain till the last trump shall sound.

I am glad to inform you that the Gospel is winning its way in Ningpo. Jane, a Chinese girl, whom you saw with the late Mrs. Shuck, now an inmate of my family, has been lately baptized. I might name also that Mrs. S.'s sister came out, and laboured some years at Shanghai; but her sister was obliged to return with her: she became almost a maniac.

Our child is now about three years old,

and a great comfort to us ; her name is Laura. We like the name of *Agnes*, and expect to have a girl of that name. And now, may I ask about Agnes, to whom please send my love ; young woman as she is, she will not, I trust, be indifferent to it.

I am glad to hear from Mr. Marshman that your son has an appointment in the same corps in which his dear father distinguished himself. Be so good as assure him that he has at least one ardent well-wisher in China, and it is my prayer that He in whom the father trusted may confer on the son the same precious faith, and that you may all meet, an undivided family, in the realms of peace and joy.

I am sorry that the accompanying letter has been detained so long. We have been getting something ready a long time for Calcutta, with which our letters are to go to my friend, Mr. Marshman, who in answer to my enquiries regarding you, kindly offered to forward letters from me.



I told Miss Aldersey, and she at once wrote. The box has been detained until now. At any rate, though late, I hope you will see that you have left an impression on our hearts which time has not effaced.

Mrs. M. joins me in the expression of kindest love, and

I remain, sincerely yours,

D. J. MACGOWAN.

*Chusan ; August, 1850.*

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*From Sir C. Napier.*

*Simla ; Nov. 15th, 1850.*

MY DEAR MADAM,

I have spoken to Colonel Tucker, who will look to your son's interest. I have nothing in my power to give him, but Tucker tells me there is not the *least* danger of his losing his position. I am just going off, and have only time to wish you and your son every success and happiness such

as this world affords ; and when the Almighty strikes, he always gives us help, and gives us strength to bear.

Believe me to be, my dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

C. J. NAPIER.

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*Oaklands, near Turwood ; Oct. 9th, 1851.*

MY DEAR MADAM,

I do indeed grieve for your accumulated sorrows. Those experienced by myself and others of my family make me know too well their bitterness. Religion alone enables us to sustain them ; mortals can afford but little consolation.

I am sorry that I cannot be of the smallest use to your nephew. I thought it was pretty generally known that I was not on such good terms either with the Court of Directors or the Government as to ask

favours, or to receive them if I did. I never ask favours even for my own family ! I think such claims as yours ought to be considered in the giving away of cadetships, and I have heard that some of the Directors are very fair towards such claims, but I am very ignorant of these matters.

Wishing you all the consolation which your sad bereavement admits of,

Believe me,

My dear Mrs. Bamfield,

Yours sincerely,

C. J. NAPIER.

It is probable that all my friends who have read the preceding pages may not have seen Captain Thackwell's account of the last Seikh war; I have therefore added some extracts from his description of the fearful battle of Chillianwalla, which agrees so perfectly with the brief account Albert gives me of what he saw.

They will doubtless accompany in imagination that brave, able, and kind soldier, short portions from whose letters they have read, from his couch in his tent where he was taking his *last* rest, after a fatiguing march, through those stirring and frightful scenes to which he was so soon aroused to be engaged in, till they see him wounded and dying, with his brave boy, Albert, by his side, firm and unmoved in the midst of death and danger, and then follow them in the last sad closing scene.

C. B.



“ On the morning after the eventful 13th of January, 1849, the army advanced in the following order :—Brigadier Pope’s brigade of Cavalry, consisting of the 9th Royal Lancers, 1st and 6th Regiments of Light (Native) Cavalry, with troops of Horse Artillery, Huish’s, Christie’s, and Lane’s, moved on the extreme right. Major-General Sir Walter Gilbert’s division of Infantry, consisting of Mountain’s brigade, (the 20th or Monmouthshire Foot, the 30th and 56th Native Infantry,) and of Godby’s brigade, (the 2d Bengal European Regiment, the 31st and 70th Native Infantry.) Near it were posted the heavy guns. On the left of the heavy ordnance might have been seen Brigadier-General Colin Campbell’s Infantry division, comprising the brigades of Pennyquick, (the 24th Foot, the 25th and 45th Native Infantry,) and of Hoggan, (the 61st or South Gloucestershire Foot, the 36th and 46th Native Infantry,) White’s brigade of Cavalry, (the 3d King’s Own and 14th Light

Dragoons, the 5th and 8th Cavalry,) with three troops of Horse Artillery. Those of Warner, Fordyce, and Duncan, which were under the immediate command of Major-General Sir Joseph Thackwell, moved on the extreme left. All guards were called to join their regiments.

“ After a march of some miles a halt was sounded. . . . The line of march was now suddenly changed in the direction of Moong by bringing up the right. A Seikh out-post was now summarily expelled from a compact little entrenchment of quadrangular shape on a long bare hill in front of Chillian.

“ The Elephant battery here vomited forth its spherical terrors in grand style. .

“ The army had almost reached Chillianwalla, when his Excellency determined to postpone the attack till the morrow. As there was a scarcity of water, however, no wells being at hand on the Dingee side of Chillian, his Lordship found himself under the necessity of pitching his camp in rear of that town, or rather on a line with

it, where there was abundance of water. Orders were accordingly issued to the Quartermaster-General to mark out the ground for the encampment.

“The men of the different regiments were in the act of falling out, when large bodies of the enemy were suddenly descried at some distance in our front, and it soon became evident that they contemplated mischief. Scarcely had the lines been delineated by Colonel Garden’s department, when a sudden blaze was seen, followed by a loud report, and some shot fell near his Excellency.

“It is said that Lord Gough had been under the influence of unusual excitement, for he hastily embraced the resolution of visiting such unwarrantable audacity with immediate punishment. Many important eyewitnesses, however, incline to the opinion that an engagement could not have been avoided, therefore that it was advisable for his Lordship to assume the initiative. It was contended that if his Excellency had



been desirous of deferring the action till the 14th, the wisest course would have been to halt at Chowta Omrah, and thus to avert a collision with the Seikh outpost near Chilianwalla. The Khalsu troops had vacated their entrenchments, and, presenting a bold extended front, were drawn up in the jungle, their right resting on Mong, the Jheylum being in their rear.

“Magnificent, indeed, was the spectacle now afforded by the gradual development of the fire of the Seikh guns. The balls came whizzing amongst us, and afforded proof-positive that the enemy had commenced the work of destruction in real earnest. Our heavy guns having been brought well to the front vigorously responded to the challenge, and a never-ceasing roar of artillery resounded through the jungle. The only marks presented to the British Artillery were the lurid flash and smoke of the enemy’s guns. Often no other object was visible. It was sometimes possible to descry a man in a tree



taking observations, but he offered a poor mark.

“The troops were soon under arms, and maintained the original battle array, with the exception of one or two trifling changes.

. . . . .

“The cannonade had scarcely lasted half-an-hour, when a staff officer in breathless haste rode up to Brigadier-General Campbell and ordered him to carry the guns in his front. The order was given about half-past 3 P.M., without any new consultation or arrangement on the altered aspect of affairs. Major-General Gilbert received orders simultaneously to advance, while Pope was directed to make a corresponding movement on the flank. Sir Joseph Thackwell was left to act on his own responsibility.

“Some of the leading Indian newspapers argued that since the success of a battle depends mainly on the previously well-concerted plan of operations, and his Excellency had held no communication with

his Generals and Brigadiers since the last evening, though the original plan of attack had become impracticable, little surprise should be expressed at the melancholy results.

“ Here a well-deliberated scheme of operation and mutual concentration of energies were rendered the more absolutely indispensable by the difficult nature of the ground, which was everywhere covered with thick high brushwood, and there was every likelihood that the most carefully concocted combination would miscarry ; that regiments would lose their distance, take a wrong direction, and even mistake friends for foes. That this probability was much strengthened when Sir Walter Gilbert and General Colin Campbell impetuously advanced into the jungle, may be easily imagined. The veriest

rabble of the enemy, as long as their hearts were firm, were equal to the best disciplined troops in this wilderness of bush ; and the knowledge of the ground possessed by the

enemy gave them an immeasurable advantage. They posted their guns in a declivity which served the purpose of concealment.

Several able officers were of opinion that the wisest course open to the Commander-in-Chief would have been to give the guns play for upwards of two or three hours, and as soon as they had committed great havoc, and created a wavering, to have ordered the Infantry to carry the guns. They would have recommended this plan, in the event of its being held absolutely necessary to decide the matter before evening. Lord Gough was apprehensive of a night of confusion.

“It was certainly a hazardous policy, then, at that hour of the day, to hurl a few weak brigades against the fresh and active batteries of the enemy, supported by innumerable Infantry, in such a dense jungle.

“Before entering into a description of this battle, it may be well to preface it with the observation that the Anglo-Indian line



occupied almost as great an extent of ground as the British army at the Battle of Waterloo ; yet Lord Gough found himself considerably outflanked.

“ About this time a halt took place. The Seikh Cavalry skirmished in front of the British line, being emboldened by its temporary hesitation. It was now that the order, ‘Threes about,’ was distinctly heard by some men of the 14th Dragoons. They turned with the rest, the Goorcharras in hot pursuit. In the impetuosity of the rush, the 14th were pushed by the other regiments against the troops of Horse Artillery. Guns, gunners, and waggons were everywhere upset. To crown the mishap, the Goorchurras, following close in the rear of the Dragoons, entered the ranks of the Artillery along with them.

“ Our vocabulary will not allow of our giving an adequate description of the confusion,—regiment pressing against regiment, trooper hastening trooper, officer vieing with



soldier in speed. The horses became unmanageable, often carrying their riders to the rear of the baggage escort.

Many an officer and man, overturned by the cavalry, were trampled on the ground. Many hid themselves under bushes, and thus escaped the sharp talmars or swords of the enemy . Major Ekins, Deputy-Adjutant-General of the army, was wounded while seeking to deliver an order to the brigade. His friend, Major Chester, ran to his aid. The British Cavalry were in retreat ; the danger was imminent ; the enemy was approaching. Ekins begged him to leave him to his fate, and the former was most reluctantly compelled to do so. The enemy came up and hacked him to pieces.

“ To convey a faithful notion of the conduct of the 2nd Europeans, we cannot do better than transcribe the account of it furnished by an officer of that distinguished regiment :—The word came for the infantry

to advance. ‘Fix bayonets!’ ‘Load! Deploy into line! Quick march!’ And just then came a roll of musketry that drove us almost to madness. Quick march! and into the jungle we plunged in line, with a deafening cheer, the roll of musketry increasing every moment. On we went at a rapid double, dashing through the bushes, and bounding over every impediment; faster rolled the musketry—crash upon crash the cannon poured forth its deadly contents. On swept our brigade, and gaining an open space in the jungle, the whole of the enemy’s line burst on our view. ‘Charge!’ ran the word through our ranks, and the men bounded forward like angry bull-dogs, pouring in a murderous fire. The enemy’s bullets whizzed above our heads; the very air seemed teeming with them; man after man was struck down and rolled in the dust! But a passing glance was all we could give them; and onward we went, bearing on their line with a steadiness nothing could resist.

They fired a last volley, wavered, and then turned and fled, leaving the ground covered with dead and wounded. Pursuit in a jungle like that was useless, when we could not see twenty yards before us, so we halted and began to collect our wounded, when all of a sudden a fire was opened upon us in our rear. A large body of the enemy had turned our flank in the jungle and got between us and the rest of the troops; another party was on our left; and we found ourselves, with our light field battery, completely surrounded and alone in the field.

“The word was given, ‘Right about face,’ and we advanced steadily, loading and firing as we went. If it had not been for that battery (Captain Davies’s) we should have been cut up to a man. The fire was fearful—the atmosphere seemed alive with balls. I can only compare it to a storm of hail. They rang about my head and ears so thick that I felt that if I put out my hand it would be taken off. ~~Th~~



was only what happened in our part of the field. We were on the extreme right, and the thickness of the jungle prevented our seeing what was going on elsewhere. The battle lasted three hours, and so maddening was the excitement that it seemed scarcely half an hour.

“ It fell to the lot of Mountain’s Brigade on the left column of Gilbert’s division to attack a most formidable position. The Brigade, headed by its gallant leader, who, to employ the words of the despatches, offered a gallant example in leading on his men, reached the rear of a part of the Seikh entrenchment. Here it encountered the most spirited opposition. The 29th Foot, whose conspicuous colours blazon forth its glory, added considerably to its well-earned laurels on this occasion. It spiked several guns, only five of which, however, were secured, owing to the want of draught horses. The rest were conveyed away by the enemy during the night. This Brigade was received



with an incessant shower of grape and ball. Nothing could exceed the rapidity with which the Seikhs dealt forth the iron hail. Their file firing was excellent, and poured in with fatal precision. The 56th Native Infantry, which boldly advanced up to the hostile batteries, sustained enormous loss. Its leader, the gallant Bamfield, a man as remarkable for his Christian demeanour in the different relations of life, as for his heroic valour in the field, here kissed the dust. Young Bamfield, of the same regiment, clasped his bleeding father in his arms! What an exciting embrace was that!

“Eight officers and 322 men were here killed or wounded. The confusion which this loss engendered was so great that the corps gave way. It lost its colours, but not its reputation, for truly the resistance it met with was scarcely less than that to which the 24th Foot were opposed. The most precious loss sustained by the 56th, a loss before which colours and everything

else dwindle into insignificance, was the removal of the gallant Bamfield from his sphere of usefulness. May the heart of his widow be cheered by the memory of his deeds!"— *Thackwell's Narrative of the Second Seikh War.*

THE END.







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