

their natural level, is one of terrible pressure. What has been well said of party politics is equally applicable to indiscriminate speculation—the madness of many for the gain of a few.

FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.—Paris, March 30.—Universal sympathy has been expressed by all parties for the unhappy Poles. Day after day have the liberal and republican newspapers supported them by energetic articles; and more substantial assistance has been rendered by considerable subscriptions. There is not a Frenchman who would not be delighted to see the Polish nation re-established, or who would not be prepared to go great lengths to attain that object. But it is to be feared that poor Poland will never raise her head again.

Extensive and formidable fortifications are in progress at Havre and Cherbourg, and other maritime places. In addition to the immense sums already dispensed, a law is now before the Chamber authorising the grant of 37,000,000 francs and upwards, for the fortifications of Havre, and other large sums for those of Cherbourg, through the latter are already, perhaps, the most formidable in the world.

Some troubles have taken place at Dijon, Tulle, Toulouse, and other places, owing to the interference of the authorities to prevent demonstrations in favour of Poland. Some young lads were hauled off to prison, and others got a few blows, but no blood was shed.

SPAIN.—Strange events have happened here since I wrote you. The Miraflores Cabinet had gained the respect of the public from the character of the men composing it, and hopes were entertained that it would be able to carry on public affairs for some time. It had obtained the confidence of the Cortes.

Narvaez had appointed one Balboa to the command of Madrid. He is one of the most atrocious miscreants that ever existed, having caused little children to be shot, women with child to be assassinated, &c. Public opinion protested against his being retained at Madrid, and Narvaez has contrived to show his contempt for public opinion by presenting this wretch to a more important command.

The country is in a most agitated state, and appears on the eve of some great convulsion. God help Spain.

From Willmer & Smith's European Times, April 4.

Two Great Victories over the Sikhs. Termination of the War in India.

Since the despatch of our paper by the Unicorn, our advices from Bombay inform us of two more great battles having been fought in India between the British and Sikh armies, both terminating in decisive victories to the former. The first was under the command of Sir Harry Smith, and the latter under Sir Hugh Gough, which was perhaps one of the most bloody on record. In Sir Harry Smith's battle, the whole army of the enemy has been driven headlong over the difficult ford of a broad river; his camp, cannon (56 pieces,) baggage, stores of ammunition and of grain—his all, in fact, has been wrested from him by the repeated charges of cavalry and infantry; and in that of Sir Hugh Gough's, the Sikhs lost 12,000 men, and 65 pieces of artillery. The English had 300 men killed, 13 of whom were officers, and 2500 wounded, of whom 101 were officers. The 53rd and 62nd regiments suffered enormously. General Dicke and Brigadier Taylor are among the dead.

The following official account of the battle is from the pen of Sir H. Smith, and contains a simple narrative of what really appears to have been a brilliant affair. The reader cannot fail to be struck with the unpretending heroics of the writer.

TO THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.
Camp, Field of the Battle of Aliwal,
January 30, 1846.

Sir,—My despatch to his excellency the commander in chief, of the 23rd inst., will have put his Excellency in possession of the position of the force under my command after having formed a junction with the troops of Loodianah, hemmed in by a formidable body of the Sikh army, under Runjoor Sing and the Rajah of Ladwa. The enemy strongly entrenched himself around the little fort of Buddawal by breastworks and "abattis," which he precipitately abandoned on the night of the 22nd instant, (retiring, as it were, upon the ford of Talwan) having ordered all the boats which were opposite Philour to that of Ghat. This movement he effected during the night, and, by making a considerable detour, placed himself at a distance of ten miles, and, consequently, out of my reach. I could, therefore, only push forward my cavalry so soon as I had ascertained he had marched during the night, and I occupied immediately his vacated position. It appeared, subsequently, he had no intention of recrossing the Sutlej, but moved down to the Ghat of Talwan (being cut off from that of Philour by the position my force occupied after

its release of Loodianah) for the purpose of protecting the passage of a considerable reinforcement of 12 guns and 4000 of the Regular or Aiceen troops, called Avitables' battalion, entrenching himself strongly in a semicircle, his flanks resting on the river, his position covered with from 40 to 50 guns, generally of large calibre, howitzers and mortars. The first reconnoitred during the night of the 27th instant, and encamped to the right of the main army.

Meanwhile his Excellency the commander in chief, with that foresight and judgment which marks the able general, had reinforced me by a considerable addition to my cavalry, some guns, and the 2nd brigade of my own division under Brigadier Wheeler, C. B. This reinforcement reached me on the 26th, and I had intended the next morning to move upon the enemy in his entrenchments, but the troops required one day's rest after the long marches Brigadier Wheeler had made.

I have now the honor to lay before you the operations of my united forces on the morning of the eventful 28th January, for the information of his Excellency. The body of troops under my command having been increased, it became necessary so to organise and brigade them as to render them manageable in action. The cavalry under the command of Brigadier Cureton, and horse artillery under Major Lawrensen, were put into two brigades; the one under Brigadier Macdowal, C. B., and the other under Brigadier Steadman. The first division as it stood, two brigades; her Majesty's 53rd and 30th Native Infantry, under Brigadier Wilson, of the latter corps; the 36th Native Infantry and Nusseree Battalion, under Brigadier Godby; and the Skekawatte brigade, Major Foster. The Sirmoor Battalion I attached to Brigadier Wheeler's brigade of the 1st battalion, the 42nd Native Infantry having been left at Head Quarters.

At daylight on the 28th, my order of advance was, the cavalry in front, in contiguous columns of squadrons of regiments; two troops of horse artillery in the interval of brigades; the infantry in continuous columns of brigades at intervals of deploying distance; artillery in the intervals, followed by two eight-inch howitzers on travelling carriages, brought into the field from the fort of Loodianah by the indefatigable exertions of Lieutenant-Colonel Lane, horse artillery; Brigadier Godby's brigade, which I had marched out from Loodianah, the previous evening, on the right, the Skekawatte Infantry on the left, the 4th irregular cavalry and the Skekawatte cavalry considerably to the right, for the purpose of sweeping the banks of the wet nullah on my right, and preventing any of the enemy's horse attempting an inroad towards Loodianah, or any attempt upon the baggage assembled round the fort of Buddawal.

In this order the troops moved forward towards the enemy, a distance of 6 miles, the advance conducted by Captain Waugh, 16th Lancers, the deputy assistant quarter master of cavalry; Major Bradford, of the 1st cavalry, and Lieut. Strachey, of the engineers, who had been jointly employed in the conduct of patrols up to the enemy's position, and for the purpose of reporting upon the facility and points of approach. Previously to the march of the troops it had been intimated to me by Major Mackeson that the information by spies led to the belief that the enemy would move somewhere at daylight, either on Jugraon, my position of Buddawal, or Loodianah. On a near approach to his outposts this rumour was confirmed by a spy who had just left his camp, saying the Sikh army was actually in march towards Jugraon. My advance was steady, my troops well in hand, and if he had anticipated me on the Jugraon-road, I could have fallen upon his centre with advantage.

From the tops of the houses of the village of Poorein, had a distant view of the enemy. He was in motion, and appeared directly opposite my front on a ridge, of which the village of Aliwal may be regarded as the centre. His left appeared still to occupy its grounds in the circular entrenchments; his right was brought forward and occupied the ridge. I instantly deployed the cavalry into line, and moved on. As I neared the enemy, the ground became most favorable for the troops to manoeuvre, being open and grass land. I ordered the cavalry to take ground to the right and left by brigades, thus displaying the heads of the infantry columns, and, as they reached the hard ground, I directed them to deploy into line. Brigadier Godby's brigade was in direct echelon to the rear of the right, the Skekawatte infantry in like manner to the rear of my left, the cavalry in direct echelon, and well to the rear of both flanks of the infantry. The artillery massed on the right, and centre, and left. After deployment I observed the enemy's left to outflank me, I therefore broke into open columns, and took ground to my right; when I had gained sufficient ground, the troops wheeled into line,—there was no dust, and the sun shone brightly. The manoeuvres were performed with the celerity and precision of the most correct field day. The glistening of the bayonets and swords of this order of battle was most imposing, and the line advanced. Scarcely had it moved forward 150 yards, when at ten o'clock, the enemy opened a fierce cannonade from his whole line. At first his balls fell short, but quickly reached us. Thus upon him, and capable of better ascertaining his position, I was compelled to halt the line, though under fire, for a few moments, until I ascertained that by bringing up my right and carrying the village of Aliwal, I could with great effect precipitate myself upon his left and centre. I therefore quickly brought up Brigadier Godby's brigade, and with it and the 1st brigade under Brigadier Hicks, made a rapid and noble charge, carried the village and two guns of large calibre. The line I ordered to

advance; her Majesty's 21st foot and the native regiments contending for the front, and the battle became general. The enemy had a numerous body of cavalry on the heights, and I ordered Brigadier Cureton to bring up the right brigade of cavalry, who, in the most gallant manner, dashed in among them, and drove them back upon their infantry. Meanwhile, a second gallant charge to my right was made by the light cavalry and the body guard. The Skekawatte brigade was moved well to the right, in support of Brigadier Cureton. When I observed the enemy's encampment, and saw it was full of infantry, I immediately brought upon it Brigadier Godby's brigade, by changing front, and taking the enemy's infantry in reverse. They drove them before them, and took some guns without a check.

While these operations were going on upon the right, and the enemy's left flank was thus driven back, I occasionally observed the brigade under Brigadier Wheeler, an officer in whom I have the greatest confidence, charging and carrying guns and every thing before it, again connecting his line and moving on in a manner which ably displayed the coolness of the Brigadier and the gallantry of his irresistible brigade—her Majesty's 50th Foot, the 45th Native Infantry, and the Sirmoor Battalion, although the loss was, I regret to say, severe in the 50th. Upon the left, Brigadier Wilson, with her Majesty's 53rd and 30th Native Infantry, equalled in celerity and regularity their comrades on the right, and this brigade was opposed to the "Aiceen" troops, called Avitables when the fight was fiercely raging.

The enemy, well driven back on his left and centre endeavoured to hold his right to cover the passage of the river, and he strongly occupied the village of Bhondee. I directed a squadron of the 16th Lancers, under Major Smith and Captain Pearson, to charge a body to the right of the village, which they did in the most gallant and determined style, bearing every thing before them, as a squadron under Captain Bere had previously done, going right through a square of infantry, wheeling about and re-entering the square in the most intrepid manner with the deadly lance. This charge was accompanied by the 3rd light Cavalry, under Major Angelo, and as gallantly sustained. The largest gun upon the field and seven others were then captured, while the 53rd Regiment carried the village by the bayonet, and the 20th N. I. wheeled round to the rear in a most spirited manner. Lieut. Colonel Alexander's and Captain Turton's troops of horse artillery, under Major Lawrensen dashed almost among the flying infantry, committing great havoc, until about 500 or 1000 men rallied under the high bank of a Nullah, and opened a heavy but ineffectual fire from below the bank. I immediately directed the 30th Native Infantry to charge them, which they were able to do upon their left flank, while in a line in rear of the village. This corps nobly obeyed my orders, and rushed among the Avitable troops, driving them from under the bank, and exposing them once more to the deadly fire of twelve guns within 300 yards. The destruction was very great, as may be supposed, by guns served as these were. Her Majesty's 53rd Regiment moved forward in support of the 30th N. I. by the right of the village. The battle was won; our troops advancing with the most perfect order to the common focus, the passage of the river. The enemy completely hemmed in were flying from our fire, and precipitating themselves in disordered masses into the ford and boats in the utmost confusion and consternation. Our 8-inch howitzers soon began to play upon their boats, when the "debris" of the Sikh army appeared upon the opposite and high bank of the river, flying in every direction, although a sort of line was attempted to counteract their retreat, until all our guns commenced furious cannonade, when they quickly receded. Nine guns were on the verge of the river by the ford. These, being loaded, were fired once upon our advance. Two others were sticking in the river; one of them was got out. Two were seen to sink in the quicksands,—two were dragged to the opposite side and abandoned. These, and the one in the middle of the river were gallantly spiked by Lieut. Holmes, of the 11th irregular cavalry, and gunner Scott, of the 1st troop 2nd brigade horse artillery, who rode into the stream, and crossed for the purpose, covered by our guns and light infantry.

Thus ended the battle of Aliwal, one of the most brilliant victories ever achieved in India. By the united efforts of her Majesty's and the honorable company's troops, every gun the enemy has fell into our hands, as I infer from his never opening one upon us from the opposite bank of the river, which is high and favorable for the purpose; 52 guns are now in the ordnance park, two sunk in the banks of Sutlej, and two were spiked on the opposite bank—making a total of 56 pieces of cannon captured or destroyed. Many jinjals, which were attached to Avitables' corps, and which aided in the defence of the village of Bhondee, have also been taken. The whole army of the enemy has been driven headlong over the difficult ford of a broad river; his camp, baggage, stores of ammunition and of grain—his all, in fact, wrested from him by the repeated charges of cavalry and infantry, aided by the guns of Alexander, Turton, Lane, Mill, Boileau, and of the Skekawatte Brigade, and by the 8-inch howitzers—our guns being constantly ahead of everything. The determined bravery of all was as conspicuous as noble. I am unwont to praise where praise is not merited; and here most avowedly express my firm opinion and conviction that no troops in any battle on record ever behaved more nobly—British and Native (no distinction) cavalry all vying with the 16th Lancers, and striving to

head in the repeated charges. Our guns and gunners, officers and men, may be equalled, but cannot be excelled by any artillery in the world. Throughout the day no hesitation, a bold and intrepid advance; and thus it is that our loss is comparatively small, though I deeply regret to say severe. The enemy fought with much resolution; they maintained frequent reconnoitres with our cavalry hand to hand, in one charge of infantry upon the 16th Lancers, they threw away their muskets, and came on with their swords and targets against the lance.

H. SMITH, K C B., Major General.

The London Gazette Extraordinary, of the 1st April, contains the following important extract of a despatch from the Governor-General, in addition to the foregoing:—

India Board, April 1, 1846.

The Secret Committee of the East India Company has this day received from the Governor-General of India a despatch, from which the following is an extract:—
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA TO
THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Camp, Kanha Kuchwa, Feb. 19, 1846.

The immediate result of the victory of Aliwal was the evacuation by the Sikh garrisons of all the forts hitherto occupied by detachments of Lahore soldiers on this side of the river Sutlej, and the submission of the whole of the territory on the left of that river to the British Government.

The Sikh army remained in its entrenched position; and, though on the first intelligence of the victory of Aliwal, and at the sight of the numerous bodies which floated from the neighbourhood of that battle-field to the bridge of boats at Sabraon, they seemed much shaken and disheartened, and though many were reported to have left them and gone to their homes, yet, after a few days, the Sikh troops seemed as confident as ever of being able to defy us in their entrenched position, and to prevent our passage of the river.

The Commander-in-Chief was not in a state to take advantage of the enemy's defeat at Aliwal, by an attack on his entrenched position at Sabraon, until the troops under Major-General Sir H. Smith should have rejoined his Excellency's camp, and the siege train and ammunition should have arrived from Delhi. The first portion of the siege train, with the reserve ammunition for 100 field guns, reached the Commander-in-Chief's camp on the 7th and 8th inst. On the latter day, the brigades which had been detached from the main army for the operations in the neighbourhood of Loodianah rejoined the Commander-in-Chief. Within 48 hours from that time the enemy's entrenched camp was carried by storm, his army almost annihilated, 67 guns captured, and, during the night of the 10th, on which this glorious victory was achieved, the advanced brigades of the British army were thrown across the Sutlej. Early on the 12th our bridge was completed, and on the 13th the Commander-in-Chief, with the whole force, excepting the heavy train and the division left to collect and bring in the wounded to Ferozepore, with the captured guns, was encamped in the Punjab, at Kussoor, 16 miles from the bank of the river opposite Ferozepore, and 32 miles from Lahore.

The remains of the Sikh army, under Sidar Tej Singh and Rajah Lall Singh, on retiring from Sabraon, encamped at Riebam, about 18 miles east of Lahore. They are variously estimated from 14,000 to 20,000 horse and foot with about 35 guns. They have been positively ordered, by Rajah Gholab Singh to remain stationary; and the Mahomedan and Nujeeb battalions, in the interest of the Minister, have been placed in the citadel, and at the gates of Lahore, with strict orders to permit no armed Sikh soldiers to enter the town.

It was intimated to me late last night, that the inhabitants of Lahore and Umritsar were in great alarm at the approach of our army to the capital, and were under apprehension that these cities might be sacked and plundered by our troops. I therefore caused the proclamation a copy of which is enclosed, to be issued to the inhabitants of those cities, informing them of the result of my interview with the Maharajah, and assuring them of protection, in person and property, if the Durbar acted in good faith, and no further hostile opposition was offered by the army.

On our arrival at this place (Kanha Catewa, about 16 miles from the city of Lahore, and 12 from the cantonments), heavy firing for the best part of an hour was heard. This proved to be a salute of seven rounds from every gun in Lahore, in honour of the result of the Maharajah's meeting with me yesterday, and in joy at the prospect of the restoration of amicable relations.

NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to the Subscriber for transactions at his Store in Chatham, are hereby informed that he has placed their Notes and Accounts in the hands of GEORGE KERR, Esquire, Attorney at Law, for Collection; and they are requested to call and pay Mr Kerr without delay, otherwise legal steps will be adopted to enforce payment.

JOSEPH RUSSELL.

Chatham, 17th April, 1846.

The subscriber also offers For Sale that TRACT OF LAND, lying on both sides of the Post Road, leading from Chatham to Richbucto, and adjoining the rear of the Lands formerly owned by the Joint Stock Company, comprising about 30 acres, about 10 of which are cleared. This property is advantageously situated for persons residing in Chatham. For terms and other particulars apply at the office of Mr Kerr.

JOSEPH RUSSELL.