

One evening, mortified by some light remark she had made, Ernest returned to his lodgings with a heavy heart. As he walked along, the words of his friend Carrington upon his first recognition of Lizzie recurred to his mind. 'Take care, Ernest, and do not lose your heart, for I forewarn you that she bids fair to be a desperate little flirt,' seemed to sound once more in his ears. The mystery of her behaviour was explained—young though she was, Lizzie Carrington was a coquette! Ernest wondered that he had been blind so long, but he determined he would be would so no longer. Poor Ernest! It was a sad truth that he had learned, and it drove the sleep from his eyes that night; yet he had the strength of mind to make one resolution—namely, that the morrow should discover his fate; that he would then go to Lizzie and learn whether she really loved him—aye, demand an answer, if she was disposed to trifle. And if that answer was not as he wished—then, why then—he would start immediately for Europe and forget her if he could!

[To be Concluded.]

THE BUBBLE CHASE.

BY S. P. GOODRICH.

What phantoms we are, what phantoms we pursue!

'Twas morn, and wending on his way
Beside the path a stream was playing—
And down its banks in humour gay,
A thoughtless, hidden boy was straying.

Light as a breeze they onward flew—
That joyous youth, and laughing tide—
And seemed each other's course to woo—
For long they bounded side by side.

And now the dimpling water stayed,
And glassed its ripples in a nook;
And on its breast a bubble played,
Which won't the boy's admiring look.

He bent him o'er the river's brim,
And on the radiant vision gazed,
For lovelier still it seemed to him,
That in its breast his image blazed.

With a beating heart and trembling finger,
He stooped the wondrous gem to clasp;
But spell-bound, seemed a while to linger,
Ere yet he made th' adventurous grasp.

And still away the glittering toy,
Coquettish seemed to shun the snare;
And then, more eager grew the boy,
And followed with impetuous air.

Round and round, with heedful eyes,
He chased it o'er the wavy river—
He marked his time, he seized his prize—
But in his hand it burst forever!

Upon the river's marge he sat—
The tears adown his young cheek gushing—
And long—his heart disconsolate—
He heeded not the river's rushing.

But tears will cease—and now the boy
Once more looked forth upon the stream:
'Twas morning still—and lo! a toy
Bright as the lost one, in the beam!

He rose—pursued—the bubble caught;
It burst—he sighed—then others chased;
And as I parted, still he sought
New bubbles in their downward haste.

My onward path I still pursued,
Till the high noon-tide sun was o'er me,
And now—though changed in form or mood—
That youth and river seemed before me.

The deepened stream more proudly swept—
Though chafed by many a vessel's prow—
The youth in manhood's vigor stept,
But care was chiseled on his brow.

Still on the stream he kept his eye,
And wooed the bubbles to the shore—
And snatched them as they circled by,
Though hursting as they burst before.

Once more we parted—yet again
We met—though now 'twas evening dim:
Onward the waters rushed amain,
And vanished o'er a cataract's brim.

Though fierce and wild the raging surge,
The bubble choser still was there;
And bending o'er the cataract's verge,
Clutch'd at the gaudy things of air.

With staff in hand and tottering knee,
Upon the slippery brink he stood—
And watched, with dotting ecstasy,
Each wreath of foam that rode the flood!

"One bubble more!" I heard him call—
And saw his eager fingers play—
He snatched—and down the roaring fall,
With the lost bubble, passed away!

The Moon's Age.—If a fact were wanting to determine the sex of the moon, it will be found in her obstinacy about her age. Like most ladies, she is never more than a day older than thirty.—Punch's Almanack.

THE PUNJAB;

ITS TERRITORY, PEOPLE, ARMY, AND HISTORY.

Continued from our last.

THE ARMY.

Runjeet left his treasury well stored and his army in a state of admirable efficiency. His conquests were all prudently designed to increase the solid greatness and security of his state, and, once made, they were vigorously maintained. In the book of Colonel Stembach are some details of the Punjab Army, as left by Runjeet, which will be read with peculiar interest at the present time:—

"This force, consisting of about 110,000 men, is divided into regulars and irregulars; the former of whom, about 70,000 strong are drilled and appointed according to the European system. The cavalry branch of the disciplined force amounts to nearly 13,000, and the infantry and artillery to nearly 60,000 more. The irregulars, variously armed and equipped, are nearly 40,000 strong, of which number upwards of 20,000 are cavalry, the remainder consisting of infantry and match-lock men, while the contingents, which the sirdars, or chiefs are obliged to parade on the requisition of the sovereign, amount to considerably above 30,000 more. The artillery consisted in Runjeet's time of 376 guns, and 370 swivels mounted on camels, or on light carriages adapted to their size. There is no distinct corps of artillery as in other services, but there are 4,000, or 5,000, men, under a daroga, trained to the duty of gunners, and these are distributed with the ordnance throughout the regular army. The pay of the sepoys of the regular army of the Punjab is higher than that of the same class in the army of the East India Company, each common soldier receiving ten rupees per mensem. The troops of the irregulars receive twenty five rupees per mensem, each, out of which they provide their arms and clothing, and feed their horse, putting the government to no other expense whatever for their services.

"Enlistment in the regular army of the Punjab is quite voluntary, and the service is so popular that the army could upon an emergency be increased to almost any amount. The soldiers are exceedingly apt in acquiring a knowledge of their military duties, but they are so averse to control that instances of insubordination are common; latterly, indeed, open mutiny has frequently characterised the relations of officer and soldier. Insubordination is punished—when punishment is practicable—with confinement, loss of pay, and extra duty. But in the present state of military disorganisation no means of chastising rebellion are available.

"Only twenty-three years have elapsed since the military force in the Punjab consisted of a large undisciplined horde. In 1822 the first European officers presented themselves at Runjeet Singh's durbar, seeking military service and entertainment. These were Messrs. Alard and Ventura, who had served in the French army until the annihilation of Napoleon Bonaparte deprived them of employment. At first Runjeet Singh, with the suspicion common to a native Indian prince, received them coldly; and his distrust of their purposes was heightened by the Panjabee chieftains, who were naturally jealous of the introduction of Europeans into the military service; but a submissive and judicious letter from these officers removed the apprehensions of the Maharajah, and he with the spirit and originality of a man of genius, admitted them into his service, appointing them instructors of his troops in the European system of drill and warfare. The good conduct and wise management of these gentlemen speedily removed Runjeet Singh's prejudices against Europeans; and, the door to employment being thrown open, several military men entered the service of the Maharajah, and at the close of his reign there were not less than a dozen receiving his pay, and, to use Indian expression, 'eating his salt.' The successors of Runjeet Singh, however, did not look with an eye of favour upon men who were not to be bought, and whose sense of personal dignity revolted at the treatment to which the unbridled Sikh chieftains were inclined to subject them. The greater part accordingly resigned their commissions; some of them retiring with ample fortunes, and others seeking honourable employment elsewhere.

"The Sikh army until lately was considered by many British officers who had the opportunity of seeing it to have been in a fair state of discipline. They form very correct lines, but in manœuvring their movements are too slow, and they would, in consequence, be in danger, from a body of British cavalry, of being successfully charged during a change of position. They would also run the risk of having their flanks turned by their inability to follow the motion of an European enemy with equal rapidity.

"The arms, that is to say, the muskets, are of a very inferior stamp, incapable of throwing a ball to any distance, and on quick and repeated discharges liable to burst. Their firing is bad, owing to the very small quantity of practice ammunition allowed by the Government; not more than ten balls out of a hundred, at the distance of as many paces, would probably tell upon an enemy's ranks. They still preserve the old system of three ranks, the front one kneeling when firing and then rising to load, a method in action liable to create confusion.

"In person, the infantry soldiers are tall and thin, with good features and full beards; their superior height is owing to the extraordinary length of their lower limbs. They are capable of enduring the fatigue of long marches for several days in succession, (the author having on one occasion marched with his regiment a

distance of 300 miles within twelve days), and are, generally speaking, so hardy that exposure to oppressive heats or heavy rains has little effect upon them. In a great measure this is the result of custom. Excepting in the vicinity of Lahore and Peshawur, there are few regular quarters or cantonments; the men occupy small tents, or bivouac in ruined Mahomedan mosques or caravanserais.

"The drum and fife and bugle are in general use in the Sikh Infantry regiments; and in some of the favourite royal corps of Runjeet Singh an attempt was made to introduce a band of music, but agraft of European melody upon Panjabee discord did not produce, as may be imagined, a very harmonious result.

"The cavalry of the Sikh army is very inferior in every respect to the infantry. While the latter are carefully picked from large bodies of candidates for service, the former are composed of men of all sorts and sises and ages who get appointed solely through the interest of the different sirdars. They are mean-looking ill-dressed, and, as already stated wretchedly mounted. Their horse trappings are of leather of the worst quality, and their saddles are of the same miserable material, and badly constructed. When the horse is in motion, the legs and arms of the rider wave backwards and forwards, right and left, by way, as it were, of keeping time with the pace of the animal bestridden. The horses are small, meagre, and ill shaped, with the aquiline nose which so peculiarly proclaims inferiority of breed. In the field the conduct of the Sikh cavalry has generally correspond with their appearance and efficiency. They are totally deficient of firmness in the hour of struggle, and only charge the foe when a vast superiority of numerical force gives them a sort of warranty of success. An anecdote occurs to the writer at this moment, which, as illustrating at once the efficiency of the Sikh troopers and the character of Akbar Khan, who afterwards became so famous in the annals of warfare by his treachery towards the British at Cabul, and by his total overthrow by the gallant Sale, will probably be read with interest.

"In an engagement at Peshawur, in 1837, between the Afghans and the Sikhs, the former were at the commencement driven off the field into the defile of the Khyber mountains. The Sikh cavalry, embracing the favourable moment, to the number of 3,000, dashed into the Khyber in pursuit. The favorite son of Doat Mahomed Khan had given battle in direct disobedience to the injunctions of his father, who had prohibited a collision under any circumstances.

"Upon witnessing the flight of his troops, together with the loss of some pieces of artillery, in the moment of despair at the consequence he had brought upon himself, turning to his own personal suite, of which about a 100 had remained with him, he addressed them briefly on the shame and disgrace which awaited their conduct; and, being determined not to survive the disasters of the day, he induced them to make a last effort to retrieve their ill fortune. The Sikhs had now precipitated themselves about two miles into this fatal pass, which allowed but four horsemen to work abreast.

"The little band above mentioned, with their leader at their head, resigning themselves to the will of the Comptroller of all Destinies, with their war shout of 'Allah Akbar!' threw themselves headlong on the foremost of their pursuers, who, by the superior weight of their Taorkee chargers, the nervous blows from the vigorous arms of their assailants, and the meteor-like charge were on the instant overwhelmed and dismounted. The sudden check so unexpectedly sustained threw the Sikhs into confusion; and, being ignorant of the number of their opponents, they wheeled round, and ell-mell rode over their own masses!—the Mahomedan sabre all the time doing its work brilliantly. Upwards of five hundred were left dead and wounded on the field, and the career of the faithful was only arrested by the bayonet of the Sikh infantry. Here the charger of their brave leader, Akbar Khan, received three musket balls and three bayonet wounds, and had one of his hind legs shattered by a spent ball. The noble animal fell; and luckily for his rider was it so ordained, for, at the moment he was hurled to the ground, a volley from the whole Sikh infantry emptied every saddle within range of its burden!

"It is no more than just, however, to set off the foregoing anecdote by stating that the bravest troops of all nations have, at some time or other, been overthrown by a coup de main and its consequent panic. It might do invidious to particularize the instances, and would certainly be superfluous, for some of them are still fresh in the recollection of the present generation.

"But although the Sikh soldiery may not claim credit for a greater degree of prowess than other Oriental troops, he possesses some qualities invaluable to the military man. He has the faculty of subsisting upon a very small quantity of food—a faculty peculiarly favourable to the indulgence of his avarice; and he is capable of enduring great fatigue, and of accomplishing marches that none but the Turkoman Tartars can perform. The distance from Lahore to Peshawur is three hundred miles, and it has often been done in eleven days. The Sikhs have, indeed, acquired, from their remarkable pedestrian qualities, the epithet of iron-legged.

"It has been said above that the Sikhs are arrogant and insubordinate; it should be added, that they are less so in the field than in garrison, and it is only reasonable to conclude that even in quarters they would be more tractable were they governed by European officers. Hitherto there has never been at any one

time more than twenty Europeans with the entire regular army of seventy thousand men.

"In addition to the regular and irregular army, the Lahore Government has also in its pay a body of irregular cavalry (to the number of between two and three thousand), called Alkalees. They are religious fanatics, who acknowledge no ruler or laws but their own; think nothing of robbery, or even murder, should they happen to be in a humour for it, Runjeet Singh himself more than on one occasion narrowly escaped assassination by them. They are without any exception the most insolent and worthless race of people under the sun. They move about constantly armed to the teeth, insulting everybody they meet, particularly Europeans; and it is not an uncommon thing to see them riding about with a drawn sword in each hand, two more in their belt, a matchlock at their back; and three or four quirts fastened round their turbans. The quirt is an arm peculiar to this race of people; it is a steel ring, varying from six to nine inches in diameter, and about an inch in breadth, very thin, and the edges ground very sharp: they throw it with more force than dexterity, but not so (as alledged) as to be able to lop off a limb at sixty or eighty yards. In general, the bystanders are in greater danger than the object aimed at. Runjeet Singh did much towards reducing this worthless race of people to a state of subjection, but he only partially succeeded, and latterly they have become more intolerant than ever. They, however, fight with desperation, and are always employed upon the most dangerous service. In 1815, when the Maharajah's army was investing the city of Mooltan, the Afghans made so protracted and determined a resistance that Runjeet Singh was induced to offer very advantageous terms compared to what he was in the habit of doing under similar circumstances; and, during the progress of the negotiations, an Akalee, named Saahoo Singh, with a few companions, advanced to their fits of enthusiasm, attacked the Afghans, who were either sleeping or careless on their watch, and killed every man; the Sikh army took advantage of the opportunity, and, rushing on, in two hours carried the citadel, Muzaffer Khan and his four sons being all cut down in the gateway after a gallant defence."

From this description it must be evident that the conquest of the Punjab, and particularly of the mountain districts, will be no easy task for the British forces. If the prize is rich, the expense of securing it will not be slight. But our Government has now no alternative. The Sikh soldiery can only be restrained from reckless warfare by the firm control of a stern hand, and the authority of England must be extended over the whole country before we can be secure from a repetition of the bloody battles which have recently occurred.

Provincial Legislature.

JOURNALS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

RESTIGOUCHE BYE ROADS.

£50 for the road from the Flat Land to Mrs Keddel's, including the bridge over Mann's brook.

50 road leading to the settlement in rear of James Christopher's, and from thence to the Forks of the Upsalquitch.

40 to the settlement in rear of sugar loaf mountain.

50 to Lily Lake settlement.

30 to the Colebrooke settlement.

40 from the Crooked Bridge towards Eel River settlement.

30 to the settlement at Marl Lake.

25 to the Mountain Brook settlement.

50 leading in at James McPherson's to the settlement on the north branch River Chate, and for a bridge over that river.

20 to the settlement at Murdoch's.

20 leading in at the East side of River Benjamin to the shore on the line dividing the lots of James Ferguson and Donald Cook.

20 leading in at Harvie's to the settlement in rear, on Nash's Creek.

30 to the Doyle settlement.

30 to the settlement in rear of Black's and Archibald's.

15 from Bonamie's Point towards Dalhousie.

10 leading to the shore in Eel River settlement near James McPherson's.

100 from the Forks of Eel river towards the Colebrooke settlement.

10 bridge over the South East branch of Eel river.

28 15 towards opening the road laid off by the Commissioners of Roads leading to the second concession on the line between Carrie's Davis' and William Serrell's.

15 to open a road from the Great Road on the east side of M'Nair's mill stream to the Bay shore.

GLOUCESTER BYE ROADS.

30 from the main road towards the Anderson settlement on the line between James Wall's and Thomas Loane's.

33 from Little Roche to the second concession on the Damareq line, to include a bridge over the Little Elm-tree river.

45 approaches to the new bridge at Daniel Hadley's and thence through the Glenwire settlement towards N gadou, on the explored line, including a bridge over that river.