

European News.

From the Manchester Courier.

A Lancashire Hero.—The subjoined copy of a letter, which has not before been made public, has been handed to us. Sergeant McCabe, whose distinguished gallantry is so prominently set forth by Sir Harry Smith is a son of Terence McCabe, who has, with his family, long resided in Ashton-under-Lyne, where they are respected for their honest and industrious conduct. It will be seen that the young man, who bears an excellent character, has, by his intrepidity at the battle of Sobraon, raised himself from the ranks to have a commission conferred upon him. The respect and attachment evinced by his letter towards his parents is also a very pleasing feature in his character:—

"Army of the Sutlej,
"Head-quarters, Lahore, 24 Feb., 1846.
"Dear Father and Mother—I embrace the present opportunity to send you a few hurried lines, hoping that they will find you as well as they leave me. You will probably have heard (ere you receive this) of the glorious doings of the army of the Sutlej, and the total defeat of our inveterate enemies the Sikhs. I am not going to give you a detailed account of every engagement, as I consider myself incompetent to the task on paper, but shall reserve them for a fireside story at home. I send you a simple sketch of our last one, which took place at Sobraon, 10th February, 1846—this was our fourth general engagement, in all of which the enemy suffered a total defeat. The first took place at Moodkee, 18th December, 1845; the second at Ferozeshah (which lasted two days) 21st and 22nd December, 1845; the third at Aliwal, 28th January, 1846; and the fourth (which concerns me most) on the above-mentioned date. The enemy had taken up a strong position on our side the Sutlej, and not more than three miles from our camp. To route them out of this was the object of their Excellencies the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, and then make an instantaneous movement towards Lahore, which object was gallantly effected. It fell to our lot to form the reserve part of the army, under command of our Noble and Gallant General, Sir Harry Smith. I cannot speak of the former part of the fight, as it commenced at a considerable distance from where our division lay, and I know but little of it until we were led by our Gallant General into the thickest of the fray. It was then that the slaughter commenced. Their position was so strong that our gallant boys were repulsed, suffering considerable loss; again we formed, and went with a determination to conquer or die. The officers carrying our colours both fell with many others, when I, seizing one of them, dashed fearlessly forward and cheering onward planted it on the enemy's ramparts amidst a shower of bullets from our infuriated foe. Our Gallant General passing at the time, saw the act, and has kindly recommended me for a commission. The enclosed is a copy of his letter to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Our regiment is on the point of going home, and you will regret to learn that I am not going with them: but from the advice I received from my Noble and much esteemed General, and several other gentlemen, who have my interest at heart, it would be almost madness to do so. I shall, doubtless, do much better in India, and from the vast difference of pay, &c., between England and India, I shall be able (with God's blessing) to contribute towards what I owe you in my infancy, and till I left you. By remaining in India, I can more amply supply the wants of much-esteemed parents in their old age,—this, dear father and mother, is the only thing that induces me to remain in India. Remember me to my brothers, Terence and Thomas, and all old acquaintances, and I hope in 5 or 6 years to see you and others in old England; I shall then be in better circumstances than if I was to return at present.—That God may spare you all till then, will be the constant prayer of your affectionate son,
"BERNARD McCABE,

"P. S.—I forgot to mention, that while waving the colour in my hand, I received a flesh wound in my leg, which, though painful, at present is not severe."

Copy of a letter from Major General Sir H. G. Smith, K. C. B., Commanding 1st Infantry Division, to his Excellency Sir Hugh Gough, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces—Army of the Sutlej.

"Camp, Lahore, 17th Feb., 1845.
"Sir,—With reference to the record of the peculiarly gallant conduct of Sergeant McCabe of H. M. 31st regiment, in the glorious battle of the Sobraon, on the

10th inst., I have the honour to make a special recommendation of the non-commissioned officer to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. This intrepid individual, in the midst of the hand-to-hand conflict with the enemy, planted the colours of the 31st regiment upon one of his towers in the entrenchment, one of the most brave and daring acts of a gallant soldier I ever witnessed, and which I now deliberately consider tended much to shorten the struggle alluded to. This sergeant is a young good-looking man, of excellent character; and if I may be permitted to remind his Excellency of the promise made me in the heat of battle, 'This sergeant shall be recommended for a commission.' I can only add, (which is, however, totally unnecessary to the soldier's friend, (Sir Hugh Gough) if he receive a commission it will be equally gratifying to me as was the gallant conduct I witnessed at the moment.

"The colour head was shot off, and the flag perforated with balls, as he triumphantly waved it in the air, in the midst of the enemy.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

"H. G. Smith, Major-General,
"To the Military Secretary to the
"Commander-in-Chief in India."

FIRST DIVISION.
"The above copy of General H. G. Smith's letter is given to Sergeant McCabe, as he wishes to send it to his parents, who will feel great pride in the gallant conduct of such a son.

W. P. ATCH, A. A. G.

Graham's Town Journal, April 25.
THE WAR IN KAFFIRLAND.

It may be stated briefly that the whole country from Kaffirland to Bushman's River is in the hands of the Kaffirs, who are ravaging it with perfect impunity. Mr. H. Fuller's house was attacked by them on Saturday night, and a very spirited contest was maintained for about an hour, the enemy at last retiring, with the loss, as it is supposed, of many of their force; but as they endeavour, by every possible means, to conceal their losses and to carry away their dead, the number is not known. On Saturday night, a desperate attack was made upon the Keerega Farm (Major Selwyn's), now occupied by Mr. Roods, and where a number of farmers, Dutch and English, had assembled with their cattle for mutual defence. The attack was made just at the close of the day, the first shot fired by the enemy killing a Hottentot. A volley was then fired upon the premises and amongst the cattle, several of which were killed. The fire was returned by the farmers with great determination, but they were at length obliged to relinquish their cattle, 400 head, besides 10 or 12 horses, and with which the enemy retired, one or two horses were shot in the rencontre. The body of one Kaffir was found in the bush covered with straw, but it is supposed that many more must have been killed. On Sunday night Mr. M'Luckie's position, near Lombard's Post, was attacked shortly after sunset, the Kaffirs surrounding the premises in great numbers and keeping up an incessant fire at the doors and windows so as to prevent the inmates from coming out, while another party with axes broke down the gates of the kraal and carried off it is said, no less than 2500 head of cattle, the joint property of the farmers of that neighbourhood. The dwellings of Mr. J. Slater, near Salem, of Dr. Livingstone, on the Kerreiga, of Mr. Eastment, on the Kowie, and many others in that line of country, have been fired and consumed to ashes.

Mr. Cockroft's position at Donkin Mount has also been carried in the same way as Mr. M'Luckie's, all the cattle, about 700 head, being swept off by the marauders. These cattle were pursued the next day by a party of 35 Burghers, under Field cornet Bradshaw, and who had a smart engagement for an hour in the Fish River Bush, with a large body of Kaffirs, but from whom they were obliged to retire, tho' not without, as they suppose, having killed a great many of the enemy. They retreated by Trompette's Drift. Mr. O'Brien, who was with this party, states that large numbers of Kaffirs are in the Fish River Bush, and that many thousands of cattle have passed through from the colony into Kaffirland. He is of opinion that a considerable number of Kaffirs must have been either killed or wounded, as pack oxen have been seen going towards Kaffirland, laden apparently with the slain of the enemy.

From these facts it will be seen that in almost all their enterprises the Kaffirs have hitherto been successful, and have swept the country as with the besom of destruction, and with an open daring which is unparalleled in Kaffir warfare

We have no force to act upon the offensive, and it seems very evident that unless reinforcements arrive, the colony, to an extent we can hardly calculate, will be rendered a desert. Actual want is already felt; many of the inhabitants have lost their all—have escaped to Graham's Town merely with their lives, and are dependant upon their friends and neighbours for their daily food.

Mr. H. Fuller's farm was attacked a second time last night, and the assailants were again gallantly beaten off by the little garrison.

May 2.—To day. Colonel Somerset, with about 200 of the Cape Mounted Rifles, a detachment of the 7th Dragoon Guards, under Captain Hogg, and a party of mounted Burghers, arrived from Fort Beaufort, making a detour so as to avoid the dangerous defile of the Ecra heights. The intelligence brought by him is of very gloomy character, the ravages of the enemy having been equally destructive in the beautiful division of the Konap, as in Lower Albany. Property to an immense amount has been destroyed, but we are thankful to say very inconsiderable loss of life. The position of Mr. W. Gilbert had been carried, although considered the strongest and most defensible place in the country.

The premises are surrounded with a stone wall, loop-holed, 10 feet high, each angle commanded by block-houses. Kaffirs having mustered in force, made a dash close up to the walls, drove out the Fingoes from one of the block-houses and actually pointed their guns through the loop-holes, so as to fire into the interior of the inclosure. The gates they battered to pieces with large stones, and ultimately, yelling and shouting, went off with about 600 head of cattle which had been placed there for security. It is evident that the Kaffirs in this attack depended on the terror occasioned by a night attack or they might have chosen the day time, and thus have avoided all the difficulty, we will not say danger, of breaking down the stone walls. Informed by the same opportunity that Sir Andries Stockenstrom's residence, Mr. P. Norton's, Major Blakeway's, Mr. Robinson's, Mr. Painter's, Mr. Nieland's, Mr. Andrew's, and several others, many of them fine, spacious, well finished dwellings, have been fired and consumed by these ruthless destroyers. In addition to the number of cattle swept away, the number swept away, the loss of sheep, beautiful fine-woolled merinos, has been immense. Men and horses are completely worn out, and unless help is received very speedily the consequences must be still more deplorable. Colonel Somerset brings information that Lieut. Colonel Richardson had moved downwards to Fort Peddie, there to watch and act upon the Congo tribes who were known to have joined in the confederacy against the colony. * * * Received an account of a very gallant defence made by a small party assembled at the farm of Mr. J. J. Smith, in Winterberg. The Kaffirs made their night attack with their usual determination and subtlety, but were steadily met by the gallant little party—keeping up an incessant fire of volleys from three guns at a time, until the enemy at length sheered off without his expected booty. Mr. Smith's sons distinguished themselves by great intrepidity. Fine general weather. Average of the thermometer 58° in the shade.

Thursday.—Received to day an account of a most gallant affair at Salem, with a strong body of the enemy, who attempted, in daylight, to capture the cattle of the inhabitants of that village. The bravery and determination of the young men who attacked and defeated the enemy, is deserving of the highest commendation.

The Late Pope.—The following account of the last hours of Pope Gregory XVI are taken from a letter received from Rome:—"On Whit Sunday, the Pontiff determined to have mass said in his chamber, and to take the communion himself. This was opposed, and he was obliged to almost get angry in order to have his wish complied with; and, if he had not done so, he would have died without the sacrament. His valet-de-chambre said to him, 'But, Holy Father, you will alarm the whole city; they will say that you are very ill.' 'Certainly,' replied he, 'I am very ill; I feel it; and do you want me to appear before God without having taken the bread of life? Io, voglia morte da frate, non da sovrano' (I wish to die as a monk, and not as a sovereign). The malady made such rapid progress the following night that the cardinal confessor, whose duty it is to assist dying Pontiffs, could not be summoned in time; it was the assistant-cure of the Pontifical Palace who gave extreme unction to the Pope, the cure not having

arrived. Gregory XVI. had expired when Cardinal Bianchi, his confessor entered his chamber. The other ecclesiastics, who were summoned according to custom, had only to watch over the mortal remains of their master. The Pope expired in the arms of Cardinal Lambruschini, who had hurried up with all the speed of his horses, and who assisted him in his last moments with the tenderness of a friend and a son." We add the following from the *Ami de la Religion*:—"Pope Gregory XVI. has made two of his nephews his residuary legatees, and appointed Cardinal Matei his executor. The Pontiff has left several legacies to the Propaganda, the convent of Saint Gregory, the monks of the Camaldules, and some of his household. The fortune which he has left has been greatly exaggerated. A more just idea of it may be formed, when it is considered that the civil list of the Popedom does not amount to more than 80,000*l.* a year. A rich library, some valuable paintings, jewelry, and works of art, with other property of unimportant amount, form the whole of the inheritance left for his nephews in the Venetian states, instead of the millions, at which it has been estimated."

The New Pope.—The *Univers* quotes a letter from Rome of the 20th ult., stating that the choice of the new Pope had everywhere, been received with the greatest satisfaction. 'Every body here,' says the writer 'is delighted, with the exception of the *corps diplomatique*, which is still astounded at the prompt decision of the Conclave, that left them no time for intrigue. I will give you now an accurate account of the operations of the Conclave. There were in all four ballots, followed each by an *accesso*. In the first ballot and *accesso* on Monday, June 15, Cardinal Lambruschini had 13 and Cardinal Ferretti 17 votes. In the third ballot on Tuesday morning, Cardinal Lambruschini only obtained 11 votes, and Cardinal Ferretti 27. In fourth and last on Tuesday evening, Cardinal Lambruschini's votes were reduced to 10, while his opponent had 28, and 8 more by the *accesso*, in all 36 votes—that is, two more than were necessary to validate the election. When that result was known the whole of the Sacred College confirmed the election by acclamation. Cardinal Ferretti, now Pope Pius IX., consequently had but one competitor in the Conclave. No other member of the Sacred College obtained more than five or six votes. After the second ballot it was easy to foresee the triumph of Cardinal Ferretti. Cardinal Gizzi had only one or two votes. It is not yet known who will be Secretary of State."

We received last night letters of the 22nd ult., from our correspondent in the city of Rome. The coronation of Pope Pius IX. had taken place on the preceding day, and a grand display of fireworks was given at night, in the Piazza del Popolo, in honour of the event. The elevation of Cardinal Mastai Ferretti appeared to afford general satisfaction, as he is of a good family, a Roman by birth, and of political opinions sufficiently liberal to give hopes of a change of system, though not violent enough to create alarm from the fear of too rapid a change.

The selection is purely national, made by a secret understanding among the body of the Cardinals, who on this occasion were determined to resist foreign influence; and if the new Cabinet be wisely chosen, great hopes are entertained of a gradual improvement being introduced into the Roman States.

Two girls, dressed as sailors, and anxious to play the part of jolly tars on the broad ocean, were discovered last week in Liverpool, just as they were on the point of shipping, and sent home to their friends. A love freak dictated the caprice.

At Arnac la Poste in the Haute Vienne a discovery has been made in the old and curious crenelled church of the Templars, of some mural paintings which are considered to be of great historical value. Their date is of the 13th century.

The gallant commander of the *Fantome*, Sir F. W. Nicholson, who commanded in the late engagement with the pirates of Barbary, has been promoted to the rank of post captain.

Sir R. Peel has procured for a son of the late lamented Mr Hayden, an appointment as lading waiter in the customs.

The King of Saxony, in his speech from the throne, said that he was disposed to admit the principle of publicity in the proceedings of the criminal courts, but that at the same time he felt the necessity of proceeding with caution.

The Revd. Dr. Hincks has made important improvements upon the Persepolitan alphabet of Westergaard, and has succeeded in deciphering the inscriptions