

for the Major General's information. Having made the necessary disposition of my force to protect the baggage in the valley of Tezeen, and to secure the gorge of the pass, the different picquets were gradually withdrawn to strengthen the latter. Soon after I observed a large body of the enemy collecting near the fort of Tezeen, south east of my position, and directed Lieutenant Douglas, whose guns had been previously posted on a commanding point, to open on them; but the distance proving too great for shells, the fire was discontinued. The enemy, I suppose, encouraged by this, formed his cavalry in the valley to the number of about 600 men, with the evident intention of moving towards my post. I instantly decided on anticipating him; and as Captain Alexander's (horse artillery) three guns, were still on the ground, I availed myself of his services by sending forward his guns within range of the enemy, supported by the front squadron of Her Majesty's 3rd light dragoons under Captain Unett, one squadron of 1st light cavalry under Brevet Major Scott, and the detachment of 3rd irregular cavalry under Captain Tait, with orders to charge the enemy if the ground proved favorable, and an opportunity offered. This soon occurred, the guns having made good impression; and the instant I observed the cavalry advance, the other squadron of dragoons was hurried forward under Major Lockwood, as a support, thus ensuring the success achieved by the spirited and gallant charge of their comrades in front, which completely dispersed the enemy, who left about fifty men on the field, and a standard, the latter taken by the 1st light cavalry, the bearer of which was cut down by Brevet Captain Goad.

Having accomplished all I wished, the troops returned to their original position in excellent order, covered by the very effective fire of the guns directed by Captain Alexander, and by a company of 35th regiment light infantry, the latter ordered forward for the purpose.

As the enemy showed no disposition to molest us further, and the whole of the baggage having entered the pass, the horses, artillery and dragoons were permitted to commence their march; but, before the latter had filed off, the enemy brought two guns to bear upon our position, which obliged me to place the remainder of the cavalry under cover of the high ground in the vicinity: these guns fortunately did no harm, and were soon after either withdrawn by the enemy, or silenced by a fire of round shot from Lieutenant Douglas' nine pounder, ably directed by that officer, and by Captain Lawrence, political agent, commanding the Sikh contingent, who handsomely volunteered his services on the occasion.

After allowing the main column and baggage to get well forward in the pass, I directed the remainder of the cavalry to enter, and followed with the infantry, the different parties of which gradually retired on the posts I had previously occupied, the enemy's infantry closing in and opening a heavy fire, which continued till we reached the top of the pass, a distance of three miles; and although I was compelled to hold my ground near the top of the pass for a long time, to admit of the guns and baggage passing over, I am happy to say that the enemy, though he pressed our several posts very warmly, did not then, or at any other time, obtain the slightest advantage, and at length desisted from molesting us, which enabled me to reform the troops and continue my march towards camp, where I arrived about 8 o'clock P. M. with all the stores and baggage except a few loads of grain; also some camels and bullocks unable to proceed, which were destroyed on the road, agreeably to orders.

My best thanks are due to the officers and men engaged, both European and Native, for their cheerful endurance of fatigue under an intensely hot sun, and for their gallant bearing when in contact with the enemy; the whole seemed animated with one and the same spirit, which enabled them to overcome difficulties of no ordinary nature, highly creditable to British soldiers, and especially so to the Bengal Sepoys. I feel it also just to notice the useful assistance afforded by the men of the Sikh contingent under Captain Lawrence, who took their full share of duty in the valley of Tezeen, and in defending the different posts in the pass.

Accompanying I have the honor to forward a return of the killed and wounded, which I rejoice to observe is not so heavy as might have been expected from the nature of the operations.

I have, &c.

A. F. RICHMOND, Lieutenant Colonel,
33d Regiment N. I. commanding the rear guard.

P. S.—On reaching the top of Huf Kotul pass, it was reported to Captain Lawrence, commanding the Sikh contingent, that Sardar Akbar Khan was present in the Tezeen valley when the troops charged his cavalry.

A. F. RICHMOND, Lieutenant Colonel.

From Major General Pollock, C. B. to T. H. Maddock, Esq.

Camp, near Cabool, September 16, 1842.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for the information of the

Right Honorable the Governor General, a copy of my despatch to the address of Major General Lumley, Adjutant General of the army.

I have, &c.

GEORGE POLLOCK, Major General,
Commanding in Afghanistan.

From Major General G. Pollock, C. B., to Major General J. R. Lumley.

Camp, Cabool, 16th September, 1842.

SIR,—I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, that on the 14th instant, we marched from Khoord Cabool to Bootkhak. I took the precaution of sending parties to crown the heights of the Khoord Cabool pass, but we met with no opposition. On the 15th I moved on to Cabool, and encamped on the race course. This morning I proceeded to the Bala Hissar, with the following troops: a troop of horse artillery under Major Delafosse; a company from each regiment of infantry, under Lieutenant Colonel Taylor; the 3d dragoons, under Major Lockwood; a troop of the 1st regiment light cavalry; a resallah of the 3d irregular cavalry, with the whole of the General and Division Staff. The object was to plant the British colours in the Bala Hissar, on the spot most conspicuous from the city. The Prince Futeh Jung, who joined my camp at Gundamuck, expressed a wish to go with the party, to which I assented. On our arrival at the spot selected, the colours were hoisted, the band of Her Majesty's 9th foot immediately struck up the national anthem, "God save the Queen," and a royal salute was fired from the guns of the horse artillery, the whole of the troops present giving three cheers.

I left the colours in the Bala Hissar, to be hoisted daily as long as we remain. The infantry also remained under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Taylor, but they will be relieved on the arrival of Major General Nott, by a native regiment from his force. I expect Major General Nott will reach Cabool to-morrow or the next day. Since our arrival here we have not been able to obtain any certain information of Mahomed Akbar. It appears, however, that Ameen Oolla has separated from him. Neither of them has ventured to return in the direction of Cabool.

The following prisoners have come into camp: Mrs Trevor, with eight children; Captain and Mrs. Anderson, with three children; Captain Troup, and Dr. Campbell. Unless some very unforeseen circumstances occur, I expect to obtain possession of the remainder of the prisoners in the course of eight or ten days, with the exception of Captain Bygrave, who, I regret to find, has been taken by Mahomed Akbar, and was with him during the action of the 13th instant.

I have, &c.

G. POLLOCK, Major General.
Commanding in Afghanistan.

Simla, October 5, 1842.

HONORABLE SIRS,—I received last night a private letter from Major General Pollock, dated 21st ultimo, of which I enclose an extract, by which you will perceive that all the European prisoners, except Captain Bygrave, are in our hands, and that Sir Robert Sale, at the head of a light force, was bringing them into Cabool, where they were expected to arrive on the 22d.

I have &c.

ELLENBOROUGH.

The Secret Committee of the East India Company.

Simla, October 5, 1842.

Since the public notification of the 30th ult., the Governor General has received the gratifying intelligence of the safety of all the European prisoners but one, in the following extract from a communication from Major General Pollock, C. B., dated the 21st ult.:—

Major General Pollock, to the Governor General of India.
(Extract.)

Camp, Cabool, September 21, 1842.

It gives me the greatest gratification to be enabled to state, that the whole of the European prisoners are now quite free from the hands of Mahomed Akbar, except Captain Bygrave. I will make my official report on this subject whenever they reach my Camp, which will no doubt be to-morrow. I sent a lightly equipped force, under Sir R. Sale, to meet them, and the whole of the party is with him, with the following exceptions, who have already reached my camp:

Major Pottinger, and Captain Johnston, arrived this morning.

Mrs. Trevor and eight children.

Captain and Mrs. Anderson and three children.

Captain Troup and Dr. Campbell.

One European woman and four privates.

By order of the Rt. Hon. the Governor General of India,

T. H. MADDOCK,

Secretary to the Government of India,
with the Governor General.