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INDIA-OFFICE, July 11, 1859.

No. 2.

THE Secretary of State for India in Council has received the following Papers :—

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Brasyer, C.B.

No. 1.

Camp, Siswa,

The Principal Commissary of Ordnance to the Military Secretary to Government.

10th January 1859.

Allahabad, January 1859.

SIR,
I HAVE the honour, in accordance with your request, to enclose for submission to the Right Honourable the Governor-General, documents regarding the eminent services rendered by Captain Russell, Commissary of Ordnance, on the occasion of the mutiny of the Native Troops at Allahabad, in June 1857.

SIR,

WITH advertence to your letter of the 3d instant, regarding the service rendered by Captain Russell, Commissary of Ordnance, on the outbreak of the mutiny at Allahabad, I have the honour to report that on arriving at Allahabad, myself, with the regiment of Ferozepore, in May 1857, it clearly appeared to me that a dangerous time had arrived, and that it was necessary to take every precaution to avert the pending crisis. I therefore lost no time in making the acquaintance of Captains Russell and Brown, the principal Ordnance and Artillery Officers there. Their labours in arranging the guns, preparing and storing in convenient, but safe positions, ammunition, &c., as well as attending to their other multifarious duties in the arsenal, were unceasing, and by the 1st of June, as far as I could judge, everything depending on their exertions was as complete as circumstances would admit of; without increasing the alarm, or shewing symptoms of fear, still their labours continued; and we frequently consulted each other as to the best mode of averting the evil too clearly seen by us, to admit of doubt of its near approach.

2. These documents are sufficiently conclusive that the disarming of the Native Guard in the fort of Allahabad having been successfully carried out, under circumstances of peculiar danger and difficulty, was mainly attributable to the admirable foresight, coolness, and courage of Captain Russell, and that to him is chiefly due the credit of having saved the fort from falling into the hands of mutineers.

3. His heroic courage and self devotion were still more conspicuous in the preparation he had made for blowing up the arsenal in case of the garrison being overpowered.

4. Captain Russell's services, in connection with the duties of his appointment, were no less remarkable; and it was in a great measure owing to his unwearied energy and fertility of resource that the armies employed in the North-Western Provinces and Oude, were abundantly supplied with ammunition and materiel, from the first outbreak until the present campaign.

5. Services such as these are eminently deserving of reward, and I therefore take the liberty of earnestly recommending Captain Russell to the favourable notice of Government.

On the evening of the 6th of June, having received from Lieutenant Alexander (the late) a note, shewing that the mutiny of the 6th Regiment N. I. had commenced, I at once communicated the facts to both these officers, recommending silence, and requesting them to be prepared to assist in keeping off the outside mutineers, as well as for any emergency inside the fort. They were with me instantly, and from place to place silently, until our separate duties separated us occasionally. Thus, for three days and nights we never slept for more than a few minutes at once, watching with, and earnestly for each other, solemnly and confidently trusting to our Creator for relief; and others were so completely exhausted that we could scarcely find a man to stand sentry or work the guns. I frequently worked as gunners, &c., much to the encouragement and encouragement of others, although I was frequently compelled from exhaustion to retire.

I have, &c.,

H. LEWIS, Captain,
Principal Commissary of Ordnance.

