



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1849.

India Board, April 18, 1849.

THE dispatch, of which the following is an extract, and the accompanying papers, have been this day received at the East India-House, from the Governor-General of India.

The Governor-General of India to the Secret Committee of the East India Company.

(Extract.)

March 7, 1849.

Under Divine Providence, the British arms have signally triumphed. On the 21st of February, an action was fought, which must ever be regarded as one of the most memorable in the annals of British warfare in India; memorable alike from the greatness of the occasion, and from the brilliant and decisive issue of the encounter. For the first time, Sikh and Afghan were banded together against the British power. It was an occasion which demanded the putting forth of all the means at our disposal, and so conspicuous a manifestation of the superiority of our arms, as should appal each enemy, and dissolve, at once, their compact, by fatal proof of its futility. The completeness of the victory which has been won, equals the highest hopes entertained. The results are not yet fully developed.

The enemy, estimated at 60,000 men, with 59 guns, were posted near the town of Goojerat. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief opened his artillery upon them, with tremendous effect, on the morning of the 21st of February. A sustained cannonade of three hours compelled them to retire from the positions they had maintained with resolute hardihood. The subsequent advance of the whole British line drove them back, at once, from every point; and, retreat speedily becoming rout, they fled in the utmost disorder, "their ranks broken" (the Commander-in-Chief writes), "their position carried, their guns, ammunition, camp equipage, and baggage, captured; their flying masses driven before the victorious pursuers, from midday to dusk, receiving most severe punishment in their flight." It will much enhance the gratification which the intelligence of this great success must afford you, to hear that it has been achieved with comparatively little loss, and that, amongst the 53 guns captured, we have recovered those lost at Ramnuggur and Chillian-walla.

In a general order, issued on the 1st of this month, I gave public expression to the sense I

entertain of the devoted gallantry of the noble army which has gained this victory.

In the name, and on behalf of, the Government of India, I offered to his Excellency Lord Gough, Commanding in Chief, to the generals, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the force, my grateful acknowledgments of the service they have rendered to their country.

I took occasion to express the unbounded confidence I feel, and have ever felt, in this army, and my conviction that they will meet, cheerfully and gallantly, as heretofore, whatever obstacles may yet be opposed to them. I stated, further, that I would earnestly commend their past services to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and of the East India Company; and I now, accordingly, fulfil this promise.

On the morning after the battle of Goojerat, Major-General Sir W. Gilbert was detached with a force to effect the passage of the Jhelum, and follow the enemy towards Peshawur, in which direction the main body of them that still held together, had fled. Brigadier-General Campbell advanced, at the same time, on the road to Bimber, scouring the country all round in that quarter. He returned, on the 25th, bringing in several guns which the enemy had abandoned in their flight.

Major-General Gilbert experienced some difficulty in crossing the Jhelum, in consequence of the enemy having reached the river before him, and burnt all the boats, with the view of retarding his passage. The Bengal division was over the river by the 2d instant, and succeeded in capturing, in the town of Jhelum, two brass mortars, with 9000 rounds of ammunition. On the 5th, they were at the formidable pass of Bakrala, the Bombay division being two marches behind them. The road to the next stage has been broken up by the enemy, but, after repairing it, and reaching Dhuneeal, it is the Major-General's intention to stay there, till his ammunition, heavy guns, and commissariat stores, reach him.

NOTIFICATION.

Camp, Ferozepore, February 24th, 1849.

The Right Honorable the Governor-General directs the publication of the following letter, from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief,