



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1855.

Foreign-Office, November 10, 1855.

THE Earl of Clarendon has received a Despatch from Major-General Williams, Her Majesty's Commissioner with the Turkish Army in Asia, of which the following is a copy:—

Kars, October 3, 1855.

MY LORD,

I HAD the honour to announce to your Lordship, on the evening of the 29th ultimo, the glorious victory gained on the morning of that day by the Sultan's troops on the heights above Kars, over the Russian army commanded by General Muravieff, and I now beg to furnish your Lordship with the principal incidents of that sanguinary battle.

Your Lordship will perhaps recollect, that in my despatch No. 123, of the 28th of June, I stated that the Russian General, after his second demonstration against the southern face of our entrenchments, which is flanked by Hafiz Pasha Tabia and Kanli Tabia, marched south, and established his camp at Bugah Tikmé, a village situated about four miles from Kars. Knowing that General Muravieff served in the army which took Kars in 1828, I conceived his last manœuvre to be preparatory either to a reconnaissance, or an attack upon the heights of Tahmasb, from whence the Russians successfully pushed their approaches in the year above cited.

Whilst, therefore, the enemy's columns were in march towards Bugah Tikmé, I visited those heights with Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, and after studying the ground decided upon the nature of the works to be thrown up; these were planned and executed by Lieutenant-Colonel Lake with great skill and energy. I enclose for your Lordship's information a plan made by that officer of the town and its neighbouring heights, which are situated on the opposite side of the river of Kars Chai, over which

three temporary bridges had been thrown to keep up our communications. As all verbal descriptions, or bird's-eye views, of ground convey but an imperfect idea of any locality, I beg to enclose a sketch made by Mr. Churchill, which will, I trust, tend to elucidate my description.

Your Lordship will observe that whilst our camp and magazines in the town were rendered as safe as circumstances would allow, the hills above Kars commanded all, and were, therefore, the keys of our position.

The intrenchments of Tahmasb, being those nearest the enemy's camp, demanded the greatest vigilance from all entrusted in their defence; General Kmety, a gallant Hungarian officer, commanded the division which occupied this eminence, he was assisted by Major-General Hussein Pacha and my aide-de-camp, Major Teesdale, who has acted as his Chief of the Staff.

Throughout the investment, which has now lasted four months, the troops in all the redoubts and intrenchments have kept a vigilant lookout during the night, and, at their appointed stations, stood to their arms long before day dawn. In my despatch, No. 155, of the 29th ultimo, I informed your Lordship of the arrival of the news of the fall of Sebastopol, and of the landing of Omar Pacha at Batoom. I also acquainted your Lordship with the fact that the Russian General was engaged in sending off immense trains of heavy baggage into Georgia, and showing every indication of a speedy retreat; this in no wise threw us off our guard, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lake was directed to strengthen many points in our extensive and undermanned lines, and amongst other works the tabia bearing my name was constructed.

At four o'clock on the eventful morning of the 29th the enemy's columns were reported to be advancing on the Tahmasb front. They were three in number, supported by 24 guns; the first or right column being directed on Tahmasb Tabia,