

Whitehall, May 15, 1857.

THE following Addresses of congratulation to the Queen, on the occasion of the Birth of another Princess, having been transmitted to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department for presentation, were presented accordingly to Her Majesty, who was pleased to receive the same very graciously.

To the QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Portsmouth, in Council assembled, beg permission to approach your Majesty, with sincere and heartfelt congratulations on the Birth of a Royal Princess.

We desire to avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded to us to renew the expression of our unabated attachment to your Majesty's person, and to your Royal Consort and family, accompanied by our fervent prayer to Almighty God that your Majesty, blessed with every domestic happiness may long live in the hearts and affections of a grateful and loyal people.

Given under our Common Seal, the 4th day of May, 1857.

Chas. Crassweller, Mayor.

And the following on the same subject :

From the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Cambridge.

India Board, May 13, 1857.

THE following Despatches have been received this day :—

Lieutenant-General Sir James Outram, K.C.B., Commanding Expeditionary Force in Persia, to His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir H. Somerset, K.C.B., and K. H., Commander-in-Chief, Bombay.

Camp near Mohumra,

SIR,

March 27, 1857.

I HAVE the honor to report, for your Excellency's information, the successful result of the operations against Mohumra. The Persian Army evacuated their entrenched position and camp yesterday, about mid-day, leaving behind all their tents standing, with nearly the whole of their property, public and private, all their ammunition, and 17 guns. As far as I am able to learn, only 5* guns and a portion of the personal effects of the Shahzada have been carried away.

2. It was my intention to have proceeded against this place immediately upon my return from the Borazjoon expedition last month; but, owing to the non-arrival of the requisite reinforcements, caused by the tempestuous weather in the Gulf, together with unforeseen causes of delay, I was not able to leave Bushire until the 18th instant. In the meantime, however, I had despatched the transports into the Shat-ool Arab, from Bushire, as the troops were embarked, so that, upon my arrival in the steamer Ferooz, no further delay occurred beyond what was necessarily caused by the tides, and by towing so many large vessels up the river.

3. For some months past the Persians had been strengthening their position at Mohumra. Bat-

* The remainder supposed to have been thrown into the river.

teries had been erected of great strength, of solid earth, 20 feet thick, 18 feet high, with casemated embrasures, on the northern and southern points of the banks of the Karoon and Shat-ool Arab, where the two rivers join. These, with other earthworks armed with heavy ordnance, commanded the entire passage of the latter river, and were so skilfully and judiciously placed, and so scientifically formed, as to sweep the whole stream, to the extent of the range of the guns, up and down the river, and across the opposite shore; indeed, everything that science could suggest, and labour accomplish in the time, appeared to have been done by the enemy to effectually prevent any vessel passing up the river above their position: the banks, for many miles, were covered by dense date groves, affording the most perfect cover for riflemen; and the opposite shore, being neutral territory (Turkish), was not available for the erection of counter batteries.

4. The accompanying rough sketch will, I fear, give your Excellency but a faint idea of the great strength of the Persian position, and the difficulty of successfully attacking them in it without very considerable loss. I could have landed my troops on the island of Abadan, which was strongly occupied by the Persians; and there is no doubt that, after defeating them, the southern battery eventually would have fallen to us. But the several batteries on the northern bank of the Karoon commanded the entire southern bank, as well as the stream of the Shat-ool Arab; and it would have been a serious, and an extremely difficult, operation to have crossed the rapid current of the Karoon in the face of the enemy, had the means existed of doing so. But, until our small steamers and boats could round the southern point, and join us, we should have been helpless.

5. After mature deliberation, I resolved to attack the enemy's batteries with the armed steamers and sloops of war, and, so soon as the fire was nearly silenced, to pass up rapidly with the troops, in small steamers towing boats, land the force two miles above the northern point, and immediately advance upon, and attack, the entrenched camp.

6. I have now the very great satisfaction of announcing to your Excellency the complete success of the first two operations; the third, to the regret of the Army, being frustrated by the precipitate flight of the enemy.

7. The Persian army, ascertained from credible report to amount to 13,000* men of all arms, with 30 guns, was commanded by the Shahzada, Prince Khauler Mirza, in person. The British force, under my command, composed as follows,†

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| * Cavalry, Irregulars | ... | ... | 1,500 |
| 9 Regiments, Regulars, 700 each | ... | ... | 6,300 |
| Arabs and Bukharaees and Beloochees | ... | ... | 4,600 |
| Gunners | ... | ... | 600 |
| Total | ... | ... | 13,000 |

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|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| † Her Majesty's 14th Light Dragoons | 89 |
| Scinde Horse | 303 |
| | 392 sabres. |
| Her Majesty's 64th Foot | 704 |
| Her Majesty's 78th Highlanders | 830 |
| | 1,534 |
| 23rd Regiment Native Infantry | 749 |
| 26th Regiment Native Infantry | 716 |
| Light Battalion | 920 |
| | 2,385 |
| Bombay Sappers and Miners | 109 |
| Madras Sappers and Miners | 124 |
| | 233 |
| 12 Guns {3rd Troop Horse Artillery | 166 |
| {No. 2 Light Field Battery | 176 |
| | 342 |
| Total | 4,886 |