

be considered as equivalent to Presentations to Her Majesty.

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOMS.

REGULATIONS.

TO BE OBSERVED AT THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOMS TO BE HELD, ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES, AT ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

By Her Majesty's Command.

The Ladies, who propose to attend Her Majesty's Drawing Rooms, at St. James's Palace, are requested to bring with them two large cards, with their names *clearly written* thereon, one to be left with the Queen's Page in Attendance in the Corridor, and the other to be delivered to the Lord Chamberlain, who will announce the name to The Princess.

PRESENTATIONS.

Any Lady who proposes to be presented must leave at the Lord Chamberlain's Office, *before twelve o'clock*, two clear days before the Drawing Room, a card with her name written thereon, and with the name of the Lady by whom she is to be presented. In order to carry out the existing regulation, that no presentation can be made at a Drawing Room excepting by a Lady actually attending that Court, it is also necessary that a letter from the Lady who is to make the presentation, stating it to be her intention to be present, should accompany the presentation card above referred to, which will be submitted to The Queen, for Her Majesty's approbation. It is Her Majesty's Command, that no presentations shall be made at the Drawing Room, except in accordance with the above regulations.

It is particularly requested that in every case the names be *very distinctly written* upon the cards to be delivered to the Lord Chamberlain, in order that there may be no difficulty in announcing them to The Princess.

It is not expected that Gentlemen will present themselves at the Drawing Room, except in attendance upon the Ladies of their families.

The State apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at one o'clock.

SYDNEY,
Lord Chamberlain.

War Office, May 14, 1866.

THE Secretary of State for War has received a Despatch, dated February 15, 1866, and its enclosures, from Major-General Chute, Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in New Zealand, of which the following are copies:—

Head Quarters, Wellington,
February 15, 1866.

MY LORD,

YOUR Lordship will have learned from my despatch of the 8th ultimo, No. 52, and its en-

losures, that hostilities had recommenced in the Whanganui district, and you will have been made acquainted with the particulars of the operations up to the capture of Okotuku and Putahi, on the 4th and 7th January.

From Putahi, the Field Force moved to the vicinity of Ketemarai, an important locality, from the fact of its being situated in a most fertile district, and close to the point where the native track, leading behind Mount Egmont to Mataitawa, enters the forest. In this neighbourhood there were numerous paha and extensive cultivations.

The principal fortified position of the rebels was Otapawa, about four miles from our camp, and with a view to the attack of this stronghold I augmented the Field Force with detachments as per margin,* from Waingongoro and Manawapou.

At 2 30 on the morning of the 13th I moved against the rebel position, with the force detailed in the margin.† Our route lay along a good bullock track for two and a-half miles, after which it passed through high fern and scrub, along the edge of a broad and deep valley; into this we descended by a precipitous declivity, and after crossing two streams again reached high ground by a very steep ascent through thick bush. From the nature of the ground I had no opportunity of making a satisfactory reconnaissance; the tops of the whares, however, being just visible from the near side of the valley, I posted the six-pounder guns there, and advanced under cover of their fire, which was ably directed by Lieut. Carré, Royal Artillery. In a few minutes we emerged from the scrub and bush on the open, opposite the position, which consisted of an entrenched work strongly palisaded, with a front of about a hundred yards. The approach was over level ground, flanked on the right by a tongue of bush, at seventy yards; on the left front there were fenced cultivations. It would have been a work of great labour and loss of time to get guns to this point, I, therefore, took advantage of an undulation in the ground, at the distance of 150 yards from the work, and formed the force in the following order, viz.:—57th Regiment on the left, in skirmishing order, with a strong company, and the Forest Rangers in support; the 2nd Battalion, 14th Regiment, extended on the right, with 100 men in support; the Native Contingent in reserve. The signal for the assault was then given, and the troops dashed at the work with irresistible impetuosity; the rebels kept perfectly quiet until they were within forty yards, and then opened a most severe and unusually well-directed fire from the whole front of the entrenchment and the bush on its right. Under this heavy cross fire a portion of the 57th Regiment, under Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Hassard, wheeled to the left, drove the rebels from the bush, and advanced against the right angle of the pah.

* From Waingongoro, 57th Regiment—5 officers, 6 non-commissioned officers, 120 men. From Manawapou, 57th Regiment—4 officers, 6 non-commissioned officers, 120 men. Total—9 officers, 12 non-commissioned officers, 240 men.

† Royal Artillery—1 subaltern, 3 sergeants, 30 rank and file, three 6-pounder Armstrong guns; 2nd Battalion, 14th Regiment—1 field officer, 2 captains, 2 subalterns, 6 sergeants, 3 drummers, 200 rank and file; 57th Regiment—1 field officer, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 4 sergeants, 2 drummers, 180 rank and file; Forest Rangers—1 officer, 1 sergeant, 35 rank and file; Native Contingent—1 subaltern, 200 rank and file. Total—3 field officers, 3 captains, 6 subalterns, 14 sergeants, 5 drummers, 565 rank and file.