

mountain, in case I should decide to move troops in that direction—a contingency which engaged the attention of the Commissioner and myself for some time. On the occupation of the "Dubrai" Pass by the troops, Habeeb Gool Sahibzada, of "Paimal," the Akhoond of this part of the border, tendered his allegiance to the Deputy Commissioner, and several of the "Takotee" villages surrendered. No enemy appeared in sight, and all the distant villages seemed to be deserted. It was also reported on reliable authority, that Shaul Khan, of Takotee, had fled across the Indus on the approach of the force towards the Nundehar Valley. The country beyond the "Dubrai" Pass was the most difficult that could be imagined; the lands of the Takotees were poor, their crops scanty, and unlike the districts of "Tikaree" and "Nundehar." No valleys were visible: their principal lands are said to be on the right bank of the Indus. I contemplated at one time a military raid with the object of burning Takotee, a village of two hundred houses on the left bank of the Indus, but a nearer view of the country from the "Dubrai" Pass determined me not to attempt it. Considering the Takotees had fled, taking refuge on the Sukeesar Mountain, beyond the Indus, and to reach them would have involved the extension of my military operations at least ten days, the Commissioner and myself concurred in the opinion that it was neither expedient, necessary, nor advisable to prolong the march of the force to the banks of the Indus. In this decision there were other political considerations at stake, which Major Pollock will no doubt explain in his communications to the Government.

6. The force subsequently made the following marches, and reached camp "Oogie," in Agrore, on the 22nd of October, having been absent from their tents and baggage since the 3rd:—

19th October, Phugera, in		
Nundehar ..	Foreign territory.	
20th October, Chutta, in		
Konsh ..		} British territory
21st October, Aal, in		
Konsh .. ..		

7. In connection with this military demonstration through the countries\* of the independent Swatee tribes, I would record that the conduct of the inhabitants was uniformly good, and that the Swatee deputations remained faithful to their agreements. Supplies were not brought into camp readily, owing to most of the people having left their homes through fear: confidence was, however, partially restored ere we left the country. One incident, however, occurred, the act of an individual, which it was necessary to notice to prevent the prestige of our proceedings being injured. As the rear guard late on the evening passed along, a shot was fired at or over it. The Commissioner summoned the head men of the village near the spot where the insult was offered, and making prisoners of them, exacted a fine of Rs. 500, or the production of the culprit. The fine has been paid.

8. Having detailed the daily operations performed by the Hazara Field Force, I would venture to point out the political results of the campaign. Three Patan and three Swatee tribes have been brought into submission. The Puryaree Syuds have been signally punished, and Guffoor Khan, of Tikaree, one of the foremost, has been forced to sue for peace. The independent Swatees have been

made to pay Rs. 12,000 to the British Government for their misconduct, and Hubeeb Gool, the Sahibzada of Paimal—a man held in great veneration—has paid his respects to the Commissioner, a very significant fact, showing that the people felt that they could no longer resist our arms.

9. The force traversed eighty miles of hill country, through which it had to make its own roads and carry its own supplies; and on each occasion that a shot was fired, or an insult offered, immediate punishment was inflicted on the offenders. By the occupation of the strongholds of the Patan tribes of the Black Mountain, and the passage of our troops through the valleys of the independent Swatee tribes, the British Government has shown its ability and power to vindicate its honour; and I believe that late events will leave a lasting impression, not only on the Patans Cis-Indus, but also on their clansmen residing on the Eusufzaie border.

10. One other circumstance I would note, namely, the mobility displayed on this occasion by our British Regiments, and their capability to partake most efficiently in hill campaigning. Nothing could exceed the high spirit and energy displayed by both the Royal Artillery and British Infantry. With the exception of one blanket carried for each man, they fared as the Native troops did; and their food did not actually require more carriage than that of the Native troops. The men, too, of the Royal Artillery evinced their aptitude to adapt themselves to duties quite novel to them. The horse artillerymen of D Battery, F Brigade, packed and unpacked their guns on elephants, and the gunners of No. 2 Battery, 24th Brigade, led and tended the mules carrying the mortars. From the day I started not a soldier, either British or Native, made a complaint, but cheerfully underwent all the hardships, labour, and exposure incidental to our bivouac.

11. It is impossible to estimate the loss of the enemy, but I feel confidence in stating, and in this opinion the Political Officer agrees with me, that since the commencement of hostilities in August last up to the end of the campaign, their loss has been considerable.

12. In closing these reports of the expedition of 1868 against the Patan tribes of the Black Mountain and the independent Swatee tribes of the valleys of "Tikaree," "Nundehar," and "Darshree," I beg to bring the names of the following officers to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—

I.—I have first to acknowledge the co-operation and unvaried assistance I have received throughout this hill campaign from Brigadier-Generals R. O. Bright, and J. L. Vaughan, C.B. As the Colonel of that fine regiment, the 19th Foot, Brigadier-General Bright set an example of disinterestedness and indifference to hardship and discomfort that proved most useful to me in the organization of the force. Brigadier-General Vaughan's knowledge and intimate acquaintance with hill warfare made me confident at all times that his brigade would be ably conducted, and his advice was, on several occasions, most useful to me:

\* Tikaree, Nundehar, Darshree.