

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 Levee, 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 His Royal Highness.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at half-past one o'clock.

KENMARE,
Lord Chamberlain.

War Office, May 3, 1881.

THE following Despatch from the General Officer Commanding at Natal, with its Enclosures, has been received at the War Office:—

From the General Officer Commanding, Natal, to the Secretary of State for War.

SIR, *Camp, Newcastle, March 9, 1881.*

IN submitting the accompanying report from Major Fraser, Royal Engineers, the senior effective officer remaining from those engaged on the 27th February, I desired to bring to your notice the good service rendered by this officer. After being the foremost to scale the mountain, he descended again for the purpose of hurrying up the men, and was one of the last staff officers to quit the ridge. While in the act of withdrawing he fell over a rock and injured his hand, but with great endurance and determination he walked from 1 P.M. on Sunday, until 2 A.M. on Tuesday without tasting food, ultimately regaining our lines through the Boer position.

Had Major-General Sir George Pomeroy-Colley survived he would, I have no doubt, have endorsed all that Major Fraser has written with regard to the conduct of both officers and men in the fight on the Majuba Mountain, and therefore, although the result of the action was disastrous, I feel confidence in submitting for favourable consideration the names of those mentioned in the report.

To what has been adduced in that report with regard to the conduct of Captain M'Gregor, 92nd Highlanders, I would in addition bear testimony to the activity he displayed during the march up country, conduct which induced me to recommend him for staff employment to Sir G. Colley, who subsequently informed me that he had decided to appoint Captain M'Gregor to his staff as an aide-de-camp.

From independent sources I have heard much of the conspicuous gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Lucy, 58th Regiment, by Lieutenant Hamilton and Second Lieutenant MacDonald, 92nd Highlanders, by Corporal Farmer, Army Hospital Corps, and by No. 1865, Private John Murray, 92nd Highlanders. I recommend Corporal Farmer to favourable consideration for the Victoria Cross, and Private Murray for Distinguished Service Medal.

Corporal Farmer showed a spirit of self-abnegation and an example of cool bravery which cannot be too highly commended. While the Boers closed with our troops near the wells, Corporal Farmer held a white flag over the wounded, and when the arm holding the flag was shot through, he called out that he had "another." He then raised the flag with the other arm and continued to do so until that also was pierced with a bullet.

I have, &c.,

EVELYN WOOD, Major-General,
Commanding Forces in Natal and Transvaal

Inclosure.

From Major Fraser, R.E., D.A.Q.M.G., to the General Officer Commanding, Natal.

SIR, *Newcastle, March 5, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, at 3.30 P.M. on the 26th February, I was ordered by General Colley to accompany him with a force he proposed to take to the top of the Majuba Height at 9.30 P.M.

This point commands the position of Laing's Nek (see map).

Orders were issued at 8 P.M. for the following to parade at 9.30 P.M. (at B, see sketch), viz.:—
3 companies 92nd Highlanders (Major Hay and 180 rifles.)

2 companies 3-60th (Captain Smith and 140 rifles.)

2 companies 58th (Captain Morris and 170 rifles.)

Naval Brigade (Commander Romilly and 64 rifles.)

The whole were ordered to have greatcoats, waterproof sheets, 3 days' rations, and 6 picks and 4 shovels per company.

I was ordered to lead column, and was furnished with two local guides. The night was bright, but there was no moon. Our line of advance is marked in yellow on the sketch.

We started at 10 P.M. in the following order—viz., 58th, 60th, 92nd, Naval Brigade.

The column halted near "D" at 11 P.M. Two companies 60th were detached, and left with orders to send some men to occupy the top of Imguela, and to cover the general movement. The column then moved northward through a defile as far as "E," where it gained the neck between Imguela and Majuba. The head halted at "X," and I was ordered to fetch a company of the 92nd to "Y," where the General posted it, with instructions to intrench. I reported, from Major Hay, that the rear company 92nd and Naval Brigade were missing, and was told to find them. I did so at "E," and brought them up to "X." At 1.30 A.M., column proceeded to the foot of the mountain, whence we ascended some way without difficulty. The guides were doubtful of the way, but we went straight up along a stone-covered ridge from "H" to (1). (See sketch of hill top). I reached (1) at 3.40 A.M., found hill unoccupied, and took steps to extend the 58th towards (2), to make way for the column. On the General's arrival immediately afterwards, Colonel Stewart and myself were sent down to hurry up the column. The men, heavily weighted as they were, had made extraordinary efforts to reach the top, and were extremely exhausted. On our return they were extended all round the brow, showing on the sky line. The Boers were entirely ignorant of our movements. General Colley forbade firing on some of them below us, but some shots were fired without orders at about 5.45 A.M. 16 men were posted at "H," and a few at (5). The General now organized the defence as follows:—

To the 92nd was assigned the whole brow from (6) by (5), round to between (4) and (3). One company extended, the other in reserve in rear of the ridge (7), (9). One company of the 58th was ordered to hold the brow from (3) by (2) to (1), the other company in reserve with the 92nd. The sailors extended from (1) to (10), keeping a small reserve with the others. The General thought the troops were too exhausted for any systematic entrenchment, but the extended men made cover of stones and turf, &c., and two wells were dug where shown.