

The Queen for Her Majesty's approbation. It is Her Majesty's command that no presentations shall be made at Levees, 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, March 7, 1885.*

**A** DESPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by the Secretary of State for War from General Lord Wolseley, G.C.B., G.C.M.G. :—

MY LORD, *Camp, Korti, February 9, 1885.*

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 4th instant I received a Despatch from the Officer Commanding at Gubat, of which I forward a copy herewith, informing me that Khartoum had without doubt been taken by the Mahdi's troops on the 26th ultimo. Lieutenant Stuart-Wortley's report, which is amongst the enclosures of this Despatch, describes the attempt made by Colonel Sir Charles Wilson to reach Khartoum for the purpose of communicating with General Gordon.

I have, &c.,

WOLSELEY, General.

The Right Honourable  
Marquis of Hartington, M.P.

*Inclosure No. 1.*

From the Officer Commanding Troops, Gubat,  
to the Chief of Staff, Korti.

*February 1, 1885.*

LIEUTENANT STUART - WORTLEY arrived here at 4 A.M. this morning with news of the fall of Khartoum.

On receipt of the above news, I have considered it advisable to act as follows :—

After consultation with Lord Charles Beresford, the steamer "Safia" started at 2 P.M. this day to endeavour to relieve Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, and the troops with him who are wrecked on the island below the cataract between 30 and 40 miles from this.

A convoy leaves here at 7 P.M. this evening with all baggage camels that are fit to march, and an escort of 400 men taken equally from Guards, Heavy, and Mounted Infantry Camel Regiments.

Each regiment takes 100 riding camels spare, with saddles, &c., in accordance with your instructions, dated Korti, 13-1-85.

All the wounded and sick from here who are fit to go are being sent back with the convoy—viz., 5 Officers, 55 men, and 6 natives; leaving 7 Officers, 35 men, and 2 natives still at this station.

All the wounded at Abu Klea fit to go across the desert are to proceed with the convoy to Gakdul.

The Medical Officer reports that all at Abu Klea can proceed with convoy except some three or four cases.

Directions have been given to Colonel the Hon. R. Talbot, who commands the convoy, to increase the garrison of Abu Klea by 100 men of his

escort, as the wells at that place are of such paramount importance, and the escort for the convoy may with safety be reduced to 300 from Abu Klea to Gakdul.

The 100 camels of the men left at Abu Klea are to be taken on to Gakdul.

Our position here is already very strong, and every endeavour is being made to increase its strength daily.

The men are healthy, and the wounded are doing well.

We have been able to negotiate and purchase a few head of cattle from the natives on the right bank of the river, who seemed inclined to be friendly, but I am afraid the recent news will put an end to this, and under the new circumstances we shall be unable to look to the country here for any supply except what can be taken by force.

We are able to feed the camels and horses from dhourra stalks, beans, &c., obtained on the island opposite this fort, and from the cultivated land up the river.

Up to the present the enemy at Matammeh has shown no inclination to take the offensive, nor to attempt to cut our line of communication; indeed, we may be said to have been in possession of the country round, except Matammeh itself, as will be seen by enclosed diary of events.

The force in Matammeh may be estimated at between 2,000 to 3,000 men, of which about 250 are horsemen, and a good number of riflemen, probably 400 to 600. There are certainly three guns, probably four; but report says that they are short of ammunition for the guns.

On the afternoon and evening of the 28th instant, there was a great firing of big guns and rifles in Matammeh, which, without doubt, denoted that they had heard of the news from Khartoum on that day. The enemy has shown no increased activity since the 28th instant, but the Mahdi will probably send a force to strengthen Matammeh, and every step is being taken to improve our position here.

I may mention that the second steamer, "Tewfikia," which is here is practically useless for offensive purposes, as she is not armour-plated.

Lord Cochrane conveys these Despatches.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Boscawen is on the sick list, suffering from a slight attack of fever.

(Signed) M. WILLSON, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Guards Camel Regiment,  
1-2-85. Commanding Troops, Gubat.

*Inclosure No. 2.*

**SUMMARY.**

The fall of Khartoum is without doubt. The fate of General Gordon is doubtful as reports are conflicting, but the general opinion is that he was killed; yet there is no preponderance of evidence one way or the other. He is either killed or besieged in the church at Khartoum.

The effect of the fall of Khartoum has been to decide the hesitations of the Shagiya to throw in their lot with the Mahdi. This renders the east bank of the Nile hostile. The fear of the English is great among the natives. General Earle's advance is awaited with anxiety by them, and some rumours of a victory by his troops are current. It was owing to the loyalty of Khasim-el-Mous Bey that the troops on the steamers did not go over to the enemy, they having lost all their families and property at Khartoum; they