

26th August, 1889.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty VICTORIA,
QUEEN of Great Britain and Ireland.

WE, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Local Board of the Urban District of Llangollen, in the county of Denbigh, as representing the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Llangollen, beg respectfully to tender to Your Majesty our most loyal and hearty welcome on this Your Majesty's second visit to the Vale of Llangollen, and we desire to record our profound gratitude to Almighty God that Your Majesty has been spared for so many years to adorn the Throne of the United Kingdom, and we sincerely pray that Your Majesty's Reign may be prolonged through many years of health, prosperity, and happiness.

J. C. Best, Chairman.
J. Parry Jones, Clerk.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer :—

"I RECEIVE with pleasure your loyal and dutiful Address on the occasion of My second visit to the Vale of Llangollen.

"I thank you sincerely for the kind words with which you have greeted My arrival, and I heartily pray for the welfare and prosperity of My faithful subjects who inhabit this town and neighbourhood."

(THE following Address was enclosed in an Album presented to Her Majesty containing photographic views of the locality.)

26th August, 1889.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty VICTORIA,
QUEEN of Great Britain and Ireland.

WE, the inhabitants of Corwen and neighbourhood, feel highly honoured in being permitted to offer You personally our heartfelt welcome on Your Majesty's visit to our Town, and ask Your Majesty's acceptance of this little gift as a token of the deep feeling of loyalty and devotion towards Your Crown and Person.

We gratefully recognize that during this long and glorious reign, through Your wisdom and devotion to duty, our individual liberties and freedom, to rich and poor alike, have been safely guarded.

We pray that the Almighty may continue in the future as He has done in the past to bless, protect, and keep you to reign over a free, happy, and contented people.

Signed on behalf of the inhabitants,
C. H. Wynn.
J. Lloyd Johns.
D. T. Cole.
J. O. Pugh.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer :—

"I THANK you sincerely, inhabitants of Corwen, for this pretty gift; it is very pretty indeed, and very kind of you."

War Office, September 6, 1889.

A DESPATCH, and its Enclosures, of which the following are copies, have been received by the Secretary of State for War, from the General Officer Commanding in Egypt :—

From Major-General the Honourable Sir J. C. Dormer, K.C.B., Commanding in Egypt, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War.

SIR, Cairo, August 17, 1889.
I HAVE the honour to forward the Despatch

(and enclosures) of Major-General Sir F. Grenfell, K.C.B., Sirdar, with account of the action fought by him near Toski on the 3rd instant.

It would be superfluous on my part to add any words of commendation, as I feel sure that the admirable manner in which the battle was fought, the strategical and tactical skill, as well as the ability shown by Sir F. Grenfell, and the bravery and gallant behaviour of his troops, must be fully appreciated after perusal of his despatch; but I trust I may be permitted to call attention to the good services rendered by the Officers who are specially mentioned by the Sirdar, and particularly to those of Lieutenant-Colonel Wodehouse, Royal Artillery, who engaged the forces of Nejumi, and never lost touch of the enemy from the time when he crossed our frontier, until the action of August 3, 1889.

I have, &c.,
J. C. DORMER, Major-General,
Commanding in Egypt.

From Major-General Sir F. Grenfell, K.C.B., A.D.C., Commanding the Nile Field Force, to Major-General the Hon. Sir J. C. Dormer, K.C.B., Commanding in Egypt.

SIR, Toski, August 4, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to forward a report on the action which was fought near Toski on August 3rd.

From information obtained by a reconnaissance under Lieutenant Beech, 21st Hussars (E.A.), on the 2nd instant, I ordered a reconnaissance of all mounted troops, as per margin,* under the command of Colonel Kitchener, to leave Toski on the early morning of the 3rd instant. I accompanied this reconnaissance with my Staff.

The object was to show a force in the enemy's front, cut off stragglers, obtain information, and see if Nejumi's camp still remained in the same place.

On getting near the Dervish position some camel-men were captured, who stated that Nejumi was just leaving on his northward march. Shortly afterwards the enemy was seen on the move, and our reconnaissance having been sighted, their riflemen were pushed to the front and opened fire on the Cavalry.

I ordered Colonel Kitchener to withdraw the Cavalry behind a small hill half a mile to the north of the enemy's camp, and to line a ridge with the dismounted Camel Corps.

A second position was then taken up on the chance of drawing the enemy north. This was eventually relinquished, and the force fell back on a strong position about 900 yards further north.

The enemy being reported as coming on in force, I sent in to Toski for the 1st Infantry Brigade, consisting of the 9th, 10th, and 13th Soudanese Battalions (strength as per margin),† and two guns of Horse Artillery.

A steady fire from our dismounted Cavalry and Camel Corps was kept up on the Dervish skirmishers, who were gradually being reinforced.

At 8.30 A.M. the Dervish spearmen appeared in strength from two ravines directly north of their camp, and with numerous banners formed a dense second line directly behind their skirmishing riflemen. They advanced rapidly, and a farther retirement became necessary, our

* Detachment 20th Hussars, Egyptian Cavalry, Camel Corps.

† 53 Officers, 1,428 N.C.O. and men.