

routes (towards Torsamatz and Daradar respectively), but returned without success in the evening. The people and cattle had in reality had many hours' start. An extra fine of Rs. 500 was placed on the village for having harboured them, and the inhabitants were told that their tower should be blown up if the fine were not paid by noon on the following day.

On the 7th February security for the amount of the fine was given before noon, when the return march of the column began. No Shekhan towers, therefore, were destroyed.

The Second Column reached Shahu Khel on the 8th, and Hangu on the following day.

VII. On the 9th Colonel Brownlow marched from Shahu Khel to Barmarai with—

Two guns of No. 3 (Peshawar) Mountain Battery.

No. 5 Company Bengal Sappers and Miners.

22nd (Punjab) Bengal Infantry (from Kohat).

23rd Bengal Infantry (Pioneers).

3rd Sikh Infantry.

On the 10th he crossed the Zara Pass (4,450 feet above the sea), and encamped in the Mastura Valley, near the village of Zara, whose inhabitants belong to the Sipah section, and were friendly. The sappers and pioneers worked hard at the road all day, but snow fell from noon until dark, and mules could with difficulty keep their footing on the north slope, where the path soon became a slide.

The march from Barmarai had begun at 11.30 A.M., and although the entire distance was but five miles, and although every available man was placed on baggage guard, the last of the baggage did not reach Zara until 5 A.M. next day (11th), the rear guard with commissariat stores arriving at 1.30 P.M.

Early in the morning of the 10th two reconnoitring parties, consisting of three and two companies of infantry, had been sent across the Zara Pass with orders to go as far as possible into the eastern and western defiles respectively from Zara, —the first leading to the Bazoti settlements and the Ublan Pass, the latter to the Sturi Khel settlements.

The reconnaissance was in each case unopposed, and information of value was obtained.

The Sturi Khel had, just before the column crossed the pass into their country, given security for the payment of the fine imposed on them, so that no punitive measures were necessary in respect of that section. It was all the same necessary to visit their valley, and accordingly a detachment was marched as far as the western limit of Sturi Khel territory. The valley was all under snow, and the people were in their villages.

VIII. Before leaving Gwada with the Second Column, I had ordered the First Column to march on the 5th February for Darband via Shahu Khel, leaving a garrison at Gwada of two guns of No. 4 (Hazara) Mountain Battery and the 1st Punjab Infantry, under Colonel Howell, in an entrenched camp. At Darband Colonel Bruce was to have the Samana Range between Tsalai and Mastan thoroughly examined and reported on. He was at the same time to furnish covering parties for road-makers employed by the Executive Engineer on the latter's requisition. Similarly, Colonel Turner on reaching Hangu from the Shekhan country was ordered to have the range from Lakka to Tsalai examined and reported on, and he also was to furnish covering parties on the Executive Engineer's requisition. All this was done. The Samana from Lakka to Mastan has been

thoroughly examined, and the communications have already been improved by civil labour.

IX. On the 16th February I moved field force head-quarters to Kohat.

X. On the 18th the 29th Bengal Infantry was ordered to march across the Samana to Gwada, and, with the exception of the troops at that place, the field force was recalled to Kohat, and finally broken up on the 1st March.

XI. I trust that the valuable work of Major Leigh, my political adviser, may be favourably regarded by the Government of India, and that the services of his assistants may also be recognized.

XII. Commanders and Staff Officers did their work well in every respect, and I have the honour to commend to the favourable notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India the following officers:—

1. Major C. C. Egerton, Bengal Staff Corps, Assistant Adjutant-General.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Turner, Bengal Staff Corps, commanding the second column.

3. Colonel A. McC. Bruce, Bengal Infantry, commanding the first column.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel C. C. Brownlow, Bengal Staff Corps, commanding the third column.

5. Brigadier-Surgeon R. Harvey, M.D., Indian Medical Service, Principal Medical Officer.

No. 232-M-M—"Field Operations—Miranzai,"—dated 22nd June, 1891.

From Major-General W. Galbraith, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a despatch from Brigadier-General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., C.S.I., describing the operations of the Miranzai Field Force under his command in April and May, 1891.

2. As recently as last February the Orakzais had pledged themselves to maintain peace on the border, but on the 4th April they treacherously attacked some guards of the 29th Bengal Infantry employed in covering working parties.

3. Orders were at once issued for the concentration of a punitive force at Kohat, and General Lockhart, who was with the Reserve Brigade of the Hazara Field Force, was directed to assume command.

4. Arriving at Kohat on the 7th April he completed his preparations with the greatest expedition, and on the 17th and 18th attacked and drove the enemy with loss from strongly held positions on the Samana Range, following up his advantage with a series of successful actions, which speedily reduced the hostile tribes to submission.

5. The Commander-in-Chief feels that he cannot speak too highly of the energy and skill displayed by General Lockhart, and the endurance and gallantry of the troops under his command. Not only was immediate opposition crushed by the vigour and celerity of the movements of the force, but a formidable combination of the most powerful frontier tribes was effectually checked, and the conduct of operations has left an impression which His Excellency feels confident will tend to the establishment of security and friendly relations on the Miranzai border.

6. A list of officers recommended for special reward will be submitted separately.