

Any Gentleman who under these circumstances should desire to be presented to The Queen will observe the same regulations as are in force for Her Majesty's Levees.

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at two o'clock.

LATHOM,

Lord Chamberlain.

India Office, February 23, 1898.

THE following General Order, dated 21st January, 1898, publishing a Despatch from General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., regarding the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from the 18th to the 31st October, 1897, has been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 21st January, 1898.

FIELD OPERATIONS.—TIRAH.

No. 58.—THE Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, submitting a Despatch from General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., describing the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from the 18th to the 31st October, 1897.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council concurs with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his appreciation of the ability and judgment shown by General Sir William Lockhart in the conduct of the operations recorded in his Despatch, and also of the gallant and soldierly behaviour of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men under his command.

His Excellency in Council, while deeply regretting the loss of life which occurred in the attack on the heights of Dargai on the 20th October, 1897, fully shares in the admiration expressed by the Commander-in-Chief of the gallantry displayed by both officers and men on that occasion.

In the assaults on the Sampagha and Arhanga Passes, the skilful dispositions of the General Commanding and the excellent qualities displayed by the troops enabled these strong positions to be won with comparatively little loss.

From Major-General G. de C. Morton, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.—(No. 120-F, dated Fort William, the 10th January, 1898).

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying Despatch from General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., describing the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force from the 18th to the 31st October, 1897.

2. The general object of the expedition was to exact reparation for the unprovoked aggression of the Afridi and Orakzai tribes on the Peshawar and Kohat Borders, in attacking our frontier posts, and for the damage to life and property which had thus been inflicted on British subjects and on those in the British service. The Despatch now submitted shows the measures which were taken by General Sir William Lockhart to carry out the orders of the Government of India and to enter Tirah, a country which until now has never been invaded by a British force.

3. The incidents which occurred between the 18th and 20th October, and which immediately preceded the concentration of both Divisions of

the force at Khangarbur, in the Khanki valley, are detailed in the Despatch. With regard to paragraph 21 thereof, the Commander-in-Chief agrees with Sir William Lockhart that a flanking demonstration combined with a frontal attack would in all probability have enabled the Dargai heights to have been taken at less loss of life, but he is confident that the Government of India will share his admiration of the distinguished gallantry and the marked devotion to duty evinced by all ranks in assailing that difficult position, defended as it was by a resolute and well-armed enemy.

4. The measures subsequently taken by Sir William Lockhart to force the Sampagha and Arhanga Passes, where it had been anticipated the greatest resistance would be met, were thoroughly successful, and to their skilful conception and the employment of concentrated artillery fire may be ascribed the small loss of the life that characterised both operations.

5. His Excellency cordially endorses the remarks which the General Officer Commanding the Force makes regarding the behaviour of the troops engaged in these operations, and he desires to recommend for the favourable consideration of Government the distinguished services of General Sir William Lockhart, and of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men mentioned by him in the Despatch.

From General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., Commanding the Tirah Expeditionary Force, to the Adjutant-General in India.—(No. 524-T-C, dated Headquarters, Tirah Expeditionary Force, Camp Dwatoi, the 9th December, 1897).

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed in your letter No. 2235-F, dated the 20th November, 1897, I have the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, the following account of the operations of the force under my command from the 18th to the 31st October, 1897.

2. On October 16th, the 2nd Division of the Main Column had concentrated at Shinaori, with the exception of the troops occupying the Samana ridge near Forts Lockhart and Gulistan;* the 1st Division was expected to assemble at the same place on the 19th; and I consequently issued orders for the march of the Main Column on the 20th and following days from Shinaori to Karappa, each corps being directed to leave behind its tents and heavy baggage under charge of a regimental guard. Meanwhile the road from the Chagru Kotal towards Karappa was being improved by military and hired labour, working under the protection of covering parties. It was reported, however, that the troops and labourers thus employed were being so molested by the enemy's sharpshooters who occupied the heights to the west of the Chagru defile, especially by those living in a small village called Dargai, about 1,800 yards to the left of the road shortly after it crosses the crest of the Pass, that the improvement of the road could not be continued until the heights had been cleared; while two days' work was said to be necessary to render the road sufficiently good for the passage of laden transport animals. It was further reported that no water was obtainable in the immediate vicinity of Dargai, the inhabitants getting water from the valley below to the west, where there were several rich Alikhel villages and a number of cattle.

3. I therefore determined to attack and

* No. 9 Mountain Battery, R.A.; 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment; 86th Sikhs.