

**RECOLLECTIONS OF THE FIRST
CAMPAIGN WEST OF THE INDUS, AND
OF THE SUBSEQUENT OPERATIONS OF
THE CANDAHAR FORCE, UNDER
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR W. NOTT, G. C. B**

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BENGAL OFFICER

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BY A BENGAL OFFICER.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages having been penned from recollection, inaccuracies may appear ; but it is believed they contain a tolerably correct, though imperfect account of the first campaign in Afghanistan, and of the subsequent operations of the Candahar force, under Major-General Sir William Nott.

The brevity of the work will account for the omission of various occurrences, more especially in that portion of it which treats of the victorious march of the British through Afghanistan, under the command of His Excellency Sir John Keane ; many events and anecdotes are, however, recorded of which no mention has yet been made ; the reader will, therefore, find new matter to repay him for the trouble of perusal, and it is hoped the Narrative will not be found totally devoid of interest.

The exploits of individuals have been prominently noticed, in justice to many who have received no reward ; and, whatever motives may have led to the omission of their names in the public despatches, they may rest assured their services will ever be acknowledged by those who witnessed their gallantry in the field.

The first part of this hurried sketch was committed to writing immediately after the operations of the Army of the Indus, in 1839 ; but, being intended as a private journal, was laid aside, until subsequent events induced the writer to continue his notes. The proceedings of the Candahar force having hitherto been only partially detailed, the present review of them may afford amusement to those who feel an interest in the recent eventful period of Indian history.

The writer will offer no apology for his reminiscences connected with a series of important operations, in which disasters and successes were so strongly blended. His object is "nothing to extenuate, nor set down aught in malice;" but to give a simple and unvarnished account of proceedings in which he was an humble though not unobservant actor.

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RECOLLECTIONS,

&c. &c.

PART FIRST.

THE Supreme Government of India having determined on the restoration of His Majesty Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk to the throne of Cabul, orders were given in July, 1838, for the concentration of a force on the north-western frontier of India for the purpose of carrying into effect the contemplated object. In the month of September the several corps destined for this service were in motion towards the general rendezvous, Ferozepore, where the "Army of the Indus," (a designation given it by the *then* Commander-in-Chief, Sir Henry Fane,) was to be embodied previous to its march for the scene of operations.

By the end of November the whole of the corps d'armée was assembled at Ferozepore, where

the necessary preparations were made for the ensuing campaign. The troops were inspected in presence of the Governor-General, Lord Auckland, and His Highness Maharajah Runjeet Sing, who, as parties to the treaty entered into to restore Shah Soojah, thus publicly evinced their participation in the projected measure.

Intelligence was received at this time of the retreat of the Persians from Herat, which caused a reduction of the force intended for service in Afghanistan. The second division, consisting of two brigades of infantry, a large proportion of artillery, and a regiment of irregular cavalry, was accordingly ordered to remain at Ferozepore as a "reserve," under the command of Major-General Duncan, of the Bengal army.

Circumstances at the same time induced His Excellency Sir Henry Fane to resign the command of the "Army of the Indus;" and Sir John Keane, Commander-in-Chief at Bombay, was appointed his successor.

A considerable force had been directed to move,

* The parties to the "Tripartite Treaty" were the Governor-General of India, Maharajah Runjeet Sing, and His Majesty Shah Soojah; but the latter personage, owing it was said, to some scruples of rank, did not attend on this occasion.