

**THE LIFE AND CAREER OF MAJOR
SIR LOUIS CAVAGNARI, C. S. I., K.
C. B., BRITISH ENVOY AT CABUL,
TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF OUTLINE
OF THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR**

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The life and career of Major Sir Louis Cavagnari, C. S. I., K. C. B., British envoy at Cabul, together with a brief outline of the second Afghan war by Kally Prosono Dey

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KALLY PROSONO DEY

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UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

THE
LIFE AND CAREER

OF

MAJOR SIR LOUIS CAVAGNARI, C.S.I., K.C.B.,

BRITISH ENVOY AT CABUL,

TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF OUTLINE

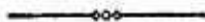
OF THE

SECOND AFGHAN WAR.

COMPILED BY

KALLY PROSONO DEY.

Kaliprasanna Dey



Calcutta:

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1881.

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THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE

Respectfully Dedicated to His Excellency

SIR SALAR JUNG, BAHADOOR, G. C. S. I.,

Whose Worth as a Statesman and Philanthropist,

IS WELL-KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA ;

AND

WHOSE PATRIOTISM TO INDIA,

AND

DEVOTION TO THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT,

Have on many Occasions been Exhibited.

P R E F A C E .

WHEN the terrible news of the massacre of the British Embassy at Cabul was flashed through the country, there was a feeling of universal grief throughout India. Whatever may have been the differences of opinion in men's minds about the policy of the Afghan war, those differences were forgotten in the general lamentation for the loss of the lives of those gallant British officers, who, in the performance of their duty, fell victims to the treachery of a fanatical nation, destitute of all sense of truth and honor. Of the three brave officers who, together with their small escort of fifty men, were so treacherously and ruthlessly butchered by the Afghans, SIR LOUIS CAVAGNARI was the Chief, and it is my purpose to give in these pages a brief sketch of the life and career of that distinguished officer. In placing this book before the public, I need scarcely say, I claim no higher title than that of a compiler, as almost all my materials have been collected from the public prints of the day.

KALLY PROSONO DEY.

16th July, 1880.

NOTE TO PREFACE.

I REGRET very much, that this short Biography has been so long delayed, by circumstances over which I had no control. Domestic bereavement, and other causes, have conspired to prevent its appearance at as early a period as I could have wished.

My best thanks are due to Lady Cavagnari, who has kindly supplied me with information which, otherwise, I could not easily, if at all, have obtained, and who has taken a deep interest in this little volume.

The following letter, in answer to enquiries made of Madame Cavagnari will interest the reader :—

THE PRECINCTS,

ROCHESTER,

Kent England, Dec. 11th 1879.

SIR,

I received your letter by last mail enclosing one addressed to Madame Cavagnari, which I forwarded to her. She has returned it to me, and begs me to answer the questions you ask in it, which being of a similar character to those you ask of me, my letter will be sufficient.

Major Sir Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari, K.C.B., C.S.I., was born at Stenay, Department of the Meuse, France, on the 4th of July, 1841. His Father the Count, Major Adolph Cavagnari served in the French Army under the Emperor Napoleon, and afterwards became equerry to Prince Lucien Bonaparte. He was descended from the ancient Kallian family of Panea, and married Caroline, third daughter of Mr. Hugh Lyons Montgomery of Laurenstown Co Down, Ireland.

In 1851, Major Sir Louis Cavagnari entered Christ's Hospital, where he was educated; and after studying there for six years, he passed the necessary examinations at Addiscombe; and passed direct as a Cadet into the service of the Honourable East Indian Company, in April 1858, and joined the 1st Bengal Fusiliers (now 101 Bengal Fusiliers) served with that Regiment through the Oude Campaign of 1858 (Indian Mutiny Medal) appointed to the Staff Corps in July 1861, and gazetted an Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab. He held political charge of the Kohat District from April 1866 to

6th May 1877, when he was appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Peshawar; and served as Chief Political Officer in the following Hill expeditions.

1. Bizote expedition and capture of Gara, February, 1869.
2. Expedition against Kabul Khel Waziris, April, 1869.
3. Blockade of Kohat Pass, Afridis, 1875-1877.
4. Jawaki Expedition, 1877-78.
5. Sapri Expedition, February, 1878.
6. Shakote Expedition, March, 1878.
7. Utonaukbel Expedition, March, 1878.

In September, 1878, he was appointed to accompany Sir Neville Chamberlain's Mission to Kohat, &c., &c.

I hope these details may be of use to you; and that your work may be a success. Sir L. Cavagnari married in November, 1871, Mercy Emma, second daughter of Henry Graves, Esq., M. B., F. R. S., of Cookstown Co., Tyrone, Ireland.

Your faithfully,

MERCY EMMA CAVAGNARI.

I take the present opportunity of thanking the Government of India, and the following gentlemen:—

The late lamented Sir George Pomeroy Colley, K.C.B., Captain Sawyer, Assistant Secretary in the Military Department, Nawab Abdul Luttif Khan, Bahadoor, Baboo A. T. Banerjee, Baboo Debendra Dutt, and others I might name, without whose encouragement and assistance, this brief record of a very noble life, would not have been undertaken and completed.

KALLY PROSONO DEY.

NO. 32, KALLY DASS SINGHEE'S LANE,

Calcutta, 18th August, 1881.

MAJOR SIR LOUIS CAVAGNARI, K.C.B., C.S.I.

Major Sir Pierre Louis Napoleon Cavagnari, K.C.B., C.S.I., was born at Stenay, Department of the Meuse, France, on the 4th of July, 1841. His grand-father was Private Secretary to Napoleon the First, his grand-mother was a French lady. His father, General Adolphe Cavagnari served in the French Army under the Emperor Napoleon, and afterwards became equerry to Prince Luciene Bonaparte. General Adolphe Cavagnari married Caroline, the third daughter of Mr. Hugh Lyons Montgomery, of Laurenstown, county Down, Ireland, and Louis Cavagnari was the issue of this match. In 1851, at the age of ten, Louis Cavagnari entered Christ's Hospital, London, and, after studying there for six years, he passed the necessary examinations at Addiscombe and became a direct cadet of the Honorable East India Company in April 1858. He arrived in India on 12th July 1858, and joined the 1st Bengal Fusiliers.

It was a terrible time for India then. The great sepoy mutiny was raging in all its fury, and the British Empire in the East was shaken to its foundations. Thus before he was out of his teens, Louis Cavagnari had to experience all the untold hardship of a soldier's