

No. 1391, dated 13th November 1868.

From—COL. R. PHAYRE, C. B., Political Superintendent, Frontier Upper Sind.

To—COL. SIR W. L. MEREWETHER, K. C. S. I. and C. B., Commissioner in Sind, on tour
viâ Hydrabad.

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you that I have just received information from His Highness the Khan of Khelat, to the effect that Sirdar Shums-ood-deen Khan, one of the Ex-Ameer Azeem Khan's Commanders, arrived at Khelat a few days ago with a retinue of 15 sowars.

2. The Sirdar claimed the hospitality of the Khan for the present winter, *viz.*, up to the middle or end of March next.

3. He presented to His Highness a letter of recommendation from Sirdar Shere Ali Khan, the Governor of Candahar, who wrote from Cabul to the following purport:—

“My relative, Shums-ood-deen Khan, has determined, of his own pleasure, to reside on the frontier of Afghanistan for the present. It was not the pleasure of the Ameer Shere Ali Khan that he should go far, but he went of his own will. Your house and my house are one; I need not, therefore, tell you to receive Shums-ood-deen Khan with honor. I hope to reach Candahar on the 15th of this month, when I will write again.”

4. His Highness the Khan informs me that, in consequence of this recommendation, he received Sirdar Shums-ood-deen Khan hospitably, and informed him that, with regard to his stay at Khelat, he would communicate with me.

5. The Khan describes Shums-ood-deen as a good man, that he is a relative of both the Ameer Shere Ali Khan and of the Governor of Candahar, and expresses the hope that there will be no objection on the part of Government to his remaining where he is for the period stated. His Highness requested me to reply by return messenger.

6. I did so, informing His Highness that, under the circumstances, he had acted in accordance with the wishes of the British Government in receiving the Sirdar hospitably, and that I would immediately ascertain the wishes of Government as to the duration of his stay at Khelat.

7. Paragraph 7 of the Cabul Moonshee's diary dated 28th September 1868 refers to the case of Shums-ood-deen Khan, and partly corroborates this account with respect to the Ameer of Cabul's feeling of clemency towards him. My own news-writer at Candahar, however, informed me, long previously, that Shums-ood-deen Khan had been fined Rupees 50,000 by the Ameer.