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From A. Brandreth Esquire
Off^r Secretary to Chief Commissioner

To G. F. Edmoustone Esquire
Secretary to Government of India
Foreign Department. Calcutta.

Dated Lahore 3^d October 1857.

Polit^l Departt^t Sir.
Secret

Since my last despatch^{N^o 60} which brought down the narrative of events to the 21st Ultimo, the tranquillity which we had hitherto enjoyed has been somewhat disturbed. Delhie was successfully assaulted on the 11th Ultimo, and on the 20th was completely in our possession, and the Mutineers in full retreat.

2. On the 11th Ultimo, the pastoral and predatory clans of Mahomedans, who occupy the extensive wastes, south of Goo-gaira and about 80 miles from Lahore, which stretch from the right bank of the

Sattlej across the Doab, and for some 12 or 15 miles beyond the Ravee, broke out. These clans can muster some 20 to 30,000 men, and occupy a tract of country in the Goozaira District of full 40 to 50 miles in breadth, and from 70 to 80 in length. They have Villages, and generally reside in temporary grass huts, which are constructed in such localities as afford the best pasturage and water for their numerous herds of cattle. They are known under the denomination of Khurruls, Khattias, Wattooos, Fatwanas and other names, and are of Jat lineage.

3.^d The insurgents appear to have broken out almost simultaneously. They had few arms; those which they did possess, had probably been obtained from the Bha-wulpoor Territory and Ferozpoor District, where the people had not been disarmed. They surprised the scattered police posts in the wastes, and along the Multan Road, disarmed the Police; intercepted the postal communications; and levied contributions from

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from the small Towns of Huruppa and
Kote Humalia.

4th The information only reached
Sahore on the evening of the 16th, and within
4 hours afterwards, 200 of the new Regiment
of Sikh Horse were dispatched to Gogaira.
Before day light, 1 Company of European
Infantry, 3 Horse Artillery Guns and 150 of
the Military Police, all the force that could
be spared from Sahore, followed. They
reached Gogaira on the third morning,
just in time to save the Station which
was attacked at noon the same day. The
Insurgents were repulsed, and had they
been vigorously pursued, would have suf-
fered much. As it was they lost some
men; and in a subsequent affair with the
Khurruls, the Chief, Ahmed Khan, one of
his sons and another leader, were killed.
We lost a Rissaldar and 14 men of the
Mounted police. Since this affair, the
Khurruls have, to a considerable extent,
dispersed; and the insurrection might
perha

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perhaps have subsided, as quickly as it had risen, but for an unfortunate accident. Mr L. Berkeley, the Extra Assistant of Gooqaira, at the head of 150 new Levies and a Company of the Military Police, after defeating a considerable body of the Akhais, on which occasion he killed some 30 of them, was drawn into an ambuscade.

In this affair Mr Berkeley and 26, out of about 140, of the Military Police, were killed. This success gave an impulse to the insurrection. Major C. Chamberlain who had advanced from Multan at the head of 180 Sowars of the 1st Irregular Cavalry, was attacked near Hurrappa by several thousand Insurgents; and after a sharp skirmish in which he killed some 30 of the enemy, and lost 5 of his own men, was forced to take refuge in the Serai at Chechawutnee. Here he was besieged three days, and at last relieved by the advance of the Force from Gooqaira. Since this, there have been

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a few skirmishes with the Insurgents, in one of which Major Voyle, the Deputy Commissioner of Multan, and Captain Tronson, the Officer Commanding the Military Police at Multan, who had marched up the right bank of the Sutledge, inflicted a severe defeat on a large body of the insurgents who attacked them.

5th The insurgents have now retired with their Cattle into the densest parts of the Jungle, where it is not very easy or safe to attack them, without a larger body of disciplined Infantry than we can bring into the field; hampered as we are, with such large numbers of disarmed Hindoo Stance Soldiers. The Chief Commissioner has however, brought all the available means within his power to bear. Now that Delhie has fallen, he considers we may employ the Irregular Cavalry. The 1st under Major Crawford Chamberlain in disarming the two Corps of Native

Infantry, the 62^d and 69th, and subsequently
in aiding to guard them, have already per-
formed excellent service. Some of the Native
Officers also distinguished themselves in pro-
curing evidence, which led to the conviction
of certain Mutineers of the 69th A.S. But
the Regiment has lately received a shock, by
the death of Bishanut Alli, a Risaldar of
great reputation and influence, who was shot
near Delhie by Lieutt Hodson. The Native
Officers and men of the Corps believe, that he
was killed unjustly. The exact circumstances
of this man's death are not known to the
Chief Commissioner; but so far as he has heard,
it is decidedly his impression, that the Ris-
saldar, who was on leave, had joined the
Mutineers at Delhie. The Regiment has
however remained ^{firm} so far as can be judged,
and a large party of them are now em-
ployed against the Insurgents. Major
Chamberlain has been joined by 2 Guns and
250 Punjab Infantry from Multan, and is
keeping

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keeping open the communication, and observing the Country south of Huruppa. Lieut Colonel Paton of the Quarter Master General's Department with some 600 Infantry & Cavalry and 3 Guns is operating between Huruppa and Gogaira, a distance of upwards of 30 miles. Major Jackson and Captain Throuson with 150 Sowars of the 2^d Irregular Cavalry and a Company of devies are to scour the right bank of the Sutlej; while Capt^{ns} Cureton & Hockin, with about an equal force, perform the same service on the right side of the Ravee.

* 6th The insurrection is not dangerous, nor even formidable, but very troublesome. The direct and chief line of communication with Multan and Bombay was interrupted, and for 15 days actually closed. It is now open, but the line is infested by the Insurgents. Strong Military posts have been established at intervals, and precautions taken for the security of the road. A postal communication has also been opened down

the left bank of the Sublej between Ferosepoor
and Shawulpoor.

7th The cause of this insurrection has
not been yet discovered. It is variously
attributed to machinations of an adjacent
Chief; to emissaries from Delhie; to the
return to their homes of one or two escaped
convicts from the Agra jail, who have spread
an account of the disorganization in the
N.W. Provinces. All these circumstances
may perhaps have had an influence on these
clans. The denuded state of the Country;
the efflux of the European and Punjabi
Troops; and the disarming of the Hindo-
stane Regiments may, and doubtless had
an influence, on the minds of the people.
The Chief Commissioner. has not yet been
able to ascertain the precise causes of the
disturbance. No doubt however, fanaticism,
the love of plunder; the desire of change;
have all had an effect. The very people
who have benefited by our rule, are not always
proof

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proof against such temptations; while those whose passions have been curbed, and whose crimes have been punished, are eager for revenge.

8th Besides this insurrection, the only other event of importance, is the mutiny in the 9th Irregular Cavalry. This Regiment, which until a late date bore a distinguished character, was one of the Corps selected by the late Commander in Chief for service before Delhi. It marched down to Delhi early after the outbreak, and is believed to have furnished part of the escort for the Siege Train from Phillour. At Delhi the Corps was tampered with, and many of its Hindostanees deserted, and joined the Mutineers. At last, it was ordered away, and returned via Amballa, Loodhiauanah and Ferozepoor to the Punjab. From thence, at the suggestion of the Chief Commissioner, the Regiment was ordered to Bunnoo. It resumed its march, and had arrived opposite Esa Akhail on the Indus. From thence

the passage not being practicable, it marched for Malabagh. On the way, a number of the men mutinied, and attempted to murder their Officers Lieutenants Campbell and Drummond. Copy of the reports of the former Officer, ^{and Capt. Hooker} will be found among the annexures.

4 9th The Mutineers appear to have been 30 in number, all Punjabees, residents of the Cis Sutlej Territory. What makes the affair more unaccountable is that the Mutineers were headed by Vazeer Khan, the oldest and most distinguished Rissaldar in the Regiment. This Officer was a Sirdar Bahadur of the highest rank. He saved Lieut Col Christie's life in Afghanistan, under circumstances, when it was almost certain he must lose his own. In the retreat of the Bengal and Bombay Cavalry, in an action in which they had suffered severely, Lieut Col Christie was dismounted and about to be overtaken by the Afghans in hot pursuit. In this dilemma, Vazeer Khan

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Khan dismounted, and gave his horse to his
Commanding Officer of his own accord,
and thus remained behind to meet what
appeared certain death. By Brigadier Genl
Chamberlain's account, then an Officer in
the 9th Irregulars, from whose mouth
the Chief Commissioner heard the story,
our Troops who advanced and checked
the Afghans, found Vutcer Khan and a
few dismounted Troopers, making their
way sword in hand, towards the British
Camp.

10. This Vutcer Khan and his
party, were overtaken opposite Jhung on
the right bank of the Jhelum, by a party
of the 17th Irregulars under Lieut Hochin,
and a Detachment of the mounted Levies
from Derah Ishmael Khan & Shalipoor
under Mess^{rs} Cowan and Thompson,
the two Cetera Assistants, and Ensign
Chalmers of the 39th A. S. a Volunteer,
when the Rissaldar and 17 of his men
were all slain. It is lamentable

to think, that so noble a Soldier has met with so sad a fate, and still more sad to know, that he appears to have brought it on himself. The Mutineers fought desperately. Mr Thompson who is said to have behaved most gallantly, besides other wounds, lost his left hand from a sword cut; and Ensign Chalmer also, was severely wounded in two places. Aliverdi Khan, the Rissaldar of the 17th, and several of his men, have been either killed or wounded.

From Genl. A. Wilson 11.

d/ 26th Sept 1857.

To do do
d/ 29th Sept 1857

19 Telegrams

Copies of various correspondence and Telegrams connected with affairs before Delpie are herewith forwarded. (The Chief Commissioner has advocated the occupation of the Palace as a Depot for our sick and wounded, and for the munitions of War. He considers that we cannot safely hold the Town with those precautions which are consonant to military rules, without neglecting more important objects,

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objects, viz the pursuit of the Mutineers; the prevention of the spread of disaffection; the disarming the population; and the reorganization of the Civil administration.

All these important measures, are only to be accomplished by the use of Moveable Columns. And while these means are of so vital importance to the vindication of our Supremacy, they will also, it must be remembered, conduce materially to the security of the Troops themselves. It will be satisfactory to Government to know, that the pursuit of at least one body of Mutineers, though somewhat delayed, was not ineffectual. They were overtaken at Boolund Shahr on the 28th Ultimo, about 40 miles from Delhie, and defeated with some loss.

12. The Chief Commissioner does not know whether an European Regiment will be spared from Delhie for the Punjab or not. He is most unwilling to press his request for one. He perceives that European

Troops

Troops can ill be spared from Delhie, while they are much wanted in the Punjab.

1 st Fus ^{ts} 200	The 5 Regiments at Delhie probably can-
2 ^d do 300	not turn out 1600 effective men. As the
Att's 52 ^d Reg ^t . 350	cold weather approaches, some men will
60 th Rifles . . . 350	become fit for service, but no great
Att's 67 th Reg ^t . <u>No return</u>	number can be calculated on. Out
	of the 6 Regiments of European Infantry
	now in the Punjab, 3 are at Peshawur, and
	by the last return could only muster 1000
* Att's 26 th . . . 530	effective men. The other 3 are distributed
" 81 st 750	over the rest of the Country and probably
Born. Fus ^{ts} . . . 750	muster about 2300 effective men.
38 th Att's 8 th . . . 200	
	<u>2250</u>

Brigadier General Cotton, is most anxious to obtain a fresh Regiment, in the place of one of his sickly ones at Peshawur. The Chief Commissioner has suggested to Genl Gowan that Att's 81st move by Detachments to Peshawur, and be in like manner replaced on this side the Indus by Att's 87th: General Gowan however demurs. This is only mentioned to shew the difficulties of our position.

13. By a return which the Commissioner in Sindh has kindly furnished, the Chief Commissioner perceives that only 2200 European Troops are destined for Kurrahee. These sailed in July from England, and as none started before the 14th and most of them later, few of them will probably arrive before the end of this month. No reinforcements from this source can reach Multan before the end of November, nor Lahore before the 20th of December. Six weeks more would elapse before they could reach Peshawar. The Chief Commissioner therefore earnestly hopes that, if practicable, even one strong Regiment be sent to Kurrahee and pushed up the Indus as soon as possible. He finds that several Regiments have been sent to Ceylon & Madras, there to receive further orders. Some of these Troops were coming out in Steam Vessels, and have perhaps arrived by this time. A small part of them would

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be a Godsend to us. It is an immense
temptation, a severe trial, on our allies,
and subjects, that month after month
elapses, and not a solitary reinforcement
reaches the Punjab. The emissaries along
a border of 800 miles; the different castes
which we have conquered and subjugated,
within the last 11 years; the very soldiers
we have been obliged to raise; cannot
fail to see our weakness, and their strength.
If any man had told the Chief Com-
missioner a year ago, that we could hold
the Punjab with 5 or 6,000 European Sol-
diers and the aid which the Punjabees them-
selves afford, and overawe nearly 20,000 Hindu
stave soldiers, he would have declared
that man to be a visionary. But such
is really the case. How long this can
last, it is impossible to say. But that
aid is highly desirable, cannot be de-
nied. The Chief Commissioner can only
hope, that it will be in the power of the
Supreme

Supreme Government to afford it soon.
11th. The Chief Commissioner cannot close this despatch without again adverting to the loss of Brigadier General Nicholson. That noble soldier was mortally wounded on the 11th of September on the 23rd of September. He was an Officer of the highest merit; and his services since the mutiny broke out, have not been surpassed by those of any other Officer in this part of India. At a time like this, his loss is a public misfortune.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obed^t Servant

Arthur B. B. B.

Off^r Secretary

Salore
The 3rd Oct 1857.