

RECOLLECTIONS
OF
A HIGHLAND SUBALTERN

During the Campaigns of the 93rd Highlanders
in India, under Colin Campbell, Lord Clyde,
in 1857, 1858 and 1859

BY
LIEUT.-COLONEL W. GORDON-ALEXANDER
LATE 93RD HIGHLANDERS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLANS

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and men having constructed shelter-tents holding one, two, or three persons, side by side, during that time.

On December 23, by orders received from Lord Clyde, the 60th Rifles, a squadron of the Multanis, and two Horse Artillery guns had crossed to the left bank of the Chauka river, into Bahraich; and on December 30 Colonel Leith Hay's small force, which I had rejoined on the 29th, also crossed. We were now in the wildest jungle we had yet visited; the grass was so high that one could not see over it on the top of a tall elephant, and villages and cultivated ground were few and far between. Describing the possibilities of the soil here, a native of this part of the country, a non-commissioned officer of sappers, said to me, 'If a man buries a rupee here, he will find ten,' but he added that the Oudh landholders ground their tenants so hard that they preferred to let the land lie waste. The jungle teemed with game of every description, wolves, hyænas, leopards and tigers, and the feathered game included several species of wild ducks.

When on standing picket-duty from January 5 to 7, 1859, with 100 men of the 98rd and a troop of native cavalry, protecting the Engineers who were constructing a bridge across a branch of the Chauka called the Chagi, separating Colonel Leith Hay's force from those of Brigadier Troup and Colonel Dennis, I had the satisfaction of passing the Mithauli Rajah, with about 100 disarmed ragamuffin followers, across the bridge on his way to give himself up to the Civil Commissioner of Sitapur. He was tried in a civil court, and transported for life to the Andaman Islands in the following March. On January 9, Colonel Leith Hay's force marched 12 miles further north, within the duab formed by the Chauka, and another tributary of the Ghaghra, named, I think, the Daur, to a place called Tillia. Here we found the country much more open than at our last camp, and well cultivated, but owing to its being under water during the rains, and then deserted by the inhabitants, the villages were merely collections

of straw huts. Groves of mango, pipul and banyan trees abounded; and to the list of game, great and small, which I have given as having been found on the banks of the Chauka river, I must add florican, black partridge, and quail, with wild pig, rhinoceros, and brown bears. Tigers were numerous round us, and one was seen by a 93rd picket on the night of January 12. From the time we reached the banks of the Chauka, we had had a magnificent panorama of the Nipal Hills, the highest clothed in eternal snows, constantly before us.

Colonel Leith Hay's force remained at this camp, Tillia, from January 9 till February 11, 1859, when we returned to our former camping-ground near the bridge of boats across the Chagi river, 12 miles further south, on being relieved by the right wing of the 93rd and other troops of Brigadier Troup's column. Here we remained until February 20, when the route for the 93rd to proceed to the hill-station of Subatu, near Simla, was received. The command of the whole column had devolved upon Colonel Leith Hay from January 22, when Brigadier Troup was ordered to proceed to Multan and assume command there. All serious fighting was now over. Lord Clyde's dispositions for entirely clearing both Oudh and Rohilkhand of all armed bands having proved completely successful, the newly raised armed police, under British officers, were quite capable of dealing with any stray robber bands which had succeeded hitherto in eluding the regular troops. A line of Irregular Cavalry posts, however, was left to guard the whole frontier of Nipal, whither the Nana Sahib, the Begam of Oudh, and a few other less important leaders of the rebellion had been finally driven by Lord Clyde in December. There seems little doubt that the whole of them perished miserably in the jungles of Nipal, whence they could not escape to British territories, owing to the vigilant watch kept up for years, while they dared not appeal to Jung Bahadur, who would have seized and delivered them up to