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assembled. The rehearsals are a great musical treat, and many visitors assemble daily.

Additional interest is added by the concert of both native and European regimental bands. To-day rehearsals from Sullivan's "Patience," "Pinafore," and "Iolanthe" were splendidly rendered. I understand his music from the "Yeoman of the Guard" and the "Lost Chord" will form a conspicuous feature in the Durbar musical programme. Capt. Sandford conducted in person the rehearsal of the "March Militaire." One of the features of the Coronation ceremony will be a grand Coronation March composed and conducted by Capt. Sandford.

For the Coronation ceremony the space available for bands is too limited to permit of the presence of the whole massed bands; hence the selection was necessary of bands representing regiments who took part in the Mutiny.

On Sunday, Jan. 4, a church service will be held on the Polo Ground. The Bishop will conduct the service from the steps of the pavilion. The congregation will assemble on the Polo Ground, the European massed bands being grouped on the grand stand in rear. The service will open with Psalm 93, followed by the hymn "Praise the Lord."

A special prayer will be introduced into the service as follows:—"We make our prayer to Thee, O merciful God, for all Indian Princes and Rulers within this Empire, beseeching Thee so to guide and bless them that under them the people may lead peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty." The "Te Deum" is included in the service, and will be rendered by the massed bands and followed by the National Anthem.

#### THE HEALTH OF THE CAMPS.

The *Times of India* says:—Circulars giving complete medical and sanitary directions for the camps have been issued by Lieut-Col. Bamber, Indian Medical Service, sanitary commissioner, Punjab, and administrative sanitary officer, Coronation Durbar. All cases of infectious disease must be at once reported by the medical officer of the camp in which they occur to the special health officer, Major F. Wyville Thomson, Indian Medical Service, No. 3 Visitors' Camp, who will arrange for their removal to one of the segregation hospitals. Ample hospital accommodation has been provided. Pipe water for all the camps has been laid on, but as many natives will not use pipe water stress is laid on the necessity of purifying and protecting the wells. All the wells have been cleaned out and treated with permanganate of potash, and officers in charge of camps are advised that they should also be guarded day and night. One or more iron buckets and ropes are provided at each well, and only the vessels provided must be let down. Bathing or washing clothes on or near a well is prohibited. Waste water must be disposed of in absorption pits, and refuse and stable litter must be placed in boxes, when it will be removed in carts provided by the Executive Committee. The various camps are made responsible for the watering and lighting of their roads, and it is recommended that a sanitary inspector, with a few policemen under him, should be appointed in each camp. The directions cover every point, and it is evident that the sanitation of the many camps has received the most careful consideration.

#### TELEGRAMS.

##### A CANVAS CITY.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Delhi telegraphed on Saturday, Dec. 27:—

If your readers can picture to themselves a city scattered over an area approximating to the area of London north of the Thames and west of Charing Cross, a city, however, not built of stone and brick, but of canvas and canvas only, a city not of irregular streets and closely packed houses, but of tents sparsely outspread, in broad symmetrical avenues, not wreathed in coal smoke or shadowed by grey clouds, but shimmering in a haze of golden dust under an almost vertical sun in a sky of deepest azure, they may conceive some idea of the vast tented city that has been conjured up for the Coronation Durbar out of the great barren plain which stretches away along the Grand Trunk road to the west and north-west of the Imperial city. Even then the picture is incomplete. It must still be peopled with the motley life of the gorgeous East, with the marvelously varied types of picturesque humanity gathered into Delhi from all parts of India—princes and pariahs, rajas in silks and satins and toiling crowds of half-naked coolies, Brahmins with the sacred caste mark on their foreheads and green-turbaned descendants of the Prophet, lordly Rajpoots of ancient lineage and semi-Europeanised Bengali baboos, bearded Sikhs with fiercely twirled moustachios and meek banjans from Cutch bent on peaceful trade, British and native "Tommies" uniformed alike in khaki and in dust, gaping globetrotters and gaunt, impassive fakirs, elephants in brilliant trappings, swaying masses of silver and gold, fleet dromedaries and long files of slowly-pacing camels, cavalry squads with fluttering pennons, State barouches of native rulers with outriders and escort in gaudy liveries, ponderous bullock carts and humble ekkas, official equipages with co-*thman* and chuprassies resplendent in scarlet and gold, smart European horsemen on imported waler and young Indian bloods on Arab thoroughbreds, long-haired Bellochis and Pathans on shaggy ponies from the North—all these and countless others jostle each other all day long in a bewildering sequence of combinations and contrasts.

Words must, I fear, fail to convey any adequate impression of the kaleidoscopic variety of the spectacle, but the magnitude of the stage may perhaps more easily be realised. Let us first take up our position under the flagstaff tower in the middle of the historic Ridge, facing slightly to the north of west. Immediately at our feet lies the Viceroy's camp, consisting alone of over 1,400 tents. It contains the only permanent structure erected for the Durbar, a bungalow of moderate dimensions, which will serve as a private residence for the Viceroy and his family during the next fortnight, and afterwards as a circuit house for high officials during their annual tours of inspection. Beyond it stands the great tented pavilion, where the State banquets

and most of the official receptions will be held, facing, with the tents reserved for the Duke of Connaught and the Grand Duke of Hesse, the broad avenue laid out with turf and flower-beds, on either side of which are the spacious tents for the Viceroy's suite and most of his distinguished guests. To right and left of the Viceroy's camp are the camps of the Commander-in-Chief and the generals holding the four highest commands and of the highest administrative officers, the Governors of the three Presidencies, the Lieutenant-Governors and agents of the Governor-General, with the largest of the three visitors' camps on the extreme right, and the Consular and Press camp on the extreme left. All these together constitute the central camp, forming roughly a parallelogram half a mile deep on a base extending over two miles along the foot of the ridge. If we take Charing Cross to stand for the Viceroy's bungalow, the base of the central camp would extend from beyond Lambeth Bridge to Russell Square. Across the Najafgarh Canal a huge collection of military camps occupy an area half as large again as that of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, in the direction of the amphitheatre, three miles distant from the Viceroy's camp, where the great Durbar will be held.

But these camps do not suffice for the force of 40,000 men, without counting followers, that is now collected in Delhi. Other military camps lie about five miles away on the Grand Trunk road, or further than Hampstead Heath from Charing Cross. Adopting the same point of comparison, Shepherd's Bush and Hurlingham would represent roughly the limits to which to the west and south-west the vast camps of native princes and chieftains extend, generally in isolated blocks, across the plain. For picturesque variety and splendour of decoration these camps entirely outshine the camps erected by the Indian Government. Each of them is in itself a town transplanted into the plain of Delhi. For instance, the Central Indian camp contains some 18,000 people; that of the Rajpoot Princes over 15,000, and there is a similar number in the camp of the Bombay chiefs. The Nizam of Hyderabad alone has 1,800 in his camp, and the Maharajas of Mysore and Baroda each 1,200. Every ruler brings with him a great retinue of noblemen, and each of these his own body of retainers.

Though by far the greater and more important part of the Coronation camp lies to the west of the Ridge, every open space in the suburb east of the Ridge, up to the walls of the city, is equally dotted with tents. But with the exception of the camp of the Imperial Cadets, youthful scions of princely houses who are being trained for the Imperial service, and two camps of European and Native veterans, venerable remnants of the heroic struggle which saved India for the Empire, the camps on that side represent chiefly private ventures from all parts of India. Traders of every description have run up tents and booths for the occasion. Here you can buy strings of pearls or the finest products of the silversmith's art from well-known jewellers, and, next door, sugar-plums from a humble vendor of sweetmeats, or you drop an anna in a slot to see a living picture of the Westminster Abbey pageant. Imperial Delhi itself has been roused out of its dignified repose. The population is believed to be doubled by the influx of native visitors. All down the main arteries stands have been erected to view the State entry on Monday, and householders along the Chandni Chauk, the great central thoroughfare, have shown themselves as keen to improve the occasion as those along Piccadilly and the Strand last June. Even Shah Jehan's great Mosque has surrendered its galleries and terraced approaches to the Viceroy's guests as well as Mahomedan sightseers.

It is hard to realise the amount of forethought, method, and organisation that has been required for the creation of this immense tented city. Fifty miles of new roads have been laid out, and a circular railway 13 miles in length has been constructed. Water has everywhere been laid on, and in many parts electric light, telegraph and postal services have been organised, and police, sanitation, and commissariat provided for; and all this gigantic work had to be carried out in a country which was but indifferently equipped to meet such an emergency. Every possible requirement had to be thought out in advance. For a year past the tent-makers of Cawnpore and Jabalpur, saddlers, carriage builders, carpet and furniture makers, in short, thousands and scores of thousands of artisans throughout India have been at work, and, thanks to timely forethought, Indian industry has been able to supply unaided the unprecedented demands made upon it. If materially India was but ill-equipped for such an undertaking, she had the good fortune to possess in her trained army of officials civilian and military powers of organisation unrivalled elsewhere, and under the Viceroy's watchful eye, whose infinite attention to detail equals the boldness of the conception, a thing has been done of which the world has never seen, and this generation probably never will see, the like. The occasion upon which a British Sovereign for the first time on ascending his ancestral Throne has assumed empire over the whole of India is unique in history, and Imperial India has risen to the occasion.

#### TWENTY EPSOMS COMBINED.

The correspondent of the *Standard* at Delhi writes:—

The preparations have now been practically completed for a series of pageants, in connection with the great Durbar, which promise to be unequalled for magnificence even in the records of India. Several of the more complicated functions have been rehearsed during the past few days in the presence of enormous and appreciative crowds. In many instances the Rajas have gone through in person the parts they are to play on the day itself, but others have been represented by British soldiers, who showed themselves proudly conscious of the brief authority in which they were dressed.

To-morrow the Viceroy will make his State entry seated on an elephant 12 feet high, and over 30 years old, which has been lent for the occasion by the Maharaja of Benares. In this pageant the Elephant Procession, consisting of more than 50 chiefs riding two abreast, with the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Gaekwar of Baroda leading, promises to be the most striking spectacle.

The chiefs are for the most part showing themselves keenly interested in the programme of the ceremony. One Rajpoot Maharaja went out

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of his way to declare that they all regarded it as a high honour to serve as escort to the representative of the Sovereign. The Maharana of Udaipore will, unfortunately, arrive here too late to take part in the State entry, but will be a prominent figure at the great Durbar on Thursday.

The Nizam, whose headquarters are at the Delhi Club, which he rented and decorated for the occasion, seems most solicitous to prove his loyalty. Before leaving Hyderabad he threatened to imprison any one who circulated the report that he would be reluctant to share in the celebrations.

The city and its environs, with the Camp beyond the Ridge, present just now a scene of extraordinary activity, comparable, as one observer expressed himself, to "twenty Epsoms." The camps of the Native Chiefs are thronged with visitors, and an endless stream of foot traffic and vehicles, from motor-cars to camel-carts, flows ceaselessly backwards and forwards over the roads between the city and the amphitheatre, where nearly 100 Chiefs will attend the Durbar on Thursday. It may be remembered that only 63 Native Princes were present at the Proclamation of the Empress by Lord Lytton.

On this occasion the ceremony will be marked by an interesting innovation. Each Chief will come forward in turn to offer personal greetings to the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught, who will receive them standing.

The other events in the fortnight's festivities, more particularly the State Ball on the 6th and the Investiture at the Palace on the 3rd, promise to be hardly less brilliant in their way than the Durbar itself. Among the many minor pageants, Major Dunlop Smith is organising a parade of the Chiefs and their retainers—the latter in chain armour and other medieval equipments. There will, too, be cannon encrusted with gold and silver, and wild Sikh warriors of a past generation, with painted war-horses.

One Chief, carried away by his enthusiasm and his desire for effect at all costs, is actually seeking permission to bring a rhinoceros.

### THE ARMY MANOEUVRES. ADVANCE OF THE NORTHERN ARMY. THE SOUTHERN ARMY'S RETREAT.

CAMP KARNAL, Dec. 4. SIR JAMES WOLFE-MURRAY's division had a very successful march in to-day from Batana, and is camped in the immediate vicinity of Karnal. The front held by the cavalry division has been extended with the infantry of both divisions in support.

The Brigadier taken prisoner on Tuesday turns out to be General Little, of the Fifth Cavalry Brigade of the Southern Army. With him were also taken two guns, which will presumably be put out of action for the remainder of the first phase of the manoeuvres.

Something of the nature of a council of war was held to-day, at which all the divisional commanders assisted. General Sir Robert Low, the chief umpire, was also present.

Active operations begin to-day after the time limit expires at noon. General McLeod's army is bursting with energy and keenness, and confident of success.

DELHI, Dec. 4.—The Southern Army is entrenched at Panipat awaiting attack.

CAMP GHARAUANDA, Dec. 5.—The complete cavalry division of the Northern Army bivouacked on Wednesday night at Barota, four miles to the south of Karnal. On Thursday an outpost line was taken up protecting the entire front, which was in a general direction through Situndi on the south-west of Barota, through Hussopore on the south, and Kaiswalee on the extreme east, at 5 A.M. The line was composed of squadrons of the 4th Dragoon Guards, 9th Lancers, 8th, 18th, and 19th Bengal Lancers and detachments of the 5th Punjab Cavalry and Guides Cavalry. General Elliot's intention was apparently to advance on both sides of the Delhi Umballa-Kalka Railway which runs from Karnal to Delhi on the south, but keeping the larger body of his cavalry and guns to the east of the line already described. All the necessary precautions were taken to protect the baggage and transport from attack.

### SUCCESSES OF THE NORTHERN ARMY.

PANIPAT, Dec. 6.—Progress southward of the Northern Army is extremely cautious, and the concentration of the entire force is reported to-day at points five miles north of Panipat for an attack on the southern position at that place.

The Northern Scouts and Guides Corps report semi-circular strong entrenchments occupied by the Southern extending from the Karnal branch of the canal to Chajpar Kalan, due east of Panipat. A general action is anticipated to-morrow.

Babul and Nagla, on the east flank of the Southern defence, are reported strongly held. They were attacked by the Northern Cavalry and Mounted Infantry this morning. The enemy was found in little force. Possession of the villages is important as clearing the way for possible turning operations. Five-inch guns and thirty-pounders were in action at intervals all day against columns observed marching south. The balloon has made many ascents, hitherto in the neighbourhood of Panipat, but observation is rendered difficult by the haze.

The officer commanding the Southern Cavalry Division states there is no authority for the story of his capture.

### THE NORTHERN ATTACK REPULSED.

LAHORE, Dec. 11.—A correspondent with the Southern Army writes on December 8:—The battle of Panipat began soon after 6 A.M. yesterday, the 70th Field Battery from our right flank opening fire at close quarters, soon followed by the 30-pounders and 5-inch guns distributed in our main line of defence opening on the enemy's columns of infantry. Rajakharre village, on our right flank, had been put in a very strong state of defence, and literally bristled with

entrenchments, of which much was expected; but those on the east of the village were captured by the enemy's Third Brigade by a well-planned surprise after dawn. This involved the necessary surrender of the village as well, and the infantry of that flank forced to fall back on the second line of defence.

Meantime on the west of the Grand Trunk Road the Northern force, which had captured Kabri on the evening of the 6th and the following morning, pushed forward and now drove the Southern force back on its main defence. There the Northern force was held in check for the rest of the day, and in the evening the Southern force opposed to them took the opportunity of slipping away quietly. After the capture of Raja on our right nothing further occurred till about 9 A.M., when for about an hour an attack was made on the north of Panipat. The position was clear soon after, from the cavalry on both flanks, that the enemy's main attack was to be delivered on our right flank. Shortly after news came of the advance of his infantry columns, which deployed and advanced in extended order on the east of the road. The main attack of the enemy was now launched on the north-east of the Southern Army's position, and the roar of the musketry became general all along the line. The excellent field of fire afforded to the Southern Army by the ground, which was flat and open, its view being rarely obstructed by hamlets and small clumps of trees, and the certainty of heavy loss to any force attempting to advance over it, was very obvious. The Northern force, however, pushed on, observing wide extensions.

The entrenchments of the Southern force were excellent both for completeness of cover and perfection of concealment.

Colonel Gordon's Cavalry Brigade of the Northern Army had on December 6 failed to cross the canal on the west, and had fallen back to Kohund. They started on the morning of December 7 to again try to effect the passage of the canal, but were again unsuccessful. Colonel Gordon then rode over to the Umpires and gave himself up and said he was obliged to go into Panipat to arrange for supplies as he was entirely cut off from his own, and he sent his brigade back northwards.

On the east flank Colonel Masaul's brigade early in the day found itself opposed to two cavalry brigades of the Northern force. The 15th Hussars and two sections of "H" Battery, R.H.A., were sent across from the west to the east to reinforce him. With these reinforcements he held the enemy in check throughout the day on the line Dogra-Kherse-Chhajkurd, and prevented them from turning the eastern flank of General Wodehouse's position.

About three and a half miles to the east of Dogra-Kherse the Fifth Cavalry Brigade of the Southern force, under Colonel Mason, got information of the advance of the Northern cavalry, composed of two brigades under Major-General Sir E. Locke Elliot. Colonel Mason attacked with the 15th Hussars in the first line, the Central India Horse in the second line, and the Mysore and Gwalior Lancers in the third line. An effective charge took place in an open maidan, the opposing forces forming up for attack at 1,000 yards and pulling up at between 50 and 100 yards. The Southern Cavalry divided and attacked on both sides of the guns under whose fire the Northern Cavalry came. The Southern Cavalry at the same time slightly outflanked the Northern, and these advantages, together with the delay on the part of the third line of the latter to support the attack, counterbalanced the disparity in the numbers engaged, and the Northern Cavalry for all practical purposes were checked in their endeavour to work around the right flank of the Southern Army to attack their line of communications.

As regards the Infantry attack which had been developing on the right of the position, the Third and Fourth Brigades continued to advance and succeeded in pushing back a portion of the Southern Army opposed to them until the latter first turned to bay close to and on the northern side of Panipat, behind their main line of defence, where the Chief Umpires, with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, decided that the Southern Army had succeeded in repulsing the Northern attack, and that in its endeavour to carry it out the Northern Army had suffered so severely that it had to retire 1,000 yards and was incapable of moving till 8 o'clock on the following morning, Dec. 8.

As soon as it became evident to the General Officer Commanding the Southern Army that he could not hold the Panipat position longer than throughout the day, he ordered the general retirement to commence, sending back his baggage and heavy batteries with the Reserve Brigade to the next position. Active and early measures having thus been taken, the Southern Army had evacuated all its positions by 5 P.M., and was soon in orderly retreat clear of Panipat. Its retirement was effected without loss and was covered by a brigade of all arms.

The medical arrangements for the battle were under the orders of Colonel Supple and appeared to work with the greatest smoothness and to be ably conceived and carried out.

DELHI, Dec. 12.—To-day the Southern Army marched from their camp through the outskirts of Delhi to their old camping-ground at Safdar Jung. Fortunately the route chosen was *via* Subzee Mundi, thus avoiding the camp and city roads alike. The route was absolutely blocked with strings of camels laden with commissariat stores, carts, wagons, and native vehicles of all descriptions. My gharri became hopelessly entangled, and four hours afterwards it was still there, the block remaining. Between these the troops made their way as best they could. The march was commenced at five this morning, and the troops will reach their objective about five to-night. The men were simply smothered with dust—a clear evidence of the condition of the roads over which they had marched eighteen miles in all. With this exception, the troops were looking wonderfully fit. The captive balloon was stationed over Subzee Mundi, causing considerable astonishment to crowds of curious natives, who were amazed at this strange "Durbar sign" in the heavens.

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