

HISTORY OF THE INDIAN MUTINY.

FOR CONSULTATE

HISTORY

OF THE

INDIAN MUTINY, 1857–1858.

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COMMENCING FROM THE CLOSE OF THE SECOND VOLUME OF SIR JOHN KAYE'S HISTORY OF THE SEPOY WAR

BY

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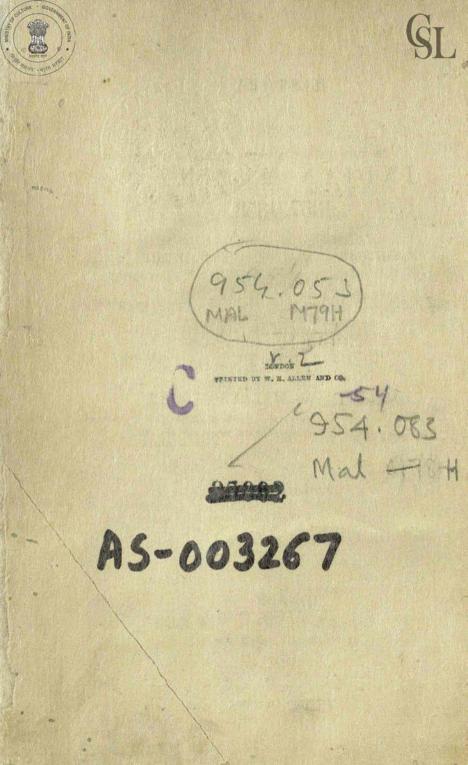
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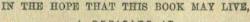
VOLUME II.



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I DEDICATE IT

TO THE MEMORY OF MY BROTHER-IN-LAW,

Quintin Hatiye,

OF THE CORPS OF GUIDES,

ONE OF THE FIRST OF THE MANY GALLANT MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY ON THE RIDGE BEFORE DEHLI. THE WORDS WHICH HE UTTERED, WHEN, ON THE 9TH JUNE, 1857, HE RECEIVED THE WOUND WHICH

HE KNEW TO BE MORTAL,

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI,

WERE CHERISHED AS A MOST PRECIOUS INHERITANCE BY HIS BROTHER,

Gigram Hattye,

WHO, ENTERING THE SERVICE AFTER HIS DEATH, WAS APPOINTED TO THE SAME REGIMENT, THE CORPS OF GUIDES, AND BY UNFLINCHING GALLANTRY AND DEVOTION WON FROM THE STERN FRONTIER MEN WHO COMPOSED IT THE ESTEEM AND AFFECTION WHICH THEY HAD BORNE TO QUINTIN. FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT HIS NOBLE LIFE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS BROTHER. HE EMULATED HIM IN THE MANNER OF HIS DEATH. FOR HE TOO DIED LEADING THE GUIDES IN A GALLANT CHARGE AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF ENGLAND. AT FATHABAD, NEAR JALLALABAD, THE 2ND APRIL, 1879. SIMILAR AS WAS THEIR LIFE, SIMILAR AS WAS THEIR DEATH. I WOULD NOT SEPARATE IN THIS DEDICATION THE TWO GALLANT BROTHERS.

PAR NOBILE FRATRUM.



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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

FIVE weeks after the appearance of this volume I am called upon to prepare a second edition.

It has been a matter of no small gratification to me that the critics have almost universally recognised the earnest desire by which I have been influenced to search out the truth and to record it alike without favour and without fear.

The only serious adverse criticism which has been directed against the book is that which refers to my estimate of the character of Hodson. It is, I am sure, unnecessary for me to state that I had no personal feeling against that daring soldier. On the contrary, when I knew him at Subáthú in 1846, a year after he had entered the service, he impressed me as a man born to command. I had then for him but one feeling, that of admiration. I never met him afterwards.

But, when a man undertakes to write history, he must, if he be honest, suppress his private feelings



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towards individuals. He must deal with them as they proved themselves to be. I have endeavoured to act in this manner with respect to Hodson; and if my remarks upon him are severe, they are, I maintain with regret, justified by his action.

The critics who have taken up this question adversely to my view have especially blamed me for imputing a love of blood-shedding to Hodson. I shall now endeavour to prove that they were wrong and that I was right.

Leaving out of consideration, for the moment, the case of the three princes, I take that of the king. That the King of Dehlí was not actively implicated in the atrocities committed in the palace, that, a feeble old man, he was merely a passive instrument, not possessing the power to resist, in the hands of others, was shown conclusively at his trial. It was known before his trial. It was believed even whilst the siege was progressing. On this point we have the evidence of Hodson himself. Before the capture of Dehlí he wrote: "He" (the king) "is old and well nigh impotent, and is only used as an authority for all the acts of rebellion and barbarity committed by his sons." Would it have been possible for Hodson to record with greater clearness his opinion that the king was helpless and irresponsiblemerely a lay figure ?

Yet what were the feelings of Hodson regarding this helpless old man? On the 30th August he wrote : "If I get into the palace the House of Taimúr

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will not be worth five minutes' purchase, I ween." It may be said by his apologists that this remark applied not to the king individually, but to other members of his family. But what of the following, written four days after the capture of the king : "I would much rather have brought him into Dehlí dead than living"? If this is not an expression of regret that the orders he had received alone prevented him from shedding the blood of the helpless, unarmed, king-of the man "old and well nigh impotent "-the man who, not initiating slaughter, was "only used as an authority" for the acts of others,-if it is not this, then language has no meaning. Hodson had recorded his acquittal of the king of active participation in the revolt; he knew that he was old, helpless, feeble in mind as well as in body; and yet he regretted that he had not been allowed to shed his blood !

This was no evanescent feeling. It was not a mere expression escaping a man before it had been well considered. It was a deliberate opinion. It can be discerned in many of Hodson's letters. More than four months afterwards (12th February 1858) he records his indignation that it should be supposed that he, of his own free action, had spared the king: "I see that many people suppose that I had promised the old king his life *after* he was caught. Pray contradict this."

It will thus be observed that not in the excitement of capture, not when there was before his

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eyes the prospect of the danger which might be caused by the escape of the king, but after the king had been captured, when he had ceased to be dangerous or even formidable, Hodson regretted that his hand had not slain the deposed monarch.

I think I have written enough to justify the opinion I have recorded of Hodson, and which remains unaltered in this edition. I may add that this opinion is shared not only by some of the most prominent of the men who fought before Dehlí and in other parts of India in 1857–58, but by men who have occupied very high positions in India, who were cognizant of all the facts of the case, who knew Hodson intimately, and whose names carry weight with them on all matters connected with our Eastern empire.

I have made but few important changes in this volume. At page 35 I have rendered justice to Captain Baynes, 8th Foot, whose name was omitted, owing to a careless misapprehension, in the first edition: at page 128 I have rectified a mistake which had crept in regarding the junction of the *Pearl* brigade with that of the *Shannon*—a junction which never took place: at page 183 I have added five words (" no other officer accompanied them ") which will leave no doubt as to the validity of the claim I have there preferred in behalf of Lieutenant Colonel Ewart and of Lieutenant Cooper; at page 420 I have supplied an omission regarding the gallantry displayed by Mr. Mayo, I.N.; at

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page 440 I have given in somewhat greater detail the account of the operations in the Sambalpúr district; and at page 498 I have placed more prominently on record the fact that the undertaking of the Rohilkhand campaign in the hot-weather months of 1858 was due entirely to the wise insistance of Lord Canning.

One word more. Objection has been taken to the statement made in the first volume, page 168. attributing to the late Sir James Outram a large credit for the plan actually followed in the relief of Lakhnao. It has even been asserted that the plan carried out by Sir Colin Campbell differed, in all respects save one, from that proposed by Outram. I do not think it can be denied, however, that the plan forwarded to Sir Colin by Outram by the hands of Mr. Kavanagh-a plan based on the very accurate map of Lakhnao drawn by Captain Moorsom-formed the basis on which Sir Colin acted. Sir Colin himself professed to have deviated from that plan in one particular only-the particular stated at page 168 of this edition. The question, then, resolves itself into this. Outram, anxious to assist Sir Colin, sent him most valuable information at the imminent risk of a brave man's life, and Sir Colin, exercising his discretion as to the extent to which he should avail himself of it, used it largely though not blindly: that is, he did not rigidly adhere to every one of its details. Outram's plan will be found in Appendix (D). I



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have ascertained that it was designed by himself alone.

At page 364 I have indicated in somewhat greater detail than in the first edition, the influence exercised by Lord Napier of Magdála-then Brigadier Napier and Chief Engineer-in the preparation of the plan of the siege of Lakhnao. Not only was Brigadier Napier, as stated in the text, the guest of Sir Colin Campbell at Kánhpúr, there constantly consulted by him, but he accompanied Sir Colin from that place to Lakhnao. It was Brigadier Napier who recommended that the attack should take place on the east side of the city, a recommendation which was adopted. On this point I beg to refer the reader to the Chief Engineer's report, dated 31st March 1858, republished in Volume X. of Professional Papers of the Corps of Royal Engineers.

G. B. M.

27, West Cromwell Road, 1st October 1879.

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PREFACE.

In the preface to my last volume I expressed my intention of publishing the volume which should conclude the history of the Indian Mutiny in the early part of the current year.

But after writing the six hundred pages which form the volume I now offer to the public, I found that the stirring events in the Western Presidency, including a review of the administration of Lord Elphinstone; the occurrences in southern and central India, and in Bandalkhand, including the campaigns of Sir Hugh Rose, of Sir Robert Napier, and of Whitlock; and the campaign which terminated in the pacification of Oudh, had still to be recorded. I had, too, to write a review of the policy inaugurated by Lord Canning in the later phases of the revolt.

Compelled, as I have been, to confine to the smallest space the notice of events not germane to the main threads of the story, and conscious

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that even with the greatest possible compression the history of the mutiny up to the point it has reached in the present volume had occupied nearly six hundred pages, I felt that were I to condense in the same volume the occurrences still remaining to be told, either I should be forced to write them on a scale much smaller than that which their intrinsic importance demanded; or, the volume would attain an exceptional bulk, extremely inconvenient to the reader.

Under these circumstances I could not hesitate. I decided to publish the second volume at once.

The division which by these means is produced seems in other respects to be convenient. Whilst the present volume deals with the storming of Dehlí; with Sir Colin Campbell's campaigns of 1857 in Oudh, and of 1858 up to the end of May of that year in Oudh and Rohilkhand; with the movements of the several columns and detachments in north-western India, in the Azamgarh district, in Bihar, in eastern Bengal, and on the south-western frontier ; whilst, in fact, it deals generally with the Bengal Presidency and Rajpútáná, the volume which is to follow, and which I hope to offer to the public in the first month of the coming year, will narrate the occurrences in the sister presidencies, in Haidarábád, and in central India. I propose, too, to devote one chapter of that volume to a comprehensive review of Lord Canning's later policy; and another to a

PREFACE.

consideration of the action of the civil officers in many of the districts which came, more or less, under the influence of the great wave of the revolt.

In the present volume I have endeavoured to render justice not less to the generals entrusted with the suppression of the mutiny than to those officers of less exalted rank whose splendid exertions enabled the generals to conquer. In the instances in which the conduct of a general has seemed to me to be open to criticism I have endeavoured to state the case with fairness and impartiality. There is not a published official document, there is not a document, relating to the events I have recorded, to which it was possible for me to have access, which I have not carefully read and noted.

Whilst expressing my acknowledgments to those who have, in this way, rendered me invaluable aid; to others who have placed at my disposal journals and letters written at the time, it is fit that I should admit the special obligation under which I lie to the writer of an article on Lord Clyde's Indian Campaign which appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* for October 1858. If the author of that article, who, I understand, is Major-General Sir Archibald Alison, C.B., had continued his story in the same graphic and nervous style, and with the same attention to correct detail which characterises the article to which I

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refer, this history would never have been written. Having traversed the same ground in Blue-books and private documents, I have shown my opinion of that writer's historical power and impartiality by the copious extracts I have made from his article, and I am desirous to place here upon record my admiration of its vigour, its truth, and its vivid reality.

I am anxious, before I conclude, to acknowledge the generous reception which the first volume of this work has met with in this country, in the colonies, and in America. It was not possible, writing of events, many actors in which survive, and to some of whom a record of their performances cannot be palatable, that I should absolutely escape hostile criticism. But the bulk of opinion in England, in Australia, and in America has been sufficiently out-spoken to encourage me to believe that with the course of time the history I have written of the occurrences of a very memorable period will meet with universal acceptance.

G. B. MALLESON.

27, West Cromwell Road, 9th August 1879.



GLOSSARY OF PROPER NAMES.

The mode of spelling now adopted.

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The old mode of spelling

The state of the state	Ort 195					Constant and a state
Agra .	18 N.					Agra.
Ajmir .					0.20	Ajmir.
Alambágh	12					Alumbagh.
Aligarh			Water	in the second	1.4	Aligurh.
Allahábád						Allahabad.
Arah .			N.S. Tak			Arrah.
Azamgarh		1923				Azimgurh.
Baksar	1. 14			1100		Buxar.
Balamgarh			2015/1	And and		Ballumgurh.
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Banáras						Benares.
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Bilúchi				1		Beloochee.
Chaibása	See. N	1				Cheybassa.
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Chattra	N 88		A Marin		1.68	Chuttra.
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Farrakhábád	i			(neg)		Furruckabad.
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Fathpúr			1			Futtehpore.
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	•		1.1.1	1		
Ghághrá						Gogra.



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The mode of spelling now adopted. The old mode of spelling.

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Gorákhpúr		The sale y		and Sheet		Gorruckpore.
Gúmti .		•				Goomtie.
Gwáliár						Gwalior.
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Jánpúr			1.			Jaunpore.
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Kánhpúr						Cawnpore.
Kánúj .		1	•/1		17.4.3	Canouj.
Katak .					1.	Cuttack.
Kúsi .		1 1 1 A				Koosi.
Lakhnao						Lucknow.
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Orisá .		212.0				Orissa.
Panjáb			1			Punjaub.
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HISTORY

OF THE

INDIAN MUTINY OF 1857.

BOOK X.

CHAPTER I.

I TAKE up the history of the siege of Dehlí from the 1st September. Nicholson's great victory at Najafgarh, gained the 25th August, had not only forced the enemy within their defences, but had ensured the safety of the siege-train then in progress from Fírozpúr. From that moment, then, preparations were set on foot for carrying out active operations for the capture of the place.

It was not, indeed, without much misgiving that the commander of the besieging army, Major-General Archdale Wilson, had given his consent to the carrying out of a measure the success of which, he considered, would depend on accident.* In an elaborate letter, addressed on the 20th of

* His own words were: "It tions will be thrown on the is evident to me that the results of the proposed operaBoox X. Chapter 1. 1857.

Sept. 1. The siege of Dehlí.

GENERAL WILSON'S DOUBTS.

BOOK X. Chapter J. 2

1857. Sept. 1. Doubts and fears of General Wilson.

August to the chief engineer, Major Baird Smith, General Wilson, dwelling with considerable emphasis on the difficulties that had attended the progress of the siege-on the fact that he and his army had in reality occupied the position of a besieged force-had announced his intention of commencing offensive operations against the city on the arrival of the siege-train from Fírozpúr. though with no "hope of being able to take the place until supported by the force from below." He concluded his letter-the contents of which he intended to send to the Governor-General as a justification of his conduct-with a request that Major Baird Smith would favour him with such remarks and emendations as his experience as Chief Engineer might suggest.*

* The entire letter, a perusal of which will make clear the position before Dehlí at the date on which it was written (20th August 1857), runs as follows: "A letter has been received from the Governor-General urging our immediately taking Dehlí, and he seems angry that it was not done long ago. I wish to explain to him the true state of affairs : that Dehlí is seven miles in circumference, filled with an immense fanatical Músalmán population, garrisoned by full 40,000 soldiers armed and disciplined by ourselves, with 114 pieces of heavy artillery mounted on the walls, with the largest magazine of shot, shell, and

ammunition in the Upper Provinces at their disposal, besides some sixty pieces of field artillery, all of our own manufacture, and manned by artillerymen drilled and taught by ourselves; that the Fort itself has been made so strong by perfect flanking defences erected by our own engineers, and a glacis which prevents our guns breaking the walls lower than eight feet from the top, without the labour of a regular siege and sap-for which the force and artillery sent against it has been quite inadequate ; that an attempt to blow in the gates and escalade the walls was twice contemplated, but that it was considered.

BAIRD SMITH.

Who and what sort of a man was he to whom the commander of the besieging army, at this

from the state of preparation against such attack on the part of the rebels, such an attempt would inevitably have failed, and have caused the most irreparable disaster to our cause ; and that, even we had succeeded in if forcing our way into the place, the small force disposable for the attack would have been most certainly lost in the numerous streets of so large a city, and have been cut to pieces. It was, therefore, considered advisable to confine our efforts to holding the position we now occupy, which is naturally strong, and has been daily rendered more so by our engineers, until the force coming up from below could join to cooperate in the attack. That since the command of the force has devolved on me I have considered it imperatively necessary to adopt the same plan as the only chance of safety to the Empire, and that I strongly urge upon his Lordship the necessity of his ordering General Havelock's or some other force marching upon Dehlí as soon as possi-The force under my ble. command is, and has been since the day we took our position, actually besieged by the mutineers, who, from the immense extent of suburbs and gardens extending nearly to the walls of the town, have such cover for their attacks that it has been very difficult to repel them, and at the same time to inflict such a loss as would deter a repeti-They have tion of them. frequently been driven back with loss, but they immediately take refuge under the grape fire of their heavy guns on the city walls, and, on our retirement, reoccupied their former positions; every such attack upon them has entailed a heavy loss upon our troops, which we can ill spare, and has done us little good. I shall be reinforced by a siegetrain from Firozpúr by the end of this or the beginning of next month, when I intend to commence more offensive operations against the city; but I cannot hold out any hope of being able to take the place until supported by the force from below. As an artillery officer, I have no hesitation in giving my opinion that the attack on Dehlí, garrisoned and armed as it now is, is as arduous an undertaking as was the attack on Bharatpúr in 1825-26, for which 25,000 troops and 100 pieces of artillery were not considered too large a force. I enclose a return of the original force which was sent down to capture this strong place, and also a return of the

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BAIRD SMITH.

BOOK X. Chapter I. 1857. Sept. 1. Baird Smith. 4

important conjuncture, made this earnest appeal? Major Baird Smith was an honour even to the Corps of Engineers. To a knowledge founded on extensive reading, to a mind which had thought out the several problems pertaining to Indian administration, he added a power of prompt and decisive action rarely bestowed except upon the senior wranglers of the University of Nature. He had travelled much, had mastered the several methods in which, in the countries of continental Europe, science, and especially the engineering science, had been laid under contribution to develop the latent forces of nature; and in India, had, as the administrative agent to whom was entrusted the completion of the Ganges Canal, applied the experience thus acquired to the perfection of that great work. The genius which could grasp great schemes of administrative reform, was equally at home in the performance of those duties with which the military side of his profession brought him into contact. Chief Engineer of the army before Dehlí, he had brought to the performance of his

present effective force, including sick and wounded, from which his Lordship will see how desperate would have been any attempt to take the city by assault, more especially as the mutineers keep a large portion of their force encamped outside the city walls, who, on our assaulting the city, could easily attack and capture our camp, with all our hospitals, stores, and ammunition, unless a strong provision was made against it. Something of this sort I intend forwarding to the Governor-General, and shall be glad if you will return this with such remarks and emendations as your experience as Chief Engineer suggests."

HIS ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF ASSAULT.

duties the large mind, the profound knowledge, the prompt decision which had characterised him in his civil work. Neither the shock and pain caused by a wound, nor the weakness and emaciation produced by a severe attack of camp scurvy, aggravated by diarrhœa, depressed his spirit or lessened his energies. Refusing to be placed on the sick list, though assured that mortification would be the consequence of a continued use of his wounded leg, Baird Smith clung to the last to the performance of his duty. The advice which he gave to General Wilson proved that never was his courage higher, never were the tone and temper of his mind more healthy, than when, bowed down by two diseases and suffering acutely from his wound, he seemed a livid wreck of the man he once had been.

It was to such a man that Wilson appealed. The answer was clear, emphatic, decisive. Baird Smith was for action, for prompt and immediate action. True it is, he reasoned, the besieged are The reasons more numerous than the besiegers; true it is enced Baird their resources are greater, their position is for- Smith to admidable, their defences are strong. But in war diate action. something must be risked. In his opinion the risk of a repulse in a well-contrived and wellorganised assault was infinitely less than the risk which would attend the waiting during a long and uncertain period for reinforcements from below. The waiting for reinforcements involved inaction -an inaction which might last for weeks. Such inaction, at a time when the Panjáb, denuded of its last troops, was quivering in the balance, in-

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which influvise imme-



WILSON YIELDS TO THEM.

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volved a risk greater even than the risk of a repulse before the walls of the city. Nor was this last danger so great, in Baird Smith's estimation, as the General seemed to consider. He believed that it would be possible by skilfully preparing and effectively delivering an assault, to reduce it to a small proportion. He gave the fullest expression, in his reply, to these convictions, and concluded by urging the General to prepare for and to deliver that assault without delay—before the enemy should have time to strengthen his position within and without the beleaguered city.

These arguments, forcible, clear, based on logic and reason, had their natural effect on General Wilson. Though he did not share to the full Baird Smith's opinions as to the probable result of an assault, he was brought to regard the risk which would thus be encountered as considerably less than the risk which would be involved by inaction. He yielded * then, and directed the Chief Engineer to prepare a plan of attack.

The reluctant assent of General Wilson threw upon the shoulders of his Chief Engineer the responsibility for the assault. Far from shrinking from the burden, Baird Smith eagerly seized it.

* General Wilson wrote thus on Baird Smith's memorandum: "It is evident to me that the results of the proposed operations will be thrown on the hazard of a die; but under the circumstances in which I am placed, I am willing to try this hazard—the more so as I cannot suggest any other plan to meet our difficulties. I cannot, however, help being of opinion that the chances of success under such a heavy fire as the working parties will be exposed to, are anything but favourable. I yield, however, to the judgment of the Chief Engineer."

Wilsonyields, though without being convinced.

THE FORTIFICATIONS OF DEHLI.

In conjunction with his second in command, Captain Alexander Taylor, a most able and indefatigable member of the same corps, one of those men who, once tried in difficult circumstances, are found to be indispensable, he submitted a plan -previously prepared, but subject to alteration resulting from daily-gained experience-simple, bold, and effective-easily workable, on the sole condition of hearty and zealous co-operation and obedience on the part of his subordinates. The result showed how well placed was the confidence bestowed by the Chief Engineer in the officers serving under his orders.

Before adverting to that plan, I propose to lay before the reader a short description of the defences of, and the approaches to, Dehlí.

The characteristic features of the place were, at the time, thus officially described by Baird Smith: "The eastern face rests on the Jamná, The fortificsand during the season of the year when our Dehi. operations were carried on the stream may be described as washing the base of the walls. All access to a besieger on the river front is therefore impracticable. The defences here consist of an irregular wall, with occasional bastions and towers, and about one half of the length of the river face is occupied by the palace of the King of Dehlí, and its out-work, the old Mogol fort of Sélimgarh. The river may be described as the chord of a rough arc formed by the remaining defences at the place. These consist of a succession of bastioned fronts, the connection being very long, and the out-works limited to one

Chapter I. 1857. Sept. 1. Baird Smith and Taylor prepare a plan of

assault.

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THE FORTIFICATIONS OF DEHLI.

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crown-work at the Ajmír gate, and martello towers mounting a single gun at such points as require additional flanking fire to that given by the bastions themselves. The bastions are small, generally mounting three guns in each face, two in each flank, and one in the embrasure at the salient. They are provided with masonry parapets about twelve feet in thickness, and have a relief of about sixteen feet above the plane of site. The curtain consists of a simple masonry wall or rampart sixteen feet in height, eleven feet thick at top, and fourteen or fifteen at bottom. This main wall carries a parapet loopholed for musketry, eight feet in height and eight feet in thickness. The whole of the land front is covered by a berm of variable width, ranging from sixteen to thirty feet, and having a scarp wall eight feet high. Exterior to this is a dry ditch, of about twenty-five feet in width, and from sixteen to twenty feet in depth. The counterscarp is simply an earthen slope easy to descend. The glacis is a very short one, extending only fifty or sixty yards from the counterscarp. Using general terms, it covers from the besiegers' view from half to one third of the height of the walls of the place. The defences, in a word, are 'modernised' forms of ancient works that existed when the city fell before Lord Lake's army in 1803. They extend about seven miles in circumference, and include an area of about three square miles. On the western side of Dehlí there appear the last out-lying spurs of the Aravelli mountains, and represented here by a low ridge, which dis-

PLAN OF THE ATTACK.

appears at its intersection with the Jamná, about two miles above the place. The drainage from the eastern slope of the ridge finds its way to the river along the northern and the north-western faces of the city, and has formed there a succession of parallel or connected ravines of considerable depth. By taking advantage of these hollow ways admirable cover was constantly obtained for the troops, and the labour of the siege was materially reduced. The whole of the exterior of the place presents an extraordinary mass of old buildings of all kinds, of thick brushwood, and occasional clumps of forest trees, giving great facilities for cover, which, during the siege operations at least, proved to be on the whole more favourable to us than to the enemy."

Such being the place, the plan for assaulting it traced by Baird Smith and Taylor may thus be described.

It was inevitable that the attack should be Plan of the made on the northern face of the fortress-the face represented by the Morí, Káshmir, and Water bastions, and the curtain walls connecting them. These connecting curtains were merely parapets, wide enough only for musketry fire. It had been in the power of the enemy greatly to strengthen these defences by pulling down the adjacent buildings, and on their ruins erecting a rampart, from which a continued fire of heavy guns should be concentrated on an attacking force. In neglecting, as a rule, to use the advantage thus open to them the rebel leaders added another example to many preceding it, of the absence from their

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attack.



THE DAY FIXED.

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councils of a really capable commander. The neglect was likely to be fatal to the defence, for it enabled the besiegers to concentrate on the curtains a fire sufficient to crush the defenders' fire and to effect breaches through which the infantry could be launched against the town.

The plan of the Chief Engineer, then, was to crush the fire of the Morí bastion at the northwest corner of the city. That fire silenced, the advance on the extreme left, which was covered by the river, would be secure, and there the assault would be delivered.

The simple wisdom of this plan will be at once recognised. In the first place the advance was effectually covered by the river on one flank, and partially so by trees and brushwood in front. The assault delivered, our men would not be at once involved in narrow streets, but there would be a space comparatively open in which to act.

On the 6th September all the reinforcements which could be expected, together with the siegetrain, had arrived in camp. The effective rank and file, of all arms, amounted to eight thousand seven hundred and forty-eight men, of whom three thousand three hundred and seventeen were Europeans. In line with, and acting with them, were two thousand two hundred native levies from Káshmir, and some hundreds from Jhínd.

The evening of the 7th was fixed upon for the commencement of the tracing of the batteries which were to assail the northern face of the city. On that day General Wilson issued to

Effective number of the besieging force. Sept. 6.

Sept. 7.



Its simplicity and wisdom.

WILSON'S ORDER TO THE ARMY.

the troops an order, in which he announced to them that the time was drawing near when he trusted their labours would be over, and they would be rewarded for all their past exertions, General and for the fatigue still before them, by the capture of the city. Much, he reminded the the troops his infantry, still remained to be accomplished. They assault. had to aid and assist the engineers alike in the erection of the batteries and in acting as covering parties; and when the way should be smoothed His appeal to for them by the scientific branches of the service. they would have to dare death in the breach. When it should come to that point it would be necessary for them to keep well together, to push on in compact and unbroken masses.

As for the artillery, their work, General Wilson to the artilwarned them, would be harder than any they had lery, till then encountered. He expressed, at the same time, his confidence that the members of that branch of the service would bring to the performance of that harder work the same cheerfulness and the same pluck which had characterised their labours up to that time.

Reminding the troops of the cruel murders regarding committed on their officers and their comrades, the foe, as well as on their wives and children, General Wilson declared that whilst the troops should spare the women and children who might fall in their way, they should give no quarter to the mutineers.

Upon the regimental officers was impressed the to the reginecessity of keeping their men together, of pre- cers. venting plunder, of carrying out the directions of

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1857. Sept. 7.

Wilson announces to intention to

the infantry.

quarter to



Book X. Chapter I. 1857. Sept. 7. the engineers. The Major-General concluded by asserting his confidence that a brilliant termination of their labours would follow a zealous enforcement of his directions.

Before detailing the work which, on the evening of the 7th, followed the issue of this order, it is necessary to inform the reader that at the suggestion of Major Charles Reid,* who commanded on the ridge, a light battery had been erected on the night of the 6th upon the plateau of the ridge close to the Sammy house. The object of this battery, known as Reid's battery, was to keep the ground clear and to protect the contemplated new heavy battery, No. 1, during its construction. Reid's battery contained eight light pieces, six 9-pounders, and two 24-pound howitzers, and was commanded by Captain Remmington.

To return.—On the evening of the day on which General Wilson's order was issued the engineers commenced their work. In pursuance of the resolve to trace out a battery, the fire from which should crush the Morí bastion, Captain Alexander Taylor, assisted by Captain Medley, proceeded at sunset, accompanied by half-a-dozen sappers, to <u>Hindú Ráo's house</u>. A site had previously been selected to the left of the Sammy House, below the ridge on the open plain, and within seven hundred yards of the Morí bastion. Sand-bags had been taken down on the night of the 6th and covered over with grass and brushwood. These were found untouched by the enemy. The two engi-

* Now General Sir Charles Reid, K.C.B.

Reid's battery.

Taylor and Medley trace No. 1 battery.

alune



THE TRACING COMPLETED.

neers at once set to work to trace a battery on this spot. The battery, styled No. 1 battery, was divided into two sections. The right section, commanded by Major Brind,* intended to receive Its right five 18-pounders and one 8-inch howitzer, was to silence the Morí bastion, and to prevent it from interfering with the real attack on the left; the left section, and armed with four 24-pounders, under the command of Major Kaye, was designed to keep down the fire from the Káshmir bastion until the order to assault it should be given. These two sections were to be connected by a trench which, carried on beyond the left section, Its left would communicate with the deep nullah close to the rear, and form a sort of first parallel, giving good cover to the guard of the trenches.

The tracing of this battery had but just been com- The tracing pleted when a strong covering party of Reid's Gúrkahs arrived. Camels with fascines and gabions followed, and the work progressed rapidly during the night. The working parties were but little disturbed by the enemy, three well-directed showers of grape from the Morí alone reaching them.

In order to draw off the enemy's attention as much as possible, Major Reid, who was with

* Now General Sir James Brind, K.C.B. General Wilson's orders in writing, and verbally given by the Assistant Adjutant-General of Artillery, Edwin Johnson, were to the effect that Major Brind, commanding the Foot Artillery of the Delhi Field Force, was to command the Key, or No. 1 battery; Majors Frank Turner and Edward Kaye being attached for the subordinate command of the right and left wings. Major Turner being struck down by serious illness, the left wing was placed under charge of Major Kaye, supervised throughout by Major Brind.

BOOK X. Chapter I. 1857. Sept. 7. section.

13

section.

completed.



14 THE ENEMY ATTEMPT TO IMPEDE THE WORK

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SOVIE ABLENT OF WOMA

1857. Sept. 7. Reid diverts the fire from the Morí

bastion.

Sept. 8.

At dawn of day the enemy discover the new batteries.

Brind's splendid exertions.

The enemy's attempt to carry the Taylor and Medley, sent directions to Captain Remmington to keep up a constant fire on the Morí bastion. This had the desired effect, for the Morí at once opened on Reid's battery and the Sammy House, and did not again molest the working parties. Indeed the enemy did not discover till the day dawned this fresh work upon which the besiegers had been engaged. Much to their dismay they beheld Brind's battery all but completed. Though great efforts had been made, however, all was not ready in it, and but one gun was in position as the morning of the 8th dawned. The rebels on the Morí bastion were not slow to notice the results of the work of that long night. Instantaneously they took measures to demolish it. With the daylight there poured on the barely armed battery showers of grape and round shot. So terrible and so incessant was the fire, that almost every man who ventured from the protection of the battery was knocked over. To this storm the defenders of the battery had but one gun to reply. Major James Brind, one of the heroes of this long siege, who, as already stated, commanded the entire No. 1 battery, noting this, dragged, by great exertion, a howitzer to the rear, and fired over the parapet at the Morí. The fire of the enemy still poured in, however, fierce, incessant, relentless. Emboldened by the weakness of the British reply, they even thought it might be possible to carry by assault the newly made battery. With this object they despatched a body of cavalry and

infantry from the Láhor gate. This little

BUT ARE FOILED.

force, emerging from the gate with resolution, took at once the direction of the battery. But they had not gone far when they encountered a hot fire from the 18-pounder and howitzer in battery is the right section of No. 1 battery, from the guns on the ridge, and the light guns on the plateau. This threw them into confusion-a confusion changed into a rout by the opportune discharge of a volley of grape from Brind's battery. The volley sent them back faster than they had come. All this time the men in this battery had been The right working hard, and though pelted incessantly from armed. the Morí bastion, they soon succeeded in finishing a second platform, then a third, soon after a fourth and a fifth. On the completion of each platform the gun placed on it opened at once on the enemy. The effect of the fire, thus gradually increasing, was soon felt on the Morí. In Major Major Brind Brind the officers and men possessed a commander Mori harmof great perseverance, rare energy, a strong will, and a thorough knowledge of his profession. Under his skilful direction the shot from the battery told with tremendous and unceasing effect on the masonry bastion. Gradually the fire from it diminished; by the afternoon it ceased altogether. The bastion was then a heap of ruins, and although the enemy, displaying rare courage, managed to replace the heavy guns in succession to those knocked over, and to discharge them at the battery, the want of cover made it deadly work, and their fire soon languished. One part of the Engineer's plan had thus been carried out. The Morí bastion had been made harmless.

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1857. Sept. 8.

baffled.

section is

renders the less.



PART OF NO. 1 BATTERY DESTROYED.

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1857. Sept. 8.

The left section

is destroyed by fire on the 10th.

Gallantry of Lieutenant Lockhart. Heavy fire was, however, continued upon it from the right section and from the ridge until the night before the assault was delivered.

Whilst the right section of the battery had thus been blazing away at the Morí, the 24-pounders in the left section under Major Kaye had been doing their work well, their fire directed on the Káshmir bastion. This fire was continued day and night until noon on the 10th, when the battery caught fire from the constant discharge of our own guns. The sand-bags first caught the flame, then the fascines, made of dry brushwood, and at length the whole battery was in a blaze, which it was feared might extend to the right section and expense magazine.

Lieutenant Lockhart, now Colonel Lockhart, commanding 107th Foot, who was attached to Reid's Gúrkahs, was at the time on duty with two companies of the regiment in the connecting trench between the two sections. The necessity to extinguish the fire was so apparent to him, that he at once suggested to Major Kaye whether it might not be possible to save the battery by working from the outside and top of the parapet. Kave replied that he thought something might be done if a party were to take sand-bags to the top, cut them, and smother the fire with the sand. Lockhart instantly jumped on to the parapet, followed by six or seven Gúrkahs, and began the work in the manner suggested. The enemy were not slow to discover what had happened, and, determined that the flames should not be extinguished, they at once brought every gun to bear on the blazing

GALLANTRY OF LOCKHART.

battery and poured in a deadly fire of grape and musketry. Two of the Gúrkahs fell dead, and Lockhart rolled over the parapet with a shot through his jaw. The shot penetrating through the right cheek, passed under his tongue, and went out through the left cheek, smashing the right jaw to pieces.* The fire was eventually extinguished by means of the sand from the sand-bags, but the section was destroyed.

* The noble example set by Lockhart was witnessed by Major Reid, and mentioned as a case worthy, he considered, of the Victoria Cross. Unfortunately Reid's pencil reports, like many more despatches of his written daily from the ridge in pencil and under fire, were destroyed by General Wilson, as, being written in pencil and not in the regulated form, they were not considered " official." It thus happened that when General Wilson penned his final despatch, he had none of Reid's pencil notes and reports to refer to. Reid subsequently represented that his recommendations had not been attended to; that he had again and again brought to notice the gallant conduct of officers of the 60th Rifles and others who had served under him; and at length he himself sent in a supplementary despatch, through Colonel Norman, then Acting Adjutant-General. The reply he received was that in Lord Clyde's opinion "the time

had altogether passed for publishing any further despatches relative to services of officers at Delhi, which, however meritorious, are now of old date." This was in February 1859. Prior to this Reid had been urging General Wilson to take notice of his recommendations. But it was in vain. Neither his pencil notes written under fire, nor his reports after the siege, were ever properly attended to, and many deserving officers were consequently left unrewarded. Among these was Captain John Fisher, second in command of the Sirmúr Battalion, who was on the ridge with the regiment throughout the siege, who commanded it during the assault, and who was the only officer out of nine who escaped being wounded. This officer did not even receive a brevet. For the same reason Major Reid's appreciatory mention of the services of the Engineer and Artillery officers, expressed in the strongest language, remained unpublished.

Boo:: X. Chapter I. 1857. Sept. 10



NO. 2 BATTERY TRACED.

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Tracing of battery No. 2. Sept. 8.

To return to the 7th. At the same time that the batteries just referred to were traced on the right, preliminary arrangements for the real attack had been made on the left. On the evening of the 7th, Kúdsia Bágh and Ludlow Castle were occupied by strong pickets. No opposition was offered to this occupation, the mutineers being impressed with the idea that the real attack would be made on the Morí. With these two posts strongly occupied as supports, the engineers were able, on the evening of the 8th, to trace out battery No. 2. This trace was made in front of Ludlow Castle, and five hundred yards from the Káshmir gate. Like battery No. 1called, after the commandant, Brind's battery-it was divided into two portions, the right-half being intended for seven heavy howitzers and two 18-pounders; the left, about two hundred vards distant, for nine 24-pounders. The fire from these two portions was intended to silence the fire from the Káshmir bastion, to knock away the parapet right and left that gave cover to the defenders, and to open the main breach by which the place was to be stormed.*

Warned by the experience of Brind's battery,

* These and the other details describing the plans of the engineers have been taken chiefly from a work entitled *A Year's Campaigning in India*. This book —written by Captain, now Lieutenant-Colonel, Julius George Medley, R.E., himself a distinguished actor in the scenes he describes—gives an account of the proceedings at this memorable epoch of the siege, which may be almost styled authoritative, confirmed as it has been by the testimony of distinguished officers who took part in the preliminaries to the assault,

NO. 3 BATTERY TRACED.

no attempt was made to complete battery No. 2 in one night. On the 8th the tracing alone was completed. The wisdom of this cautious mode of proceeding was made clear the following day, The enemy when a sharp fire of shot, of shell, and of musketry was opened from the Káshmir and Water bastions and the Sélimgarh, on the positions newly occupied. Little damage, however, was effected, and the work was pushed forward during the nights of the 9th and 10th. Before dawn of the 11th the battery had been completed and armed, and it was then unmasked. Major Campbell commanded the left section of it, and Major Kaye-transferred from the ignited left section of Battery No. 1-the right, but the former officer having been wounded on the evening of the 11th, Captain Edwin Johnson,* Assistant Adjutant-General of Artillery, then serving in the battery, succeeded to the command, and held it to the moment of assault, when he resumed his place on General Wilson's staff.

The third battery was not completed before Battery No. 3. that night. This battery was traced by Captain Medley the evening of the 9th. With a boldness which was not rare, but the display of which, in this instance, testified to remarkable negligence on the part of the enemy, the engineers traced this battery within one hundred and sixty yards of the Water bastion. Seeking for a fit site for the battery, the director of the attack, Captain Medley, discovered a small ruined building, an

* Now Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Johnson, K.C.B. 2 *

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1857. Sept. 8. open fire upon it.

Sept, 9-11.



NO. 4 BATTERY.

BOOR X. Chapter I. 1857. Sept. 9-11. 20

out-office of the Custom House-a large edifice within one hundred and sixty yards of the Water bastion, and totally unoccupied by the enemy. Captain Medley took possession of the Custom House, and determined to trace the battery inside the small ruined building referred to, the outer wall of which would conceal the work and give cover to the workmen. This daring measure completely succeeded. Though the enemy, suspecting something though not the actual truth. peppered our workmen incessantly, these never flinched. When one man fell another would take his place.* Working in this way the battery was finished and armed by the night of the 11th.

The enemy detect the point from which the attack is to be made,

Battery No.4. Another battery, No. 4, for four heavy mortars, commanded by Major Tombs, was traced and armed on the night of the 10th, in a safe spot in the Kúdsiabágh itself, ready to open fire when required.

> The mutineers had by this time become alive to the fact that it was not from the right but from the left that the real attack was to issue. With an alacrity worthy of the highest praise, they at once decided upon measures which, if

* "Pandy did not know what we were at, but at any rate he knew the people were working in that direction, and he served out such a liberal supply of musketry and shell that night that the working party lost thirty-nine men killed and wounded. It was wonderful indeed to see with what courage the men worked.

"They were merely the unarmed Pioneers I have described above, and not meant to be fighting men. With the passive courage so common to natives, as man after man was knocked over, they would stop a moment, weep a little over their fallen friend. pop his body in a row along with the rest, and then work on as before."--Medley.

THE ENEMY'S REPLY.

commenced but forty-eight hours earlier, would have effectually baffled the attack. Seeing the effect which the fire from the still masked batteries must produce, they set to work to mount heavy guns along the long curtain. In other convenient nooks, out of reach of the fire of the attack, they mounted light guns. Taking ad- and take vantage, too, of the broken ground before them, measures to they made in one night an advanced trench parallel to the left attack, and three hundred and fifty vards from it, covering the whole of their front. This trench they lined with infantry.

The heavy guns could not be mounted behind the long curtain in time to anticipate the attack; but at daybreak, on the morning of the 11th, the They open light guns above alluded to opened an enfilading new batteries. attack from the right, whilst the muskets from the infantry in the new trench began a hot and unceasing fire. For a time there was no answer. But at 8 o'clock the two sections of No. 2 battery, unmasked, replied. They began with a Effective salvo from the nine 24-pounders—a salvo greeted No.2 battery. by cheers from the men in the battery. The effect was marked and decisive. As the site of the breach was struck, huge fragments of stone fell, and the curtain wall disappeared in the ditch. The defenders on the Káshmir bastion attempted to reply, but in ten minutes their fire was silenced. For the rest of the day the guns of No. 2 battery continued to pound away at the walls. It was an exhilarating sight to watch the stone-work crumbling under the storm of shot and shell, the breach getting larger and larger, and the 8-inch

and the second for

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WITH EFFECT ON BATTERIES 1 AND 2.

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The enemy's fire works destruction in No. 1 and 2 batteries. shells, made to burst just as they touched the parapet, bringing down whole yards of it at a time.*

During the night the mortars from No. & bat- 02 tery kept the enemy on the alert with incessant fire. But the rebels were by no means idle. The light guns already alluded to, reinforced by a heavy one, playing from martello towers and from holes in curtain walls, maintained a constant and most effective front and enfilading fire on Nos. 1 and 2 batteries. The batteries were constantly raked from end to end. So terrible and so effective was this fire, that, at last, one of the guns of No. 1 battery was withdrawn from playing on the breach and placed in the epaulment to keep down, if possible, the enfilading fire. But even this did not prove very effectual. At one time General Wilson was inclined to make a rush at these guns from the right+ and spike or capture them. But their position, within grape-shot of the curtain wall, rendered an attack on them difficult, and certain to be attended with loss. On the other hand, No. 3 battery would be completed on the morrow, and it was hoped that the effect of the full power of the artillery would be decisive. At 11 o'clock on the morning of the 12th,

Sept. 12.

* Medley.

⁺ In fact, Major Reid actually was instructed to make a night attack on the position, and four companies of Guides and Gúrkahs were told off supplied with spikes for the purpose. At the same time the battery near the Sammy House received orders from Major Reid to cover the attack and draw off the enemy's fire. Just then orders arrived from General Wilson countermanding the attack.

SPLENDID CONDUCT OF THE ARTILLERY.

Greathed, of the Engineers, aided by some native sappers, unmasked the embrasures. The battery was commanded by Major Scott, with the gallant Fagan as his second in command. In another No. 3 battery minute the six guns of the battery opened fire. The effect was tremendous. The enemy's guns were dismounted or smashed : the Water bastion was beaten into a shapeless mass, and in a few with tremenhours the breach seemed almost practicable. But the rebels showed no faint heart. Though their guns were silenced, they continued to pour in so heavy and continuous a musketry fire that the air seemed alive with bullets. The loss of life was consequently severe. Fagan, who, in his overanxiety to see the effect of the first salvo, had raised his head above the parapet, was shot dead. Still further to embarrass the attack. the enemy opened from the other side of the river an enfilading fire, which, though not so effective or so destructive as that carried on from martello towers, was still sufficiently annoving. But our gallant artillervmen never flinched. Throughout the day all the batteries poured in Splendid a fire from fifty guns and mortars on the devoted the Bengal city. The heat was intense, the labour was severe, the danger was enormous. But during the long hours of the day, and of the night which slowly followed, those unflinching officers and men, sustained by the conviction that to their unflagging energies was entrusted a task necessary for the triumph of the British cause, stood firmly to their guns, resisting every weakness of the flesh, their hearts joined in one firm resolve, re-

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opens fire,

dous effect.

exertions of Artillery.