

No 63

From A. Brandreth Esquire  
Off<sup>r</sup> Secretary to Chief Commissioner

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

Dated Lahore 3<sup>d</sup> October 1857.

Post Departt Sir,  
Secret

Since my last despatch which <sup>No 60</sup> brought down the narrative of events to the 21<sup>st</sup> Ultimo, the tranquillity which we had hitherto enjoyed has been somewhat disturbed. Delhi was successfully assaulted on the 14<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, and on the 20<sup>th</sup> was completely in our possession, and the Mutineers in full retreat.

2. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, the pastoral and predatory clans of Mahomedans, who occupy the extensive wastes, south of Gov. 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 Raver, 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 Ahurruls, Ahattias, Wuttoos, Fatwanas and other names, and are of Jat lineage.

3.<sup>o</sup> 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.

4<sup>th</sup> The information only reached  
Sahore on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 11 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 Khattias, on which occasion he killed some 30 of them, was drawn into an ambuscade.

In this affair Mr Berkeley and 26, out of about 40, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Irregular Cavalry, was attacked near Hurruppa 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 Chehawutnee. Here he was besieged three days, and at last relieved by the advance of the Force from Gooqaira. Since this, there have been

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 and decisive defeat on a large body of the enemy, who attacked them.

5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> under Major Crawford Chamberlain in disarming the two Corps of Native

Infantry, the 62<sup>d</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup>, 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 convictions  
of certain Mutineers of the 69<sup>th</sup> A. I. But  
the Regiment has lately received a shock, by  
the death of Bisharut Alli, a Rissaldar of  
great reputation and influence, who was shot  
near Delhie by Lieutenant 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 <sup>firm</sup>, 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 Trouson with 150 Sowars of the 2<sup>d</sup> Irregular Cavalry and a Company of Devies are to scour the right bank of the Sutlej; while Capt<sup>s</sup> Cureton & Hockin, with about an equal force, perform the same service on the right side of the Ravee.

6<sup>th</sup> \* 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 Sutlej; between Ferozepoor  
and Bhawalpoor.

# 7<sup>th</sup> 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 deuded 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.

8<sup>th</sup> Besides this insurrection, the only other event of importance, is the mutiny in the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Delhie. It marched down to Delhie early after the outbreak, and is believed to have furnished part of the escort for the Siege Train from Phillour. At Delhie 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, Loodhiana 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, <sup>and Capt Stockill</sup> will be found among the annexures.

4 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Vuseer Khan, the oldest and most distinguished Sipahdar 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, Vuseer 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 9<sup>th</sup> Irregulars, from whose mouth  
the Chief Commissioner heard the story,  
our Troops who advanced and checked  
the Afghans, found Vuzeer Khan and a  
few dismounted Troopers, making their  
way sword in hand, towards the British  
Camp.

10. This Vuzeer Khan and his  
party, were overtaken opposite Jhung on  
the right bank of the Jhelum, by a party  
of the 17<sup>th</sup> Irregulars under Lieut Hochin,  
and a Detachment of the mounted Levies  
from Derah Ishmael Khan & Shahpoor  
under Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cowan and Thompson,  
the two Coe's Assistants, and Ensign  
Chalmers of the 39<sup>th</sup> A. I. 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 17<sup>th</sup>,  
and several of his men, have been either  
killed or wounded.

From Genl A. Wilson 11.

d/ 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1857.

To do do

d/ 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1857.

19 Telegrams

Copies of various correspondence  
and Telegrams connected with affairs before  
Delhie are herewith forwarded. (The Chief  
Commissioner has advocated the occupa-  
tion of the Palace as a Depot for our  
sick and wounded, and for the munici-  
pals of War. He considers that we can-  
not safely hold the Town with those pre-  
cautions 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 Boolundshahr on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Puijab.

1 <sup>st</sup> Fus <sup>ts</sup> . . . . .	200	The 5 Regiments at Delhie probably can-
2 <sup>d</sup> do . . . . .	300	not turn out 1600 effective men. As the
Atm's 52 <sup>d</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	350	cold weather approaches, some men will
60 <sup>th</sup> Rifles . . . . .	350	become fit for service, but no great
Atm's 61 <sup>st</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> . <u>No Return</u>		number can be calculated on. Out
		of the 6 Regiments of European Infantry
		now in the Puijab, 3 are at Peshawur, and
		by the last return could only muster 1100
* Atm's 26 <sup>th</sup> . . . . .	530	effective men. The other 3 are distributed
" 81 <sup>st</sup> . . . . .	750	over the rest of the Country and probably
Bom. Fus <sup>ts</sup> . . . . .	750	muster about 2300 effective men.
Det <sup>ts</sup> Atm's 8 <sup>th</sup> . . . . .	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 Atm's 81<sup>st</sup> move by Detachments to Peshawur, and be in like manner replaced on this side the Indus by Atm's 87<sup>th</sup>. General Gowan however demurs. This is only mentioned to shew the difficulties of our position.

13. By a return which the Commissioner in Sind has kindly furnished, the Chief Commissioner perceives that only 2200 European Troops are destined for Kurrachee. These sailed in July from England, and as none started before the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> of December. Six weeks more would elapse before they could reach Peshawur. The Chief Commissioner therefore earnestly hopes that, if practicable, even one strong Regiment be sent to Kurrachee 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

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 races 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 Commissioner a year ago, that we could hold the Punjab with 5 or 6,000 European soldiers and the aid which the Punjabees themselves afford, and overawe nearly 20,000 Hindustanee 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 denied. The Chief Commissioner can only hope, that it will be in the power of the  
Supreme.



Supreme Government to afford it soon.  
11<sup>th</sup>. The Chief Commissioner can-  
not close this despatch without again ad-  
verting to the loss of Brigadier General  
Nicholson. That noble soldier was  
mortally wounded on the 11<sup>th</sup> of  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. He was an Officer  
of the highest merit; and his services since  
the mutiny broke out, have not been sur-  
passed 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<sup>t</sup> Servant

Arthur Brouneth

Off<sup>r</sup> Secretary

Lahore  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1857

larges.