

# BOMBAY COURIER

## EXTRAORDINARY.

COURIER OFFICE, OCT. 19TH, 1842.

The following confirmatory particulars will we hope justify our publication of an Extra.—Seldom has a "Royal Salute" been fired on a more worthy or joyful occasion than the release of the Prisoners from Affghan bondage—We can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that Ukhbar, bad as he is, could have issued an order for the Murder of such of the Prisoners as could not proceed to Koolum. It quite destroys the *poetry* of his character!!

### RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS.

We yesterday evening received intelligence in the subjoined letter from Gundamuck, corroborating, from authentic sources, not only the release of the prisoners, which we announce in our regular issue of yesterday, but also their safe arrival in Kabul. It is an event, in which all India ought to rejoice, and will no doubt be received throughout the land with demonstration suited to the occasion.

*Camp, Gundamuck, 1 P. M., 24th Sept., 1842.*

"The following news has only this moment arrived—all the prisoners, ladies, children, officers and soldiers, every European, except Captain Bygrave have been released by the Kuzzilbashes, who went as far as Bameean and took all by surprise. They brought them into Kabul, and the ladies and officers are in General Sale's camp or brigade. It is said also that Ukbar Khan has met his death, that Ameenollah Khan is a prisoner, and that Kabul is laid waste. Ghuznie has shared the same fate. It is thought that Captain Bygrave will make his escape, he could not be found at Bameean by the Kuzzilbashes. This confirms my letter to you of the 22d instant. The letter giving the above account is from Captain McGregor; the kossid in charge had several other letters, most of which were torn in pieces. The road to Kabul is still shut, and our enemies lying in wait for our despatches, &c. Publish this to the world in an Extraordinary. I have not time to say more as the dawk is closing."

Your's &c.,

INDEFATIGABLE.

Another letter, dated Gundamuck, the 25th September, received this morning and obligingly placed at our disposal, says:—

"We had a dispatch yesterday from the General to inform us that all the prisoners were safe with their friends at Kabul, with the exception of Captain Bygrave, whom Ukhbar had taken away. This has been the most cheering news we have had for some time. I cannot give you any further news, as no private letters have arrived. The roads between here and Kabul are infested with a set of looting scoundrels. Several Dawks have been plundered. I understand the General has fixed on the 25th proximo for leaving Kabul.

*3 o'Clock P. M.*

A Kossid has this moment arrived from Kabul with dispatches for Government. I am happy to say yesterday's news was all quite correct. I cannot say whether any private letters have arrived, not having time to enquire, as our letters must be at the dawk within a few minutes, or I shall be late.

### POSTSCRIPT.

Since we issued our Extra we have been favoured with the sight of a letter *direct* from Kabul a very small one indeed, dated the 22nd September, it confirms the release of the prisoners as stated in the Extra, but makes no mention of Ukhbar Khan's death, or of the imprisonment of Ameenollah; it would appear that the release of the prisoners was effected by the treachery to Ukhbar Khan of Shah Mahomed, who, for 2,000 rupees, and the promise of a pension of one thousand rupees a month liberated the unfortunates. This was partly managed by the Hazaras accompanied by Sale's brigade, some dragoons and the 1st cavalry and not General Nott's as was supposed, on account of the latter considering his cattle knocked up. It was a very narrow escape, for Mahomed Ukhbar had sent on a large force to intercept them, and had our troops been one day later the prisoners might not have been restored to us, but, as the writer says, Providence was with us and them. The captives came into camp on the evening of the 21st, but not all together, as it was, they were received by a Royal salute, the Ladies came in doolies, the men not distinguishable from Affghans, so sun burnt were they, on horse back; every thing, says our correspondent, is now swallowed up in the universal joy at seeing our friends pacing a British camp. Mahomed Ukhbar had sent orders which were not obeyed it appears, that all the prisoners should be sent on to Koolum and those who could not go should be murdered! A faint hope is mentioned of the capture of Ukhbar Khan by the Hazarehs who are represented as "hunting him down" supplies coming in, in large quantities, the climate very delightful in the day time, but very cold at night, and early in the morning. Our friend adds that much resistance in the retreat is not expected, as the enemy's party is broken up and every reliance may be placed upon the soldierlike judgment of Colonels Monteath and Richmond.

Lady Sale as yet was the only one of our restored countrywomen who was visible. We have only been able to give so much from a letter of some three inches square, but anxiously do we look for more. Need we add our congratulations to the relatives of the liberated, to the Government, or to the whole people of India?