

SKETCHES
IN
AFGHANISTAN,
BY
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Louis Haghe. del.

Belocchees in the Bolan Pass.

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ATKINSON'S AFGHAUNISTAN,

LITHOGRAPHED BY LOUIS AND CHARLES HAGHE.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES:

THE TITLE PAGE of this Work represents a Den in the Mountains of the Bolán Pass, with a party of Beloochees ready to commence a cowardly and murderous attack on the British Troops.

1. SCENE ON THE RIVER SUTLEDGE, NEAR PAUK-PUTTUN IN THE PUNJAUB.

This Drawing represents a scene on the river Sutledge, not far from the Pauk-Puttun in the Punjab, a country in the north-west of Hindoostan Proper. A number of the Punjabees occupy the fore-ground, some of them are busily engaged in cooking, others in conversation, while the boatmen, in the boats peculiar to the Punjab, are seen to the left. On the middle bank is a faithful delineation of "the Persian Wheel," used for irrigating the fields, and which is turned by a couple of bullocks, and when in motion, its shrill and squeaking noise may be heard miles off, indicating a village at no great distance; the driver is on a seat carried forward at the end of a beam, supported over the horizontal wheel. At a short distance are two females in crimson dresses, the usual color in this part, carrying water-pots on their heads, this drudgery, among the lower orders in the East, being usually performed by the *softer sex*.

2. THE TOWN OF ROREE AND THE FORTRESS OF BHUKKER, ON THE INDUS.

About a mile east of Roree, the encamping ground of the British Army, a fine view presents itself of the town, the island, fortress of Bhukker, and the further shore of Sukkur on the Indus. Bhukkur was formerly the capital of Scinde. The fort stands on a flint rock, upwards of twenty feet above the level of the river, and the walls are between thirty and forty feet high; its extent is about eight hundred yards by four hundred. The garrison stationed here consisted of the 35th N. I. commanded by Col. Monteath, who resided in the Killadar's house. The jutting out of Roree into the stream, and the centre space being so extensively occupied by the fort of Bhukkur and the other islands, esteemed of peculiar sanctity, it has but two comparatively narrow channels, and over which the bridge of boats was thrown to enable the British troops to pass. One of the islands is consecrated to the renowned saint, Khaja Khizzer, and a hair, plucked from the beard of that prophet, is there exhibited as a most sacred relic; indeed, such is the veneration in which even a hair from the Prophet's beard is held in Mahomedan countries, that at Cudapah a temple was erected in honor of one which was preserved in a golden casket, with a crystal lid.

3. THE ENCAMPMENT AT DADUR, WITH THE ENTRANCE TO THE BOLAN PASS.

This view represents the encampment of the troops at the entrance of the Bolan Pass, about a mile from the town of Dadur, where they halted, by command of Lord Keane, on their march from Nowshera, a distance of twenty-six miles, over a road the most rugged and harassing. Two hundred camels were despatched from this spot by Captain Watt, with one thousand gallons of rum to Lord Keane (who had now assumed the command of the Army of the Indus) to enable him to march from Gundava. The mountains at Siriab, covered with snow, are seen in the extreme distance, and between them and the encampment the road winds between huge sand-hills to the Bolan Pass, which is hidden by the immense mountain in the front. On the fore-ground is Khalik Dad, Belooch, governor of Dadur, and his attendant, and some of the wearied camp-followers, preparing their scanty meal. As far as the eye can reach from the camp, desolation has marked this arid spot, and the progress to it was a most arduous one; water rarely met with, but in small quantities, and forage equally scarce. Major Reed, as appears by the latest news, had succeeded in reaching Dadur, having with him a valuable convoy of treasure, and 4,000 Camels, with which he is now preparing to ascend the terrific Pass of Bolan.

4. VIEW OF THE MOUNTAIN BABA-NAUNEE.

This Drawing was taken from Kutl-gah, or the Place of Slaughter. In the fore-ground is a camp-follower asleep, and three Beloochees, eager to wreak their cowardly vengeance on the unprotected, are stealthily approaching him, with the intention of committing murder; a piece of ordnance is also introduced, drawn by camels, on the line of march. It was under the mountain of Baba-Naunee the British forces were encamped, and from which they marched to Abigoon, a distance of eight miles and a quarter, over a road of loose stones and pebbles, affording but little hold for the feet, and very fatiguing both to man and beast, and this was the case for nine-tenths of the distance.

5. ENTRANCE TO THE BOLAN PASS FROM DADUR.

Leaving the encampment at Dadur for Kundye, a distance of eleven miles and a half, the troops then entered the Bolán Pass, which is represented in this drawing, the road being rough and pebbly, between sand-hills, studded with flint and lime-stones of all sizes, the space in breadth between the mountains varying from three to four hundred yards to about thirty. As the torrent in the Pass runs deviously from one side of the gorge to the other, the Army was compelled to cross it six or seven times, thereby adding to the hardships already experienced during the march to this Pass;—and here too, the British troops suffered great losses, by the continual discharge of musketry from the Beloochees, who had secreted themselves in dens hewn out of the stupendous mountains overhanging the Pass and which are represented in the title page of this work.

6. THE WILD PASS OF SIRI-KAJOOR.

A den of Beloochees is exhibited in the foreground, which overhangs the road traversed by the Army. A party of Sepoys is seen on the heights above, ready to punish the murderers. This Pass lies between Abigoon and Siri-Bolán, a distance of nine miles and a half; two-thirds of the way, on the right, is the date-tree from which this Pass takes the name of "Siri-Kajoor." The road is hemmed in by wild and rugged mountains which afford numerous inaccessible positions for the predatory and murderous Beloochees, who from these haunts most skilfully use their jezails or rifles, most formidable weapons with fixed rests, and which are said to carry about eight hundred yards, being seven feet in length. A dead camel and a camp-follower with his throat cut and otherwise most cruelly mutilated, were seen lying together in the middle of the road. Here also, destruction to the Army was most unsparingly dealt out and almost with impunity, the mountains affording protection to the cowardly Beloochees from any volley directed at them.

7. THE OPENING INTO THE NARROW PASS ABOVE THE SIRI BOLAN.

A skirmish with the Beloochees is here represented, a circumstance by no means uncommon near this place. Not far from it the rear-guard of an European regiment was attacked by between two and three hundred Beloochees rushing down the hills, and after firing their matchlocks, were advancing sword in hand, when the officer commanding, collected his Sepoys (about eighty) and keeping them quiet till the Beloochees came within gun-shot, gave them a volley and immediately afterwards charged them with bayonets to their great discomfiture. Fifty-one killed and wounded were left on the ground, besides a number with slighter wounds, carried off by their flying companions, thus terminating for that day, the troubles of the rear-guard. The rocks on each side this Pass are projecting and stupendous, and in the narrowest passages almost perpendicular. Immense blocks of stone are scattered about all the way and the scenery is of a more magnificently wild character and of a bolder form than any hitherto met with. Many impediments, during the march through the Pass, had been removed by the Engineers, but it was still an arduous task to surmount the many remaining difficulties which were continually appearing.

8. THE APPROACH TO THE FORTRESS OF KWETTAAH.

Kwettah is in the province of Shaul, situated on a wide plain with interior and outer walls, and appears at a distance like a lofty mound. Lord Keane and Staff are seen occupying the middle ground. Here the state of the Army, for want of a sufficient supply of grain and ollah became alarming, and although at this place abundant supplies had been promised and expected, it became necessary for the chief military authority, Sir Willoughby Cotton, to reduce the daily rations to one-half, which scanty allowance was continued for nearly three months. At Kwettah, Captain Golding was murdered, his corps of Jan Baz had been ordered on service towards Girisk when they mutinied and murdered their leader;—Lieutenant Pattenson of the 2nd B. N. I. escaping, but wounded in eleven places.

9. ENTRANCE INTO THE KOJAK PASS FROM PARUSH.

The Kojak Pass is situate in the Khjeh Amraun range of mountains. At the foot of the hills on each side leading up to the Pass are regular rows of trees, giving an idea that in former times some care had been bestowed in embellishing the ground. At Parush appeared stupendous masses of perpendicular rocks, but affording two narrow paths, although only a few yards wide, that to the left was the usual Kafilah route, while that on the right, although rarely trodden, had been cleared and made practicable by the Engineers for the passage of the British troops and artillery. While reconnoitring in this defile, Brigadier Arnold and his aide-de-camp were fired upon from the heights by a Pesh-Khidmut under Ibar Khan, in the service of the Candahar Sirdars. By the latest accounts received, it appears that pursuant to General Nott's orders, Brigadier England, with 2,500 men, left Kwettah for Candahar, a portion of the force at the latter place having been detached so as to meet Brigadier England, and aid him in getting the convoy through this Pass.

10. THE TROOPS EMERGING FROM THE NARROW PART OF THE DEFILE IN THE KOOJAH PASS.

This Drawing represents the troops emerging from the narrow part of the defile, and the old and newly constructed roads up the ascent. The road up to the defile had gradually increased in steepness, and diminished in width, and the ascent became more difficult. The tediousness of the march may, therefore, be easily conceived. The old path to the left, was so steep as to be quite impracticable for the purpose of ascent, and, in consequence, taking a wide sweep, another was cut, less abrupt, upon the brow of the hill, as seen to the right of the drawing. It was not, however, above eight or ten feet in breadth, and the upper part, owing to the projection and rocks, was still difficult of access.

11. THE FIRST DESCENT THROUGH THE KOOJAH PASS.

The first descent from the point described in the last Drawing, was for a considerable distance, very abrupt, precipitous and winding, and the bottom crossed by a torrent, and here the view up to the next position of the pass was most terrific, both as regards its altitude and broken course, about to be pursued in toiling up to the summit. The first slope was strewed with dead camels, no less than sixteen lying on one precipitous spot, and the face of the whole acclivities exhibiting similar evidence of the peril which attended the progress of the army. The column here diverged, following different paths, and after much toil and fatigue, accomplished the task.

12. THE SECOND DESCENT THROUGH THE KOOJAH PASS.

This descent was not less perilous than that described in the former view, threatening equal destruction amongst the camels, and it was not long before these fears were painfully realized, by a great number of the camels falling head-long into the ravines, being unable, from the soft and loose state of the earth, to obtain any secure footing. The column and innumerable camp followers, here took three different routes, and encamped near the bottom of the hills, about two miles distant from the plain of Chumum, where the First Brigade had already encamped.

13. THE THIRD DESCENT OF THE KOOJAH PASS.

Looking back from three-parts downwards, where the 1st Bengal European Regiment had encamped, to assist in bringing over the artillery, is the spot from whence this view was taken, and which represents in the foreground the encampment of the 1st Bengal European Regiment, with a group of camp-followers, some asleep, while others are busily engaged in unpacking their baggage; much difficulty was here incurred, in getting over the park of artillery, which occupied no less than five days of indefatigable exertion, performed by the troops, under a burning sun, with the utmost cheerfulness. This task devolved on detachments of fatigue-men, from the European, the 13th Light Infantry, and 48th Native Infantry regiments. Plunder, in every description of articles, was carried on during this encampment, by the mountaineers, who were continually committing outrages, rolling down heavy stones from the crags which overlooked the regimental bazaar, and firing into the camp.

14. THE CITY OF CANDAHAR.

This view was taken from the camp of the Fourth Brigade, about a mile and a half on the south of Candahar, a fortified town of Afghanistan, the capital of the province of Candahar, near which Akbar Khan (by whom fell Sir W. Macnaghten) so unsuccessfully marched, when he was met by Shah Mahommed, with 6000 horse at Jakan, near Candahar, and compelled, with considerable loss, amidst confusion and defeat, to fly towards the Indus, which he afterwards crossed near Leia, taking temporary refuge in the territory of Mahommed Khan Suddozye. General Nott was in command here, with 10,000 men, having successfully repulsed the enemy before it, with a very trifling loss on his part, and to whose relief General England has now succeeded in marching. The city is situated on the north side of an extensive plain, about two miles from the lofty mountain called Baba-Wulee, and is surrounded by a mud wall, about thirty feet high, with numerous bastions; the length of the city is about five thousand feet, and four thousand in breadth, with a small stream running across the interior from north to south.

15. THE FORTRESS AND CITADAL OF GHUZNEE AND THE TWO MINARS.

This view of Ghuznee possesses considerable interest, having been the scene of a successful attack by the British, under the command of Lord Keane, but which, alas! has since capitulated, the troops having been attacked by the Ghazees, a dreadful slaughter ensued, One hundred only of the Sepoys, with Colonel Palmer and several other British officers of the Bombay Establishment, narrowly escaping with their life. In approaching the walls of this fortress, there is a considerable ascent across the bridge to the rampart on the east side. The gate was lying in fragments, and a bastion to the right of it was also demolished. The ascent inside is very abrupt, to the citadal, which is very spacious, and built wholly on a hill, but sloping more gradually down towards the South West, where the tower is situated. The North-East angle of the citadel is commanded by a hill, no great distance from it, and behind which the British batteries were placed, which did considerable execution. Between the gate and citadal, about half-way up, was placed the far-famed brass 68-pounder, called Zubur-Jung, "the mighty in battle." It was worked by an Hindoostanee, over whom a guard was placed with drawn swords, to compel him to perform his duty. The two Minars, here introduced, bear strong marks of former beauty and elegance; they are built of red brick, with most exquisite finish, in various minute forms, highly curious and ornamental. The inscriptions executed on various parts of the columns are in the Togra-Arabic character, the letters strongly mingled, but producing an agreeable combination of Mussulman taste. The admeasurement of the higher is computed at about 180 feet, while the other is not so high by at least twenty feet.

16. THE VALLEY OF MAIDAN.

At the top of the strong ghaut or pass is a round tower, or watch-house, called Buzrak, and from this eminence the Valley of Maidan is distinctly seen, although but a small portion of it is represented in this view. The beauty of this valley is highly extolled by the Afghans, and well it may be, in comparison with other parts of the country hitherto seen. The valley is semi-circular, about a mile and a half wide, and four miles long, hemmed in by the most sterile hills, with a charming silver line of river flowing through its centre, and the trees, meadow, and plantations, always appearing bright and glowing. The troops are here seen on their march from Maidan to the village of Urghundee. The road for five miles is an ascent, most rough and rugged, and intersected with deep ravines, where numerous Camels belonging to the Brigade in advance had perished, and many left, exhausted, to die.

17. THE VILLAGE OF URGHUNDEE.

To the extreme right of the drawing, at the foot of an immense mountain is the village, and across the valley are ranged the guns, twenty-five in number, of Dost Mahommed Khan, which were abandoned the night previously and afterwards secured by Major Cureton, who had been sent with his Lancers to take them. Dost Mahommed, who had, with great difficulty, persuaded his adherents, consisting of about twelve thousand fighting men of all sorts, to advance even as far as Urghandee had placed his guns in position, with the profoundest intention of vigorously coming to action, but no sooner were the guns so ranged in battle order than the Ameer, convinced that his safety consisted in flight, discarded them, blew up the powder and moved off precipitately across the mountains towards Bamian. Some of the guns were thrown from their carriages, thousands of balls lying in all directions, and the ground literally strewn with belts and cartouche-boxes, half consumed by the explosions that had evidently taken place. Two hundred gun-bullocks had been left behind and became a part of the prize property. The guns varied in size from three to nine pounders, the carriages of the clumsiest construction, so unskillfully put together, that a few rounds must have shattered them to pieces, and upon inspection it was found that each gun was loaded with three balls, so that the danger to the gunner would have been greater than to the enemy.

18. ENTRANCE INTO CAUBUL FROM KILLA-KAZEE.

On the right of this drawing the peasants are treading out the corn, and on the left winnowing it. The small building half-way up the mountain is called the Johan Numat, which commands an extensive prospect over the valley of Killa-Kazee; a little below this spot is the site of the Emperor Baber's Tomb. In the narrow gap, formed by the two craggy mountains, sloping towards each other, and which is seen in the centre of this view, lies the road from the camp to Caubul, the extreme edges of those slopes, as seen from a distance, exhibit a line of fortified or rather serrated and loop-holed wall from top to bottom. The road from Killa-Kazee is very confined, hemmed in by huge masses of rock on the left hand and dense groves of mulberry trees on the right bordering the Caubul river. In the foreground of the drawing is represented the surrender of Dost Mahommed Khan to Sir William Macnaghten. This event occurred while the British Envoy was taking his accustomed ride, attended by his staff, and totally unconscious of any intention on the part of the Dost, to surrender himself. The latest news from this part states that Captain Mackenzie was sent by Akhbar Khan to the camp at Jellalabad, on parole, as the bearer of a despatch from Major Pottinger and to treat for the ransom of his companions.

19. THE MAIN STREET IN THE BAZAAR AT CAUBUL IN THE FRUIT SEASON.

The entrance into Caubul was by a narrow street, presenting to the view a scene of the most busy description. The numerous shops, little better than sheds, exhibited fruit, not only surprising for its beauty, but for its prodigious abundance; melons and grapes out of number, and this display continued for some distance, Caubul having long been famous for its fruits, more particularly in grapes, pomegranates, apricots, peaches, pears, apples, quinces, jujubes, damsons, almonds, and walnuts, all of which are found in immense quantities, as well as the orange, citron, amlouk, and sugar-cane, which are peculiar to a warm climate and are brought from Laghman. Other articles are also presented for sale. Cooks are preparing kabobs and confectioners sweetmeats; cutlers and farriers, guns, swords, and horse-shoes; silk-mercers, dealers in carpets, furs, lace, chintz, saddlery, &c., all are attentive to their several occupations.

20. THE BALLA HISSAR AND CITY OF CAUBUL, FROM THE UPPER PART OF THE CITADEL.

The Balla Hissar comprehends nearly a fourth part of the city of Caubul, and is surrounded by a wall, the height being regulated according to the rise and fall of the mountains, with numerous bastions, but only two gates now open, that to the west leading to the town, and the other on the east called the Peshawer gate, both being closed at night. The upper part of the Balla Hissar, is about four hundred and twenty yards by two hundred and fifty; the lower part about one thousand by five hundred yards. The garden on the right is occupied by the British Envoy, formerly the residence of Dost Mahommed Khan; the building beyond is the Harem Serai, in which the Shah resides, although in a falling state. On the left of it is the Musjid Shahee, or Royal Mosque, in ruins, founded in the time of Alumgeer. The roofs of the houses are flat, and but ill-suited to a climate in which so much snow falls. It was from Balla Hissar, the British troops were recalled to the cantonment, dispirited and illy clad, and suffering most acutely under the deprivation of food, which scanty allowance they could only obtain by bribery and plunder during the night.

21. CAUBUL, FROM A BURYING GROUND ON THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE, NORTH-EAST OF THE CITY.

Kaga-Suffa, from whence this view of the city is taken, is the burial-ground, remarkable for its neatness, numerous interments and tombs. Caubul has no pretensions to beauty, being huddled together and bounded on three sides by immense mountains occupying a space of about three miles in circumference with a strongly fortified wall running on the ridges. Externally, every house presents a blank mud wall, and the domestic arrangement of rooms and apertures for windows are in a court-yard totally unseen from without. It is too painful a subject to contemplate here, the result of the movements of the British Army from this city after the treaty had been entered into by General Elphinstone to evacuate the city, or to dilate on the heart-rending disasters that befel the British during their march from hence, through the mountain pass of Khyber, but, suffice it to say, that there was but ONE EUROPEAN, Dr. Bryden of the 37th Bengal Native Infantry, who survived out of the 6,500 troops and about 7,000 camp-followers who left Caubul, which place still contains many of our bravest commanders with, alas! the noble-minded Lady Sale and other British ladies as hostages who were escorted back to Caubul by command of that detestable and murderous ruffian Akhbar Khan. Captain Colin Mackenzie, one of the prisoners, is now on parole to General Pollock at Jellalabad, with proposals from the Chief and Mahommed Schah Khan, the Ghilzie, for the release of the ladies and other prisoners. *The result* has not yet transpired.

22. THE DURBAR-KHANEH OF SHAH SHOOJAH-OOL-MOOLK, AT CAUBUL.

This drawing represents, immediately below the Balla Hissar and contiguous to the residence of the Envoy and Minister, the quadrangle occupied by the Durbar-Khaneh and the Harem Serai. In the balcony is seen His Majesty Shah Shoojah, seated on his throne, and the manner in which the Khans and Officers of state are daily assembled before him, while the Royal Band, which is composed of huge toms-toms and long brass tubes, continues playing in the most horribly discordant manner with all the power that muscular arm and stentorian lung can give, from the deepest bass to the most shrill treble. This music is considered an essential part of regal state and is repeated several times during the day, and commencing at two o'clock in the morning much to the discomfort and annoyance of Christian ears.

23. THE AVENUE AT BABER'S TOMB.

This grove of magnificent cheenars leads to the burial-place of the Emperor Baber, the space between, being some hundred yards, is divided into numerous terraces about twenty feet wide for the purpose of forming a line of diminutive artificial cascades. The water is supplied from the mountains, and which, after numerous falls from one terrace to another is received into a square reservoir. There is a wide path on each side of these terraces, and on every Friday—the Mahommedan Sabbath—the walks of this favorite grove are filled "from morn till dewy eve" with crowds of people in their holiday attire—the women always veiled in their boorkas, and each enjoying with apparent delight the social scene around.

24. THE TOMB OF THE EMPEROR BABER.

To the right of this tomb appear the extensive ruins of a celebrated Mosque, which was built by Shah-Jehan. The Tower in the middle of the distance is the Killa-Kazee, and the Fort on the extreme right the residence of Newab Jubbar Khan, brother of Dost Mahommed Khan. Ascending to the upper part of the grove, as seen in the last drawing, is a terrace, about thirty yards square, and nearly in the middle of it, is the tomb erected in honor of the Emperor Baber, in 1650, by Shah-Jehan, after the conquest of Balkh and Budukshan, and is now in good preservation. The Emperor Baber was descended from a tribe of Tartars, and in his Twelfth year (A. D. 1494), became King of Ferghana, a country in the North-East of the Caspian, or as he himself says, "on the extreme boundary of the habitable world." After an ambitious career, in which he experienced a variety of successes and discomfitures, he, in 1504, gained possession of Caubul; after several fruitless attempts to invade India, his fifth determination carried him to Delhi and Agra, having on his march slain Suldaun Ibrahim, the Emperor of Hindoostan, and in 1526, he ascended the throne of Delhi. He was undoubtedly one of the most illustrious monarchs of Asiatic history, and at Caubul, where his ashes repose, is held in the highest veneration.

25. PORTRAIT OF HIS MAJESTY SHAH-SOOJAH-OOL-MOOLK.

Shah Soojah's ancestors commenced with Ahmed Shah. Nadir Shah the celebrated conqueror, was assassinated in 1747, upon which Abdullah Ahmed Khan proclaimed himself king, under the name of Ahmed Shah; his son, Tymoore Shah, succeeding him in 1773, and in 1793, he died, and the government was then broken up. Shah Zemaun, the son of Tymoore, mounted the throne of Caubul, whilst Humayoon seized upon Candahar; Abbass on Peshawer, and Hajeer Feroz-oo-deen, and Mahmood on Herat, all sons of Tymoore, by different mothers. Political rivalry then sprung up, and Shah Zemaun dispossessed Humayoon of Candahar, took him prisoner, and cruelly put out his eyes. He also seized upon Peshawer, and compelled Abbass to relinquish, and placed him in confinement. A conspiracy amongst the nobles and chiefs at Candahar then existed, and terminated by dethroning Shah Zemaun, and placing his brother Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk on the throne.

CAUBUL COSTUME—Ladies preparing for Walking, and a Lady seated at Home. The dress of the women of Caubul is simple; they wear a loose yellow, blue, or red jacket of muslin or silk, hanging down below the waist, and wide trowsers; their hair is in various forms, and plaited behind in numerous long tails, hanging over the shoulder and back. The outer margin of the ear is pierced and decorated with rows of silver rings. The face is adorned with moulds of gold, silver, and vermilion, fixed on with gum. The jacket and trowsers are alone worn in the house, as represented in the seated figure, but when prepared for walking, as the ladies on the left, they put on leggings, gartered at the knee, and cover themselves with the *Boorka-posh*, which prevents their being known abroad.

A CAUBUL LADY—as seen at her Window in the main street.

THE GOVERNOR'S PLACE OF REFUGE—at Ghuznee, after the capture of the Fortress.