

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 27 July 1857;—for,

EXTRACTS “ of such Parts of a REPORT addressed by Sir *Charles Napier*,
on the 27th day of November 1849, to the Governor-General of *India*,
as relate to the State and Discipline of the Indian Army.”

Sir *Charles Napier* to the Duke of *Wellington*.

A GENERAL REPORT ON the MILITARY STATE of *India*, 27 November 1849.

THE defence of our Indian Empire is confided to four distinct armies, Queen's, Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, consisting collectively of about 300,000 fighting men, and 400 pieces of field artillery, ready for war, without including those of position, mounted on forts, or lying in our arsenals.

Extract, page 12.

This is a vast army, and it is in a good state of discipline, complete in its equipments, full of high courage, and a high military spirit reigns through all ranks: it is also necessary to say that this force could be doubled without any injurious pressure on the population, and that every part of India can furnish recruits in abundance; our service is extremely popular, and the troops faithful to a proverb. There are some things which admit of correction, and these may be put right when the Commander-in-chief is placed on a proper footing, but not till then. I shall consider these matters in another letter. Let it here suffice to say, it is my decided opinion that this magnificent army is sufficient to guard India at present, and that the annexation of the Punjaub does not, or at least need not, demand an additional regiment. I shall now proceed to the consideration of the immediate occupation of the Punjaub.

For this, and indeed for every purpose, I think that Delhi is the proper place for our great magazines. It lies in a central position to supply troops and reinforcements.

Page 18.

For this reason, also, I think that the head quarters of the Artillery should be marched to Delhi or Meerut, as may be hereafter arranged.

Page 19.

The great principle to follow in India, as regards armed forces, I think is this: to have a large well-organised police to do all those duties for the civil branches of the Government that require armed men; such as occasional guards for civil servants, escorts of treasure, putting down robbers, arresting men by order of the civil power; in short, a constabulary force that leaves the military to their own duties.

Page 21.

There is scarcely any illness which the troops suffer from that may not be traced to want of room in barracks.

Page 26.

I have heard that Lord Hardinge objected to the assembling of the Indian troops, for fear they should conspire. I confess I cannot see the weight of such an opinion. I have never with an Indian officer who held it, and I certainly do not hold it myself; and few men have had more opportunities of judging of the armies of all three Presidencies than I have. Lord Hardinge saw but the Bengal army, and that only as Governor-general, and for a short time; I have studied them for nearly eight years, constantly at the head of Bengal and Bombay sepoys, and I can see nothing to fear from them, except when ill-used; and even then they are less dangerous than British troops would be in similar circumstances. I see no danger in their being massed, and very great danger in their being spread over a country as they now are; on the contrary, I believe that, by concentrating the Indian army as I propose, its spirit, its devotion, and its powers will all be increased.

Page 58.

