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Recollections of India

Kashmir and the alpine Punjab

Hardinge, Charles Stewart

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RECOLLECTIONS

OF

I N D I A.

DRAWN ON STONE BY J. D. HARDING,

From the Original Drawings

BY THE

HONOURABLE CHARLES STEWART HARDINGE.

PART II.

KASHMIR AND THE ALPINE PUNJAB.

LONDON:

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1847.

KASHMIR.



गुलाम सिंह

FROM LIFE BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDINGE.

ON STONE BY THOS FAIRLAND.

GULAB SING

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF MAHARAJAH GÜLAB SING.

GÜLAB Sing, the Maharajah of Jamu and Kashmir, is the elder brother of the Rajahs Dhihan and Suchet Sing, to the former of whom Gülab Sing owes his rise, and by whom he was first brought to Runjit Sing's notice. He was originally a soldier in the service of the old Rajah of Jamu, with whom he quarrelled, and entered the service of the Rajah of Kishtewar, when, hearing of Runjit's designs against Jamu, he offered him his services. The old Rajah fled, and Gülab Sing took possession of the latter district for Runjit. He subsequently got possession of Kishtewar, and, up to the period of the Sikh invasion, administered the whole of the Hill Districts (with the exception of Kashmir) under the Lahore Durbar. On the death of Runjit Sing, Gülab Sing's younger brother, Rajah Dhihan Sing, continued minister, and, having estranged the greater proportion of the Sikhs, looked to his brother, the lord of Jamu, as his main support. It was at this period that the Bhai Ram Sing and Govind Ram attempted to exterminate the Jamu family; but, in the meantime, the reigning Prince at Lahore, Khurruk Sing, had been deposed and his son No Nehal Sing placed on the "Guddee," or throne, by the interference of the members of the Jamu family. Shortly afterwards this young Prince met his death when attending the burial rites of his father Khurruk Sing, being at the time accompanied by Gülab Sing's eldest son. A beam from the archway, under which the elephant which carried them was passing, crushed the young Prince and his companion. At this crisis, Dhihan Sing sent messengers to Shere Sing, offering to secure the throne for him, and at the same time informed Gülab Sing of the fate of his son. The latter proceeded to Lahore, and, in opposition to his brother Dhihan Sing the minister, he advocated with Ajit Sing, the claims to the throne of Mai Chund Kour, the widow of Khurruk Sing who was shortly afterwards recognised as the successor of No Nehal Sing. In the meantime, Dhihan Sing retired to Jamu, and, with the assistance of General Ventura, measures were taken to form a powerful party in favour of Shere Sing. Hearing of this conspiracy, Rajah Gülab Sing moved 3,000 of his troops into the citadel of Lahore, and determined upon resisting any attempt which might be made to overthrow Chund Kour; promises of pay and presents of jewels were made to the soldiers, and every preparation for a vigorous defence of the citadel was ordered. The occupation by Shere Sing of the Hazari Bagh was not resisted; his guns were allowed to be planted close to the gates of the citadel, and, during three days, the contest continued. The attempts of the assailants, however, to enter the citadel by a breach which had already been made in the walls were unsuccessful, and it was not until he had received assurance from Dhihan Sing of intercession in his behalf with Shere Sing, that Gülab Sing hoisted his flag in token of submission; he then threw himself at the feet of Shere Sing and implored forgiveness; his entreaties were listened to, and the "Talleyrand of the East," as he has been called, played his cards with the same adroitness that had previously

and has subsequently characterized his line of policy. He was shortly afterwards employed, in March, 1841, under Maharajah Shere Sing, in quelling an insurrection which had been raised by the Khalsa troops in Kashmir, who had put the Governor, Mihan Sing, to death. Gulab Sing, attended by Sheik Gholam Mohiud-Din, advanced into the valley by the Pir Panjal Pass, and entirely discomfited the Sikh insurgents near Shupeyon.

In 1835, the Jamu Rajah undertook his expedition to Ladak, in which he met with but little resistance, but, in consequence of his pushing his troops too far into the hills at an unfavourable season of the year, they suffered so severely from the cold that many were left to perish in the snow, and the life of Terawur Sing, Gulab Sing's ablest general, was sacrificed. The close of the reign of Shere Sing was marked by events which are illustrative of the intrigues and dark plots which have ever characterized the Sikh nation. The Maharajah fell by the treacherous hand of Ajit Sing Sindhawala, his son Purtab Sing, a mere child, shared the same fate, and the same member of the Sindhawala family despatched the *Dogra* minister, Dhihan Sing, perhaps the most remarkable of the Jamu brothers.

The murder of Lehna Sing and Ajit Sing Sindhawala quickly followed, and the nephew of Gulab Sing, Rajah Hira Sing, now stepped forward, and, by gaining over the troops, by raising their pay, &c., succeeded in proclaiming Dhulip Sing Maharajah, and establishing himself as Wuzir, by the assistance of his uncle, Gulab Sing, who occupied the citadel of Lahore with his own hill troops. The other brother, Suchet Sing, espoused the cause of the Prince Peshora Sing, adopted son of Runjit, and advanced against Lahore with a considerable force, where he was met by the troops of Hira Sing, and fell in a hand-to-hand combat.

The murder of Hira Sing, the last remnant of the Jamu Dogras, followed that of his uncle. The latter showed the same unflinching courage, and met his fate sword in hand.

In 1845, the Sikh troops, by order of Jowahir Sing, then Wuzir, and under the command of Rajah Lal Sing, advanced to Jamu, and surrounded it. Several successful sallies were made by Gulab Sing's troops, but after five or six days the position of the latter was turned, and he was once more obliged to throw himself upon the mercy of his opponents. His conduct under these circumstances was perhaps as remarkable as any of his former acts. He represented himself as the most abject of human beings, used the most humiliating terms, and entered Lahore in the garb of a slave, and with the most abject tokens of submission. The device succeeded; he escaped unharmed from the soldiery, and was shortly afterwards allowed to return to Jamu, but not until large sums of money had been extorted from him.

On the determination to invade our frontier being formed by the Lahore Durbar, he studiously kept aloof from any participation in those plans, and watched every movement with that foresight and discrimination which has always been attributed to him. After the battle of Firozshuhur, and when the affairs of the Durbar were becoming desperate, emissaries were despatched to Jamu, and the Rajah was entreated to take command of the

Lahore forces ; he repeatedly refused, and was only induced to move towards the capital upon the assurance that he should be at liberty as Wuzir to take his own line, and pursue whatever course he might deem most advantageous for the interests of the state and the young Maharajah. On the 10th February, the total defeat of the Sikh forces at Sobraon deprived the Durbar of all effectual means of resistance. One course remained, and that the Jamu Rajah knew was the only one which could save the independence of the state. The sequel is known. The submission of Gulab Sing on behalf of the Maharajah, and his meeting with the Governor-General at Kussoor, have become matters of history, as well as the arrangements which have placed him in possession of the Valley of Kashmir.

Gulab Sing is about fifty years of age, and is not only noted for his political acumen, but for his physical activity and courage, which has never been disputed ; his character also is free from those vices which have been attributed to his brothers, Rajahs Dhihan and Suchet Sing, and which pervade all orders of the Sikh nation, high and low. His features are regular, and the expression of his countenance more than usually mild, with an affectation of openness. Indeed, it has been remarked that a "man might almost take him for his grandmother," and the impression is certainly one which many who have conversed with him would form. He has remitted one-fifth of the revenues paid by the Hill Chiefs in Kashmir, and, by abolishing the rite of Sati in the valley of Kashmir, as well as by making lenient settlements, has taken steps to conciliate the feelings of the Kashmirians, who have been more or less oppressed by the successive governors appointed by the Lahore Durbar.

JULLUNDER DOAB.



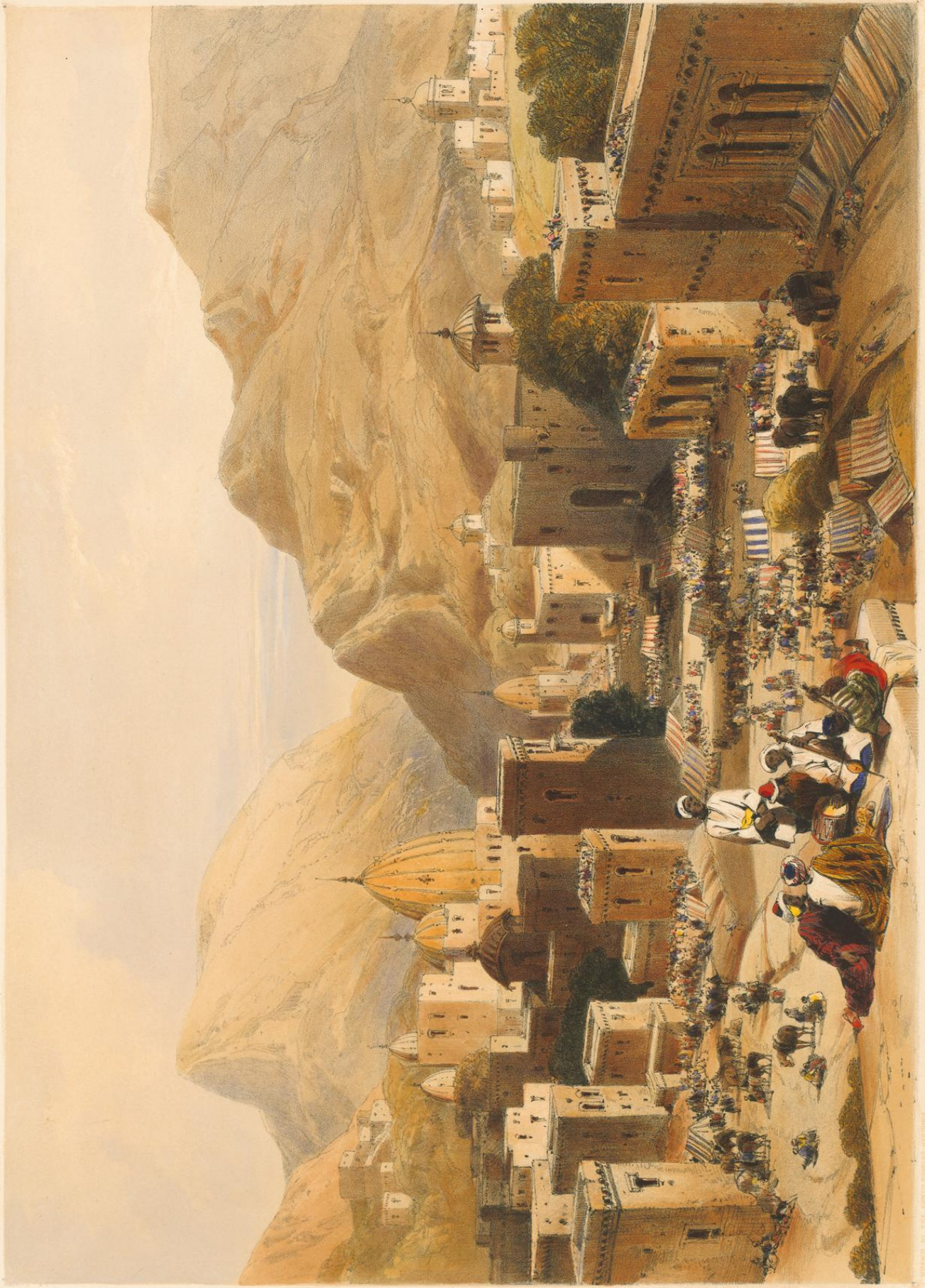
PAINTED BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDING

J.P. HARDING LITHO

KOTE KANGRA.

KOTE KANGRA.

THIS Fort, which has been, from time immemorial, considered impregnable, stands about 100 feet above the Ban Gunga, near its confluence with the Beas. About the beginning of the present century it belonged to Sinsar Chund, who, being attacked by the Ghorkhas or Nepalese, defended it for four years, when he gave it up to Runjit Sing on condition that the latter would expel the invaders. It remained in the hands of the Sikhs until it became the property of the British Government by the Treaty of March, 1846, which was ratified by the Lahore Durbar. It has since become an object of interest from the resistance offered by the Lahore Killadar, or Governor, to our occupation of it in May, 1846.



POORMANDAL.

Is about sixteen miles from Jamu, and is as sacred a spot in the minds of the Rajpoot population as Hurdwar is in the upper Provinces of India. It is the resort of pilgrims from all parts of the hills, and on the celebration of the "Male," which is a religious festival, the streets are filled with Hillmen of every tribe and every description of Costume. The buildings, which are of stone have been erected principally by the members of Gulab Sing's family, and the main street exceeds in breadth that of any native city in India.



OODAMPORE, 4 MARCHES FROM JUMMOO.

DRAWN BY THE HON^{BLE} CHARLES HARDINGE.

L.D. HARDING LITHO.

OODAMPORE.

MR Hardinge thus writes, probably from a spot near the scene of this sketch:—

“ At Oodampore we encamped in a wood with some old buildings near it, and a rocky stream running close under our tents. With Gulab Sing's Sowars grouped in the foreground, and a broken tree thrown across the stream, it reminded me of the efforts of Cattermole, or rather of Salvator Rosa.”



DRAWN BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDING

L. D. HARDING LITHO.

HILL FORT OF GULAB SING

HILL FORT OF GULAB SING.

THIS Fort was rebuilt twenty-five years ago by the Maharajah, in consequence of its having been destroyed by lightning. It is one of the numerous small forts which are scattered about through his territory, and is capable of holding 100 men. It lies on the left bank of the Chunab, on the road to Jamu.

ALPINE PANJAB.



DRAWN BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDING.

L.D. HARDING, LITHO.

JAMU.

JAMU.

THE residence of Maharajah Gülab Sing, is built on the banks of a small stream which is tributary to the Chunab. On the opposite bank is the fort which was built by him when the district was made over to him by Runjit Sing, and is capable of holding a battalion. The town is small, but the inhabitants amount to about 8000.

In the foreground of this sketch are some figures representing a party about to proceed on a hunting excursion. They are taken from a sketch done by Mr Hardinge at Jamu of Gülab Sing's eldest son.

A detailed illustration of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a river flows from the bottom left towards the center. On the right bank, a large, leafy tree stands prominently. A small boat with several figures is on the river. In the middle ground, a cluster of buildings, possibly a village or a small town, is situated on a hillside. The background features steep, rocky mountains under a hazy sky. The overall style is that of a 19th-century landscape painting.

BIJ-BEARA BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND THE CITY OF KASHMIR.

THIS place is one of the most important towns in the valley, and is built on the banks of the Jylum. Near it are the celebrated saffron fields of Kashmir, which, when in flower, communicate a delicate purple tint to the plain they occupy.



PAINTED BY THE HON. CHAIRMAN, HARDSINGH

1. D. 418/10. 11/10/10

FORT OF CHUPAYAN

RUNJEET SINGH'S TROOPS HERE GAINED POSSESSION OF THE VALLEY

SHUPEYAN FORT.

THIS Fort, the name of which is spelt Chupayan, by Baron Hügel, lies near the debouchure of Pir Panjal Pass into the valley and on the road to the city of Kashmir. It is remarkable for the action fought near that spot in the year 1819, by which Runjit Sing wrested the valley from the Affghans. An isolated hill near it is a remarkable object, from the summit of which a general view of the valley is obtained.

KASHMIR.



DRAWN BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDING.

JO. HARDING. LITHO.

CITY OF KASHMIR. MOSQUE OF SHAH HAMADAN.

CITY OF KASHMIR.

THE old Hindu name of this city was Sirinagur, the town of Surza, or the Sun. It extends about four miles along both banks of the Jylum, and is composed of irregularly-built houses of wood, which on that account are the more picturesque. On the north of the city rises the Hurri Purbut, about 200 feet above the river, on the summit of which stands the fort which, during the insurrection raised by Sheik Iman-ud-din, was defended by a garrison of Gülab Sing's troops. The "Jamâ Musjid" is the most remarkable building in the city, and is supported by more than 300 columns of the Deodara wood, eleven feet in height.

The Mosque of Shah Hamadan, which is the building shown in the sketch, is essentially Chinese in its architecture, and forms a strong contrast with the style of the former mosque. Seven bridges, rudely constructed of alternate layers of Deodara logs and loose stones, form the communication between both banks of the river, and are said to have lasted for several centuries. The population of the city has been estimated at 240,000 inhabitants, two-thirds of whom are Mussulmans. Shawls, paper, leather, and firearms are manufactured in the city; and although the number of "shawl factories" has greatly decreased, the superiority of the manufacture remains unchanged.

The city is said to have been founded by Pravarasena, a Hindu king, A.D. 128. With regard to the revenues of the Province, it may be stated that the late Governor farmed it for £100,000 per annum.

Mr Vigne's excellent work on Kashmir will give the reader a more detailed account of the city.

KASHMIR



Drawn by the Hon^{ble} Charles Hardinge

L. D. HARDING LITHO

HURRI PURBUTT FORT

CITY OF KASHMIR AND FORT OF HURRI PURBUT.

THE opposite view represents a distant prospect of the City of Kashmir, which is partially concealed by the base of the hill on which the Hurri Purbut Fort is situated. In the foreground are two natives engaged in duck-shooting. All travellers concur in representing the borders of the lake as abounding with various kinds of water-fowl.

When the Sheik Imam-ud-din, stimulated by the treacherous advice of Lal Sing, foolishly consented to raise the standard of rebellion against Gulab Sing, the forces of the latter were compelled to retreat to the lofty fort of which the sketch is a representation. Their leaders had been previously murdered under circumstances of aggravated cruelty, and it was not until the advance of the British forces was authentically announced, as supporting the authority of Gulab, that the beleaguered garrison was relieved from a situation of some difficulty and peril.

KASHMIR



DRAWN BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDING

LITHO BY J. D. HARDING

WULAR LAKE.

THE WULUR LAKE.

THIS lake is about twenty-one miles long from East to West, and twelve miles broad. The singara, or water-nut, grows on it in great abundance, and supports the poorer class of the population. Forster mentions that in his time the Government derived an income of £1200 for granting the privilege of selling it. In the lake is a small island which contains the ruins of a Hindu temple.



DRAWN BY THE HON. CHARLES HARDINGE

R. LABY LITHO

SHEIK IMAM-UD-DIN.

RUNJUR SING. DEWAN DINA NATH.

THE SHEIK IMAM-UD-DIN.

THE Sheik, who, misled by the bad advice of Lal Sing, opposed our ally Gülab Sing in Kashmir, is represented by all who have seen or had intercourse with him, as a man of little character or capacity, and what is commonly called "a poor creature." Lal Sing, who instigated him, under circumstances now well known to the public, has been regarded deservedly as the guilty party, and, by our government, treated as such.

RUNJUR SING, AND DEWAN DINA NATH.

THE name of Runjur Sing will long be remembered in England as the chieftain who commanded the force opposed to the gallant Sir Harry Smith in the well-fought and glorious field of Aliwal.

The prudent Minister who stands beside him must have become familiar, at least in name, to such readers as have cast their eye over the pages detailing those intrigues and revolutions which preceded the invasions of British India by a Sikh force. He appears to have been one of the few wise men who counselled his fellow countrymen to desist from their insane and wicked project. His office was analogous to that which with us is Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The last two sketches (Runjur Sing, and Dewan Dina Nath) might, perhaps, with more propriety, have been inserted in the first part of the work. They have, however, been received from India at a later date than some of the foregoing drawings, which it is hoped the reader will kindly accept as an excuse for their insertion in their present place.



10. HARDING LITHO

DRAWN BY THE MON. CHARLES HARDING

FIROZSHUHUR.

THIS sketch was done from recollection. Mr Hardinge visited the spot two days after the battle, when the field was still strewn with the dead and the captured cannon. The sketch is intended to represent the morning of the twenty-second and Tej Sing's attack on our troops when in possession of the camp.

“On came the Sirdar,” says an eloquent writer in the *Calcutta Review*, before quoted; “a dense cloud of dust which slowly rose above the horizon, at once heralding and covering his host. Miles yet separated the two main bodies from each other when their advanced guards, those ‘antennæ’ of armies, came in contact. The weak British pickets were driven in, and the advantage was rapidly followed up by an attempt to regain the position of Firozshuhur, again as rapidly abandoned at sight of the compact and determined line of the British infantry. The Sikh advanced guards contented themselves with their reconnoissance, and fell back upon Tej Sing's main body.”