of the barrack square, the acquired lessons of unreasoned drill, the accepted formulas of collective movement, subordinating action to one mind and one command, and liable to produce inertness and helplessness whenever circumstances became such as previous precept had not contemplated. It has been already said that the slope of the ground from the rocks to the brow of the mountain concealed the advance of the Boers until they were about forty yards distant from our men. Then across those few yards of level space a fast and furious fire broke out. The first result of the fire upon our ranks was not discouraging. It was some seconds before it assumed accuracy. We seemed to be throwing quite as heavy a weight of lead upon the storming party as they were directing against us. And so no doubt we were, but while our volleys flew harmlessly over the heads of the Boers, theirs were striking low on the rocks behind which our men stood. Nothing was to be seen of the enemy except the muzzles of rifles appearing and disappearing, the incessant spurting of smoke, and now and again a head showing for a moment over the grassy level.

At the first opening of this fire our men had fixed bayonets, whether with the object of resisting or delivering a charge is not known. But the Boers had no intention of coming closer, and it is extremely doubtful if, in face of the storm of lead then sweeping the level space, any of our troops, had they essayed a charge, would have reached the enemy. While thus for three or four minutes this feu d'enfer went on, small parties of Boers, disengaging from the rear of their main attack, began to show themselves on the right flank, where at the edge of the hill-top the
thick cluster of rocks stood, equally commanding the outer slope of the hill and the inner depression. This point had now become the key of the position.

It has never been clearly ascertained what was the exact sequence of events at this important point after the first volley had been delivered by the Boers from below the crest, but it would appear that shortly after the first party of Boers had gained the summit a second body of about equal strength scaled the last ridge of the mountain at this rocky cluster, joined hands with the men who had already effected a lodgment on the summit, and began to work forward round the right flank of our position. In an official report we read that at the moment the attack of the Boers was about to begin at the rocks, the sailors who were stationed near the point at which we had ascended ‘came running down, saying they were attacked from the east.’ They were sent back to their post. At this critical moment there was a lessening of resisting force at both flanks, showing itself in the steadily increasing trickle of men into the hollow behind the central fight. Some of these arrivals excused their presence in the hollow by asserting that they had been ordered to bring fresh ammunition, but there was no lack of ammunition, nor was there need of reinforcements, for already the ridge held more than the number required to man it, and a crowd or clump of soldiers was collected in rear of it. The rocks afforded good cover to our men. It was now of vital importance to secure the threatened flanks, and

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5 This may be accounted for by the fact already mentioned that some of the bullets fired by the Boers on the north face now flew over the hollow and fell among the sailors. The naval report, however, does not mention any attack except that ‘on the other (i.e. the north) side of the mountain, towards which a naval officer took a few sailors, but was ordered back to his post. (see S. Africa, c. 2250, 1881).
desperate efforts were made to deploy the crowded ranks to right and left, but in the din of fight and the incessant crackling of musketry little could be heard and nothing done to induce or enforce order. A small body of men were with difficulty moved from the centre to reinforce the cluster of rocks on the right, about which anxiety had now become general, for the Boers, gathering strength at this part of the brow, were edging more and more round this flank, and their shots had already begun to strike into the basin and along the rear of the line holding the rocks. The chance remained that the party moving to the right would secure that threatened flank, but they never reached so far. As they neared the foot of the knoll, they were seen to turn to their right and disappear into a fold in the mountain. A minute or two later the remaining men on the knoll gave way, and the Boers were quickly in possession of the vantage-point. The right flank of the main line of defence was now completely turned, and from that moment the Majuba was lost.

What happened at the rocks will never be accurately known. But it is certain that suddenly the right of the line broke and fled; that the impulse of panic ran quickly along the confused body of men; and that, in less time than it takes to tell it, the whole of the troops rushed backwards from the rocks to the brow they had ascended nine hours earlier. It is said that a wild cry rose from them as they broke. It is certain that scarcely had the rout begun, before the Boers, realising that the hill was theirs, rapidly crowned the abandoned ridge and poured fire upon the retreating troops in the hollow immediately below them, and on the upward slope of the opposite ridge.
over which the fugitives were crowding. It was here that the loss was so heavy. In every direction men were falling under this unerring fire, delivered well within a hundred yards of distance. Soon the Boers pressed on to the southern rim of the mountain, and their volleys smote the rocky declivities of the descent, carrying wounds and death far down the mountain side.

And meanwhile the General? To find him, we must go back to the ridge where the fighting line had stood. From the moment of the first retreat from the brow of the mountain to that of the final rush from the rocks was probably not more than an interval of fifteen minutes. The position taken by Colley in the centre of the line which was to meet the final assault of the Boers was the one he kept until the line broke. That throughout he maintained the same vigilant, active, but calm and collected demeanour, is shown in all the reports of the survivors. A moment before the line broke, a correspondent already quoted says that he 'saw his Excellency standing within ten paces directing some men to extend to the right.'

No order to retire ever issued from the General’s lips. When the line gave way on the right, the panic ran quickly to the centre, in front of which the General stood. A group of men still held the koppie on the extreme left, but between that point and the centre there was an interval of open ground. It is said that a few men remained a little while near the General after the remainder of the line had gone. When this ‘cluster’ went, he stood alone.

‘Oh, my men, do not run.’ It was thus he had

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*The group on this koppie on the western face held their ground wounded save two.*
described, two and twenty years earlier, the closing scene in the life of a Kaffir chief far down in the Kaffrarian forest. ‘When fresh men came up, his people began to give, but Tola called out, “Oh, my men, don’t run, but follow me.”’ How strangely strong must the same thought have now come to Colley as that stream of men poured away from him at the Majuba! ‘Oh, my men, do not run.’

The spot at which he was standing alone was at a little distance from the temporary hospital, and ten or fifteen yards from the ledge of rocks which the Boer frontal attack had now reached. To his right as he stood facing the ledge, the left flank of the Boer advance was already moving along the southern crest and drawing in towards the hospital in the hollow. His position therefore in relation to the enemy was encompassed on two sides by advancing lines, both of which were firing rapidly across the angle of ground, the size of which their converging movement was momentarily making smaller. No other figure was standing erect in that bullet-swept space, nor had any dead fallen near the spot where he stood, for it was among the fugitives on the further slope of the basin that the heaviest loss occurred. There were, however, many wounded men lying in what was called the hospital a few yards distant. Few among them were able in their pain and danger—for they were now shot at and over from two sides of their position—to note or think about other things. In the three or four accounts afterwards given by these men there are many discrepancies; comparing them with each other, with the statements of some Boers who were in the advancing lines, and with whatever information of the preceding
moments exists, the balance seems to incline to the account given by a corporal whose hurt was less severe than those of his comrades, whose statement was made immediately after the cessation of the fight, and recorded almost at the same moment. 'The General,' said this man, 'never moved from where he was when our men retired. He stood there trying to rally the men, and one of the Boers shot him straight in the forehead some time after the day was lost. Had he chosen to turn, he would have had as good a chance as any one else of getting away unhurt.' When these words were spoken, near the foot of the mountain on the day of Majuba, the man who uttered them had in his possession evidence that he had been near the final scene. He held in his hand the puggaree of the helmet which Colley had that day worn.'

In the sense in which death can have any pain or bitterness, George Colley died when his men broke and fled. This mountain, which had seemed but an hour

7 The allusion to the General's death in the official report of Colonel Herbert Stewart, who was not so near at the moment, is to the same effect:

'I had been sent by the General to his left to extend the men to the right. I was doing so when the retreat commenced. I was unable to see him until, as I turned round, I saw him walking slowly some twenty yards in front of the Boer line, which was advancing and firing rapidly. I moved towards him for some two or three steps when I saw him fall. Very shortly afterwards I received a blow on my leg, knocking me down, and after vainly endeavouring for some thirty hours to escape from amidst the Boers by whom I was cut off, I was taken prisoner.

'Every officer that I saw was doing his very utmost to instil that confidence into his men that the sudden retreat of the front line of the defence had somewhat rudely shaken.

'To the advance of the Boers being unseen and hence unreported, the consequent retirement, and the fact that the efforts of the officers were fruitless to check the demoralisation ensuing thereon, I attribute the loss of the position.'—Colonel Herbert Stewart's report (signed copy lent by Lady Pomeroy-Colley).
ago the solid base of a brilliant success, had proved to him the shifting quicksand of military misfortune.

Amid many vague and contradictory rumours this certainty remains. Drawing ever increasing fire from the converging lines of the enemy, he found a soldier’s death on the field he would not leave. On the summit of Majuba, sword in hand, facing his foes—he fell. Less tragic might easily have been the closing scene, but not even the consolation of victory could have added to the quiet heroism of that supreme end which comes evenly to victor and to vanquished on the battlefield.\(^8\)

\(^8\) ‘I have just received, and am sending home by this mail, the helmet worn by your gallant husband on February 27... Roos, who led the left column of the attack, and who was one of the first Boers up on the plateau, told me he saw your husband standing up facing the Boers just before he was shot. But the Boers did not then know who he was.—Natal, Sept. 17, 1881. From Sir Evelyn Wood to Lady Pomeroy-Colley.

‘I saw him [the General] near the centre of the plateau on the top of the hill. They [the Boers] asked me to identify him, and this I did. He was only wounded once, and that through the top of the skull. Death must have been instantaneous. From the direction of the wound, he must have been facing the Boers when hit.’—H.M.S. Flora, Simon’s Bay, May 11, 1881. From Edward Mahon, Surgeon, R.N., to Henry Colley, Esq.
APPENDIX

I.

Sir George's grave stands first in the sad succession between that of Colonel Deane and the boundary wall, where—by some prophetic chance—a vacant space had been left. He had often expressed a feeling of strong repugnance to the practice of removal of the dead, and in accordance with what would undoubtedly have been his own wish, he rests in peace beneath the shadow of the Amajuba.

The wooden cross which marked his grave at first was replaced by a cross of marble bearing on its base the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF
SIR GEORGE POMEROY-COLLEY
K.C.S.I., C.B., C.M.G.,
H.M. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH-EAST AFRICA
GOVERNOR OF NATAL
MAJOR-GENERAL COMMANDING FORCES
BORN 1ST NOVEMBER 1835
KILLED IN ACTION ON AMAJUBA MOUNTAIN
SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 1881.

'O for thy voice to soothe and bless!
What hope of answer, or redress?
Behind the veil, behind the veil.'
Knebworth: March 10, 1881.

Dear Miss Colley,—We have never met before, but we meet now in that common grief which unites, how closely, all who have loved and honoured your dear and noble brother—as loved and honoured he will ever be, and henceforth more than ever by me and mine. To you and yours this irreparable loss is beyond words— I cannot speak of it. Nor yet of all that is lost to our country in the loss of one who, had he lived, would assuredly have been one of England's greatest soldiers and statesmen. But, if I feel that what is to me a duty will not seem to you an intrusion, it is because the very comfortlessness of my own loss may perhaps be of some comfort to yours. It seems like some poor part of my lifelong obligation to my dear and ever honoured friend that to you, the sister he so loved, I should first be saying what I yearn to place on record before all the world—how much he was to me, how my wife and I revered him, how the fulness of his worth was felt by us, how constantly we shall love and look up to him still, and how deep is the pride with which we cherish the memory of his wisdom, his courage, his splendid intellect and golden heart.

Although out of my own life a source of light and strength is gone with that great soul, I feel already what a living force remains, still uniting me to him and leading me up to him, in the memory of his life and the beauty of his example. And so I feel sure it will be with all who have ever felt his influence.

Had his daring schemes and heroic efforts been crowned with success, we might have mourned him less bitterly, but I don't think I, for one, should then have felt so profoundly, or with a sense so akin to worship, the perfect grandeur and sweetness of that stately spirit, which shone brighter, and rose higher in all his acts and words and ways, during those terrible days of undeserved disappointment, throughout which he must have suffered so acutely.

I feel that henceforth in those hours of frustrated exertion and disappointed hope, when the heart fails and the head droops, your brother's image will stand before me, as I see it now, and shame away despair.
Surely it is not in vain that such men live or die.
Believe me, dear sister of my ever dear friend, in deep sympathy and affection,

Your true fellow-mourner,

LYTTON.

III.

LINES BY HIS KINSMAN, THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.

IN MEMORIAM G. P. C.

February 27, 1881

Gentle and brave, well skilled in that dread lore
Which mightiest nations dare not to unlearn;
Fair lot for thee had leapt from Fortune's urn,
Just guerdon of long toil; and more and more
We deemed was for her favourite in store;
Nor failed prophetic fancy to descry
Wreaths of high praise, and crowns of victory,
Which in our thought thy brows already wore.

But He, who portions out our good and ill,
Willed an austerer glory should be thine,
And nearer to the Cross than to the Crown.
Then lay, ye mourners, there your burden down,
And hear calm voices from the inner shrine
That whisper, Peace, and say, Be still, be still.

Richard Chenevix Trench.

IV.

GENERAL ORDER ISSUED BY SIR GEORGE COLLEY TO THE TROOPS IN NATAL ON THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES WITH THE BOERS.

Headquarters, Pietermaritzburg:
December 28, 1881.

The Major-General Commanding regrets to inform the troops of his command that a detachment of 250 men of the 94th Regiment,
on its march from Leydenberg to Pretoria, was surprised and overwhelmed by the Boers; 120 being killed and wounded and the rest taken prisoners. The attack seems to have been made while the troops were crossing a spruit, and extended to guard a long convoy. The Major-General trusts to the courage, spirit, and discipline of the troops of his command to enable him promptly to retrieve this misfortune, and to vindicate the authority of Her Majesty and the honour of the British arms. It is scarcely necessary to remind soldiers of the inca lculable advantage which discipline, organisation, and trained skill give them over more numerous but undisciplined forces. These advantages have been repeatedly proved, and have never failed to command success in the end, against greater odds and greater difficulties than we are now called on to contend with. To all true soldiers the loss we have suffered will serve as an incentive and stimulus to greater exertions; and the Major-General knows well he can rely on the troops he has the honour to command to show that endurance and courage which are the proud inheritances of the British army. The stain cast on our arms must be quickly effaced, and rebellion must be put down, but the Major-General trusts that officers and men will not allow the soldierly spirit which prompts to gallant action to degenerate into a feeling of revenge. The task now forced on us by the unprovoked action of the Boers is a painful one under any circumstances; and the General calls on all ranks to assist him in his endeavours to mitigate the suffering it must entail. We must be careful to avoid punishing the innocent for the guilty, and must remember that, though misled and deluded, the Boers are in the main a brave and high-spirited people and actuated by feelings that are entitled to our respect. In the operations now about to be undertaken, the General confidently trusts that the good behaviour of the men will give him as much cause of pride and satisfaction as their conduct and gallantry before the enemy, and that the result of their efforts will be a speedy and successful termination to the war.
APPENDIX

V.

DESPATCH WRITTEN BY SIR GEORGE COLLEY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR AFTER THE ACTION AT INGOGO.

Army Headquarters, Mount Prospect: February 12, 1881.

Sir,—For some days after the engagement at the Lang’s Nek, reported in my despatch of the 3rd instant, the Boers remained quiet, occupied, apparently, in further concentrating their forces and strengthening their position; and our communications with Newcastle were uninterrupted. I sent the Natal Mounted Police back to Newcastle at once to guard against any raids on that part of Natal, and some days later sent in the bulk of our transport, with the double object of reducing the number of animals in camp and bringing out fresh supplies when opportunity should offer.

2. On the 3rd a large convoy of wounded was sent into Newcastle, and, up to the 6th, waggons with bread and other supplies reached the camp unmolested. The post ran regularly and the telegraph line was uninterrupted.

3. On the 7th the post, proceeding as usual with a small escort, was fired upon by a party of Boers at a point a little beyond the double drift on the Ingogo, and obliged to return. The escort reported having seen about 50 or 100 Boers on the ridge between the Ingogo and Imbazane valleys. The same evening I received information from other sources that the Boers had detached a small force to harass our communications and intercept waggons, &c., passing between this and Newcastle.

4. On the morning of the 8th I moved out with a force of five companies 60th Rifles under Colonel Ashburnham, two field and two mountain guns under Captain Greer, R.A., and a detachment of 38 mounted troops under Major Brownlow, King’s Dragoon Guards, to patrol the road, and meet and escort some waggons expected from Newcastle. My mounted force was necessarily very weak, owing to the withdrawal of the Natal Police and to the casualties suffered by the mounted squadron on the 28th ultimo.

5. The Ingogo River crosses the Newcastle road about five miles south of this camp, taking its rise in a deep recess or bend in the Drakensberg, and running from west to east, through a valley about five miles wide, to the Buffalo river, which it joins
about four miles below the road. Two main branches unite just below where the road crosses them; whence this crossing is known as the 'Double Drift.' The two fords, which are about 100 yards apart, are rocky, with a rapid current, and sometimes dangerous in the sudden floods to which these mountain streams are liable.

6. The ridges to the north of the river, which are spurs of the remarkable square-topped mountain immediately overlooking this camp, and named the Umquelo, fall steeply in a series of steps to the Ingogo; the road winds down a long stony hill, two miles in length, between two of these spurs, commanded for its whole length by the ridges on each side. On the south side of the river a plain or very gentle rise extends for more than a mile to the foot of the ridge or plateau which separates the Ingogo and Imbezane valleys. This ridge is nearly level on its summit, strewn with rocks and boulders, and irregularly cut by rocky valleys, now expanding into a broad plateau, and again narrowing to a mere neck. Its slopes, as a rule, are stony but not very steep. The road rises to its summit by an easy ascent along the face of a projecting spur.

7. Leaving two mountain guns and a company of the 60th on a commanding position on the crest of the ridge to the north of the Ingogo, I moved down the road with the rest of the force, our front covered by the mounted troops, and the ridges on each side occupied by infantry. No enemy, however, was seen until our scouts, cresting the hills beyond the Ingogo, reported Boer patrols in sight. The column, having crossed the Ingogo and drawn in its flankers, halted and formed on the plain south of the Double Drift, and then resumed its march.

8. As we approached the foot of the ridge already described, reports were brought in that the Boers were in considerable force in our front, showing a strong skirmishing line, with four supports of 50 or 60 men each; and shortly afterwards our videttes were driven in. I immediately pushed forward with the advanced guard to occupy the point of the ridge which the road ascends. As we did so the Boers showed in large numbers about half a mile distant, and at once galloped forward boldly to dispute the ridge, and to take advantage of the cover which the intersecting valleys afforded. The guns were brought into action, but the Boers had already got under cover, and now pushed up the valleys wherever cover could be got, directing a heavy and accurate fire on our guns and skirmishers, at the same time throwing their
right rapidly forward to envelop us. The companies of the 60th, as they came up the hill, were pushed forward to meet these attacks, and in a few minutes the engagement became heavy and general.

9. The ground occupied by us was a small plateau, roughly triangular in shape, forming part of the main ridge, with which it is connected by necks slightly lower than the plateau we held. The enemy's attack embraced the south and western faces of the triangle and the eastern angle. Part of the plateau was fringed with rocks, affording good cover, but towards the eastern angle there was no cover except such as the grassy brow of the hill afforded; and one company of the 60th Rifles pushed forward in the angle to cover the guns, and meeting the Boers at close range suffered terribly from the close and accurate fire of the Boers, who were able to seize some rocks on the slope giving good cover.

10. With a moderate mounted force at my disposal it would not have been difficult to have rolled up the Boer right, which was dangerously extended and exposed. But the small mounted detachment under Major Brownlow, already reduced by casualties among the horses, was too weak for such an attempt. The level top of the plateau afforded no cover for our horses, and these in consequence suffered cruelly. The artillery, also exposed to a concentrated fire, lost so heavily that I found it necessary to withdraw the guns to a less exposed position, from which, however, they still fired shells occasionally when opportunity offered.

11. When it became evident that the attack was a serious and sustained one, and that reinforcements were coming to the Boers, I sent orders to camp for three companies of the 58th Regiment, to move out and occupy the ridges over the Ingogo. Later in the afternoon, when it was clear that the enemy had no force in our left rear which could cut the reinforcements off from camp, I directed them to endeavour to push across the Ingogo towards us, holding, however, the spur immediately overhanging and commanding the Double Drift.

12. The action commenced a little after 12, and for some time the fire was very heavy. Towards 3, however, it began to slacken, and the enemy apparently abandoned the idea of trying to win the position, though a steady and very accurate fire was still maintained, any one at all exposing himself being almost certainly struck. Our men fired with great steadiness and cool-
ness, husbanding their ammunition. Towards 4 o'clock the enemy could be seen removing his wounded from the field and collecting them at a point about a mile distant, and a little later began to draw off from our left front. About this time the Boer reinforcements, which had been dropping in during the afternoon, began to stream in in large numbers, and the attack on our right was for a time more vigorously renewed; but towards sundown the fire slackened on this side also, and the enemy withdrew and concentrated their forces in the valleys on our right. A movement made by a considerable body of Boers towards the Ingogo Drift, apparently with the object of intercepting our return to camp, was stopped by the appearance of the companies of the 58th on the ridge above the drift; and before dusk the fire had ceased altogether.

13. As I had not contemplated camping out, and had brought no supplies, and as the enemy was evidently preparing to renew the engagement with overwhelming numbers the following morning, I decided to withdraw to camp during the night. I was chiefly anxious about the guns, as the casualties among the horses had been so numerous that it seemed impossible to make up the necessary teams; but by withdrawing the team from the ammunition waggon, and collecting all available horses, we were able to horse, though insufficiently, the two guns.

14. As soon as it was dusk the fighting line was drawn in quietly, the guns run back, and the wounded collected. The severity of the fire had made it impossible in many cases to remove the wounded from the advanced positions; and the ambulances sent out had been unable to reach the plateau, the Boers having threatened to fire on them if they advanced while the engagement was going on. One waggon indeed which accompanied the column had been left at the foot of the hill, all the mules being killed and the waggon riddled with bullets. All waterproof sheets, blankets, great coats, &c., were collected, and the wounded sheltered as well as they could be until the ambulances could be sent up.

15. The night closed in with dark clouds, heavy pelting showers, and occasional lightning; the moon from time to time breaking through the clouds and lighting up the country in drifting gleams. When all arrangements were completed the force moved off in silence and perfect order, arranged in a hollow square; the guns, &c., in the centre, the infantry in skirmishing order on the four sides. On approaching the Double Drift the column halted, and
a patrol was sent out to ascertain that the drift was clear, and the column then filed across.

16. A heavy thunderstorm had now come on, the darkness was intense, and the river, swollen by the rains, was deep and rapid. Some of the first men trying to cross were swept down, but saved by a projecting sand bank. The rest were got over in detachments, holding hands. When all were across, the force resumed its march to camp, which it reached about 4 A.M.; the guns drawn up the hill by the 60th Rifles, the horses being unable to pull them up the steep and slippery road. The 58th companies remained in possession of the ridges commanding the drift until withdrawn the following day. The officer commanding the 58th had crossed the Ingogo as directed, but, as darkness came on before he could advance to our position, he rightly withdrew again, and concentrated his force on the hill immediately overlooking and commanding the Double Drift.

17. I enclose a return of the casualties, which, I regret to say, were severe. I have suffered a heavy personal loss (and the service generally has also suffered) in the death of Captain McGregor, R.E., my Assistant Military Secretary, a most promising officer, who would certainly have risen to distinction if spared, of soldierly bearing, of distinguished ability, and possessing in an eminent degree all the most valuable qualifications of a Staff Officer. He was killed early in the engagement, while pointing out the ground to Lieutenant Garrett, of the 60th, as the latter brought his company into action. I have also suffered, in common with the Civil Service and Colony of Natal, by the death of Mr. M. Stewart, Resident Magistrate, of the Ixopo Division, and one of the ablest and most promising Civil servants of Natal—who was attached to my staff as Dutch interpreter.

18. In Captain Greer, the Artillery has lost a gallant and valuable officer. Having volunteered and obtained leave from the Staff of Sir George Strahan, late Administrator of the Cape Colony, he organised and equipped a division of Field Artillery from guns in store at Durban, horses purchased at Newcastle, and a detachment of a Garrison Battery sent up from Cape Town; and rendered good service in command of the Artillery of the column. He was killed early in the engagement while directing the fire of his guns.

19. The 60th Rifles have lost two promising young officers in Lieutenant Garrett and 2nd Lieutenant O'Connell. The latter,
having been temporarily withdrawn from the fighting line with a few men to form a reserve, asked leave to rejoin his company, and was almost immediately killed. But the battalion has suffered a still heavier loss in the death of its adjutant, Lieutenant Wilkinson. Having distinguished himself through the engagement by his coolness and gallantry, volunteering for every difficult or dangerous task, he was drowned crossing the Ingogo after returning to the battlefield with assistance for the wounded. Of singularly winning disposition and manners, distinguished in all manly games, an excellent adjutant and most promising officer, few men of his standing could boast so many and such warm friends, or be so widely missed and deeply mourned.

20. The conduct of all ranks throughout this trying day was admirable. After the death of Captain Greer, Lieutenant Parsons continued to direct the guns and assist in working them under a heavy fire, until ordered to withdraw, having lost more than half of his detachment; and then, with the assistance of a few men of the 60th Rifles, again served the guns until severely wounded himself. The conduct of the men of the Royal Artillery well sustained the reputation of that corps. The comparatively young soldiers of the 60th Rifles behaved with the steadiness and coolness of veterans. At all times perfectly in hand, they held or changed their ground as directed without hurry or confusion, though under heavy fire, themselves fired steadily, husbanding their ammunition, and at the end of the day, with sadly reduced numbers, formed and moved off the ground with the most perfect steadiness and order; and finally, after 18 hours of continuous fatigue, readily and cheerfully attached themselves to the guns and dragged them up the long hill from the Ingogo, when the horses were unable to do so.

21. My thanks are due to Lieutenant-Colonel Ashburnham, 60th Rifles, for the manner in which he commanded his battalion, and the valuable assistance which he rendered me through the engagement; also to Major Brownlow, King's Dragoon Guards, for the manner in which he covered the advance of the force with the limited means at his disposal, and for his ever cool and ready help during the action. The Rev. Geo. M. Ritchie, Chaplain to the Forces, again distinguished himself, and honoured his office by his humane zeal and indefatigable attention to the wounded, with whom he remained until late the following night and until he had assisted at the burial of the dead. Major Essex, Column Staff Officer, and Lieutenant B. Hamilton, 15th Regiment, my aide-de-
camp, rendered me active and valuable assistance throughout the day.

22. I desire especially to mention the conduct of Sergeant-Major T. Toole, R.A., who well seconded Captain Greer and Lieutenant Parsons in working the guns till the end of the action, and on whom the charge of the guns and the arrangements for their withdrawal devolved when the latter officer was wounded; also of Sergeant-Major Wilkins, 60th Rifles, who throughout the day was to be seen wherever the fire was hottest, setting an example to the men by his cool and steady shooting and cheerful gallantry.

23. Surgeon McGann well maintained the distinguished reputation of the Medical Department for self-sacrificing exposure in attendance on the wounded. Until the arrival of the ambulances, with Surgeons Ring and Landon, he was the only medical officer with the force, and laboured indefatigably with the wounded.

24. The wounded were all removed to the base hospital at Newcastle in the course of the following day, and the dead buried on the field by a burial party sent out under a flag of truce. The dead officers were brought in and buried here.

25. I sent to offer the Boer Commandant medical assistance for their wounded, but the offer, though most gratefully acknowledged, was not accepted. Later, however, they sent to ask permission for waggons, with their wounded, to pass through our lines. They were courteous in allowing all facilities for the removal of the wounded, but seemed surprised and disappointed to find that we were not still in the same position in the morning.

26. I regret to say that we had to leave one Artillery ammunition waggon in the enemy's hands. Owing to the heavy casualties among the horses, it was not possible to do more than horse the two guns when we marched from the plateau. I sent out fresh Artillery horses during the night, and they succeeded in bringing the waggon down to the Double Drift, but, by that time, the river had risen so high that it was impossible to get the waggon across, and finally it had to be emptied of its contents and abandoned, the Artillery officer in charge, with his horses, making his way to Newcastle.

27. I estimated the force of the Boers at first engaged against us at about 300, afterwards increased by reinforcements to 800 or 1,000. Probably during the night their numbers were raised a good deal higher, as a continuous stream of reinforcements passed
to them from the Lang's Nek by a road leading round the back of the Umquelo mountain. Piet Joubert, the Commandant-General, and their 'Field Commandant-General,' Schmidt, were both present at the engagement. It is difficult to estimate their losses, which the Boers set down as small; but this is hardly consistent with the character of the engagement, or with the numbers that could be seen being removed from the field.

28. It is reported to me that Piet Joubert and a considerable part of the Boer force have returned to the Nek; that several hundred occupy a position between this and Newcastle, about eight miles from the latter place; and that another party are working round Newcastle, with a view to intercept the approaching reinforcements on the Ingogani river. Reinforcements, consisting of the 15th Hussars, 2nd Bn. 60th Rifles, 92nd Highlanders, and two guns, Naval Brigade, are now between Ladysmith and the Biggarsberg; and I have ordered a concentration on the latter point, whence the united force will now move forward in one strong column.

I have, &c. (Signed) G. Pомерой-Colley,
Major-General.

VI.

LETTER FROM LIEUTENANT BRUCE HAMILTON (A.D.C. TO SIR GEORGE COLLEY) TO HIS SISTER.

February 11, 1881.

I have had so much copying, &c., to do ever since I last wrote to you, that I have had no time to write to any one until now. Sir George has no staff officer now except Major Essex and myself, and I don't know how he manages to get on. He will be glad when Major Macgregor and Colonel Stewart arrive to take some of the work off his hands—it is wonderful to see how he gets through everything himself, and I only wish I could be of more use to him than I am. He has written to you and will have told you all about Tuesday's fight—an unlucky day it was in losing so many brave officers and men. We started in the morning at about 9, not in the least expecting an engagement, though we thought it possible we might exchange a few shots with the enemy. I was riding my Waler, which had only arrived the day before; he behaved capitally throughout, though he had never been under fire before. About two miles from camp on the road to Newcastle
we saw some few Boers in the distance to our left; we then went on down to the Ingogo, leaving one company of 60th Rifles and two guns on the hill from which we had seen the Boers. We crossed the river safely and saw nothing of the Boers until about one mile further on, when we were close to the hill, on which we remained all day. They were on this hill as we approached it, but went back out of sight when we got close. We reached the top and saw a large party of Boers galloping round behind a hill on our right; they wheeled round and came straight over the hill, across the valley towards us, but were met by so heavy a fire that they were obliged to retire. By this time they had opened fire on us from all round, excepting only the point from which we had come. Poor Macgregor had gone with one of the companies of the 60th to show them where to post themselves, but, unluckily for him and the whole company with him, he took them too far below the brow and they got detached from the rest of our line, and being on the side of the hill the Boers could see them from the top of the one opposite. Only about sixteen men out of that company of seventy came back unhurt. Macgregor was shot, I believe, during the first half-hour. We had no sooner got possession of the hill all round than the firing became very hot all round. We all got off our horses, and they—poor brutes!—got killed right and left. The Artillery lost about twelve, and Mounted Infantry twenty-five. It was a wonder how Sir George's and mine and Major Essex's pony escaped; they were all together the whole time, and were, I think, the only group of which none were touched. The firing went on, sometimes more, sometimes less, from 12 o'clock to sunset; every now and then some poor fellow would be hit, and these were got together as much as possible. We made them as comfortable as we could before leaving them for the night, but they must have suffered fearfully from want of water and shelter during the night. When the sun went down the men were got together and formed up near the guns. About 9 o'clock we marched off in a hollow square, guns in the centre, and remainder of Mounted Infantry Rifles in skirmishing order all round. When we left the hill we all expected a real hard hand-to-hand fight before we should be able to cross the river, and if the Boers had occupied the drift I don't know how we should have been able to cross, with the water so high from the rain. And, as you will see in Sir G.'s letter to Mr. Childers, one of the Mounted Infantry had reported a large number were waiting for us, just before we
started. You ask me if Sir G. was in danger that day. He was, and more danger than I hope he will be in again. You see there was no keeping in reserve, and we were all pretty well in the same boat on the top of that hill; but he seemed to be quite confident he would not be touched. Once, I remember, I told him he certainly would be hit if he did not sit down; he said: 'Oh no, I shan't,' and seemed so certain about it that I began to think so too. The admirable conduct of the troops was, I think, almost entirely due to their perfect confidence in him, and to his coolness and self-possession throughout the day.

VII.

THE NAME MAJUBA.

Amajuba means 'pigeons,' or 'doves,' and Majuba is the colloquial pronunciation of the word. The Zulu lays stress on the penultimate syllable, and generally sounds the first and last very lightly. Probably numbers of wild pigeons lived in the rocks near the top of the hill, and thus gave rise to the name.
SKETCH MAP OF THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS IN NATAL.

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Heights thus: 5250 in feet above the sea. Names of Farms thus: BATTLEFIELD.
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