

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY.

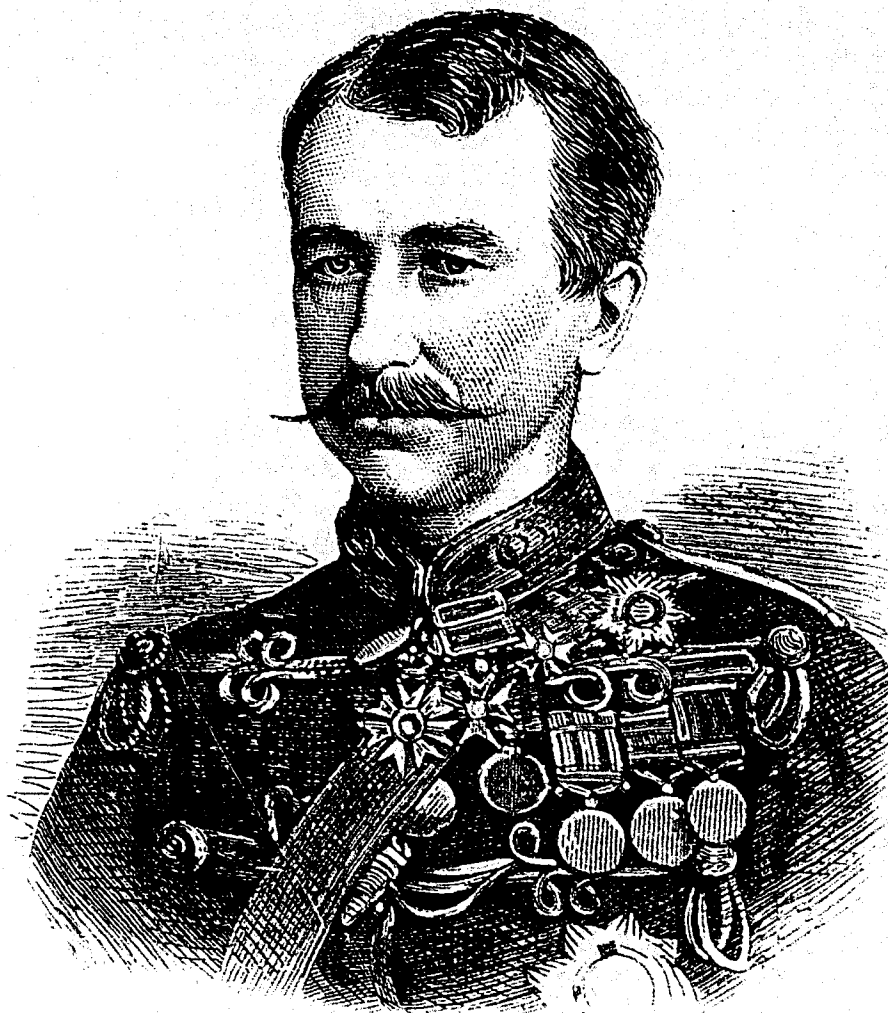
SKETCH OF HIS LIFE AND CAREER.

In 1854, when a British army, distributed in transports, was bound to the East at the outbreak of the war with Russia, a moderate-sized man in the undress of an infantry regiment might have been seen, any day of the week, on board the troop-ship *Orontes*, drilling his company by squads, to the disgust of the sailors and less zealous military passengers, in out-of-the-way corners of the steamer's main deck. There was nothing very remarkable about this officer; he was always scrupulously neat, not at all troubled by sea-sickness, only afflicted by a sleepless sort of energy that seemed rather out of place in a soldier on shipboard. When he was not drilling his men or showing some of the recruits how to "back up" the knapsack, with its forty-two pounds weight of spare ammunition, and so forth, so as to afford the lungs free play under the chest-strap, he might generally be found in his cabin with Petchirine's *Kersonese* on his knees, and the Admiralty chart of the *Euxine* spread out for reference. That officer was Captain Garnet Wolseley, the present Commander-in-Chief in Ashantee.

Arrived at Gallipoli the division to which Captain Wolseley's regiment was attached had a time of inactivity, little of which fell to the share of the subject of this sketch. His was the privilege to incur an early rebuff from the divisional commander, whose faith in the red-tapism of a by-gone age induced him to fall foul of so startling an innovation as that the young fusilier captain wished to initiate; that, namely, of allowing his men to dispense with the choking leather stock when the glass marked 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Capt. Wolseley, however, was an irrepressible innovator; checked in one direction this impulse broke out in another, and when the division was moved to Varna his company was, through the judicious changes effected by him in the soldiers' kit, in lighter heavy marching order than any other in the regiment.

Upon the investment of Sebastopol after the defeat of the Russians at the Alma by the combined armies, Captain Wolseley's regiment was incorporated with the Fifth (Sir Richard England's) Infantry Division, which was severely handled at Inkermann. That battle gave Captain Wolseley his majority. He had now sufficient influence in the regiment to carry through some of the minor reforms in the condition of his command. He was the first officer who dispensed with shaving in the ranks, and, when the rigours of the Crimean winter set in, to encourage the soldiers to wear sheepskin coats and caps, whereby the regiment obtained the sobriquet of "Wolseley's woolley boys."

During the desperate fighting to repulse the Russian sortie



GEN. SIR GARNET J. WOLSELEY, K. C. B.

on the 9th of December, 1855, Major Wolseley, who was field officer of the trenches, observed the left wing of the Third Buffs, that was acting as covering force to the advanced working parties, suffering severely from the enemy's artillery fire, and, moving up to the officer in command, suggested that he should order his men to lie down.

"Excuse me, I command the wing," was the repellent answer. The next instant the utterer fell mortally wounded.

"Come lads, your officer has set you the example, lie down," said Wolseley drily, and the men complied. Shortly afterwards

a half troop of Russian horse artillery was pushed forward to enfilade the advancing column of the French reinforcements led by Gen. Aurélien de Paladine.

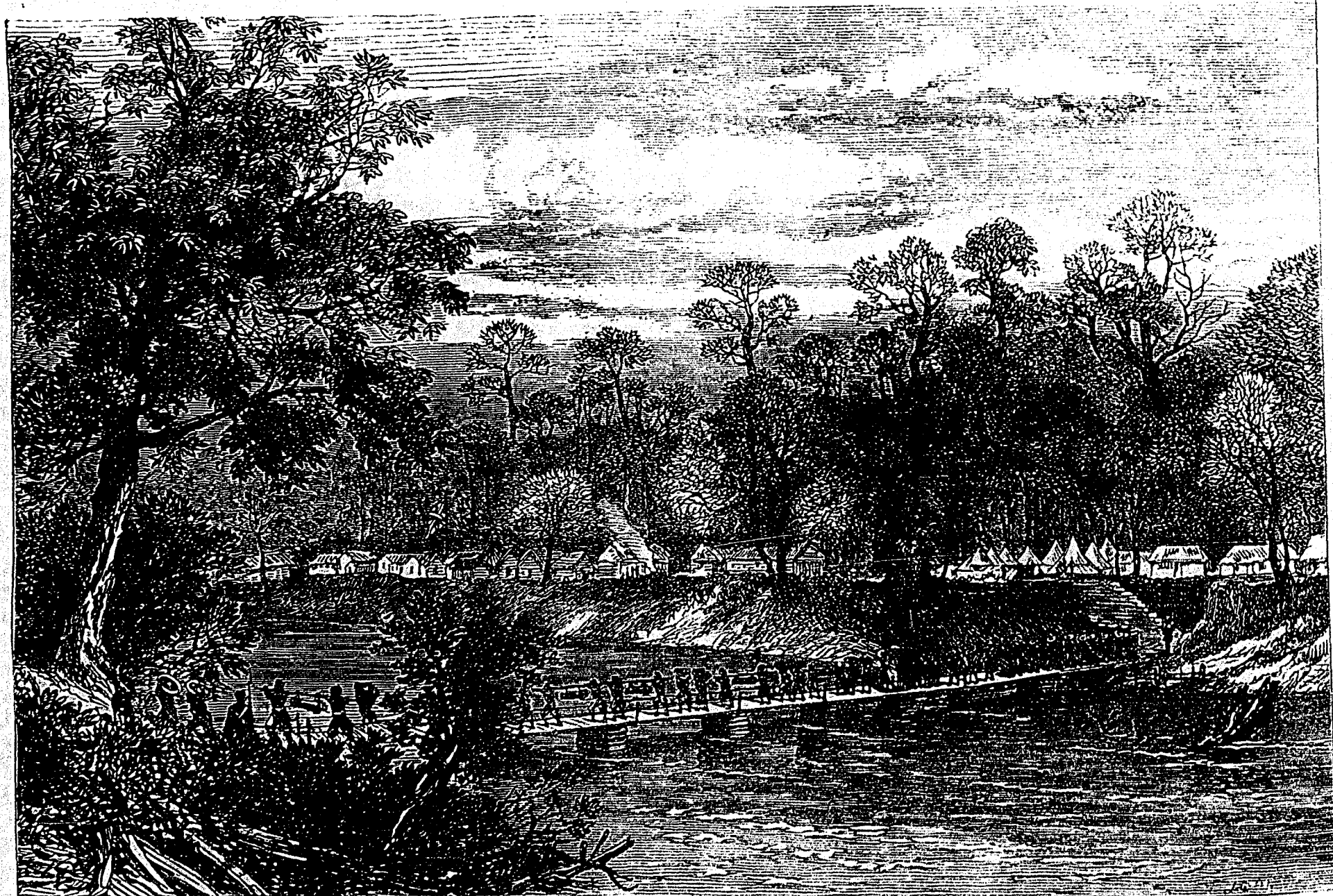
"There is a time for all things, boys," said Wolseley quietly: "a time to take rest, and a time to take guns. We'll have those two; follow me!"

And have them he did. They may be seen to this day on Clifton Down, in England, with "3rd Buffs" scratched at the time of capture on the chase of each piece by Garnet Wolseley's sword-point. The interval between the first and second bombardment of Sebastopol afforded Major Wolseley opportunities to distinguish himself, which he was not the man to neglect.

The audacity with which he threw himself with a portion of his regiment into redoubt Kakh which the Turks had abandoned, and from which he held the whole Russian attack in check until Sir Colin Campbell's brigade had changed front, earned him mention in Lord Raglan's despatches, and the conclusion of the war found him a lieutenant-colonel, a Knight Commander of the French Legion of Honour, holder of the Victoria Cross, and of the Turkish Order of the *Méjidie* of the first class.

In 1858 Sir Garnet obtained his majority. At that time he was attached to the 90th regiment, from which he retired on half pay, after serving in the Burmese and the Crimean wars; but obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, with an Indian appointment, in April, 1859, and that of Colonel in 1865. He was at the siege of Lucknow and defence of the Alumbagh in the Indian mutiny, when the despatches mentioned him with praise, and his conduct was rewarded with a step of brevet rank. He served in 1860 on the staff of the Quartermaster-General, through the war in China, for which, as for his previous services in three other wars, he received medals and other tokens of distinction. In October, 1867, he was appointed Quartermaster-General in Canada, and held that office several years. He commanded the Red River expedition in 1870, in which his skillful management was justly applauded; and he has since his return to England shown much ability in command of a division of the troops engaged in the autumn campaigns of

the last two or three years. Various articles from his pen upon the subjects of coast and urban fortification, recruiting, defensive and offensive systems of war, and modern tactics and drill made the name of Garnet Wolseley more of a household word than any of his deeds in the field. The attention his pen won for him brought him a major-general's commission when his age was far below that at which that rank is generally attained to in the British service, and the action of Mr. Cardwell in nominating him to the command of the Ashantee expedition was such a departure from Horse Guards traditions that it



THE ASHANTEE WAR.—THE CAMP AT PRAH-SU (PERMANENT GARRISON CAMP.)