

passed away, and my own existence is fast ebbing, this day still brings bright hours to my mind. Their buttimes might have been more perfect but for my own body, but they would equally have passed away like phantoms, leaving no trace but in memory.

In 1834 he had a prospect of being entrusted with the government of a New Australian colony; and that his girls might not be without a guardian when new duties demanded his time and presence, he married an old and valued friend, the widow of Captain Alcock, R. N. The appointment did not take place. The funds necessary to effect any good were refused, and Colonel Napier would not accept an office in which there was no hope that he could render any service to the world. A season of poverty followed. He had expended a considerable portion of his savings on American bonds, and it will be long before any one will need to be reminded how the debtors broke their faith and suspended their payments. In the beginning of 1838, seeing an unfounded report in the papers that a junior officer was about to obtain the command of a district in Ireland, he addressed a statement to the Military Secretary of his own claims to promotion. The answer was not encouraging, but a little later Sir William had an opportunity of speaking on the subject to Lord FitzRoy Somerset, and was frankly told that his brother had been represented at the Horse Guards as an impracticable man who quarrelled with everybody. Lord FitzRoy gave no reply to the explanation which ensued, for, as Charles Napier subsequently said, he was one of those men who performed more than he promised, but the effect produced at the Horse Guards was quickly seen in the results. In July, on the recommendation of the then chief, Lord Hill, General Napier was made a Knight of the Bath, and in the beginning of 1839 he was appointed to the Command of the Northern District.

The portion of England which was placed under the control of General Napier comprised eleven counties, at the time when the Chartists were meditating a rise. The outbreak might come suddenly at any point of the vast empire, and the question was how a few troops could ensure protection to the whole of the area. The masterly plans of General Napier should be studied by every man of property in the country, as well as by every officer who hereafter may be called on to command. He found the troops scattered in small detachments, and many of these little knots, instead of been gathered into a single building, were again broken up into units. At Hants forty-two troopers were lodged in twenty-one distant billets, with the man here and his horse there.— Fifty resolute Chartists might, he said, destroy the whole in ten minutes. Not only were the soldiers rendered powerless by want of numbers, but they could no longer be kept in discipline, were exposed singly to the seductions of the mob, and were in danger of losing the *esprit de corps*. Where barracks existed the accommodation was often disgraceful, and many were commanded by adjoining houses, from the windows of which the rebels could have shot the troops as they attempted to form after their quarters had been fired to drive them out. General Napier set it down as an axiom that the military must not be overthrown anywhere. 'If,' he said, 'only a corporal's guard was cut off, it would be "a total defeat" ere it reached London, Edinburgh, and Dublin; and before the contradiction arrived, the disaffected, in the moral exultation of supposed victory,

would be in arms. This is more especially to be apprehended in the north, where rivers of blood would flow.' Having fully considered these matters, his last care was to secure his own position as a man who could save them safety, and also to have upon any place which was attacked. This was no easy matter. Manufacturers, citizens, private gentlemen were admitted, and each was eager for the defence of his own particular domain. The General explained that if the troops were to be everywhere they would soon be nowhere, that they would be killed like sheep, and that the attempt to consult local and petty interests would be equally to sacrifice the few and the many. He told the alarmists that they must arm like men, and by their own exertions, and those of their dependents, keep the rioters at bay till the regular forces could come up. He considered that the Government should establish a strong police throughout the country—a necessary measure which has at last been adopted—and that the army should be the reserve instead of the advanced guard. When he granted detachments he insisted that quarters should be provided in which they could be kept together, but, finding that many of the magistrates cared nothing for the soldiers' lives, and that, if they once succeeded in getting troops, they evaded their promises, he required the barracks to be ready before a man was sent. His views upon the mode in which attacks were to be met evinced the same sagacity and foresight.—He desired that infantry and cavalry should always be united. Horsemen, if the rioters understood their business, were of little use in a town. 'They cannot,' he wrote, 'charge people in garricks, and they cannot sit in their saddles while chests of drawers, beds, tables, stones, tiles, &c., to say nothing of musketry, are pointed from the said garricks.' But out of the streets the cavalry would be invaluable. It assisted by overwhelming numbers he intended to put the horse on the flanks of the mob to cut off their detachments when they went to forage, and to harass them on their march while he continued to draw back the infantry in front as the insurgent pikemen advanced. If they halted and faced the cavalry it would have retired in turn, and the foot have resumed firing upon the stationary front line, charging with the bayonet as opportunity occurred. When the Chartists talked of their physical force, he exclaimed, 'Fools! we have the physical force, not they. Who is to move them when I am dancing round them with cavalry, and peering them with cannon-shot? What would their 100,000 men do with my 100 rockets wriggling their fiery tails amongst them, roaring, scorching, tearing, smashing all they came near? And when in desperation and despair they broke to fly, how would they bear five regiments of cavalry careering through them? Poor men! poor men! how a little do they know of physical force?' His object, however, was not only conquest, but mercy; he endeavoured to avoid all collision, and to overawe the malecontents by a display of power which would render it needless to employ it. 'Many a man,' he said, 'will join a row that will not begin one, and many a man would begin one when he sees no force arrayed against him, who would never attempt it if he sees there must be a fight.' He took care with this view to let the leaders know his own strength and their weakness, and he showed them that they could neither feed nor keep together a large body of men, while he with his few disciplined troops and artillery would hover about them and inflict terrible losses. The Chartists

placed an 'absurd confidence' in five brass cannon which they kept concealed. He had a prominent person among them go round to the barracks with the artillery men, handing their guns, and thus making the disaffection went back convinced that it was one thing to possess cannon and another thing to use them. In the event of an outbreak, he stated how he could put down murder and plague with as little injury as possible to his misguided fellow-countrymen.

I am inclined, he wrote in his journal, 'to use buckshot, which would seldom kill or wound dangerously, yet which in its effect would hurt so many that fright would cause dispersion. The great point is to defeat without killing. With a foreign foe, who recovers to fight you again, we must kill; but insurgents we should seek to save, not destroy, because the chances are that the rebellion will be over before the wounded can reassemble: having no hospitals, they will fly to their homes. A general brings up his recovered men; an insurgent chief does not even know where they are, and they will not come back of their own accord; a brave and enthusiastic man here and there may join, but generally wounds will be an opportunity of further fight which men will profit from.'

One of the uses of cavalry in his eyes was 'that they baited a mob, and saved the lives of those who composed it by cropping them a little instead of destroying them by fire-arms. A hundred fencers,' he goes on, 'may get ugly-looking gashes that would frighten a thousand of their companions into the vigorous use of their legs. But twenty of the cropped hundred men would be as well as ever in a week, and so proud of their wounds as to resolve to live all their lives on their past glory, and never again look a dragoon in the face.' Low as he rated the courage and endurance of the mob, it was even less than he anticipated. Nobody wanted to be cropped. At Sheffield not a man dared to face the trooper.

General Napier, being out one night with twelve dragoons, was followed by a body of 2000 Chartists, who assailed them with virulent abuse. A heap of stones was at hand, and fearing that the rioters might have recourse to these missiles, and thinking they would be deterred by his arguments, he told his soldiers to go on while he went back to speak to the crowd. The champions of Chartism imagined that he advanced with hostile intentions. The whole 2000 turned and fled, pushing each other down in their haste, rushed by a single man who had not raised his arm to strike a blow. 'Fire and assassination,' he said, 'were their weapons.' This had been proved on former occasions. As he recalled in his journal, the children of Mrs. Musters—Lord Byron's Miss Chaworth—went down on their knees to beg the rioters from Nottingham who attacked Colwick Hall in 1832 to take everything in the house, but to spare their mother the shock of seeing them force their way into her chamber, because she was ill, and would be killed by the fright. The answer to these importunities was, that 'they drove the children into the woods on a dark night, locked up the servants, went into the sick woman's room, and set fire to her bed.' A few more generous than the rest wrapped her in a blanket and got her out through the window—to die notwithstanding.

Facts like these might show the advocates of physical force the folly and wickedness of their schemes. An English mob is cowardly before those who attack, and ferocious to those who submit. Without confidence in one another, and knowing that discipline will prevail against numbers,

For continuation see page 159.