

to leave me by myself to-night, mummy. I'm frightened. I think I shall always be frightened now, all through my life."

You know, my dear, the story of your grandfather's end. Stewart found himself at Ahmed Khel opposed by fifteen thousand tribesmen. To these were added, as he advanced, some four thousand Ghazis. They were armed with heavy swords, knives, pistols, rifles and matchlocks; some, as my Teddy had described, carried pikes. Our cavalry, so the accounts said, were moving in front of the infantry, and this prevented some of our men from firing. The Ghazis rushed to the rear of our infantry, and the fighting was close, hand to hand. The Ghazis actually came to within thirty yards of our artillery guns. When they fell back they left a thousand killed on the field; our losses amounted to seventeen killed and about a hundred wounded. One of the number of the killed was your grandfather.

I had a note later from one of his comrades in Major Warter's battery. "Your husband," it said, "died as an English officer might well wish to die. He fought well and fought long, until one of the murderous pikes brought him down. I was at his side when he fell. 'I should like,' he murmured, 'to have seen the wife and the boy once more.' His end came within a few minutes. Your husband was a great man, and we all loved him."

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I need not detain you at length, my dear, in regard to your own father. (Turn on the electric light if you want it; it doesn't make any difference to me.)

I saved and scraped every penny in order to carry out my plan of sending him to a military coach. At the last moment he refused to go. He went into a bicycle business and got on so badly that he felt justified in marrying. That was in '90 or thereabouts; I took but little interest in the affair, partly because I had to go to Switzerland to see a specialist about my eyes. The girl's father advanced money, and poor Edward let it all run away as though he had put it into a sieve. In consequence of his failure, my dear, you and your mother have had a pretty severe struggle, and I wish I had been