

THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE MILITIA.

Major-General Luard, the newly-appointed General commanding the Dominion Militia Forces, has arrived at Ottawa with his family and entered upon the duties of his office. Gen. Luard served in the Crimea in the 77th Regiment, from March, 1855, and on the staff as Brigade-Major to General Straubenzee, and D. A. General at head quarters from June, 1855, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol, and was decorated for his services with (Medal with Clasp, Brevet of Major, Sardinian and Turkish Medal, and 5th class of the Mejidie.) He also served in China as Brigade-Major with the Second Brigade in 1857-58, and was mentioned in despatches as the first soldier to mount the walls of Canton. For his services in this campaign, he was rewarded with the Brevet of Lieutenant Colonel and Medal with Clasp. He also served in Canada as D. A. General on the staff of the then commanding General Sir Hastings Doyle.

VARIETIES.

A NOBLE DEED.—The Empress Eugénie, on her departure for South Africa, was charged by the Queen with two wreaths, which were to be placed on the graves of Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill, who were killed after the battle of Isandula, while attempting to save the colours of the 24th Regiment. Mrs. Melvill, who is now on a visit to Penzance, has received a note from the Queen, enclosing an extract from a letter received by her from the Empress, which extract (in French) is in the Queen's own handwriting. It says:—"We have placed the wreaths with which we were entrusted upon the graves of Lieutenants Coghill and Melvill. If, as I believe, the dead see that which is done for them, these gallant officers will be happy in the consciousness that they have not been forgotten by their Sovereign, whose colours they gave their lives in order to save. The site of the graves is a grand one and very wild; a little further and they would have been saved. It was the loss of their horses that caused their death."

LAST WORDS OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—Some of the reports which the Prince Imperial had prepared of the reconnoitring work in which he had taken part have been recovered. The last of these documents, dated May 31, the day before he died, was marked by an excep-

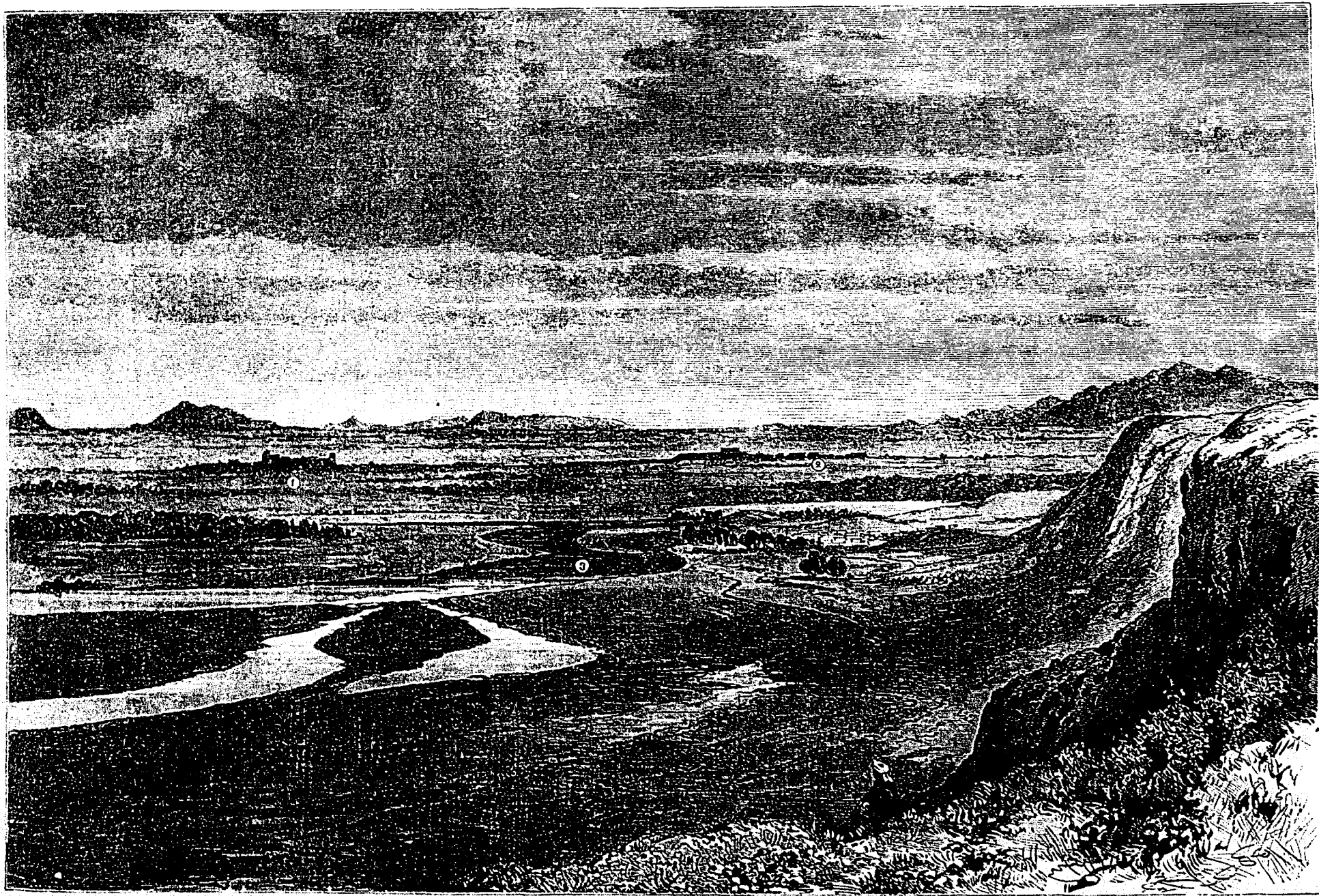


MAJOR-GENERAL LUARD, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE MILITIA OF CANADA.
From a Photograph by Topley.

tional grasp of military detail and an unusual mastery of his subject in one so young. It is not generally known that in the pocket of his overcoat, subsequently recovered, was found a scrap of paper, torn out of a note-book, on which were set down the passing notes of the day's movements, from the moment of leaving Kopje Allein "to find a camping ground for 2nd Division," to 1.20, when he jotted down these words, "extremity of either ridge between the Itombokala and the Ityotozi, south; go ahead; good camping ground on slope south of donga." A rough but vivid pencil sketch is given below, with the chief points in the landscape not only delineated, but named. Under this is written, "taken from extremity of spur between Ityotozi and Itombokala." These were the last words written by the Prince.

PARISIAN SOFTAS.—Few Parisians, if called upon to give an opinion of what a softa might be, would connect the expression with the idea of a boulevard "swell." The word is suggestive of Constantinople and Cairo, it conjures up an Oriental halo of Imauns and mosques, Hodjahs, and Mollahs, and Muezzins, rather than the notion of a Mahometan student who dresses in the latest Paris style, whilst strictly observing the precepts of the Koran. See yonder the elegant young Parisian who, on leaving the Café Anglais after partaking of a choice breakfast, thrusts the *Figaro* into the pocket of his overcoat, and meditatively wends his way to the suburban quarter of Ménilmontant, where a genuine mosque on the Oriental system, with a prayer-house and Softa-school, in which the secrets of the Koran and the Sunnah are explained, have existed for many years past. This fashionable young man is a real live Parisian Softa, whom the hour of study and meditation has recalled from the terrestrial delights of the Boulevard des Italiens. The Moslem colony in Paris consists of several hundred souls, and its annexes. The Paris Softas dress well, frequent the theatres, patronize fashionable restaurants, and drive round the Bois de Boulogne; but that does not prevent them from squatting down on a mat and listening fervidly to the profound teaching of a bearded dervish learnedly expounding the true meaning of the precepts of the Prophet.

The members of the Savage Club entertained at dinner the eminent American actors now in London. Mr. Bret Harie and the Lord Mayor were among those who received invitations to be present; Mr. Barry Sullivan was announced to take the chair, supported by Mr. Irving, Mr. Toole, and other distinguished English actors.



1. Castle of Ghrishk. 2. Old Ghrishk. 3. Ford and Ferry crossing the river at Abbaza.

THE AFGHAN WAR.—THE VALLEY OF THE HELMUND, SCENE OF THE LATE DISASTER.