

Ld. Maria to Col. Kitchener

A.A. No. 678

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Col. Kitchener

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1877.

My Dear Friend

It is such an age
since I have heard from you that
I must write to keep myself alive
in your remembrance. I have heard
indeed, with great pain that you
had been ill at Cheltenham, but
the same account assured me of
your re-establishment. By this

opportunity I have written to the Court
 of Directors suggesting that an applica-
 -tion should be made to the Prince Re-
 -gent for putting the names of Ma-
 -jor General Marshall & Major Gen-
 -eral Bury on the List of Candidates for
 the Order of the Bath; the first as
 a Commander, the latter as a Compa-
 -nion. Marshall has just command-
 -ed at the Siege of Hattgraff; Bury

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was principal Engineer there. The
 capture of the strongest Fort in India,
 with so little waste of time or blood,
 is creditable to both. But indeed, be-
 -fore this business Marshall was
 better entitled by quality of service
 to the distinction than those who
 who received it. Of course, I would
 make no direct recommendation,
 because it is a matter which should

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rest with the judgement of the Court.
But should the solicitation be made
by the Chairman, I will beg you to
submit by humble testimony to the
Prince Regent with regard to the
merit of the Officers in question.

I have been above but we have been
obliged to take, was a Zemindar of
ours. He came under our rule when
Sindia had ceded the Doab for territory

between the Ganges & Jumna / to the
British Government. At first, our desire to
conciliate all those new subjects made us leave
Dya Khan in possession of the fort & Ganisa which
had been till then really necessary to secure the re-
-venue which he used to collect for himself. The
Doubt had till that period been continually affected
by incursions of the Rohilla or Patan Cavalry. Our go-
-vernment took it for granted that, as Wadrang
was not on a frontier but in the very heart of
our territory, Dya Khan would be sick of the costly
expense of keeping his fortifications in repair &
maintaining a Body of Troops; but in this they reckon-
-ed ill; for, speculating possibly on some other change,

He gradually strengthened the works of his Place & org-
 -anized his troops which he disciplined with great care
 on an system. One disgraceful rebuff at Bhuntjore,
 Canara, & other fortified Places, gave the natives
 a conviction that tho' they were not equal to us
 in the open field they were superior to us in the
 contest at a breach. The peculiar strength of Dya-
 -kran's fortress, the ditch of which was 85 feet deep
 & 120 broad made it quite a received opinion
 that Hattrope was impregnable, & the arrogant
 assumptions of Dya-kran proceeded accordingly.
 He refused permission to any British Functionary
 either civil or military to enter his fort or even
 the tower appendant on it: bad, strange to tell,
 I hint to on the principle which he followed of

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riding thro' his term & avoiding all discussions, ^{being}
-ed at this extraordinary pretension. His tolerance
encouraged Dya Koon to go greater lengths. He not
only gave shelter to all the malefactors proscri-
-bed by our Police, but stopped all the Processes of
our Courts & of his own authority seized in the Dis-
-trict & confined within his fort any person to
whom he had ill-will. The consequence was such
dreadful disorder that in six months four or five &
thirty of our Peasants were murdered in traversing
single that District to reach their Homes or Bur-
-oughs; & the protection given to the Gangs of Dya-
-koon prevented any investigation by the Magistrate.
repeatedly warned of what he was entailing,
Dya Koon treated the communications with contempt.

