

Wednesday, August 8, 1866

REVIEW IN THE PHOENIX PARK.

Universal interest was excited yesterday when it became known that the Maharajah of Jahore had signified his intention of attending the review to be held in the Phoenix Park. Accordingly numerous vehicles conveyed a large number of spectators to the scene, and a great number of pedestrians also were present. The Maharajah arrived at the Fifteen Acres at half-past ten o'clock in the Lord Mayor's carriage, which has been placed at his disposal during his stay in Dublin. His Royal Highness is, for an oriental, of good stature and strongly marked Malay features. Unlike most other eastern potentates who visit Great Britain, he is not coming as a supplicant, but as a royal visitor, who is on equal terms, to visit an ally, who, in this case, is her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. Some years ago the father of the Maharajah entered into an alliance with the British power in the East, by which it was agreed that they should make common cause against the piratical efforts of the inhabitants of the Malay Archipelago, from which British commerce in the East suffered so severely. In accordance he maintained a flotilla, to act in concert with the English forces, which had the effect of repressing, to a great extent, the predatory habits of his fellow-countrymen. This force is still maintained by the present Maharajah, who spares no means to promote habits of civilization amongst his subjects. Since his arrival in England no effort has been spared to make his visit an agreeable one, and in every place in which he has sojourned all the honours paid to foreign royalty have been freely rendered to him. A splendid charger was placed at his disposal when he arrived on the Fifteen Acres by Major-General Cunynghame, and the Maharajah at once mounted it. He was dressed in a semi-military costume, wearing on his head a small turban, and in his richly-jewelled belt was carried, in addition to a sword, the cresse, his national weapon. The Maharajah appears to be about thirty years of age.

The troops, consisting of the E. Battery Royal Horse Artillery, the 5th Dragoon Guards, the Coldstream Guards, the 3rd Buffs, the 75th and 85th Regiments, and 92d Highlanders having arrived on the field, the whole division formed line. At this moment the appearance of the force was most imposing. As the Maharajah, accompanied by Major-General Cunynghame, Brigadier-General Borton, and a brilliant staff, rode along the line to inspect it, the admiration of the lookers on was undisguised. The inspection having terminated, and the Maharajah, generals and staff returned to the reviewing point, the whole force, led by the artillery and cavalry, marched by at quick time in columns of companies. This ended, the whole force formed line with the right, on which was the artillery and cavalry, resting on the Hibernian School, the enemy being supposed to hold possession of the ground in the direction of the Vice-regal Lodge. The whole divisions then advanced by battalions from the left in line. They then formed quarter distance columns, after which the infantry was thrown into squares and fired, to repel a charge of cavalry, which was made most brilliantly by the 5th Dragoon Guards, who, however, were obliged to retire to their original position. While this was passing the 85th Light Infantry were thrown out in skirmishing order, supported by the 75th and 92nd in line. The skirmishers advanced across the plain towards "The Butcher's Wood," which they occupied, greatly to the disturbance of the camp followers and vivandieres, who retailed ginger beer to the thirsty warriors, and were put to most ignominious flight by the presence of the gallant light infantry, who kept up a sharp fusillade until the warning bugle called them in, in presence of an overpowering foe which threatened them. Accordingly they retreated on their supports, which in turn fell back on the Guards and Buffs, who were in column in the rear of the line formed by the 75th and 92nd, and who kept up a spirited flank fire, supported by the artillery, on the enemy, which was now supposed to be in the advance. The supposed exigency was so great that the whole infantry of the division fell into squares as the skirmishers rallied. The posture of affairs was as we have described, when an enemy more formidable than any encountered during the day made a fierce attack in the shape of a drenching rain storm which descended with great violence. It was borne for some time with the accustomed valour of British troops, but even their endurance could not hold out long against the pitiless pelting of the storm, and the word was "home," which was quickly obeyed by the respective corps marching back to their quarters; the Maharajah taking his seat again in the Lord Mayor's carriage. We are glad to say that the review passed off without the slightest accident.