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# Abstract

In this letter Lokaramaṇa Upādhyāya reports about the departure of the governor general to the North-Western Provinces, a meeting with the governor general’s secretary and the British military victory in Kabul during the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842).

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# English Translation

Śrī

Number 97[[1]](#footnote-2)

*Arjī* - - -

*Uprānta*: Since the governor general departed for the Western [Provinces] there has not been any regular court assembly (*darbāra*) held. There was a court assembly held with the governor general’s secretary (*sāhaba sikriṭari*)[[2]](#footnote-3) on Saturday, the 5th of the bright fortnight of Āśvina. [He] asked about your well-being and spirits. I replied that you are in very good spirits. The news has been published in newspapers here that the English gained a victory at the fort of Kabul[[3]](#footnote-4) on the 12th of the bright fortnight of Bhādra. Two Persian newspapers have been sent to you. The situation in Kabul will become clear[er] if you cast your eyes on them.

Friday, the 10th of the bright fortnight of Āśvina in the [Vikrama] era year 1899 (1842 CE). Residence: #pln{Chitpur}#, Calcutta. Auspiciousness.

Thousands of auspicious blessings from [your] servant Lokaramaṇa Upādhyāya as uttered in the Vedas.

# Commentary

This report of #pen{Lokaramaṇa Upādhyāya}# refers to two historical events. The first one is the departure of Governor General Edward Law, 1st Earl of Ellenborough who took over office from Lord Auckland on 28 February 1842 (Anonymous 1842: 37), on a tour to the #gen{North-Western Provinces}# in April 1842 (Anonymous 1842: 142). The second one is the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842). Lokaramaṇa reports about the Battle of Kabul, in which the so called "Army of Retribution" under the command of Major General Sir George Pollock destroyed parts of Kabul in September 1842.[[4]](#footnote-5) The army was dispatched by Governor General Lord Auckland as retaliation for the Massacre of Elphinstone's army in January 1842 and to recover prisoners captured during that British defeat. An account on the British advance to and capture of Kabul is given by Findlay 2014: 233.

1. An addition by a second hand in the original, representing the manuscript number given by the National Archives Nepal. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Most probably #pen{Henry Marion Durand}# (1812–1871) who was appointed as private secretary to the governor general on 28 February 1842. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. This might refer to the Bala Hissar, where on 16 September 1842 Major General Sir George Pollock raised the British flag after seizing Kabul. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The second one is the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)