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Whitehall, April 16, 1901.

THE following Address was presented to His Majesty at Windsor Castle on the 13th instant:—

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, the Governor and Military Knights of Windsor, approach Your Majesty to offer homage and the expression of our devoted loyalty and attachment to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

The Military Knights of Windsor are the more encouraged to tender their congratulations to Your Majesty and Our Gracious Queen Alexandra, as we occupy a place in Your Majesty's historic Castle of Windsor, and have been installed in St. George's Chapel as an appendage to the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

And we ever pray that with the guidance of Almighty God Your Majesty may be blessed and directed in the discharge of Your high functions, and that Your Majesty and our Gracious Queen Alexandra may long live in health and happiness to rule over the people of these Realms.

W. Maloney, Captain.

Governor, Military Knights of Windsor.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

"I THANK you for your loyal Address, and I appreciate highly your warm expressions of congratulation and goodwill towards Myself and Queen Alexandra.

"It is a sincere pleasure to Me to be assured of the devotion of the Knights who for more than five centuries have been attached to this ancient Castle under the pious foundation of Edward III and the favour of others My predecessors on the Throne."

War Office, April 16, 1901.

THE following Despatches have been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Despatch relating to Field Operations.

Government House,

Northern Nigeria,

July 4, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to you concerning the operations recently undertaken against the Munshi tribes. I regret the long delay in making this report, which is principally owing to Colonel Willcocks' unexpected and hurried departure for the Gold Coast. He took

the reports with him, intending to write a covering despatch, and I have only just received them back, with a brief letter informing me that he had no time to do so.

2. The Munshis are a populous tribe, which originally inhabited the south banks of the Benue along the Katsena River, but more lately extended along the north bank for about 50 miles, between longitude 8° and 9°, where the Benue forms a loop to the south. They are pagans, and without any recognised chiefs, each clan or family obeying only its own head (and even he has little control), and combining only for war. They are of a fine physique, and are industrious, agriculturists, and brave warriors, continually fighting amongst themselves. Their well-built and clean villages are not walled, except those of the Agbede tribe, but the intervals between the outer houses are usually closed by stockade work. They have a character for extreme lawlessness and disregard of life, and are reputed treacherous and thieves. The ordeal by poison is universal among them. They have held their own against neighbouring Mohammedans and others, mainly through the dread inspired by the extraordinarily deadly nature of their poisoned arrows, a scratch from which means almost instant death.

3. In 1885 Mr. Wallace explored the Katsena, and was hospitably received by the Munshis, with whom he made treaties, and the Company opened a trading station among them. The same year a second station was started on the banks of the Benue, but the people fell upon the goods as they were landed and looted them, the Company's Agent was shot and died in a few minutes, while the Agent at the Katsena Station was shot treacherously, and his head is still, I am told, retained as a trophy. Next year (1886) the Munshis attacked the staff working at the mines of Orofu, two more Europeans being shot and dying at once. The work was then abandoned by the Company, and the machinery destroyed, and, after a punitive expedition, all trading stations were abandoned. They did not, however, interfere with the traffic on the Benue until last October, when it was reported that they intended an attack on the Company's station of Abinsi, with a view to looting the Government telegraph material lying there. Trading and mail canoes were fired on, and in one case the crew of a canoe were all murdered. Reprisals were taken by the Company's constabulary under Major Burdon.