

MAJOR-GEN. SIR WILLIAM FENWICK WILLIAMS  
OF KARS, BART., K.C.B.

THE gallant subject of this memoir was born in Annapolis, Nova Scotia, in the latter part of the year 1800, and entered the Royal Artillery (in which service his father before him had attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel) at the age of twenty-five.

For some fifteen years past he was employed principally, if not entirely, in diplomatic duties, and he had just successfully concluded the settlement of the Turco-Persian boundary question, when the war with Russia afforded to Lord Clarendon the opportunity to test his talents in a new sphere, by nominating him her Britannic Majesty's Military Commissioner to the Turkish Forces at Kars, with the rank and retinue of Brigadier-General.

How well Gen. Williams acquitted himself of the trust reposed in him, and justified the sagacity evidenced by Lord Clarendon in his choice, let not England only, but the united voice of the Cabinets and armies of Europe, declare. In this instance, at any rate, "the right man was put into the right place," and rarely has history presented to our notice the parallel fact of a General more honoured in the circumstances attending his defeat than it falls to the lot of most men to be in the achievement of the most complete success.

Whatever human skill and forethought, left

to its own resources, could plan—whatever the highest order of moral courage and of physical endurance could achieve—it will be readily granted to General Williams and the heroic garrison of Kars (Turkish, Polish, and Hungarian, as well as British) that in each and all of these qualities they were severally and pre-eminently distinguished.

General Williams has four sisters living—three in British North America and one in the United States. He has also a niece at Winchester, married to Brevet Lieut.-Colonel O'Halloran, of the Winchester Depot Battalion, to whom we are indebted for the Portrait which illustrates this brief sketch. It represents the gallant officer in his then rank of Captain and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel of Artillery. His features have since become much thinner, through the intense anxiety, toil, and privation inseparable from the nature of the services in which he has been continuously engaged since the date of this portrait, 1848—including, especially, the defence of Kars. Those persons, however, who have seen General Williams within the last ten years will not fail to recognise him as here presented to their notice.

Sir W. Williams's public qualities as a diplomatist and soldier, severely tested as they have been, prior to receiving the impress of a nation's gratitude and admiration, are at least equalled, if not surpassed, by the upright and benignant character of the man.

The return of the heroic defender of Kars to England in June last, and the

honour and distinction with which he was received by his grateful country, were among the most interesting incidents of the history of that period. "After having been honoured," said a leading journal of the day, "by the Sovereigns, the higher circles, and the populations of countries for which he did not fight, and in a special manner by those of the country which he fought against, General Williams has at length returned to his own land, in whose cause he displayed his noble qualities, whose commission he bore, and whose name he so brilliantly maintained in the face of a very energetic, capable, and powerful enemy, amidst trials and difficulties unsurpassed."

The gallant General landed at Dover on the 16th of June last, and was received by the Mayor and Corporation, with Colonel Lake, who served so nobly by the side of the General at Kars, and was presented with a congratulatory address. The gallant officer, on arriving in London, had interviews with the military authorities, and was received by the United Service Club, of which he had been a member several years, with great cordiality. On the following Tuesday he was present at her Majesty's State ball at Buckingham Palace, and on the ensuing Saturday was nominated by her Majesty a Knight Companion of the Bath. General Williams was likewise appointed to the post of Commandant of Woolwich Garrison, and the Parliament conferred upon him, with the



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM FENWICK WILLIAMS, K.C.B., "THE HERO OF KARS," FROM A FAMILY PORTRAIT.

sanction of her Majesty, a pension of £1000 a year. The first public duty of General Williams on his arrival in London was a melancholy one. He attended to the grave the remains of his brave companion in arms, Major Thompson.

Her Majesty the Queen having been pleased to honour General Williams with a command to sit to Mr. Mayall, the artist, of Regent-street, for a full-length photographic portrait, in the dress worn by the gallant General at Kars, Sir William, accordingly, gave the desired sitting, when Mr. Mayall, with his usual skill and certainty, produced a remarkably fine and characteristic likeness.

**LONGEVITY OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.**—The life of a soldier is more favourable to longevity than that of a sailor. In 1837 Greenwich Hospital contained 2710 pensioners, and that of Chelsea only 508. Of the 2710 old sailors at Greenwich several had reached the age of 80 and even of 90 years, but very rarely indeed 100; whereas at Chelsea, containing only 530, scarcely a year passes in which some one does not die at 100.

**CAUSE AND EFFECT.**—A Siamese chief, hearing an Englishman expatiate upon the magnitude of our navy, and afterwards say that England was at peace, coolly observed, "If you are at peace with all the world, why do you keep up so great a navy?" "The greatness of the navy maintains peace," was the reply.