

"the improvement of his dominions, and his capital, it would be an important step towards accomplishing the purposes our Government profess it their aim to carry out."

"BARODA, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1856.—His Lordship the Bishop, who delivered two impressive sermons last Sunday in our pretty place of worship, left on Tuesday night, which event was notified to the community at large, by the usual salute of fifteen guns on Wednesday morning. We certainly can boast at this station of as pretty a little church as one can meet with,—the chaplain at Surat comes once a month to minister to us, and on the other Sundays, the Brigadier himself reads prayers, followed by a sermon, which is always well chosen,—his style of reading is indeed good, serious, and earnest, and would shame many a reverend member of the clergy.—And now to turn to more worldly topics. On Thursday the new Resident, Major Davidson, was publicly received at the court of the Guicowar; the officers of camp were invited to be present on the occasion, and many availed themselves of the invitation, despite the choking horrors of 'full dress'—the Durbar as usual sent carriages and elephants to camp for the officers attending. This being the first visit of ceremony, was consequently longer than usual, various members of the household and other individuals of importance having to be introduced to the Resident. The hall of audience was small, low, and close, and glad were all to breathe the fresh air again, after descending the break-neck stairs. The Guicowar accompanied the Resident to the door, and remaining there, shook hands with each officer as he passed. Though anything but dignified in appearance, in dress, or in manner, His Highness evidently possesses a desire to make himself agreeable. Whether this desire is spontaneous, or whether the annexation of Oude produces a current of suavity, may be a matter of speculation. On Friday the Resident received the Guicowar in state, when all officers off duty attended, by order, in full uniform. His Highness arrived with the usual paraphernalia of fine elephants with magnificent trappings, and frantic horsemen, and howling attendants, and shrill music. A guard of honor, consisting of the two flank companies of the 8th Regiment N. I., with the Regimental Color and Band, presented arms, with God save the Queen playing, and the guns of the battery boomed a royal salute, when the royal foot touched the ground on his descending from the elephant, and some honors were paid on his departure—the interview was not longer than necessary. I am of opinion that the Guicowar and his ministers will find it a difficult matter to get more out of the Resident on any subject, than he chooses them to know, that is, if one may judge from appearances. On Saturday, the Brigade was out with daylight, in full dress, to do honor to the appointment of General Anson as Commander in Chief in India; a salute, with a *feu de joie*, followed by three cheers, disturbed the atmosphere. I always thought three cheers were only given on the Queen's birth-day after the *feu de joie*; but we live and learn. Altogether this custom of turning out in full dress and expending unnecessary quantities of blank ammunition on the appointment of each Governor General and Commander in Chief, seems more and more absurd each time it occurs. In the evening a number of officers went to the city to see a rhinoceros fight got up by the Guicowar. His Highness and the visitors were stationed on an elevated balcony in one corner of a large arena; this arena was surrounded with thousands of anxious spectators in various colored head dresses, and behind were ranged elephants crowded with lookers on; while, higher still, you saw the trees dotted all over with individuals, who were determined not to lose the sight. The arena itself disclosed a concourse of men, with their loins girt for active movements, bearing in their hands long spears; and along the side wall, opposite the Guicowar's position, were small door ways, at each of which were stationed two or three foot soldiers—the whole scene was picturesque. The two animals destined to afford amusement to the barbarous tastes of the court, were brought forward, well chained and tied, and a curtain was held before each till they were made free; when they were let at each other, they began most scientifically, each remaining on the defensive, their tusks being crossed—presently they became fiercer, and the fight was a succession of goring, biting, pushing, with an occasional lift from the ground of the weaker on the tusk of his antagonist; after a time, they were with difficulty separated, to the relief, it is to be hoped, of the English portion of the spectators,—oceans of water were poured over them, as well during the encounter as after; the vanquished one exhibited fearful wounds from gashes and bites. After this came the pretty and unique spectacle of a pair of black buck drawing a small, elegant, silver native carriage, then a pair of nylghaees appeared performing the same feat, then came two specimens of the white, black, buck, and finally two royal tigers came to scowl on the assembly; and thus ended the entertainment. One cannot but reflect how lamentable it is, that during the long period of our intercourse with this court, we have been unable to proceed further than a constant combat in unravelling plots and deceits and briberies. Could the British representatives but persuade the Guicowar to appropriate a reasonable portion of his revenue to