

and may be done again. Sir Elijah Impey who had been all his life bred to English law which had become part and parcel of his official being, when appointed Chief Justice of the Sudder Court in Calcutta, drew up that admirable body of "Regulations for the administration of Justice, in the Courts of Mofussil Dewanny Adawlut, and in the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut," which became the basis of the Code of Laws now in vogue, and which have never been excelled and seldom equalled for perspicuity and brevity, simplicity and completeness. There is not a single legal technicality to be found throughout the whole of those Regulations; and were it not that they extend over fifty quarto pages, we would recommend every Legislative member to commit them to memory before he tries his hand at the laws, that he may imbibe the very quintessence of their spirit.

THE BRITISH INDIA SOCIETY IN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS.—We perceive that a Society has been formed at Madras to co-operate with the British India Society in Calcutta, with the view of representing the wants and grievances of India at the approaching discussions of the Charter question. We regard these exertions with much pleasure. Although the British India Society in Calcutta cannot be considered as representing any thing beyond the views of a small section of Native landholders in the metropolis, it is right and fitting that they should be heard, and fully heard, on this important occasion, when arrangements are about to be made for the Government of India, possibly for twenty years to come. The members of this Society, after all, embrace the only body of enlightened Natives at this Presidency, and it will be interesting to the public authorities at home to learn their opinion of the character of our administration. Our Government in India has been a great anomaly from the very beginning, and all our administrative measures have grown up, piece meal, under circumstances the most extraordinary. But from the year 1772, when we first undertook to frame a Government of our own for India, in lieu of the Mahomedan institutions which we found in the country, there has been a constant series of progressive improvements. The administration of Hastings was better than that of Clive; the Government of Lord Wellesley was a great improvement on that of Hastings. Lord William Bentinck still farther developed the principles of reform, and the Government of the present day is unquestionably superior, in every respect, to any of those which have preceded it. This is to be ascribed partly to our greater knowledge of the country and the people, and partly to a rapid improvement in the principles of Government in England, and their gradual adoption in India. There is still much to be effected in the way of amelioration, before our administration can be considered worthy of our high position among civilized nations, and commensurate with the wants of the Native community, and we shall look with much interest for those suggestions which the British India Society may be prepared to offer. Government has, moreover, been employed for a quarter of a century in endeavouring to impart a superior education to the upper classes of native Society in and about Calcutta, and we are anxious to see the beneficial result of these efforts, in an impartial, clear, and enlightened representation on their part of the real wants of the country. The Society must not forget that their observations will carry weight only in proportion to the sound sense, mode-

ration, and equity they may exhibit. If its members fall into the common error of supposing that they are nothing except when they are critical, and censorious, and that it is their vocation indiscriminately to overhaul and condemn all the measures of Government, as such, their statements will lose much of their intrinsic value, and produce only a partial effect. We ourselves have been humbly employed for many years in studying the mode in which the existing deficiencies of our administration can be remedied, and we shall look forward with much pleasure, to the receipt of this body of indigeneous physicians.

MR. R. H. DUNLOP.—The *Delhi Gazette* of the 6th instant, contained a notice of the capture of an Oude robber, named Rundheer Sing, by Mr. R. H. Dunlop, the Joint Magistrate of Juanpore, and the seizure of his property, including several elephants and a rhinoceros. We were struck at the time with the appearance of so remarkable an item in the inventory of the baggage of a robber chief, but we have since had an opportunity of acquiring further details of the affair, which was, in fact, a most dashing exploit, and calculated to raise the credit of the British Government as much as that of the officer who performed it. Rundheer Singh, the robber chief in question, was one of a regular class of men, half rebel, half robber, who carry on their depredations alike in Oude, and the British territories, and avail themselves at every turn, of the difference of jurisdiction. He had been tracked under the orders of Captain Orr of the frontier Police, by three Nujeebs, assisted by two of his own villagers, who carried on the pursuit without cessation for four months. Information was at length forwarded to Mr. Dunlop, that he was encamped within a distance of six miles, but unfortunately within the boundary of the Oude dominions. The Magistrate immediately communicated with his superior, who happened to be a man without any particular dread of that official bugbear "responsibility," received his authorization, and started late at night on the expedition. The party consisted of Mr. Dunlop, Isree Dyal the Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Sheels an old soldier employed as a surveyor on the road, the three Nujeebs who had tracked Rundheer Singh, and some thirty burkundazes from the Collectorate. They were compelled on their way to ford a small river by moonlight, and by the time they had arrived within a hundred yards of the spot where Rundheer Singh lay encamped, the Burkundazes lost heart, and hung back in the rear. The Nujeebs, Mr. Dunlop, the Deputy Magistrate, and Mr. Sheels, therefore, rushed forward without them, and seized their prey. His servants at once drew their swords to defend him, but the sight of the Europeans, and the sound of the magic words, "by order of the Company," daunted their spirit, and they fled. Eight of them were taken, and marched into Mr. Dunlop's camp, but subsequently released. Rundheer Singh himself has been retained in confinement, awaiting the arrival of orders from the Resident at Lucknow, where the capture has excited a great sensation, the King himself having, according to the *Delhi Gazette*, expressed his approbation of Mr. Dunlop's gallantry. Rewards to a considerable amount have been distributed to the Nujeebs, and other parties engaged, and an application has been made for a Khillut to the Deputy Magistrate whose courage was conspicuous in the affray.

Some of our readers may possibly be dis-

posed to censure us for giving so much of our space to "a dacoit hunt," but the affair is by no means an unimportant one. The British Government is as much bound to protect its subjects from internal marauding as from external violence. In the latter object it has been completely successful, but in the former it has hitherto most signally failed, and one reason of its failure may possibly be the little notice taken of the efforts of its servants in this department. It is infinitely more important to the people under our rule, that dacoity should be suppressed than that the Mumdums should be driven back to their fastnesses, yet the officer who may perform this service, will obtain rewards, and thanks, and General Orders without end, while the officer who relieves half a million of people from an organized band of robbers, receives nothing, except perhaps a cold assurance "that his zeal has received the attention of Government."

This very week, an account has been published in the *Hurkaru*, which speaks volumes upon this subject. While Calcutta is ringing with the din of preparations for an expedition, the result though not the object of which may probably be the annexation of another kingdom, two landholders on the other side of the Hoogly have raised regiments of armed men, and are waging war with each other, with the most perfect contempt for British laws and British authority. The Rajah of Mysdul, it is said, has quarrelled with his steward, one Ramnarayun Giree, and, an entire district is consequently disturbed; affrays have taken place with perhaps hundreds of men on either side, and lives have been lost. This account, which we borrow from the *Hurkaru*, may be exaggerated, but no one will venture to say that any of the details are either impossible or unlikely. The utter impotence of our institutions to restrain the most pusillanimous of mankind from carrying on an organized system of private warfare, is the greatest cloud upon our administration in this country, and to find a remedy for these disorders, must be considered among the first duties of the Bengal Government.

THE CAR NICOBARS.—We regret to see that the account given by the Coringa sailor to the Assistant Commissioner at Moulmein of the atrocities committed on the Car Nicobars, has been completely substantiated. Immediately on the receipt of this information, Commodore Lambert despatched Captain Dicey in the *Tenasserim* to enquire into the circumstances, and that officer obtained full confirmation of the reports from two natives on the island of Noucoursy. He then proceeded to Carmorta the scene of the murders, and found in a native village some books, one of which bore stais of blood on it, a lady's scarf, a Koran, and some other articles. The natives all fled into the interior on his approach, but he learned from the two men who visited him, and subsequently from the inhabitants of another island, Terressa, that an English ship with a native crew had been cut off, and every soul on board murdered, except four lascars and an English woman with her child. The two latter died within a few days after their landing, but the former were still living, though the informers were unacquainted with their place of abode. This exactly corresponds with the evidence of the Coringa man, and there can be little doubt, therefore, that the remainder of his narrative is true, and that many vessels have been cut off from time to time, and their crews murdered by these irrefragable savages. It is time that the British