

The Indian Mirror.

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NOTICE.

All letters and communications relating to the literary department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor. All other letters should be addressed to the Manager, to whom all remittances should be made payable.

Subscribers will be good enough to bring to the notice of the Manager any delay or irregularity in the delivery of the Paper.

The Week

THE whirligig of the week has brought about strange changes—for the better, of course—in the fortunes of our countrymen. The proclamation that was read on the first day of the year throughout India was followed by startling disclosures of new plans and new surprises. The Viceroy played his part well, and his manners, though somewhat theatrical, were on the whole calculated to win the hearts of the numerous guests assembled at Delhi. It is difficult to condense within a few paragraphs the gay doings of our rulers during those days. We shall begin with the Viceroy's address.

Most well written in a literary point of view was the address delivered by the Viceroy on the occasion. It has seldom been our lot to peruse a speech so nicely worded from beginning to end, with sentences so artistically and gracefully strung together, and with a ring so nearly approaching that of eloquence. It is one which, we are led to think, does justice to the fame of the son of Bulwer Lytton. We wish we could speak in the same laudatory tone of the entire contents of the speech. That breathes a kindly sympathy for the inhabitants of India, admits of no doubt. But there are one or two points in it upon which we are inclined to dilate a little.

EVERY one had thought that the new Imperial regime would introduce brighter prospects for the Natives of India. Every one had sanguinely expected that the Act for the better Government of India passed sometime ago by Parliament, in which Natives were promised high posts under Government, would now cease to be a dead letter and be enunciated afresh by Lord Lytton. A blank despair has now seized us. Instead of a manly promise and a vigorous repudiation of past inactivity, the Viceroy has given us smooth words, glib phrases and vague expressions signifying little and holding out nothing. Lord Lytton's statesmanship and general foresight must be of a very low order if he thought that by the distribution of empty titles and salutes sounding much, he had attracted the loyalty and allegiance of all India from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. His Excellency spoke in the usual strain of certain Anglo-Indian writers and descanted at great length upon the education of our "natural leaders" and "their children." What all these had to do with the immediate question at issue—with the employment, for instance, of those Natives who have been declared fit by the authorities for any posts that the Government might be pleased to bestow upon them—does not appear clear to us. It is unpleasant to extract meaning out of this large chaos of vague words and empty nothings. It is difficult, we say, to extract sunbeams out of cucumbers—to extract rays of comfort and expectation from this disappointing speech of the Viceroy. Our countrymen may in the meanwhile go to sleep with the comfortable assurance that what they have been thinking of and hearing of so much in connection with the affairs at Delhi is only, so far as their own prospects are concerned—a dream.

WHAT did Lord Lytton mean by the following passage in his address?—"Should the repose of that power be at any time threatened from without, the Empress of India will know how to defend her great inheritance." Was not this meant to be a defiance of Russia? Whatever the necessity of such an utterance, it was most out of place on an occasion like that. The passage seems to be a direct inspiration from Downing Street, and for aught we know, it is a free paraphrase of Lord Beaconsfield's

speech at Guildhall—the same speech, namely, that had evoked the Czar's spirited reply at Moscow. As the trusty counsellor of the Tory ministry, Lord Lytton faithfully represented the idea of his superiors. But in the face of passing affairs in Europe and the altered attitude of England in the Conference, the gauntlet was most ill-advisedly thrown by Lord Lytton.

WE did not expect to lose Sir Richard Temple so soon. But the telegrams inform us that Sir Ashley Eden took over the Lieutenant-Governorship from him yesterday at Allahabad. Sir Ashley is reputed to be a clever and able man, though there are certain objections standing in the way of his becoming acceptable to the entire community. Nevertheless we sincerely trust that Bengal will be no loser by his appointment.

THE horizon has again become a little dim. Lord Salisbury had an interview with Midhat Pasha, in the course of which it was brought out that Turkey would not, in deference to her dignity and prestige, submit to all the proposals of the powers. Should she be so unfortunate as to persist in her obstinacy, war must take place. We hope, however, for the best. Turkey's only strength was the declared friendship of England; and when hopes in that direction have ceased, she must either submit or fight single-handed with Russia.

ONE result of the gathering of Native Editors and Special Correspondents from all parts of India at Delhi, has been the formation of an Association, called the Native Press Association. A deputation of this Association consisting of Babu Surendranath Bannerji, B. A., Special Correspondent of the *Hindu Patriot*; Babu Norendronath Sen, Editor of the *Indian Mirror*; Babu Grija Bhusun Mukerji M.A., B.L., Special Correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*; Babu Okhoy Chunder Sircar, Editor of the *Sadhvani*; Moulvie Kubiruddin Ahmed, Editor of the *Urdu Guide*; Mr. Janardun Boun Sunderji Kirtikar B. A., Editor of the *Indu Prokash*, Bombay; Mr. Khallesru Nowroji Kubraji, Editor of the *Rast Gofar*, Bombay; Mr. KARKOSRI Balaji, Editor of the *Berar Samachar*, Hyderabad Assigned Dist. Does not Sadasubhial, Editor of tsy of all

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—LORD BROOKE and Sir Robert Abercromby, who were amongst Lord Lytton's guests at the Delhi Assemblage, have lately been on a shooting excursion in the Bhutan Duars, where, besides a quantity of smaller game they managed to bag nine rhinoceros, seven buffaloes, and one tiger.

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—THE Viceroy was expected to reach Nyni Tal yesterday.

—THE Rev. Mr. Long has been sent by one of the London Relief Committees for the Bulgarians to Tatar-Bazardzik, with £20,000 to provide shelter for the people. His energetic questions have won golden opinions for him.

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—COLONEL MACGREGOR, C. S. I., and Captain Lockwood, the two great Central Asian travellers, have now arrived at Jacobabad.

—MISS ELIZABETH THOMPSON, the well-known Catholic painter, is about to be married to Major Butler, C. B.

—THE Chukdigi Will Case, at Burdwan, is still going on.

—THE Viceroy has conferred on Khan Bahadur, Bahadur Sher Khan, the title of Nawab, in consideration of his services in connection with the measures recently adopted against the Kohat Pass Afridis.

—THE Governor-General's Council will next assemble at Simla in the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, but no date has been fixed.

—MR. D. FITZPATRICK, of the Bengal Civil Service, and Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed to officiate as a Judge of the Chief Court of the Punjab, during the absence of Mr. J. S. Campbell.

—SIR HENRY AND LADY DAVIES left Lahore for England on last Tuesday. They intend visiting Russia and Turkey on their way home.

—ALL negotiations between the British Government and the Amir of Cabul are now at an end. They have terminated unsatisfactorily.

—THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint General His Highness Jeaji Rao Sindia Maharajah of Gwalior, G. C. S. I., to be an Honorary Member of the Military Division of the 1st Class, or Knights Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath.

—THE subject of the release of Yakub Khan is being discussed between the Amir of Cabul and his advisers, and though the Amir has not positively consented to set him free, communications have passed between the prisoner and the Amir; and it is believed that Yakub Khan will be released and appointed Governor of Candahar. It is also stated that the Akhund of Swat has written to the Amir interceding for his son, Yakub Khan.

—THE Amir of Cabul is going to set his house in order. He intends appointing his brother, Shere Ali Khan, Governor of Gursak and his brother, Wuli Mahomed Khan, Governor of Cabul. Hitherto he has been on bad terms with these brothers.

—IN Bombay slight rain has fallen in Nasik; none elsewhere. There is no change in the

condition of things generally. In Bengal rain has fallen in most districts. The cold-weather crops have nearly all been harvested with good results, and prospects are generally good. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh hail has done some slight damage to the crops, but otherwise they are good. In the Punjab harvest has commenced with promise of an abundant outturn. In the Central Provinces also, where slight rain has fallen in several districts, the general outturn is very good. In Central India, Rajputana, Burmah and Assam, prospects are also favorable.

—SIR LEWIS PELLY will proceed to England at once, where he will have an opportunity of explaining matters to the Secretary of State, with reference to the separation of the Frontier from the Punjab. It is said that the Viceroy's mind is quite made up on the subject, and that the scheme has the approval of Lord Salisbury. Neither the British Agent, Atta Muhammad or his Maulvie Bakhteyar Khan will return to Cabul.

Local.

THE Indian League have forwarded a Memorial to the Governor-General in Council against the Majority Act.

MR. E. W. KELLNER is appointed to be Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal, substantive *pro tem*. Mr. Kellner, however, will continue to officiate as Deputy Controller-General.

THE important subject of the pension and leave rules for the employes of the Calcutta Municipality was discussed yesterday, at a meeting of the Municipal Commissioners.

DURING the absence of the Governor-General in Council from Calcutta, Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Lees will have charge of that portion of the Foreign Department which is left at the Presidency.

THERE was a strike among the *mekters* in Calcutta, because their rate was increased by the Municipality. Happily the obnoxious order was withdrawn, and the *mekters* resumed work after three days' strike. There is union even among the *mekters*.

THE CIVIL SERVICE MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL.

(Concluded from Friday's Indian Mirror.)

BABU JADU NATH GHOSE, Principal Seal's Free College, in seconding the fourth Resolution spoke as follows:—

In seconding the Resolution just moved, I must be permitted to promise that at this late hour of the evening it is not desirable that I should tire out your patience by inflicting a set speech upon you. Indeed, were it not that we have met here this evening on a momentous occasion, I should have been quite content to keep my silence unbroken. I call this a momentous occasion advisedly. Looking upon the matter from a political point of view, is it not of the utmost importance to us as a nation that the sharp distinction existing in this country at the present moment between the conqueror and the conquered as regards the holding of high offices of trust and responsibility should, at all events, be partially removed and that as early as possible. But so long as the admission into the Government of this country

can be obtained by the only gate of the Civil Service Examination held in London alone, so long the painful distinction I have referred to, will continue to stare us in the face. You may talk as much as you like of the institution of caste as a peculiarity of the Hindu religious system. But alas! the caste created by the Civil Service is no less glaring a social phenomenon in the present polity of British India. I hail, therefore, the present occasion when an attempt is to be earnestly made to mitigate this great evil by throwing the Service practically open to all classes of the local community. Englishmen who have had in their own country such a distinction as that between the Saxon and the Norman, need no elaborate explanation, to bring home to themselves the galling character and blighting tendency of such practically exclusive institutions of the Civil Service in India. Any effort, therefore, to place the Service on a wider and more catholic base, and to deprive it of its exclusive character, will be a consummation devoutly to be wished for, by all lovers of human progress. It is unnecessary for me to remind such Englishmen as are deeply acquainted with classical antiquity, how not only in their knowledge of ancient history and literature but also in their thoughts and sentiments, they are Greeks and Romans. A like mental transformation is taking place apace in India, with the spread of English education. Young India, save in its sun-burnt skin, is even more thoroughly imbued with English peculiarities of the head and heart, than what strikes the mere superficial observer. Speaking politically, what Benares is to the old Hindu, Mecca to the Haji Mahomedan, Jerusalem to the Catholic Christian, that is England to the English-educated Indian. Every thing noble and manly, generous and lovely, is associated in his mind with that fortunate country whose most gifted sons are his hourly companions, at a time of life when the deepest and most enduring impressions are made which mould and tinge the whole of his subsequent life. Indeed, England is the *Braz Ideal* of perfection with the modern Indian student. If England, therefore, makes herself justly liable to a charge of unfairness by tantalizing the people of this country with the promise of removing their political disabilities, but being not much if at all, anxious about the fulfilment of the said promise, we who feel such genuine admiration for England, are exceedingly grieved at such a state of things. It is not, therefore, so much to gain some share of the leaves and fishes of office that we are met this evening, as for zealously guarding the fair fame of England from being tarnished and polluted by the charge and imputation of double-dealing and the tortuous policy of less enlightened conquering countries. Let not England, in questions of the imperial magnitude before us, forget the example of Imperial Rome. The embarrassments of the infant Republic of Rome were occasioned for the most part by the exclusion of the Plebeians from all offices of trust and responsibility.

So far back as 1869, our worthy townsman, Babu K. M. Mullick, Hon'ble Secretary, Seal's Free College, in a pamphlet on Native Education in Calcutta, speaking of the Hon'ble Dwarka Nath Mitter's talents as an able advocate, wrote as follows:—"The fact of his subsequent elevation to the Bench of that Court, is an undeniable proof of the inutility of compelling the ex-students of our University to undergo examinations in England preparatory to their being appointed Civil Servants in this country, which serves as a barrier to many to the enjoyment of that boon, which has been of late so graciously accorded to them. I trust the day is not far distant when that barrier shall be removed." It is certainly time now for giving practical effect to the views contained in the sentence just quoted. The competitive examination has been found fault with, because it is supposed incapable of serving as a moral test. Whatever deficiency there may be in my countrymen in moral courage, England certainly does not shew her any enviable example in this respect, when instead of furnishing us with a fair field and no favor by holding examinations in India, she is throwing all manner of obstacles