

PARBURY'S

ORIENTAL HERALD.

THE MALDIVA ISLANDS.

The Maldiva Islands are a cluster formed of coral extending from the equinoctial line to eight degrees of north latitude, and between the 72nd and 74th degree of east longitude. From the difficulty attending the navigation of the channel, and from the unhealthy nature of the climate, these islands have been but little sought, and consequently but little known. They have, however, been recently visited by two officers of the Indian Navy, for the purpose of making themselves acquainted, to the best of their ability, with the productions and resources of the country, as well as the language, disposition, and customs, of the natives.

The inhabitants of the Maldiva Islands have in general a pleasing cast of countenance, and in colour they much resemble the Mussulmans of India. Their general height is about five feet two inches. The higher orders are fairer in complexion than the common people, probably attributable to their descent from Persian stock. The skin of the natives, almost universally, is marked with stains on many parts of their bodies, or blotches of a lighter colour than the natural skin. The ordinary dress of the men consists of short drawers, with a cloth wrapped round the waist, and another about the head, the waist cloth being twisted into a knot in the front, which is supported by a string encircling the loins. The head people wear in addition an embroidered sash of silk or cotton about the waist, and on Fridays, when attending the grand mosque, a kind of shirt, (white,) reaching to their ancles, with a turban of the same color. The men shave their heads, but are free to allow as much of the hair of the face to grow as they like. The women's habiliments consist merely of a cloth wrapped round the waist, descending to the knees, which is secured by a string and a long shirt: also a cloth tied round the head. In contradistinction to the men, they allow their hair to grow long, and fasten it up behind. They are fond of ornaments, and hang light trinkets all round the edges of their ears. The men wear none.

Their houses are ill built and dark, having at most only one small window, and frequently none at all; generally, about twenty-eight feet long, twelve feet broad, and fifteen feet high, with a peaked roof. They are made of a substantial frame-work of wood thatched with cocoa-nut

sum of Rs. 49,874. 8-6 to be due to the Fund for interest, in correction of errors in the mode of crediting the fines from the commencement of the institution, the correspondence between the managers and Government on the subject was read, by which it appeared that the latter had declined to allow the accounts of past years to be reopened without the previous sanction of the Court, and had directed the accounts to be made up both ways in the meantime. *Resolved*,—That the accounts be approved and passed; that the item in suspense, consisting of corrections in past accounts, be brought to the notice of Government for reference to the Court of Directors in order that the necessary adjustment be made. *Mr. Prinsep* then read a correspondence and resolution of the managers relative to an application on behalf of Mr. Mordaunt Ricketts, that the managers should take measures to enable that gentleman to receive the benefit of the annuity of which he had been deprived by the Court, to which the managers replied that they had no power to oblige the Court to pay, &c., but with reference to the orders of the Court dismissing Mr. Ricketts, they were prepared to cancel the annuity certificate granted to him, and to return his fine with interest. The meeting confirmed the procedure of the managers in this matter. A letter was read from the Court approving of the new rules relative to the quarter purchase price, &c., stating that the term of three years, from May 1st, 1836, must be considered as strictly experimental; also stating the admission of Messrs. W. B. Bayley, Paton, A. Campbell, and H. Newnham, to annuities on quarter purchase. *Mr. Prinsep* read a draft memorial he had prepared for the approval of the meeting. It prayed that after the three years of the present experiment relative to the quarter purchase price, &c., nine annuities should be allowed for each year, subject to one quarter payment as minimum, but without return of excess subscriptions. The Fund could well bear this. *Resolved*,—That this meeting approve of *Mr. Prinsep's* draft of memorial to the Hon. Court; and that the managers take the sense of the service as to the propriety of submitting, &c., &c. *Mr. Melville*, seconded by *Mr. Millett*, moved, in *Mr. Smyth's* case, "That subject to the approval of the Honourable Court, and in anticipation of the Court's acceptance of his resignation, the managers be authorised to grant to *Mr. Smyth* a reduced annuity under rule 37, proportional to the payment that may be made on his account before the 1st May, 1838. The following gentlemen were, at the close of the meeting, unanimously elected managers for the year: Messrs. Braddon, Dorin, I. Lewis, P. Taylor, and Tucker. *Condensed from the Calcutta Courier*, Jan. 1st.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.—(3d Jan.)—*J. H. Batten*, Esq., *Baboo Connyloll Tagore*, and *C. E. Barwell*, Esq. elected members. Major *H. Sleeman*, *J. W. Grant*, Esq., *G. A. Prinsep*, Esq., *Dr. Boncal* of Manila, *Dr. Arnott*, and *Syed Keramat Ally*, were proposed and seconded as members. The meeting then proceeded to the annual election of office-bearers, when the following gentlemen were elected;—Vice Presidents;—*Lord Bishop*, *Sir J. P. Grant*, *H. T. Prinsep*, and *Col. McCleod*.—Committee of Papers;—*Capt. Forbes*, *Drs. O'Shaughnessy*, *Adam*, *Wallich*, *Stewart*, *McLellan*, *Evans*, and *Mr. Cracroft*. The present members constituting the Special Committee for superintending the Museum were re-elected. A letter was read from *M. Csoma Koros* declining the office of Librarian, and *Mr. M. Kittoe* was thereupon appointed to the temporary charge of the Library and Museum on the consolidated salaries of *Drs. Burlini* and *Pearson*. *Mr. Kittoe* returned thanks, and signified his acceptance of the office. The appropriation of *Dr. Evans's* valuable collection of Natural History (tendered to the Society for purchase) was referred for consideration to the Committee of Papers.

OPIMUM.—The effect of the fall in the price of Opium upon the revenue may be seen by the following comparative statements of the January sales of 1837 and 1838, taken from the *Hurkaru*, Jan. 4th:—

| | Chests | Highest | Lowest | Average |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|
| 1837.—Behar | 4970 | 1685 | 1365 | 1613 3 7 |
| Benares | 1991 | 1505 | 1435 | 1439 13 7 |
| Half Chests | 4 | 730 | | 730 |
| 1838.—Behar | 4535 | 835 | 750 | 731 11 11 |
| Benares | 2335 | 750 | 665 | 690 15 7 |

In the former year the proceeds of the sale were, Co's. Rs. 1,09,27,205; in the present, Co's. Rs. 51,58,750 derived from 6963 chests and 6870 respectively; shewing a difference of Co's. Rs. 57,66,455. The profit, however, to the Company is still about 30 lacs, taking the cost at or about 350 Rs. per chest.

GRAND RECEPTION OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE PRINCE OF OUDE.—In consequence of the serious illness of the King of Oude, it devolved upon his Highness the heir apparent, to receive Lord Auckland, during his late visit to the

Upper Provinces. His Highness, with a large retinue, arrived at Newulunge (the first stage from Lucknow,) on the 19th Dec., where a vast number of magnificent tents stood ready pitched to welcome the Prince, the Resident, &c. &c. When the Prince arrived, he and the nobility went into their sumptuous camp apartments amidst the roaring of guns, which thundered from many parks of artillery. At about midnight, the troops and artillery left for Unow, where likewise stood as great a number of tents as were seen in the previous stage. The Prince, &c. followed next day. The scene was grand and imposing, tents innumerable, trains of heavy baggage, vast crowds of spectators, the elephants, the Prince's presence with his followers, all tended to render the encampment startling to the eye and to the imagination. Two days after the Prince's arrival, the firing from the different parks of artillery announced his departure for Cawnpore, accompanied by the Resident and nobility of Lucknow, to meet Lord Auckland. They met and embraced, exchanging presents as is usual on such occasions. The Prince shortly after returned to his own camp. As Lord Auckland intended to return the Prince's visit the next day, the troops were ordered to observe the usual ceremonies. About day-break, a whole concourse of people were seen crossing over the bridge, the toll of which was excused, owing to the generosity of the Prince, who, handsomely bestowed the sum of Rs. 2000 for so desirable an object. The different regiments of the household troops formed a *street* along the road, to salute the Governor-General and the Prince, their royal master, who proceeded in advance to the foot of the bridge (above alluded to) to meet the Lord of India; and where, after the complimentary embraces, the Governor-General alighted from his own elephant into that of the Prince, when the whole of the grand procession of well-caparisoned elephants, palkees, palkees, carriages, &c., proceeded on slowly towards the Oude camp, amidst the salutations of the troops and artillery. The uniforms displayed by the officers and troops on this occasion were splendid in the extreme. The Prince returned to Lucknow on 28th December, but the Misses Eden were splendidly accommodated by his Majesty in his magnificent mansion, the palace of Delkoosha, where they stayed during their short residence at Lucknow. Lord Auckland was of course deprived of a sight of the rarities of Lucknow, because of his strictly conforming to the etiquette observed between the Oude and British Governments on this question. On the 29th, a grand breakfast was given to the Misses Eden, Mr. MacNaghten, &c. &c., after which, a wild beast fight took place. A contest between two pair of elephants attracted most notice. They became so furious, that nothing could make them desist from the battle. They were dreadfully lacerated. The rhinoceros fight was also a good one. A grand entertainment followed these *sports*, with a display of magnificent fireworks. The next day Lucknow was left in quietness. The expenses to the King of Oude must have been enormous, particularly as all matters were managed without system. [Abridged from an account given of these festivities to the *Englishman*, by one who signs himself a *Hermit Abroad*.]

CAPTAIN BURNES.—Capt. Burnes with a party of friends had arrived towards the close of December, at the Fort of Sungur, in the possession of Maha Raja Runjit Sing. He was well received.

HAKHEM MEHNDI ALI KHAN.—The celebrated Minister of Oude died at Lucknow on the 26th Dec. (In our next we trust to have room for a lengthened account of this distinguished individual.)

MR. MARTIN, JUDGE OF HOOGHLY.—The Deputy-Governor of Bengal has ordered the removal of Mr. C. B. Martin, and his being placed on the allowance of a senior merchant out of employ. The charges brought against Mr. Martin are considered to have been so far established by the investigations held by Mr. W. W. Bird, that his Honor considers it inexpedient to continue him in the high office he held. Much praise is bestowed by his Honor on Mr. Lewis, who first brought to notice the reports affecting Mr. Martin's character. Some further investigations it is supposed are to take place.—*Bengal Hurkaru*, Jan. 1.

REGIMENTAL MOVEMENT.—The *Englishman*, January 1st, states that the 65th N. I. were to be ordered to Sandoway to relieve the 67th N. I. at the sickly station of Khyouk Phyou.

BOLD DACOITY.—An impudent dacoity took place in the neighbourhood of Gyah towards the close of Dec. About a hundred persons made a push towards the Katee of Beegia Opudia, a respectable shroff, and killed one or two men besides wounding about a dozen. They succeeded in carrying off cash, &c. &c. to the amount of Rs. 15,000.

ROBBERY ON DR. CORBYN.—A mate bearer in the service of Dr. Corbyn was accused (1st Dec.) before a magistrate with having intruded in Dr. C's. bed-chamber,