

THE BARODA FESTIVITIES.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

BARODA, DECEMBER 27.

I was rather shocked yesterday at a remark made to me by a distinguished ornament of the Governor's staff, as he alighted from the train. He said:—"What a lot of Naval Officers you've got here." Fancy any one mistaking Mr. Melvill, in his Civilian war paint, for Admiral Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., fancy any one thinking Mr. Hayes Sadler, more resplendent than the lilies of the field, to be a mere commodore or midshipmite! The idea is too awful; and I trust that the Government of India will require a written apology to these august Politicals from the sacrilegious individual in question. But enough of this painful subject. To-night there will be a reception for native guests at 10 p. m. in H. E. the Governor's camp. All the native gentlemen I have spoken to tell me that they are delighted with their entertainment as guests of the Baroda Durbar.

As Baroda contains a few public buildings and other sights worth a visit, the following outline of a drive round the place may still prove useful to some of the guests here at present. Leaving the camp, first drive through the public park to the menagerie, and thence to the summer-house in the park, where some good marble carving and wall-decorations may be seen. Going next up the Station road for a short distance, the new building for the Baroda College may be visited. This building was begun about two years ago, and will take another year to finish, the College classes being held meantime in the High School. Thence across the Vishvamitri river, looking over the bridge at the ruins of a huge bund which burst about ten days ago, the water tearing up a solid masonry pier and lifting it into the middle of the stream. Driving towards the city, turn to the right to visit the new Central Gaol, an excellently designed and capacious building. Returning, drive down Raopura (street) and turn up the Koti road past the public offices, (and former Residency) on one side, and the present High School buildings on the other, to the new Palace, which is being erected under Mr. Hill's supervision from designs by the late Major Mant, R.E. Near this is a famous well, called Naulakhi, because it has cost altogether ₹9,00,000. On the main road, farther down, are the Motibagh Palace, and the Gaekwar's school, now used as the Exhibition building. Driving thence along the well-wooded Kevrabagh road past the old city walls, turn up to Mandvi (the central bazaar and clock-tower), close to which is the Nazarbagh Palace, with the old Palace now occupied by the Maharajah behind it, and the new Jamnabai Dispensary, a very handsome one, to the right, as is also the house in which the gold and silver guns of the Gaekwars are on view. If time allows, one might drive next to the elephant *pagah*, where some thirty elephants may be seen, and on the way back, pass the parade-ground of H. H.'s 2nd Regiment, near which a fine **rhinoceros** is chained; and then home. Guests should try to secure a local ghora-wallah for the drive, as most of the additional men for the *tamasha* have been brought from Bombay or Poona, and would take a week to find out all the places I have mentioned.

To-day the Governor paid a visit to the Gaekwar's narrow-gauge State Railway. He was accompanied by the Maharajah, the Chief Secretary to Government, Mr. Hamilton, M.P., and several gentlemen of H. E.'s suite. The special train left the Goa Gate Railway Station at 1 p.m., and arrived at Kelanpur after a swift run of five miles. Here two capital lunches were ready, one for H. E. and party, and the other for H. H. the Maharajah and suite, in the commodious bungalow at Kelanpur built by Khanderao Gaekwar for a shooting-box. After luncheon the party returned to Baroda about 3 o'clock and separated, the Governor and party returning to the camp and H. H. proceeding to the Nazarbagh Palace to prepare for the Governor's expected visit at half-past four. The Governor examined the railway carefully, and expressed himself highly pleased with it, particularly admiring the smooth way in which the carriages ran. H. E. was much interested to learn that it was no costly toy, but a profitable concern, paying a steadily increasing interest on the capital invested, as shown in the annexed table:—

Totals for	Miles open.	Gross earnings.	Ex-penses.	Net profit.	Return per annum on capital invested.
		₹	₹	₹	₹
1873	20	15,750	15,497	262	0·07
1874	20	33,087	25,074	8,013	2·15
1875	20	34,302	26,866	7,337	1·97
1876	20	39,776	20,970	9,806	2·62
1877	20	46,400	36,285	10,115	2·05
1878	20	44,891	28,022	16,869	3·88
1879	40	72,983	40,475	31,608	4·21

These figures are from the last Report of the Administration, 1879-80.

In the afternoon a Durbar was held in the Durbar-room of the old Palace behind the Nazarbagh, when the Governor, accompanied by the Agent to the Governor-General and suite, paid a visit to the Maharajah. The hall was arranged in the usual Durbar fashion, with a large silver throne at the top, and chairs down the sides of the room, an open passage being left up the centre. Along the side to the left of the throne

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