

SELECTED

FROM

CALCUTTA GAZETTES

OF THE YEARS

1806 to 1815 inclusive,

A.M.

6413

SHOWING THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF
THE ENGLISH IN INDIA UPWARDS OF

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

BY

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1808.

In consequence of Intelligence received by Government of a rupture between Great Britain and Denmark, a Detachment of Troops from the Garrison of Fort William, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Carey, took possession of the Danish Settlement of Serampore, at Six o'Clock in the Morning of the 28th ultimo.

The Danish Ships in the River Hooghly were, on the same day, taken possession of by the Hon'ble Captain Elliot, of His Majesty's ship *Modeste*, by Captain Montague, of His Majesty's ship *Terpsichore*, and by Captain DeCoursey, of His Majesty's ship *Dasher*.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1808.

The amusements of the Theatre, commenced at Barrackpore have been rapidly diffused over many stations. We have received a communication from a correspondent at Chandernaghur, giving an account of a French Play performed on the 15th instant, by the prisoners of war at that place and of others now in a state of preparation there. The scenery and decorations of the Theatre have been prepared in a style of great elegance, and the abilities of many of the actors are said to be little inferior to that of the best performers in Europe. The *Menechmes*, an excellent comedy of Regnard, was selected for the first display of their talents, and followed by the *Cheats of Scapin*, a farce, which though inferior to the best works of Moliere, is yet pregnant with incidents of the most ludicrous character. Between the play and the farce, a dance called the *Gavotte*, was executed with much grace and spirit by a boy of twelve years of age; an excellent prologue written for the occasion contributed also to the pleasures of the evening. The company assembled, amounted to the number of three hundred persons, among whom were the Superintendent, and some Gentlemen of rank and fashion from Calcutta. The convenience of this numerous party was amply provided for by the polite attention of the Managers, whose conduct, on the occasion, merits the grateful acknowledgments of the company assembled. We deem it unnecessary to insert the detailed analysis given by our correspondent of the fable of the play, but we are happy in embracing this opportunity of intimating to the lovers of the Drama, this new extension of the Histrionic field.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1808.

Two Gentlemen, now on their way to the Presidency, have lately pursued with considerable success the sports of the field. Besides a

great quantity of other game, they have killed six Rhinoceroses in the Rajemahl Hills; and a seventh young one being taken prisoner and rendered perfectly tame in the space of two days, may be shortly expected in Calcutta, where he will furnish a spectacle well worthy of attracting the attention of those who have never had an opportunity of seeing that very singular and well protected animal; armed as he is with a coat of mail, impenetrable to the assaults of enemies less skilful in the arts of destruction than the human species.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1808.

In the course of last week intelligence was received in town of the arrival at Bombay of a small vessel from the Persian Gulph. This vessel left Bussorah on the 5th of April, and touched at Bushire on her passage to India. The letters from Bushire extend, we believe, to the 17th of April.

No authenticated intelligence of any kind has been received from Europe by this conveyance. Reports from Constantinople state that Bonaparte had assembled a large army at Ragusa, with the probable view of carrying into effect his plans for the spoliation of the Turkish Empire. Notwithstanding the reputed apathy of the Turks, it is not credible that they will submit, without a struggle, to become the vassals of a Christian power; and as the hostile designs of the French ruler have been generally known since the conclusion of the treaty of Tilsit, it is a matter of some astonishment that we have yet heard of no preparations for the defence of the Empire. That no arrangement of defensive alliance has yet taken place between Turkey and England seems to evince, on the part of the former, a degree of blind improvidence not perfectly accounted for, even by the usual imbecility of the Turkish Government. Should that imbecility be the cause of their ruin, it is yet probable that Bonaparte will find, in Turkey, a more troublesome acquisition than any that has hitherto fallen into his hands. We have heard much of the religious animosity against the English, manifested by the Spaniards in South America. There is no animosity, no rancour in the world, half so powerful and virulent as that which animates the breast of a pious Moosulman against those who profess a difference of religious faith; and however Bonaparte and his Generals may assume the Turban when it suits their purpose, the mockery of the professions will be easily seen, and will generate the contempt of their new subjects, without in the least diminishing their antipathy. It is impossible, perhaps, for any Christian power to retain undisturbed the possession of Turkey, while the religion of Moohummud shall be general there.

He descended with very little difficulty, at ten minutes before six, in a field near Chadlington bridge, a short distance from Chipping Norton. The first man that approached him was armed with a pitchfork, who cried, "Lord, Sir, where have you come from." He was, afterwards assisted by the Rev. G. D. Davis, and a number of others, who rendered him every possible assistance. He proceeded to Oxford where he slept, and was accompanied here by a cousin. Since his arrival he has been chaired round the town, and his horses taken off.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1814.

Saturday last being the anniversary of His Majesty's birth day, the troops in garrison were assembled at day break on the Esplanade facing Chowringhee, in the following order. On the right stood the Body Guard, close to whom were drawn up a party of artillery and a brigade of guns; next was drawn up his Majesty's 24th Regiment of foot. The native details of the garrison of Fort William, consisting chiefly of the sepoys of the 20th or Bengal Marine Regiment, and a Company of the 19th Native Infantry, and a part of His Majesty's 66th Regiment formed on the left. His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by the principal members of the General Staff, having proceeded on horseback from the Government House, along the Esplanade Row and down Chowringhee Road, arrived at the ground, on which he was received by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces and General Blair. Immediately after his Lordship, followed Her Excellency the Countess of Loudoun and Moira with Lady Keir, and the Family, in the State Carriages. The procession was filled up by the House Establishment, State Horses, &c., &c. His Lordship previously to reaching the ground was saluted by 19 guns from the Artillery; and afterwards, on his taking post at the Reviewing General's Flag, by the rest of the troops: the band and the drums striking up a march. His Excellency then moved to the right of the line, and proceeded down it, inspecting the men. He was followed by the officers of the Staff, and accompanied by the Countess of Loudoun, and the whole Cavalcade under the control of the master of the Horse. On his Lordship's return to the front, the line broke into open column of divisions right in front, and marched past in review. On reaching their former ground the troops re-entered the original *alignment*, when the Artillery fired a royal salute, and the infantry fired three volleys, in which they

Marianne. The latter gained the day, coming to the shore about a quarter of a minute only before the dingy, and performing the task, a distance of nearly two miles, in nine minutes and a half. It is believed that her victory would have been doubtful, if the Manjee of Captain Hudson's dingy had not twice fallen overboard during the contest.

A pressure of matter prevented our some time ago inserting an account of an excursion made by some gentlemen of Poornea, to the country between Sicligully and Rajemuhl, in quest of Rhinoceroses, during which, we understand, they succeeded in killing 6 or 7, and wounding many others. By a letter from a Correspondent, who was with the party alluded to, we find, that of late frequent instances have occurred of Rhinoceroses crossing the Ganges, and infesting the low lands in the southern part of the district of Poornea.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1814.

By letters from Benares we learn that the 6 Companies of the 8th Native Infantry, lately employed on our Eastern frontier under Major Lumley's command, had returned to that station early in the present month. At the time of their leaving the foot of the hills the frontier was quite tranquil, and seemingly in a state of permanent security. Unfortunately, these appearances were delusive. The Nypalese, as soon as they discovered the disputed lands to be destitute of regular armed force, descended the passes in great bodies, and during the night of the 29th and 30th ultimo, treacherously attacked and massacred the persons composing our Police establishment on the frontier villages. They killed about 21 individuals, and having taken the Thannadar alive, afterwards barbarously murdered him with poisoned arrows. These outrages are the more inexcusable, as they have been committed in support of claims, we believe, altogether unjust and unfounded. The contested districts are situated in that part of the Gorruckpore Zillah, named the Tirhaee, which was long ago ceded to the Company's Government by the Nabob, and have until within the last few years remained in our undisputed possession. Recently, however, the hill people have made gradual, and almost silent encroachments, all along the English frontier, from the Southern extremity of Tirhoot to the North East corner of Gorruckpore. Finding their aggressions to pass unpunished, and mistaking the lenity of Government, they have dared to commit many acts of open hostility, to plunder the villages under the protection of the Company, and afterwards to claim them as the lawful possessions of their own Government. On the 10th instant, an express reached General Wood