

The Homeward Mail

SUPPLEMENT.]

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1900.

[GRATIS.

THE VICEROY'S TOUR.

ARRIVAL AT RAJKOT.

RAJKOT, Nov. 6 (*Times*).—After three days busy with engagements, the Viceroy and his party left Kurrachee on Oct. 30 in the Royal Indian Marine ship *Clive*, and proceeded to Mandvi, the port of Cutch. They drove to Bhuj, the capital of the State, where they received a warm welcome from His Highness the Rao and his subjects. Cutch has passed through cruel visitations from plague and famine, but the sturdy people show no signs of distress. The Rao of Cutch, an enlightened ruler, liberally assisted his people during the famine. Bhuj is an old-world isolated place, with a picturesque palace and quaint, medieval soldiery. At the banquet the Viceroy complimented the Rao on his generosity to his people. The Rao accompanied Lord Curzon, the first Viceroy who has ever visited Cutch, back to Mandvi.

Lord Curzon left Mandvi on the night of Nov. 1, and sailed to Diu, an old Portuguese settlement, with an ancient fort and a fine cathedral. He was hospitably entertained by the Portuguese Governor.

On Nov. 3 he arrived at the port of Veraval, in Kathiawar. He visited the historic temple of Somnath, now shorn of its former sanctity. Junagadh was reached at midday. The Viceroy was cordially received by the Nawab of Junagadh, the premier chief of Kathiawar, who still levies the old Mahomedan tribute from the other States in the peninsula lying between Cutch and Goojerat. In Junagadh lies the forest of Gir, where the last lions in India are still found. The Nawab had wished the Viceroy to shoot in Gir preserve, but, to the satisfaction of all good sportsmen, Lord Curzon declined to disturb the last stronghold of the king of beasts. It is to be hoped that the example set will be followed. At Junagadh the Viceroy opened the Arts College, a fine building designed and built by a local architect. He visited many places of interest.

Rajkot was reached on the 4th. Hither all the chiefs of Kathiawar have repaired to meet the Viceroy in grand durbar. Kathiawar has within a short period passed from lawlessness and disorder into the model of a well-ordered congeries of Native States. Many of the chiefs of Morvi, Gondal, and Limdi were pupils of the excellent Raj-Kumar College at Rajkot, where also Ranjitsinhji, the well-known cricketer, received his education. Of the 32 ruling chiefs of Kathiawar, 12 were at the college. There are 557 miles of railways in Kathiawar, of which 545 miles were constructed by the chiefs themselves, all bringing a handsome return on capital. The most important chiefs are those of Junagadh, Nawansar, Bhavnagar, Porbandar, Dhrangadhra, Morvi, and Gondal. Many distinguished Englishmen have contributed towards Kathiawar's advancement; among other names may be mentioned those of Keatinge, Piele, and Chester MacNaughten, the beloved principal of the Rajkot College. The morning of the 5th was spent in receiving visits from the chiefs, and the afternoon at a prize-giving at the college. There was a splendid assemblage of rajas, chiefs, and students. In the course of an earnest and impressive speech, which was loudly applauded, the Viceroy said:—

"There can be no greater mistake than to suppose that because in this and other chiefs' colleges in Northern and Central India boys are given the nearest equivalent of which India admits to an English public school education, the aim is, therefore, to turn them outright into English boys. If this college were to emancipate its students from old-fashioned prejudices or superstitions at the cost of denationalisation, I, for one, should think the price too heavy. An Anglicised Indian is not a more attractive spectacle in my eyes than an Indianised Englishman. Both are hybrids of an unnatural type. No, we want the young chiefs who are educated here to learn the English language and to become sufficiently familiar with English customs, literature, science, modes of thought, standards of truth and honour, and, I may add, with many English sports and games, to be able to hold their own in the world in which their lot will be cast without appearing dullards or clowns, and to give to their people, if they subsequently become rulers, the benefit of an enlightened and pure administration. Beyond that we do not press them to go. After all, those Kumars who become chiefs are called upon to rule not an English but an Indian people; and, as a Prince who is to have any influence and to justify his own existence must be at one with his own subjects, it is clear that it is not by English models alone but by an adaptation of Eastern prescriptions to the Western standard that he can hope to succeed. If these views are correct, it is clear that this college has a great and responsible work devolved upon it, since it ought to be not merely a school of men but a nursery of statesmen, and that the worst way of discharging its trust would be to rob its pupils of their surest claim to the confidence of their countrymen, which is this—that, though educated in a Western curriculum, they should still remain Indians, true to their own beliefs, their own traditions, and their own people."

DURBAR AT RAJKOT.

SPEECH BY THE VICEROY.

RAJKOT, Nov. 6.—A Grand Durbar was held here to-day, to which all Kathiawar flocked. After the presentation of the chiefs the Viceroy addressed the durbar, concluding in the following terms:—

"CHIEFS OF KATHIAWAR.—I should not come here as Viceroy of India were I not confident that my message to you was one of sympathy and encouragement. You are representatives in this part of India of a system of which no one is a more convinced supporter than myself. I am a firm believer in the policy which has guaranteed the integrity, has ensured the succession, and has built up the fortunes of the Native States. I regard the advantage accruing from the secure existence of those States as mutual. In the case of the chiefs and States it is obvious, since old families and traditions are thereby preserved, a link is maintained with the past that is greatly cherished by the people, and an opening is given for the employment of native talent, which the British system does not always or equally provide. But to us also the gain is indubitable, since the strain of government is thereby lessened and full scope is provided for the exercise of energies that might otherwise be lost to the Government, the perils of excessive uniformity and undue centralisation are avoided, and greater administrative flexibility ensues. So long as these views are held—and I doubt if any of my successors will ever repudiate them—the Native States should find in the consciousness of their security a stimulus to energy and to well-doing. They should fortify the sympathies of the Government by deserving them. To weaken this support would be to commit a suicidal crime.

"If the Native States, however, are to accept this standard, it is obvious that they must keep pace with the age. They cannot dawdle behind and act as a drag upon inevitable progress. They are links in the chain of Imperial administration. It would never do for the British links to be strong and the native links weak, or *vice versa*. As the chain goes on lengthening and the strain put upon every part of it increases, so is uniformity of quality and fibre essential, otherwise the unsound links will snap. I therefore think, and lose no opportunity of impressing upon the Indian chiefs, that a very clear and positive duty devolves upon them. It is not limited to the perpetuation of their dynasties or the maintenance of their Raj. They must not rest content with keeping things going in their time. Their duty is one not of passive acceptance of an established place in the Imperial system, but of active and vigorous co-operation in the discharge of its onerous responsibilities. When wrong things go on in British India the light of public criticism beats fiercely upon the offending person or spot. The Native States have no right to claim any immunity from the same process. It is no defence to say that the standards there are lower, and that as censors we must be less exacting. That would be an admission of the inferiority of the part played by the States in the Imperial scheme, whereas the whole of my contention rests upon its quality, and the whole of my desire is to make it endure.

"In Kathiawar it is gratifying to me to think that these propositions, which I regard as fundamental principles of Indian statecraft, are generally accepted, and that the majority of the chiefs and thakors whom I am addressing are already engaged in putting them into operation. Holding the views that I do, I welcome nothing more than the opportunity of giving such encouragement as lies in my power as the head of the Government to those who have it in their power greatly to help and encourage me. I hope that I have not been remiss in this direction.

"There has never been a year in Indian history when the loyalty of the Indian Princes and people has been more triumphantly vindicated. Aroused by the stirring events that were passing in foreign lands and thrilled by the sense of partnership in the British Empire, they have freely offered their troops, their resources, and their own swords for the service of the Queen both in Africa and in Asia. It has not been possible to accept all these offers, and, indeed, in South Africa it was not possible to accept any. But the war in China presented me with an opportunity of showing how greatly her Majesty and her Majesty's Government have valued these demonstrations of loyalty which I was not slow to seize. It will always remain a source of pride to me to have been instrumental in persuading them for the first time to send Imperial Service troops outside of these shores. I frankly admit that it is not the purpose for which those contingents were originally raised. They were offered by the chiefs and accepted by the Government to take part in the defence of India, but opportunities that we can furnish for their employment in India, or upon Indian frontiers, are few and far between, and when the Chiefs came forward and begged to be allowed to share the larger responsibilities of the empire and to vindicate their loyalty upon a wider field, he would, I think, have been a cold and narrow minded pedant who on such an occasion would have damped their enthusiasm or waved aside their offer.

"I am now arranging for the despatch to Australia of a selected contingent of 100 officers and non-commissioned officers of the Native Army and Imperial Service troops, who have been invited by the