

For the Christian Messenger.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, Dec. 4, 1857.

INDIAN VICTORIES.

MR. EDITOR,

Though our last news from India leaves some uncertainty as to particular localities, yet their average tenour may be headed as above. "The British army is rapidly riding down the insurrection." 3000 troops had arrived from England, of whom 200 had reached Calcutta and 1000 Madras, 2000 more were as far on the way as Ceylon; and 1200 would be added almost directly, from Keonackee. 1900 soldiers will probably have arrived altogether, when the next mail shall be due.

"The huge and shapeless masses of the rebellion still continue to drift from one point to another, and to accumulate in Oude: but every where the Europeans were establishing a mastery which each day would strengthen." Victorious as they have been in disproportionate numbers and in isolation, reinforcements and union will enable them to give battle to and completely rout the 50,000 insurgents at Oude: after which, the process of "stamping out" will be a succession of military operations more extended than hitherto, and comparatively trivial, after what has been done.

That city, so lately the arena of fierce and bloody strife, is now comparatively uninhabited. Even the cats are said to be dying of starvation. Two others of the king's sons were captured, and condemned to be shot. The youngest son is also said to be taken. The hoary old king can not be executed, as his life was promised on surrender. But he is 90, and so it is of little consequence—the sons are the chief monsters, and on them retribution fell, amid even Mahomedan confessions of righteous deserving.

Captain Hodson acted as popular opinion will not only justify, but applaud and emulate. "Scarcely had the Mogul city been invested, than he perceived (having followed the enemy outside the walls) that they were blowing up a camp at a distance; he volunteered, with only seventy-five horsemen, to go and observe their movements. In rode that handful of horses, routed the whole, seized their guns and other booty, and returned safely.

Next day they did better, in capturing the old king and his favourite Sultana, who was treated as we always treat women, and not as his kith and kin served every bit of female flesh that fell into their hands. The Queen of that monster received chivalrous delicacy, simply because she was of womankind. But, for further specimens of Mogul delicacy, there were to be seen, as the smoke of our cannonade cleared off from the yet uncaptured city, a young woman, stark naked, sore from head to foot, a raving maniac, (can we not guess at what horrors reason fled her polluted tenement?) and chained hand and foot to a bastion of the fortifications. In another spot, a naked man and woman, crucified; in another, young children nailed by the feet to the cross beam of a gibbet! Yet Captain Hodson did not forget his own and our dignity and humanity; no reprisal was made of a similar kind.

Having caught the king, this "avenger of blood," as he is called, volunteered to go in search of the virtual heads of the insurrection, the princes of the Imperial house.

"With a hundred men, and a lieutenant in company, he rode off towards the tomb of the Emperor HUMAYOON—a structure of which it is necessary that the reader should have some idea. It stands in the middle of a platform two hundred feet square, supported by a quadrangular arcade, ascended by four vast flights of steps, and constituting, so to speak, a fortress of marble. Hodson then with the remainder of his men entered the *enciente* of the Tomb, and found certainly not less than from 5,000 to 6,000 of the seam of the city and palace congregated there, armed with weapons and missiles of all descriptions. It was indeed an hour of trial, when a bold front and determined voice was of more avail than even a sharp sword. Wonderful to say, not a man of the gallant little band was hit; and on Hodson sternly reiterating his demand for instant surrender, they began to lay down their arms. Five hundred swords and twice that number of fire-arms, besides horses, elephants, &c., were collected in less than an hour and a half, without another blow being struck. Hodson and his men then moved warily off to the city; at a short distance from the walls they found the *baggage* containing the two princes, was halted, with much rabble collected around, who turned on the little party as they rode up. This was no time for hesitation or delay; Hodson dashed at once into the midst; in few but energetic words explained "that these were the men who had not only rebelled against the Government, but had ordered and witnessed the massacre and shameful exposure of innocent women and children, and thus, therefore, the government punished such traitors taken in

open resistance," shooting them down at the word. The effect was instantaneous and wonderful; not another hand was raised, not another weapon levelled, and the Mahomedans of the troop, and some influential Moulvies among the by-standers, exclaimed, as if by simultaneous impulse, "Well and rightly done: their crime has met with its just penalty—these were they who gave the signal for the death of helpless women and children, and outraged decency by the exposure of these persons, and now a righteous judgment has fallen on them. God is great." The remaining weapons were then laid down, and the crowd slowly and quietly dispersed. The bodies were then carried into the city, and thrown out on the very spot where the blood of their innocent victims still stained the earth. They remained there till the 24th, when, for sanitary reasons, they were removed. The effect of this just retribution is as miraculous on the populace as it was deserved by the criminals."

We have had a glorious victory at Agra, which for some time past had been in considerable danger.

Intelligence was received of the advance of considerable bodies of mutineers on Agra. Colonel Greathed's column from Delhi, to meet it, marched from Hattress (28 miles) in the night, and early in the morning were at Agra. While the wearied men were at breakfast, the horses unsaddled, and the camp in confusion of pitching tents, a battery of guns suddenly opened on them, and a numerous body of horse galloped up and cut down several men. Never was a surprise more complete, or a rally sooner effected. In five minutes the Lancers were in the saddle, and charged in their shirt sleeves. After the enemy's fifth shot, our artillery replied with effect. On advancing, the enemy for a time seemed disposed to fight; but their mind soon changed, and a total rout ensued. "Whichever way they attempted to flee, the avenger was always behind them; and the road and the fields between the Ice Pits and the Khree Nuddee, a distance of ten miles, tell the tale in letters of blood of the glorious slaughter of the murderous miscreants that ensued. The tired horses of the artillery and cavalry seemed to acquire strength from the excitement of the chase, and the mutineers were followed at full speed, with tremendous slaughter. Every gun that the enemy possessed—fourteen in number—was captured; and their tents, after being gutted of the plunder the robbers had amassed, were burnt. We also recovered treasure to the value of a lakh and sixty thousand rupees; while several of the European soldiers, and almost all the Seiks, obtained more or less money and other valuables from the bodies of the slain, in some instances as much as two hundred rupees being found on the person of a dead Sepoy, and very rarely less than thirty or forty."

The number of the slain is not known; but their whole force was 7000 men; and, pursued and slaughtered for ten miles, we may imagine what their loss would be.

The carnage spread terror through the enemy's ranks everywhere. In the flight, the rebels tried to enter Bhurtpore, but the gates were closed against them; at Bareilly and Mynpoorie, too, they were repelled. A Sepoy camp in that neighbourhood, hearing the news, was so suddenly broken up that not even the treasure was taken away, and all fell into our hands—guns, and £20,000.

Brigadier Showers' column left Delhi shortly after Greathed's, and scoured the country for a week. At Rewaree they found its Rajah had evacuated his palace, and left all to us.

The King of Delhi, and principal Mahomedan traitors, would be tried soon as proper evidence was obtained.

General Wilson's health had given way, and he had resigned to General Peunoy, retiring to the hills to recruit himself. But, he takes with him the titles of Baronet and K. C. B., which have been conferred; and a pension of a £1000 per annum, from the E. I. Company, is also well bestowed on the brave and successful captor of Delhi. The same Company have awarded two pensions of £500 each to the nearest relatives of the late Generals Nicholson and Neill, who perished in victory. The widow of Gen. Neill is also allowed to take the rank which would have been hers, had the General lived to receive his honours. The mother of Gen. Nicholson will receive his annuity. What a proud, though sorrowing mother!

During the assault on Delhi the Sepoys purposely left drugged spirituous liquors in the streets; and, when our soldiers were rendered helpless by their use, fell upon and slew them. Here is a full text for teetotalers

At Kurrachee, the 21st Native Regiment mutinied, but were found out in time through all the sentries leaving their posts too soon, when the officers at once turned out the artillery and Europeans, and disarmed the regiment.

"All the ladies had to get up in the middle of the night, and run for their lives to the Mess-house Arsenal. Some very amusing scenes took place; some of the ladies were only in their night clothes, and very much frightened; husbands looking for their wives and running up to the wrong person in mistake; one lady came with a drawn sword in her hand, another with a double-barrel gun on her shoulder. However, at five o'clock in the morning, all was quiet again, and everybody went home."

If not discovered, one half of those in camp would have been murdered before the others knew anything of it. 14 were hung, and three blown from guns.

At Ahmedabad another mutiny was discovered, only an hour beforehand. 18 were executed.

At Chuttra 200 of the 53rd attacked a rebel force 700 strong, aided by guns, defeated them, and got all they had. A loss was sustained, however, of 3 killed, 43 wounded.

Scindian accounts exhibit the beneficial effect of recent executions, thus—"All quiet here. The example made of the mutineers has struck terror into the minds of evil-doers, and we have heard the last of Scindian mutinies."

At Allyghur, 240 Europeans engaged 500 cavalry and 1000 villagers. Fifty of them, by throwing away their matchlocks and scabbards, and concealing drawn swords in their dresses, temporarily checked our force; but they were destroyed to a man. The great body had retreated early.

The Europeans at Saugor are still besieged, and sadly want help. They will blow the fort up, with themselves, rather than surrender. A sortie upon a tremendous force, 9 miles distant, had been unsuccessful, and retreat necessary. They will, however, be shortly relieved.

THE POSITION OF GENERAL HAVELOCK AT LUCKNOW.

The relief of Lucknow cannot yet be said to have been completely effected. General Havelock, it is true, forced his way in and saved the garrison from destruction; but he has not yet been able to remove the non-combatants, nor the treasure, stated to amount to twenty-six lakhs. He has not even been able to keep up regular communications with that part of the force which is stationed outside of the city, at the Allumbagh (about three miles from his own position, and a "garden house," or country residence of the Oude nobility.) There, in advancing to Lucknow, he left 70 sick and wounded, baggage, cattle, elephants, camels, and 3000 or 4000 camp followers, with a guard of 200 men and four guns. These camp followers are strengthening the defences.

"The communication between Allumbagh and Cawnpore seems to have been freely open for some time, if it was not so at the date of the latest accounts, when it was reported that a convoy from Cawnpore was unable to reach the place. Beyond Allumbagh, however, there was no advancing except in great strength, the enemy occupying the intervening space in large numbers. It was scarcely possible even to smuggle a letter between the city and the suburban post. Some scraps of intelligence had nevertheless reached Cawnpore from Lucknow. Their tenor was encouraging. They showed that Havelock and Outram were sufficiently masters of their position to strengthen it by clearing the ground about them."

Major Maitre, 7th Highlanders, had not been able to reach Lucknow with the Cawnpore convoy, and was obliged to entrench himself in a bungalow, four miles on this side, sending back the greater part of the convoy to Cawnpore, and saying he could not advance further without at least 600 more men. With this addition he trusted he could force his way to Lucknow and join Outram.

A letter states that Outram is safe, but that he can do nothing more without a reinforcement of 2,000 men. Havelock and Outram are wounded, besides forty officers and about 500 men killed and wounded since the force left Cawnpore.

"We may hope that ere this time the isolated force has been rendered sufficiently strong by additions from Bengal, to warrant its retirement on Cawnpore. Troops were pouring rapidly up the road and the river from Calcutta, and arriving daily in considerable numbers at Cawnpore. Only about three thousand in all were required to reinforce the column at Lucknow, and these must have been collected some time ago."

As I said before, Oude will form the chief battle ground, on which the scattered Sepoys will offer their chief resistance. The country will have to be reconquered.

At Cawnpore the English are safely entrenched. They had beaten the enemy at Nena Subhi's late palace of Bahoor, and taken his stores.

This is the real total of the last mail, omitting minor matters. It all illustrates one moral—confirms one fact—"the chief rebels are in the agony of dissolution, and nothing can now save them from being annihilated on the scene of their treachery, cowardice, and crime." Isolated instances of danger occur, but the main position is safe; and, even in the former, that brave

endurance and that character which have enabled us to conquer, will sustain and encourage till relief shall arrive. One man is a striking example of this fortitude, shown by so many and lacked by so few.

"The Rewah Rajah, it is reported, though still faithful, has fled from his palace to some fort. The political agent, Lieutenant Osborne, is therefore left alone. His position and conduct are an excellent illustration of the scenes taking place all over India. He is a young Madras officer, and till this outbreak but little known to any one. He is now living in Rewah in a tent, without a single companion, without a friend within a hundred miles. He is so ill with liver complaint that he cannot lie down, taking rest only in a chair. He has no guard, no soldiers, sentries, or reliable servants. Every day and night the soldiery surround his tent, threatening to put him to death by torture. He admits their power, but tells them he can take at least six lives before he dies. And so, day by day, there he lives, sick almost unto death, all alone, and with murderers all round, confident only that his duty is to remain at his post, and that God is above him still. It is not such men as these that Sepoys can subdue. So magical, indeed, is the influence of character, that to this moment Lieutenant Osborne, the sole European alive in Rewah, is felt by the natives to be at least a match for the regiment around him. To this hour, therefore, they are willing, when not stopped by force, to convey his messages and obey his commands."

May we not justly be proud of our race, as seen in this noble officer?

THE QUEEN AND HER PARLIAMENT.

Not often, in bleak December, does her Majesty meet her Lords and gentlemen of the Houses of Parliament; February is the ordinary month. But India, and the Bank Charter, are subjects that admit of no delay, and so our senators have a short session before Christmas.

To say that her Majesty opened the houses in person, is to imply enthusiastic crowds of plebeian spectators, a fine day (the Queen always has fine weather), all the accompaniments of a state pageant in gaudy old Westminster, transformed by the New Houses from grim antiquity to floral juvenility. Carriages with 100-guinea horses; footmen and lacqueys in all the diverse adornment of beadedness; military, police, foreign nobility, native rank and beauty; altogether form such a scene as is worth looking at, and, still more, participating in.

Her Majesty looked beautiful, queenly, and gracious—young, and hardly as the parent of a marriageable daughter. Prince Albert had that "jolly" expression of face which improves his Teutonic features; and the Duchess of Sutherland, who occupied the same carriage, leant back and seemed most comfortably and thoroughly to enjoy herself, the procession, and every body in it, or looking at it.

There was a restraint, however, on the masses of people; and Her Majesty appeared impressed, with them, of the serious nature of those misfortunes which caused her so to ride to her Parliament. Commercial distress at home, and slaughter—horrible and wholesale butcheries—abroad, were enough to cause deep reflection.

Gorgeously beautiful was that gilded chamber of the "upper ten thousand," with jewels, brave attire, and the pick of all that enhances the charms of beauty. The Siamese were there in jewelled but quaint attire. As Prince Frederick of Prussia entered, the house rose in his honor. The Queen had on a *something* satin (may the ladies excuse my ignorance!) robe, embroidered with gold; a train of purple velvet with gold flowers, and I think a tiara of pearls. The elegant simplicity, in general of Her Majesty's dress, is exquisitely attractive.

All were hushed into deeper silence as the Royal voice slowly and distinctly enunciated the following speech, laying especial emphases on those parts which commended her officers and subjects in India; and, on looking at the dark faces in the throng who represented our distant empire, the eulogium was additionally realized.

THE ROYAL SPEECH.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"Circumstances have recently arisen, connected with the commercial interests of the country, which have induced me to call Parliament together before the usual time.

"The failure of certain Joint-stock Banks, and some mercantile firms, produced such an extent of distrust as led me to authorize my Ministers to recommend to the Directors of the Bank of England the adoption of a course of proceeding which appeared necessary for allaying the prevalent alarm. As that course has involved a departure from the existing law, a bill for indemnifying those who advised and those who adopted it will be submitted for your consideration.

"I have observed, with great regret, that the disturbed state of commercial transactions in general has occasioned a diminution of employment in the manufacturing districts, which I fear cannot fail to be attended with much local distress; I trust, however, that this evil may not be of long duration; and the abundant harvest with which it has graciously pleased Divine Pro-