

mouth to my lacerated shoulder. One gripe more—one single wound in my throat to which she was close, and I knew all would be over. I even attempted to turn over to her, to offer it to her jaws. She placed her paw on the bare bone of my shoulder, and rolled me back, adding another, and if possible, a more acute pang to my sufferings. Again she began to suck my blood as I lay groaning beneath her.

My servants, I suppose, rallied and alarmed her, for she suddenly once more started up, and making her teeth meet in my left arm, began to drag me away.—Great heavens! I feel even at this moment the same agony I then endured. In recalling the tortures of that instant, I almost fancy I again experience the pain she caused me as she dragged me along, evidently bearing me towards her lair to feed her whelps. Suffering as I was, I knew all this, I read my doom and shuddered at it. Twice did the flesh break away from my arm, and twice did she renew her savage hold on me, and that so powerfully, that she succeeded in getting me inside the jungle. Here she paused, unable to proceed farther. Two or three shots were fired at her without success. At length, finding her situation perilous, and her prey likely to escape, she retired a few paces, and determining on one effort, raised herself, and opening her huge jaws, bounded on me. I felt her teeth, but they closed not. I felt the whole weight of her body, but she stirred not. In the next moment I heard a human voice. I was released of the ponderous load, and lifted up. The lioness lay dead at my feet. She had expired in the very act of destroying me. She had died on me. I fainted. I was taken in a palanquin, in a state of insensibility, nearly three hundred miles, and was treated for two years as an invalid. At last, I was recommended to try the air of my native country. I returned to Europe, and here I am.

Poor fellow! he is now no more. Escaped from the perils of the East, he has found a grave in his native land. 'Requiescat in pace.'

THE BRITISH PRESS.

Tait's Edinburgh Magazine.

THE DISTRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

Has Sir Robert Peel, when looking round on the unparalleled distress which surrounds him, the leisure and the courage to ask, 'Where is all this to end? to enquire if the present is one of those ordinary periods of distress which, from time to time, occur in the history of every ill governed country; and of which the symptoms, after they have reached a certain height, gradually mitigate, and finally disappear, to be succeeded in a few years by another and another of those periodical visitations which are tacitly charged against Providence, and never imputed to the true causes, namely—to the ignorance, blindness, and selfishness of those who claim, as of divine right, to administer the affairs of the nation for their own advantage? Is this a temporary visitation, or is the present distress of a more inveterate and permanent character? The universal and dreadful suffering which at present pervades the country, which is felt by the great body of the labouring classes in the extreme of privation, and among too many of them in actual starvation,—and by the middle orders either in diminution of capital, narrowed means, bankruptcy, or complete ruin, has this character to distinguish it from former periods of national distress, that its advances have been insidious and gradual, but steady. Often checked and repulsed by the enterprise and energies of Science, capital, and industry, it has yet, during twenty five years of peace, been gaining ground, until now that the floods surround us, and leave but little hope of escape. Do the men who assume to guide the destinies of this falling country really believe that, acting upon their present system, trade and commerce will again revive and reach their former degree of prosperity; or even the state that when from time to time they flourished in spite of bad legislation, through their native strength?—or have the reflecting part of the governing class quietly made up their minds to see England by an accelerated movement, now fairly begun, sink into a second or third rate state, consisting of a few overgrown landed proprietors and monied men, co-existing with a miserable population: without a middle order, entirely without manufactures, and with only a scanty, precarious, colonial commerce, suffering gradual decay and final extinction;—into, in short, a Genoa, a Venice, or at best a Holland? for this result those of the aristocracy must be prepared, who, being at all, capable of reflection and forethought, yet cling to that pernicious and damning policy which has effectually crippled, and which, if persisted in, must shortly destroy the best resources of the country. Of the effects of that fatal policy, the much canvassed measures just carried by Sir Robert Peel, while they inflict considerable suffering upon individuals of the middle class, can prove at best but a temporary alleviation. And indeed, altogether the effect of his measure is doubtful. The best that can be affirmed is, that the changes in the tariff, if they should do little good, can do no

great harm. No man, not even the author of these changes, dares flatter himself that such alterations are speedily to repair the wide-spread calamities of even the last session,—when distress has grown to so fearful a height, that even the wise and the courageous shrink from looking it in the face, and well meaning and humane persons, of moderate understanding, are left to propose foolish or desperate temporary expedients. The causes of national decay, to be followed, it is but too probable, by social, and, not improbably, by violent disorganization, have been much longer at work than appears to be generally suspected. The ultimate consequence of unwise laws and grinding taxation, with their concomitant undermining effects, have from time to time been lost sight of in the glare shed by a fallacious momentary prosperity. But even those intermissions have become so rare, that people begin to despair of their ever returning again. They may and must still occur, those seasons of mitigation, once and again; Sir Robert Peel may reach the end of his power or of his life, and receive the congratulations of the country upon the happy effects of his policy; and yet, while the present system is maintained, there can be nothing stable and safe, certainly nothing happy in the condition of a people, where the only alteration known to the industrious classes wholly starving, low wages with provisions kept by iniquitous legislation at a price, or half employment eked out by the dole of voluntary or extorted charity. Such at best are the future prospects of English industry under the cora laws and the parliaments which maintain them. At present we hear of people *living*—but this is an abuse of the word—or skilful and industrious men, *lingering* and *dying* upon 8s. d. a week. These things are openly stated in Parliament, and are not attempted to be denied by those who are, to a very great extent, the authors of the misery complained of; and who affect, forsooth, the pity, the consequence, of their own cruel injustice, while they obstinately refuse to relieve the evils they have inflicted.

AFFGHANISTAN AND INDIA.

The fate of Afghanistan forms now a curious problem. Schah Soojah, who, by temporising and truckling to his enemies, and by many other manœuvres available amongst the Afghans, had contrived to secure to himself a precarious existence in the Bala Hissar at Cabul, has at length, as it is now stated, been murdered. His sons have, as it appears, taken different parties, one or two being favourable to the British alliance, while two or three are opposed to it. Various factions are described as at present contending for the lion's share of influence and power, and general confusion, uproar, and bloodshed prevail in Cabul. Schah Kamram, of Herat, nephew of Schah Soojah, after a long contest with his Visier, Yar Mahomed, is also stated to be dead; so that Afghanistan, from the frontiers of Persia to the mountains west of Indus, may be regarded as in perfect anarchy. The news of the death of Schah Soojah is confirmed by the *Agra Ukhbar* of the 23d ultimo. As an event it will produce the result of liberating the hon. Company from an alliance calculated to produce but little benefit. Rumour in India asserts that the present chiefs at Cabul are disposed to surrender their prisoners, and to make terms with the Indian Government. When the aversion of the Hindoo sepoys to cross the Indus, when their dislike to fight with the Afghan country and its small, rapacious, and unruly population, when the repeated cry for more European soldiers, and, above, all, when the great drain on the Treasury which the war produces, are taken into consideration, it may be presumed that the councils of the empire will recommend an arrangement with the Afghans; particularly when the British victories have secured the mountain passes, which constitute the gates of India, and over which our future care must be to exercise a rigid control.

In the mean time Lord Ellenborough, accompanied by two or three secretaries, had set out from Calcutta to the upper provinces of Bengal. His object in this journey is stated to be two fold—first, to be enabled to communicate without delay with the Generals of the army west of the Indus, and the officers commissioned with the management of those provinces; and next, to introduce some reforms there. His Lordship, whose decision and promptitude are highly praised, has as it is asserted, required that the Commander in Chief of the army should quit his cool retreats at Simla, in order to join him at a more central position. Notwithstanding the activity of measures now carried on in Afghanistan, it is stated that his Lordship was, at the departure of the mail, waiting for the resolution that may be adopted in London, relative to ulterior proceedings,

which resolution would it was expected, be such as to confirm fully the measures already adopted. Afghanistan may now be said to be in a great measure at the mercy of Lord Ellenborough, whose principal difficulty will be how to settle with its disunited rulers.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From British Papers to the 5th July, obtained by the Acadia.

Mr. Murchison, at the late meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, presented two large and elaborate maps of the Oural Mountains, which have recently been surveyed by order of the Russian Government: the mines were celebrated even as early as Herodotus, and it was probable that the Romans derived their supply of precious metals from them: the chairman stated some interesting facts on a subject which would probably come under the notice of the Society: it was that a gentleman had, in ascending the river Juba, in Africa, from east to west, fallen in with a considerable tract of country, inhabited by a curious race of pygmies, not exceeding four feet in height, with very strange notions of religion and government, and exactly resembling the type of Herodotus, and singularly confirming some opinions on the subject recently brought before the Aborigines Protection Society.

In Africa, a discovery has been made, not far from Boussissi, of an ancient bridge, spanning by a single arch the stream of the Oned-Herbiba, which is giving rise to many speculations: it is in perfect preservation; and a comparison of the cement used in its construction with that found in the ruins of Hippona, is said to suggest an antiquity of not less than thirteen or fourteen centuries.

By a parliamentary return, dated the 6th May last, it appeared that spirit drinking has increased in England during the past year by 48,234 gallons; in Ireland and Scotland a great diminution in the consumption of spirits has taken place.

From all quarters of Ireland there is most cheerful promise of an abundant harvest: the corn, fruit, and potatoe crops will be at market fully a month before those of last year's harvest.

The new method of gilding by means of galvanism appears to have excited considerable interest in Germany: Professor Bottger of Frankfurt, has, it is said, after long perseverance in experiments, brought the process to the highest degree of perfection: he has discovered a salt, the application of which to the material overcomes all the difficulties hitherto encountered in gilding: all kinds of metals, on being immersed in the solution of this salt, come out brilliantly gilded, without suffering any of those black marks or stains to which they would be liable in the common process.

The total rent-charge in lieu of tithes, for England and Wales, of the several parishes that have commuted their tithe, is £2,140,811, being an increase of £44,150 over the amount hitherto paid in respect thereof.

The south and west of France are almost entirely rendered desolate by the long and extreme drought: The Bishop of Rennes and other prelates have ordered prayers to be put up for rain.

Curious as the following may appear, it is no less so than true: a gentleman from Barnsley, named *Brown*, called the other day at the Bridge Inn, at Worsbro'; shortly afterwards he was followed by Mr. *Black*; by the time the last named had got seated, in came Mr. *White*; and, singular to say, a moment after in popped Mr. *Gray*;

to crown all, who should pop in but Mr George *Green*, the Chief Constable of the township of Worsbro'; this occurrence caused a hearty laugh by the whole company.

A Hint to the Government.—A respectably dressed man was observed for some time to stand near the sea at the mouth of the Tyne, and after looking about, and perceiving as he imagined, no one looking, he snatched up greedily, and eat some bits of bread that had been washed ashore; greedily he devoured those saturated remains of food. Destitution is reaching every spot of the kingdom.

Sir Robert Sale.—Sir R. Sale has gallantly served his country for a period of not less than 47 years, the greater part of which has been devoted to India during some of the most eventful periods of its history. He entered the service in 1795, and began his active military career at the battle of Mallavelly, in 1799, during which year he served at the storming of Seringapatan, for which he received a gold medal: in 1804 he shared in the fatigues of the campaign in the Weynaud country; was present at the storming of Travancore lines in 1809, at the capture of the Isle of France in 1810, at the capture of Rangoon, served throughout the Burmese war; has been four times wounded; aided most effectually in the storming of Ghuznee, and has crowned his career by the successful defence of Jellalabad.

ORIGINAL.

Mr Editor,

Upon perusing the Royal Gazette a few days ago, I was surprised to find that His Excellency Sir William Colebrooke had cancelled all Licences hitherto granted to persons to teach School. No reasons are assigned for this act of His Excellency, and I would fain hope no complaint has been made against the whole body of Parish Teachers, to justify this harsh measure of the Lieutenant Governor. The same notice says, Licences will be granted upon application being made conformably to the directions published in the Gazette of the 12th April. I have not seen that paper, and consequently are at a loss to know what they are; but surely when so much distress pervades the Province, when the teacher can scarcely obtain his tuition money, was it an act which will add to the credit of His Excellency's judgment, thus to throw the Schools into confusion, and deprive the teachers for a while, of receiving the Bounty of the Legislature. I know many teachers who will have to visit the shire town of the county, travel forty to fifty miles to be examined by the Board of Education, and probably have to wait months before they obtain their Licences, who can ill afford to incur the expense necessarily attending upon the removal of their licences. It may be that there are some teachers who ought not to have licences, but by this sweeping measure of His Excellency he has condemned the whole body of teachers, produced confusion, expense, and to many, great inconvenience—and all this at a time when it required the fostering care of the head of the Government.

The School Act expires next spring but His Excellency has by the exercise of the power of the executive functions, virtually suspended it.—Pray Mr Editor, can you inform me what cause has given rise to this act of the Governor?

AN INHABITANT.

July 30, 1842.