

The Politician.

THE BRITISH PRESS.

THE GREAT MAHOMEDAN CONSPIRACY.

The article following, from the Augsburg Gazette, is so singular and so important that it needs no further preface than calling attention to its contents.—

It is not only in India that Mahomedanism is running to arms. We believe ourselves to be correctly informed when we state that at no epoch has the trade in arms flourished as it does just now in all the cities of Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt. Europeans and Christians perceive that there is but one anxiety—to purchase arms. Liege and Birmingham are now getting fortunes. The shops and bazaars where arms are sold are constantly full. Suspicious symptoms are remarked wherever Christians are living in the midst of a Mussulman population. All that is passing at Calcutta under the eyes of the Governor-general of India, the European consuls are witnessing at Smyrna, Acre, Alexandria, and elsewhere. The most peaceful of the Orientals—those who are utterly unaccustomed to arms—are now buying revolvers. Just as difficult as it was for an Englishman at Meerut to obtain an answer to a similar question before the insurrection, just so frankly will the Turk, the Syrian, and the Egyptian now tell you why they are purchasing arms.—One of our friend writing from the spot calls our attention again to preparations making by the Mussulman population that looks very much like what preceded the Mahomedan insurrection in the Indies. Europe is deceived in looking for a harvest of gratitude because the western powers sustained the crescent against the Greek cross. The very contrary has happened. The hatred against Christians throughout the East has no limits, not only for what was then done, but for what is now doing. The Mussulman looks on what is now passing at Constantinople with profound indignation. He openly laughs at Tanzimat. Never has the Christian had less justice, never has he been more detested, never more persecuted, never more abused, than since the Christian states declared themselves the protectors of Mahomedanism. The leaders of the insurrection in the Indies followed the Crimean campaign with earnest attention, and now the people in the Levant are dwelling with feverish anxiety on the events of which India is the theatre. During the Crimean struggle, the Turks at Smyrna expressed much less satisfaction at hearing of the Muscovite being driven from the Danube, than they did at learning that the Giaours were cutting each other's throats on the banks of the Alma and the Tchernaya. The affront of which the allies were guilty towards the Turkish troops in treating them with open contempt has never been forgotten. That contempt has ulcerated the very heart of the faithful. The succour afforded has gladdened no one, but humiliated the whole of the Mussulman world. The consequences and the conditions attached to that succour appear to them like a menace against the doctrine of the Prophet—against the Islamism that has been sovereign on the banks of the Bosphorus for four centuries. No mystery is made of these feelings; they break out everywhere whenever a pretext occurs for the explosion of their suppressed hatred. The quarrel between the Western Powers and Russia has sown seeds of frightful consequences in the East. Travellers and letters say that the present position of matters is no longer tenable, and that a solution is imperiously demanded. For our own parts we have resolved not to maintain silence on what is in preparation. The spirit evoked may be rendered inert by Asiatic indolence, but it may also at some unlooked-for moment show itself more formidable than it has been estimated. We simply express a hope that these sinister movements among the population of Islam may be the last result of events already passed, and not the precursors of those that are coming. Especially are we anxious that the Christian powers may have their eyes open.

MISCELLANEOUS.—About ten years ago, almost to a day, the Bank of England rate of discount was raised to the rate of eight per cent.

We are informed that the ex-Queen of Oude is at present very dangerously ill at a temporary residence occupied by her at Richmond.

Mr Layard, the late M. P. for Aylesbury, will proceed to India by the next mail, in order to visit the seat of the rebellion, and judge for himself as to its cause and its results.

The Liverpool cabinet-makers who have been on strike for about three weeks, have gone in on the masters' terms.

We are enabled to state that the 2nd West India Regiment, (composed of African negroes,) is now under orders for Bengal, and has probably ere this embarked at Kingston, Jamaica.

Prince Napoleon, says a Turin paper, will, it is again announced, shortly arrive here, and a grand review will be held on the occasion.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—Lord Canning and Sir Colin Campbell.—We can state, on the highest authority, that the statements so confidently made and so emphatically reiterated to the effect that Sir Colin Campbell and Lord Canning have already had a serious quarrel, are not only wholly unfounded, but that nothing whatever had occurred between the Governor-General and the Commander-in-Chief in India, which could afford the slightest pretext for giving currency to such assertions. A letter has been received by the present Calcutta mail, addressed by Lord Canning to Mr Vernon Smith, the President of the Board of Control, in which the noble Lord expresses not only his own gratification, but that of all the Europeans at Calcutta, at the arrival of Sir Colin Campbell. One of the expressions of the letter in question from the Governor-General is, "that Sir Colin will prove a great accession of strength to the Indian Government, both in the council and the field."

We may add, that the sole reason why the gallant General did not take his seat in the Supreme Council immediately on his arrival in Calcutta, was, that having left England at 24 hours notice, the necessary forms, making him a member of that body, could not be got ready in time to accompany him. He has now taken his seat in the Council, but already expresses himself anxious to be at the head of the army, as the sphere of duty most congenial to his taste. He was only awaiting the arrival of one or two more regiments, which were daily expected, to proceed with all practicable expedition to the theatre of war—if war the state of matters in India can be called.

The Indian Mail.—The Ripon arrived at Southampton, yesterday, with the heavy portion of the Indian mail. She has on board 150 passengers, including nearly 50 children. Amongst the passengers are Mrs. and Miss Brooks, and Miss Clote, who escaped from Mhow by riding hundreds of miles. They were confined for a long time in a fort, where they had to feed and groom the horses on which they were to escape. Mrs. Graham is also on board. That lady escaped from Sealkote; her husband was shot by her side in a carriage in which they were escaping; she drove on, and thus saved her own life.

The steamer which brought down to Suez the Bombay mail, conveyed to Aden about 50 of the disarmed mutinous troops in the Bombay Presidency. They threatened to be mutinous on board the mail steamer from Bombay to Aden, but became very sea-sick, and quiet in consequence. The passengers by the Ripon met English troops passing through Egypt.

The Mayor of Southampton has telegraphed to the Lord Mayor of London, stating that none of the passengers by the Ripon are in want of pecuniary aid.

Sir Colin's first move in India.—It is positively asserted in official quarters that Sir Colin Campbell left Calcutta on the 11th ult., to place himself at the head of a European force, which the Government had provisioned with every description of marching material for a campaign which, it is calculated, would last 8 months. At some appointed spot, near Calcutta, these extensive stores were rapidly collecting, and the advance guard would set out immediately.

Of course no one pretends to know Sir Colin's plans, but he is said to have communicated with the heroic bands who are holding their ground at Delhi and elsewhere, and that combined movements have been decided upon. Delhi is 790 miles from Calcutta, and as the season is not favorable for marching, the immediate effect of Sir Colin's plans will only tell in a moral point of view on the enemy. It is believed that the insurgents have already made overtures, but entirely failed, it being the intention of the commander-in-chief not to accept any negotiations whatever with the King of Delhi.

It is also the opinion of foreign spectators that the Sepoys have certainly been assisted by Europeans in their movements, but as they fail to make any impression when opposed to us, a well-considered attack fails from want of pluck. Repeated failure has produced much discouragement, and we are informed by a late dispatch from Calcutta that an opinion is gaining ground to the effect that as Sir Colin's army advances the insurgents will disperse and abandon Delhi for the mountains.

Alleged Cholera at Stratford.—At a special meeting of the parochial authorities of St. Pancras recently held in the Vestry-hall, Camden-town, Dr. Morris Wilson informed the authorities of the serious and important fact that at West Ham, in the village of Stratford, the cholera had already made its appearance. Within a few days seventeen cases had occurred, and seven deaths had taken place. It was, therefore, highly important that the whole of the metropolitan parishes should at once adopt measures to meet the serious evil.

The Cholera in London.—A special meeting of the Association of Medical Officers of Health was held on Saturday, the 17th, to receive a report from a committee of their own body on the subject of an outbreak of cholera near Stratford. Mr Simon, president, was in the chair.

The report—signed by Dr. Ansell (chairman), Dr. Challice, Dr. Dundas Thomson, Dr. Hillier, and Mr Ellison—stated that the committee had, on Thursday last, visited the spot where the disease is believed to have broken

out. They found that there had been fifteen cases, of which seven had proved fatal. The earliest case occurred on the 29th September; the first death on the night of the 2nd of October. The place in which all the cases occurred was Abbey-row, West-Ham. There are sixteen houses in the row, tolerably well-built, consisting of four or five rooms each, and tenanted by persons by no means dirty or very poor, generally one family in each house. The occupants for the most part work at the flour mills, or silk printing factory adjoining. Five of the houses have separate cesspools, and the remaining eleven drain into one larger one behind the centre-house; opposite to this, at a distance of seventy feet from the cesspool, is a pump. From this source the inhabitants draw all their water for drinking and washing. The water was undergoing chemical examination by Dr. Thomson. Abbey-row is surrounded by marsh land, much impregnated with sewage, and is only a few feet above the Thames. In part of it is a tidal stream called Channel Sea River, which conveys much of the sewage of the town of Stratford into the River Lea. By the desire of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Elliot, the handle was removed from the pump on the 12th inst. Since that date there has been only one case, which proved fatal in six hours and a-half. One other fatal case occurred in the person of a woman, who was supplied with water from a well in her own house. But this well, too, was liable to contamination by filtration from the soil.

SCOTLAND.—The improvements in Holyrood House.—Early as the departure of her Majesty and the Royal family from Edinburgh took place on Friday morning week, at an early hour still the Prince Consort made the tour of the extended grounds surrounding the palace, attended by Sir Benjamin Hall, who pointed out to his royal highness the various improvements now in progress, with all of which he expressed his satisfaction and high gratification. Her Majesty has also, we understand, on several occasions expressed the interest which she feels in the alterations now going forward, and has given minute directions as to her wishes regarding them.

Overbuilding.—Respecting some of the causes of the Glasgow failures, a local paper says of one firm:—The cost of their palatial place of business is said to have been 60,000. The building is mortgaged, and therefore the price was not taken out of the capital in trade; but the interest must form an annual charge of 3,000. Thus we see how failures may occur, or how they might have been prevented. The same paper adds:—This error has been committed in New York to an enormous extent. The dry goods men have built themselves out of business.

Warehouse Girls in Glasgow Thrown out of Employment.—A large number of young women by the recent suspension of various firms in Glasgow. With reference to this subject a Glasgow Journal says:—We took the liberty of calling upon Messrs. Macdonald on Friday, with the view of satisfying ourselves as to what the amount of assistance required might be, as well as the character of those who might legitimately be supposed to come within the scope of the philanthropic object pointed at.—We are informed that this week no fewer than 500 females have been discharged from this establishment—that these are principally from the country, living in lodgings, and scarcely able to do more even when in employment than to support themselves. These young women may be said for the present comparatively destitute; but there are many hundreds of outdoor workers who, there is too much reason to fear, are pretty much in the same position, only it may be with this additional hardship, that they have families dependant on them. It must also be remembered that there are other establishments besides Messrs Macdonald's in town from which workers have, during the present crisis, been dismissed. These also deserve the deepest sympathy and commiseration. We were glad to learn that the Messrs. Macdonald are in hopes, in a very short time, of being able to resume their wonted operations, when, of course, the hands that have been in their employment will be again taken on; but, meanwhile, there is an imperative demand for assistance on the part of the benevolent, and we do not know any better means by which such contributions could be dispensed than by the appointment of a committee of ladies to superintend the allocation of the fund.

Monument to Mungo Park.—Steps are now being taken to erect a monument to Mungo Park, the celebrated African traveller. A committee was appointed in 1841 for the purpose of raising subscriptions in Selkirkshire, his native county, and in the neighbourhood. The committee had been in existence up to this moment, and the members of it are only able to announce now that they have sufficient funds to warrant them in proceeding with a plain and simple structure.

IRELAND.—Approaching Royal Marriage.—An extensive order for a supply of Limerick lace to complete the wedding dress of the Princess Royal, has been received at the factory of Messrs. Forrest, in that city.

The Sepoy Journals.—A liberal Journal of Waterford states that the Nation newspaper has been "kicked out" of the commercial Newsroom of New Ross—the borough which formerly returned Mr Gavan Duffy to the Saxon Parliament. The voting was as follows: For retaining the Nation, 15; against, 34.—The late Sepoy essays led to its expulsion, which was moved by Dr. Howlett, a respectable Bombay Catholic gentleman.

FRANCE.—The Harvest.—The consequences of an abundant harvest are now indeed felt throughout France. The price of bread has fallen to 14 sous (about 5½d.) the 4lb. loaf, in Paris, and to 12 sous in several of the departments.

RUSSIA.—Affairs on the Danube.—Reports of a rather unsatisfactory character, says a letter, have been received from the Russian representative in the European commission on the affair of the Danube. Baron Offenberg particularly complains of the obstacles which Austria throws in the way of the labours of the commission. She has gone so far as to refuse to the members the charts of the river, which are in the possession of the Danubian Steam Navigation Company, although they are indispensable.

The Chinese Squadron.—Intelligence from Cronstadt states that the Askdole, steam frigate of forty-six guns, will leave that port in a few days to join the Russian squadron, composed of three corvettes and three small steamers, which, as we have already announced, left the same port for the China seas in the early part of last month.

Circassia.—A paper of the 8th says:—The Government here has just published an official declaration to the effect that Anapa, Soukum-Kaleh, and Redoubt Kaleh, on the Asiatic coast of the Black Sea, will alone be open to foreign ships; and that a Russian visa will be necessary even for those ports.

AUSTRIA.—Vienna.—The Emperor and Empress are still in Hungary. No political news of any kind stirring.

Extensive failures in Vienna.—A letter dated the 15th says:—Ten houses suspended payment in the course of yesterday. The chief of one of them, who, having gained last winter a lottery of 40,000 florins (100,000 francs), had built a magnificent warehouse at Nuremberg, has committed suicide. It is said that the failure of Boscowitz & Co. had led to his embarrassment. This is the 5th suicide within a few days from a similar cause. A later letter (17th) says:—The creditors of Boscowitz & Co. have not yet accepted the proposal of the Credit Bank to advance a million of florins on the assets of the bankrupts, because that institution wishes to make conditions which are considered unreasonable.

BARBARY.—Notwithstanding the good feeling entertained by the Bey of Tunis for the Christian population of his dominions, there are apprehensions entertained for the safety of the Europeans established in that town in consequence of the weakness of the government, and the French consul has consequently officially demanded that the French naval force on the station shall be reinforced.

INDIA.—Four Regiments Dispatched from the Cape.—Letters have been received stating that Sir Collin Campbell left Calcutta on the 2nd of last month for Allahabad, where he intends to establish his headquarters, and which is destined to form the point of Assembly of all troops called to act in the province of Bengal. Accounts have been received from the frontiers of Asia, which acquaint us that General Jacobs, commanding officer of the troops charged with the surveillance of Herat, had evacuated Afghanistan, and had arrived on the 17th August at Moultan. His arrival is said to have given increased confidence to the friends of England.

In addition to the letters from which appear in another part of our impression we have had an opportunity of learning, from authentic sources, some further details. The accounts received by the Government from the interior of Delhi concur in representing the mutineers as nearly worn out, and as a fact further indicating their approaching prostration, it is ascertained that twenty-four carts full of persons from the city had been sent away upon one occasion. Again, in the Bombay Presidency a very decided proof has been given of the spirit prevailing in the army. The last mail reported the mutiny of a small portion of the 27th Regiment of Native Infantry quartered at Kolapore. We now learn that some of the mutineers, who afterwards returned to their cantonments, doubtless with the view of inciting others of the regiments to mutiny, had been set upon and killed by their former comrades. The 27th Regt. had volunteered for service anywhere.

It is no news for us to point to the cheering accounts brought by this mail as to the prospect of a speedy relief of Lucknow, but we believe that this is the first occasion upon which the Indian authorities deemed themselves justified in expressing a confident opinion upon the subject. The same cordial feeling which existed between Sir James Outram and General Havelock during the operations in Persia would unquestionably continue to prevail. The reinforcements brought up by Sir James Outram would come under General Havelock's command on reaching Cawnpore. Sir James, accompanying the army in political capacity, and leaving to Havelock the honour of the triumph by concluding the operation which he had conducted so far with such noble gallantry.

The rumours in circulation respecting differences of opinion between Sir Colin Campbell and his colleagues of the Council at Calcutta are contradicted.

We should not omit to give every credit to Sir George Grey, Governor of the Cape, and Sir James Macaulay Higginson, Governor of the Mauritius, for the zeal and promptitude with which they met the demand for reinforcements. Sir George Grey at once placed four regiments at the disposal of the Indian Government. The artillery were sent up with their horses and equipage complete, the guns of H. M. S. Penelope having been landed and