

The Politician.

BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Times.
MR DISRAELI'S THEME.

The nature of Mr Disraeli's theme requires an extensive sacrifice of political purpose to historical effect. His retrospect of Indian mismanagement goes back confessedly ten or twenty years, but really to the very beginning of our empire, for there was no time whatever, and could be no time, when we were not obnoxious to the dislike and suspicion of the natives from our interference with their thrones, titles, customs and creed. This can only be a question of degree. There will always be some change; there would be under any government; and we could not possibly conduct the government of India without some encroachments on its institutions. It has been a necessity not only to guard, but to extend its frontier; to maintain an immense army; to protect property and life as they never were protected before; to get rid of customs merely engrained on Hindoism by the cupidity of the priesthood; to create by education a class of more useful and possibly less superstitious dependents; to extinguish centres of corruption and revolt in the heart of our empire; to simplify and invigorate our system. This and much more are comprised in the grand design of governing India from this metropolis. It could not be done without arms, without men, without money, and there was need of a large revenue. When a revenue is to be collected from myriads of people, all of them poor and simple, many half savage and turbulent, there will, of course, be dissatisfaction and trouble. There will, too, be some appearance of injustice. But a revenue there must be, unless we would adopt the practice of the native princes, and have regular forays, confiscations, and forced contributions of all kinds. India has never been so heavily taxed as this country. But, after all, though Mr Disraeli imports taxation, the settlement of land, the resumption of titles, and all sorts of property grievances into the question, and though he gives us a lamentable picture of the mutineer returning to his village in the state of Oude, and finding a brother or a stranger in possession of his patrimony, yet, in point of fact, there has been no allusion to this class of grievances throughout the affair. The perpetrators of the revolt have not been plundered, impoverished men, the bankrupts of fortune; men whose only chance was in arms.—On the contrary the insurgents have been those very men whom we maintained in unexampled comfort and splendour by the very measures to which Mr Disraeli ascribes their disaffection. The native soldier has been the spoilt child of England. Other classes, indeed, may have had to pay heavily for his support, but if we have oppressed India it has been for him; and it is he, not the resident proprietor or peasant, who has turned his arms against us.—To purely rhetorical exercise such as that of Mr Disraeli, which blamed no administration in particular, proposed no measures, and ended only in calling for papers, it is hard to say what was the best answer. Lord John Russell, however, hit the occasion, and met with the unanimous support of all sides by an amendment proposing an address to her Majesty, pledging the House to all the measures necessary for the preservation and security of our Indian empire. That, of course, is now the duty, and should be the rivalry, of all parties. This must be done at any cost and at every risk; it certainly will be done, and Mr Disraeli, whatever his intentions may take credit for having given the house an opportunity of committing itself to this great work.

From the London Times.
INDIAN ECONOMY.

Lord Canning said that the army of India is not established on a scale calculated to meet the drain of a war carried on 2,000 miles from its shores, and that the Bengal army in particular, being spread over a wide area, having to guard the frontier and occupy our most recently acquired province, can only spare three European regiments for Persia, being just half the number required for a single division.—Here we have the two great evils of our Indian military organisation admitted and discussed months before the breaking out of the mutiny. Even on another point,—that of substituting irregular and local troops for the regular sepoy,—the court of directors had much to say as long ago as last September. But the principal defects—the absence of European troops and the small number and youth of the European officers in native regiments—seem to have created apprehensions which, unfortunately, were only not strong enough. The practice of drawing away the best, the cleverest, and the most hard-working officers for staff and other appointments, and leaving the actual command to the young, the stupid, and the lazy, seems to have been carried to the last point of impudence.—The account from all sides is the same. The officers are young, ignorant of the language, and slow in acquiring it, from mixing with the natives. The sepoy regiments are really offered by men of their own race and religion, who teach the young gentlemen from England the routine of duty. The latter learn to look upon service with their regiments as a vexation, and after a time, as a humiliation. Every one who is anybody is draughted away to something else, and, as a matter of course, it is both enor-

ous and mortifying to remain. When seven or more of the senior officers are away, getting higher pay and with the prospect of indefinite advancement, it cannot be wondered at that the regimental service should be demoralised, and as little that the Hindoos should discover the fact. We find that more than a year ago the governor-general and the directors were corresponding on this subject. It certainly cannot be said that a remedy could have been proposed so immediately active as to avert the calamity which has just come upon the country. This has, indeed, been the necessary result of a system in existence for many years, and the stream could probably not have been turned aside by any human power. But still, with so serious a condition of things before their eyes, we cannot but wonder that a strict discipline was not at once introduced. Of course, the financial question was at the bottom of everything. The state of their exchequer would, as we have seen, not allow the court to appoint two extra captains, but only one captain and a lieutenant, to a regiment, although the governor-general had recommended the former plan. Similarly financial considerations have prevented the sending out of European troops in sufficient force, so that Bombay and Bengal have been denuded for the Persian war, and Madras for the Burmese occupation.—We see now what comes of all this economy. A civil war is upon us, which may cost millions of money, and check for years the progress of Asia.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

RUSSIA.—St. Petersburg, July 18.—There are two great questions which just now pre-occupy the attention of the public here—namely, the abolition, or, at least, the reduction of serfdom, and the reduction and reform of the army. The reduction of the standing army is to be carried out by the adoption of the Prussian system of a landwehr, or militia, in which every male individual may have to pass a period of his life. The defensive strength of such a system, which is not favourable to aggressive warfare, is evident at once. As long as the empire is at peace, the army is to be at peace, as in Prussia—that is to say, leave of absence will be granted to the soldiers to a great extent, and the pay of the officers will be reduced. The "Gazette du Senat" publishes the convention concluded at Berlin, and ratified by the Czar, relative to the union of the railway between Berlin and Koenigsberg with that which is being constructed between St. Petersburg and Warsaw. We learn from the journals that the necessary arrangements have just been effected for taking a new census of the whole of the Russian empire.

PRUSSIA.—The Jews.—A letter from Berlin says:—"A recent ordinance of the Minister of Justice, which is equivalent, as regards the Jews, to an interdiction against their adopting the law as a profession, has produced a considerable sensation. It may be remembered that the minister some time since warned young men that the students of the law were increasing too rapidly, and advised them to follow some other career. This increase is more particularly injurious to the Jews, as the only judicial function they can fill is that of advocate. As there are at present a great number waiting for a vacancy to occur in that body, the minister has given notice that from Easter, 1858, the Jews will no longer be admitted to pass examinations. This measure falls very hardly on those who have been studying for one or two years, and whose labours are, therefore, lost as three years' studies were required before an examination could be passed."

NAPLES.—Our dates are of the 23rd. The trial is going on. No prisoner has yet been shot. Nicotera has revealed the whole plan. Some of the papers seized on Pisacane are in cypher, and have not yet been made out. Foschini, the refugee, who escaped from London after a double assassination, is among the wounded. Padula has shot himself.

Eruption of Mount Vesuvius.—A letter of the 20th says:—"For some time past the subterranean noises heard by the guides of Vesuvius indicated an approaching eruption, and the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the mountain were under considerable alarm. During the last fortnight the smoke thrown up from the crater has become much thicker than usual, and the evening before last a long train of liquid fire was seen descending on the side of Ottajano, at a place called Fosso del Faraone, an immense ravine opposite the sea, and out of reach of any danger to the inhabitants of Portici, Resina, and Torre del Greco. At Naples an immense crowd assembled to witness the spectacle, and at night a number of foreigners, proceeded to the mountain, the torches of the guides being visible there in every direction. The lava has already run a distance of about half a mile.

The Russian Government intend to celebrate in 1862 the millenium of its existence, by the erection of a stupendous national monument in St. Petersburg.

Sir de Lacy Evans brought forward his motion for a higher standard of professional instruction for officers of the army. The Government admitted that it was required, and consented to Sir de Lacy's proposition.

NOVA SCOTIA.
THE GREAT BOAT RACE.

"'Twas one morn when the North'ard wind
blew freshly."

Wednesday, 12th inst., being the day appointed to pull the great race between St. John and Halifax, was ushered in by a glorious sunrise, and the most beautiful day imaginable. Repairing to the Dockyard at 10-12 o'clock, the scene was sublime. All nature lay in repose before us. The harbour scenery, so often described, was enlivened on the present occasion by the presence of H. M. S. Indus, Pyramus, and hundreds of yachts and boats filled with people of both sexes and all ages anxious to see the sight of the day. The Flag-ship was not dressed for the occasion. She had royal and top gallant yards across, and bore the usual accompaniments—Jack at the bowsprit, the Red flag at the mizzen, and the flag of Old England over the taffail. It was "washing day" on board, and the lower rigging was filled with cotton shirts, &c. The Band was on the quarter-deck and discoursed the choicest music. No person was admitted to the Dockyard but those known to the Department. A great deal of confusion was thus avoided, as thousands of people were in attendance outside the gate.

Immense excitement prevailed throughout the City, and the wharves were lined with spectators during the contest—all of whom cheered vociferously the boats as they passed up and down in this most exciting race.

At a few minutes before eleven o'clock the contesting boats took their position in line amidship of the Pyramus, receiving ship, and, amid breathless silence, waited the firing of the gun for starting. The two crews came to the scratch in first rate condition. In aquatics, nothing could have crowned their excellence. The Halifax Boat was rowed by J. Holland, T. Hays, M. Fitzgerald, and T. Beazely. The St. John Boat was pulled by F. Morris, J. Lambert, J. Morris, and E. Walsh, (brother of the President of the Union Club.) As the two boats rode side by side alongside the Pyramus, and as the men looked at each other they must have felt

"The vetren joy which warriors feel
In viewing foemen worthy of their steel."

At eleven precisely the start took place—St John having slightly the advantage of Halifax—but it was a glorious start. The cheers from the Flag-ship and the Dockyard and the wharves followed the generous oarsmen as they passed down the harbour and round George's Island from East to West. There was no "waiting" race on the present occasion; both crews applied themselves to their utmost. The race was the most keenly contested ever before chronicled. The St. John boat (leading) came in sight to the Pyramus in 14 minutes 58 seconds after going round George's Island, closely followed by the Halifax boat. The tug up the home stretch was a noble struggle. There was no time lost. Halifax was first if she had only pulled straight. St. John rowed most beautifully, and the Neptune fully realized the name her crew has earned in the waters of North America.

The struggle between the two boats between the Queen's Wharf and the Pyramus was unequalled. The Halifax boat ran wide of her mark and nearly fouled Bennett's wharf, which caused her to lose at least three lengths. The race finally terminated by the Neptune (St John) coming home in 31 minutes 45 seconds, followed by the Wide Awake (Halifax) in one second after, being the best and most tightly contested rowing race on record. At the termination of the contest the crew of H. M. S. Indus cheered in the most hearty manner the winning boat, well knowing as every man who witnessed it must know that it was a glorious race—the ships Band playing "cheer boys cheer."

The umpires on the recent occasion, were, on George's Island, for Halifax, J. P. Oxley, and for St. John, E. S. Porter, Esqrs.; on board Pyramus, C. W. Dickson (for Halifax) and John Tilton, Esqrs. The referee was the Hon. G. A. Harding, Speaker of the New Brunswick House of Assembly. The race—all our own—was lost by gross mismanagement on the part of our own people. Marzin, one of our best men, was not at the midship row owing to having met with an accident the evening previous. It is also proper to state that, bound down by the agreement we pulled our worst boat for a rough day. The old "Quick Step" would have been in her element on Wednesday. Nuff said to-day.—Nova Scotian.

Fearful Explosion.—At 12 25 on Friday morning our citizens were startled from their slumbers by a terrific explosion. In an instant all who had retired to rest were on their feet, and at the doors and windows anxiously enquiring the cause. All sorts of speculations were afloat. Some fancied that the Cunard steamer from Boston, which arrived about two hours previous, had blown up, others that the Indus, Flag ship, received a hoist, and not a few supposed that the explosion and shock were caused by electricity. But it was soon found that all these theories were unsound, and that the explosion which caused all the north end to rock, and the very ground itself to reel was the blowing up of the Merchants' Powder Magazine situated a little north of Her Majesty's Naval Hospital.

Among others, we hastened to the scene of devastation, and such a spectacle of wreck and ruin, we have rarely witnessed. Of the Magazine itself, there was not one stone standing

on another. Houses were blown down, fences prostrated, and the street leading to the depot literally covered with huge stones and broken timber.

The house occupied by Mr Stokes nearest the scene of the explosion was a perfect picture of desolation. The house was levelled completely to the ground, not an item of furniture could be distinguished whole among the crushed mass of confusion lying in every direction and strange to say only one of seventeen inmates, was killed. This was a countryman named Harley, residence unknown, whose errand to the city (the sale of a horse), unfortunately cost his life.

Mrs Stokes and child were seriously injured, Mrs Stokes having her back broken, and the child both back, arm and leg.

The adjoining building occupied by Mr John Morris, was also completely shattered although not prostrated like that of Mr Stokes. Mrs Morris and child, with Mrs Campbell (sister to Mr Morris) were thrown in the direction of the Magazine, seeming by some sinuous current of air, and strange to say all three escaped comparatively uninjured, Mrs Morris only sustained a few slight bruises. The bed clothes of the child were literally torn from the body without occasioning any injury to the person. Mrs Campbell with a portion of the bed on which she was laying was thrown as before said in the direction of the magazine, while other parts of the bedding were hurled pell-mell among the general rubbish.

Mr McAgy's new two story building although standing is virtually destroyed. The occupants Mr Godwin and wife and five children, all at the time asleep in the attic, the ceiling of which fell, miraculously escaped. Mr Kaye's beautiful new mansion is nearly ruined. Other buildings in the vicinity were very seriously injured including the Admiralty House, Mr Vieth's, Mr Jennings's (Cottage occupied by McKie), and Mr Jordan's.

The sentry at the Magazine, one of the 62nd although knocked down, was not seriously hurt. The men in the Guard room were hurled from their positions but not injured, and a horse that was grazing near the Magazine was literally torn to pieces.

Throughout the city the effects of the explosion were most eccentric. Nearly all the gas lights from the Dockyard to the Province Building were extinguished. For miles round the shock was felt, a very sensible difference even being observed on the opposite sides of a street. The Military and Naval Magazines, about 150 feet distant, were in imminent danger, and had these, filled as they were with powder and live shell taken fire there is no calculating the amount of injury that would have fallen upon the city.

At morning's dawn the scene of desolation was truly appalling;—It was almost impossible to realize so small a loss of life, contrasted with the picture presented to the view. Huge stones which lay scattered in every direction, instanced the expansive properties of man's most deadly enemy. Two or three freaks of large masses of rock are especially worthy of notice. A stone, weighing some 100 lbs., was thrown from the magazine against a tree about 160 yards distant, with such violence as to completely pierce it, from thence it entered the side of the house on the main road, occupied by Mr Devaney, who was in bed at the time of the disaster, and took up lodgings for the night on the ground floor of the building.

The tree perforated had a diameter of about 20 inches.

Another stone of much greater dimension was thrown in the air as a shell, with such seemingly intentional accuracy as to seriously damage the roof of the Officers quarters of Fort Needham now in course of construction, and almost completed. The aperture made by this stone is about two feet in diameter.

Of course, there are all sorts of rumours afloat as to the cause of the explosion, of which we refrain to speak for the present. The City Council have very properly taken the matter in hand and offered a reward of £500, to which the Government have added a similar sum, for the discovery of the person or persons supposed to have fired the Magazine.

A meeting of the Aldermen was called yesterday afternoon by his worship the Mayor, to consider what course should be adopted relative to the explosion of the City Magazine. 14 Aldermen present.

A committee of Aldermen Jennings, Bell and Noble was appointed to take testimony under oath, to discern, if possible, the cause of the calamity, and recommended that his Worship do at once offer a reward of £500 for the discovery and conviction of the offenders.

His Worship informed the Alderman that the Honorable the Provincial Secretary had informed him that the Executive Government had appointed two professional gentlemen, in the absence of the Attorney General, to attend and afford assistance in the investigation.

The aldermen also requested his Honor the Recorder's attendance at the meeting of the committee.—Nova Scotian.

We are pleased to hear that John Esson Esq. has been fortunate enough to gain as a prize from the Art Union, 6 valuable pictures, worth £240 sterling.—Morning Journal.

CANADA.

A Waterspout below Quebec.—The Rev. L. Proulx, priest of St. Eleazar, County of Beauce writes to the Journal de Quebec a very graphic description of a waterspout which devastated his parish, and of which he was eye witness.—A large and dark cloud was overhanging the place on Sunday forenoon, 13th July, when a noise, as that of the sea in a storm, gave warn-