

LETTERS FROM INDIA.

THE INDIA MAIL.

The Colombo arrived at Southampton on Thursday, with the heavy portion of the India, China, and Australian mails. The Lady Mayoress, from London, and the Mayor of Southampton proceeded down Southampton Water to the Colombo, to welcome the refugees from India, and to render them any assistance that might be necessary. Scores of people were assembled in the docks to see the passengers land. The scenes in the docks at the meeting of friends were affecting in the extreme.

Many of the ladies were hurried out of Lucknow and Delhi at the commencement of the rauting, and do not know what has become of their husbands. They have suffered great hardships; many of them made their escape almost naked, and were nearly starved in the jungle. A little dog is on board the Colombo, belonging to Colonel Goldney, whose life was sought by the mutinous Sepoys. The dog is covered with wounds. It escaped from Delhi with Mrs Goldney, who is on board the Colombo. Col. Lennox, wife and daughter, are amongst the passengers. The colonel belonged to the 32nd Regiment at Fyzabad, in Oude; only a sergeant of Artillery and the colonel escaped.

The passengers give a frightful account of the state of Calcutta and the upper provinces of India. The only troops left at Ceylon were Malays and Sepoys. All the European troops have gone off to Calcutta. The fugitives report being all well treated by the Merchants at Calcutta, and supplied with money to send them on immediately on the Colombo's arrival. Captain Field received a letter from the Relief Fund Committee, through the Peninsular and Oriental Company, authorising him to render the passengers every relief and assistance.

THE CAMP BEFORE DELHI.

The following is an extract from a letter from a Staff officer of rank, dated the 26th of July:—

Here, you see, we are still before Delhi, and no immediate prospect of our finding ourselves inside the walls of the city. Since I last wrote, just the same kind of thing has been going on as before; attacks on our position every third or fourth day or so; always terminating in the same result, the entire repulse and discomfiture of the enemy, and often with great loss, but never without a greater number of casualties on our side than with our small force we can well afford. The newsletters from the city describe the mutineers to be much disheartened at their constant want of success; and no doubt it must be so, for their attacks of late have become much more feeble, and as each day is adding to the strength of our defences, no fear is felt of their being able to make any impression on them. You will hardly be prepared, I dare say, at home to hear of our still remaining on the defensive, the besieged, in fact, instead of the besiegers; but so it has been, I may say, from the day of our arrival here, and when the strength of our little army is known, people will be less surprised to find such to be the case.—It looks mighty well on paper—six regiments of Europeans, and four of native infantry (Sikhs and Ghoorkas,) and I have no doubt the number is set down at ten thousand men, but the real strength is probably under four thousand, say 2,400 Europeans, and the remainder natives. I have not seen the returns lately, but I think I must be above the mark in saying we have four thousand infantry. In artillery we are fortunately tolerably well off, but in cavalry the enemy perhaps outnumber us by five to one.—It is as well that they are a most unenterprising set of scoundrels, the cavalry, or they might do us infinite damage in cutting off our supplies. As it is, our rear is perfectly open, and supplies are as plentiful and cheap as they would have been in the best-regulated cantonments. You will ask impatiently what we are going to do, and how long we are to remain in our present position. I am not in the general's secrets, but I fancy there is no doubt that we shall do nothing towards attacking the place until we receive considerable reinforcements. Matters are in such a distracted state below, that though troops are known to have marched from Allahabad on the 4th of this month, they may have so much to do at Cawnpore, Lucknow, and elsewhere, that we almost give up the hope of their reaching us in reasonable time, and we therefore look forward to the large force now on its way from the Punjab to join us.—All ought to be here about the 12th or 15th proximo, and then we shall be strong enough to set to work in earnest with the wretched city. The troops coming down amount altogether to some 4,000 infantry, of whom about 1,400 are Europeans and the rest Ghoorkas and Sikhs. There are also artillery and cavalry, and another siege-train with heavier guns than we now have and our force will, on the whole, very nearly be doubled, certainly so in infantry, in which we are now comparatively weakest. We have only to pray that sickness may not overtake us here before these fresh troops arrive, and there is every hope that it may not be so, as the sickly season seldom commences here before the middle of September or later, when the rains leave off. At present there does not appear to be more sickness than there would be were the men quietly located in their barracks, and several of the regiments, the commanding officers tell me, are positively healthier than they probably would be in cantonments. When once our fresh troops are here I should think a week ought to put us in possession of the city, and once in there the Palace and Old Fort could not hold out a day.

FROM A STAFF OFFICER AT BENARES.

The following is an extract from a letter written at Dinapore. The date is August 3.

Just come back from Raj Ghat. Three 18 pounders and two 24 pounders just arriving from Chunar, and ditto and some mortars to come from Allahabad. We have just heard very bad news. Havelock is obliged to suspend his advance. He says he has only 700 effective men left. As it is impossible that he can be reinforced from this side for a fortnight it is a regular fix. Both his force and Lucknow look very fishy. It is the worst news that we've had yet. If it had not been for General's fatuous idiocy, strong reinforcements would have been past Allahabad already. I really should not wonder if that Dinapore folly does not end by losing Lucknow, Havelock and Agra. Five or six of the mutineers of the Sikh corps here (the drill men) were discovered, through the evidence of the Sikhs who remained faithful, to be in the Benares Rajah's service. A court martial is sitting now, and they will all be hanged no doubt. The Rajah has been intriguing, and is under surveillance. We reinforced Chunar last night; the fellows passed our bungalow singing one of the most ringing English sounding choruses you could imagine. It drives one savage to think of——'s perrilling Havelock by his idiotic belief in the three Sepoy corps; they are now hemmed in by the detachment of the 5th Fusiliers and two guns, who went to Buxar by steamer, landed and went down the road, and the 10th from Dinapore coming up; but whether they will not get away by a cross road which exists, is, I fear, a probable contingency. They killed the collector of Arrah, and fifty Sikhs who were his guard. Here we shall be impregnable, worst come to the worst, but I am very anxious to know about higher up. If they could only take Delhi, Havelock might be relieved.

More news just in. The detachment from Dinapore came on the rebels. They, i.e., our fellows, had no advance guard or flankers; they came suddenly on a wall; up jumped the Sepoys and blazed into them. Out of 300, two-thirds were hors-de-combat. By this sudden volley eighty were killed, and three officers, and the remaining 100 barely got away with their wounded to a steamer. Somehow, nobody knows how, the brutes had got eight guns; in Arrah, probably, hid there beforehand. They have murdered all the Europeans in Arrah, and the worst of it is, that the detachment from Buxar will fall into the trap too, for there is no way of warning them. Havelock will get no reinforcements and will be driven back. Fenwick, of the 10th Queen's, has taken command at Dinapore. We are working like mad in getting our stores, &c., down to Raj Ghat. It is my private opinion that this place and Allahabad stand a chance of being the only two places in our occupation between Calcutta and the Punjab, unless that Delhi force does something quick. I have no fear of the ultimate result, of course, for I believe God does not mean us to lose the country, but we are very shaky just now. The Grand Trunk road is all up, so I try this by Bombay. It is a most providential thing we began to fortify ten days ago, and have Pat Stewart and Limond and a first-rate civil engineer, Piddie, here. Jenkinson, the joint magistrate, too, is a trump; he drills Khitmutgars in boots, it is true, but the style of his recruits has nothing to do with him. He works like a horse, and is always ready to go twenty miles, and scuttle boats, or anything else where dash is wanted.

COURAGE OF THE MUTINEERS.

If Delhi had not been a walled town containing an immense arsenal, we might have ridden over the mutineers at a gallop, for, conscious of guilt and deprived of their officers, they have turned out as dastardly cowards as good troops could be degraded by fighting—never in the open air, though numbering five to one against us, often more, always skulking behind walls and rocks, ready for murder and not battle.—An European private was the other day bearing a wounded ensign, a mere boy from the field, or rather the suburb before Delhi. A mutineer fired from the upper windows of the house.—Deliberately the soldier placed his senseless officer under shelter, walked to the house, tramped up stairs, dashed in the door, and shot the man. Two other mutineers were with him, and before they came to their wits, two rapid thrusts of the bayonet had finished their course. The soldier then went coolly back and resumed his burden. One hundred and fifty mutineers got into a serai (or walled inclosure for travellers) on our flank and kept up a galling fire on stragglers; twenty Europeans went at them, but they shut the door; it was blown open, our men rushed in and shut it behind them.—They then slew every traitor inside, actually rushing from one to the other and driving their bayonets through them as if they had been sheep. You'll think that with such a difference of material Delhi could be easily taken; and so it could, but our officers say that once in our soldiers could not be held together they'd be all over the city in a minute, and would be surprised at the barricades, or put hors-de-combat at the grog shops, which are worse than bullets. More troops are wanted, when out of the lot enough perhaps may be held in hand to clear the streets and take the palace. Some force must be near Delhi now from the eastward.—How the antiquated commanders have been giving in. The fourth within two months is Wilson. I think this business, atop of Bushire, after Sebastopol, will at last have a chance of ridding us of Centenarian generals.

THE BUTCHERIES AT HISSAR.

At Hissar, where the General joined Pearce on the 16th of July, the English officers found many melancholy traces of the massacre that there befel. The survivors who had returned with the force were able to point out several localities where they had seen men and women of their acquaintance shot or hacked to pieces. Thus the skull of Mr Wedderburn, the collector, was identified and decently interred. With it were laid such portions of the remains of his wife and child, of Mrs Barwell, and another lady, as were removeable from the spot, below the rampart, where they were cast down from their little room of which the bloodstained walls yet testified to the butchery that had been perpetrated therein. Mrs Smith, wife of an assistant in the Kutcherry, took refuge with her five children among some thick bushes in the garden of her house. The gardener knew her retreat, but did not disclose it, assuring the mutineers who attacked and sacked the house that his mistress and her family had escaped to the fort; but a chokedar, or policeman, who was under deep obligations to Mr Smith for recent kindness, found out the place where the wife and children of his benefactor were concealed, and with his own hand slaughtered every one. Portions of bloodstained attire were still clinging to the bushes when the bones of the victims were collected and interred. Of Lieutenant Barwell's body no traces were found. Such of the prisoners taken by the General's force as were proved to have been concerned in the massacre were summarily dealt with. Mrs Smith's murderer had escaped, as also had the man who shot Mr Thomson, of the police; but both were known, and at the date of the letter from which I have gathered these details their speedy apprehension was hopefully anticipated.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

FRANCE.—The Univers again defends its infamous plan for depriving England of her possessions in the Mediterranean; and, while admitting that its article had met with almost unanimous reprobation of the Paris press, proceeds, though with somewhat bated breath to argue that its project was not in any way extravagant or deserving of blame. This paper even boasts of being moderate. The Univers had been asked why it had forgotten to mention the Channel Islands, which, too, might be a welcome acquisition to France, and why it had not laid out the partition of English possessions on a grander scale. 'Well, well,' replies the Univers, "one must know how to restrain one's self."

The Constitutional treats the Chinese question—"The necessity," it says, of adjourning the operations against China is certainly one of the gravest embarrassments which the unforeseen events in India have caused to England. We do not think that our patriotism has to rejoice over these difficulties of our ally. All commercial nations are interested in a prompt settlement of the affairs of China; they must wish England to triumph at Canton and Peking, because they will take part in the advantages which will result from such a victory, for trade and civilisation.

The fall in the price of corn made further progress last week. The holders of flour were forced to lower their pretensions in consequence of the accounts from the provinces, which announce a general declining movement in the corn markets. The supply of grain is everywhere increasing. The price of flour was maintained during the last month, from the small stock on hand and the want of water, which prevented the millers from grinding.—The late heavy rains have supplied the want, and flour is now everywhere abundant. The late rains have done immense service to the grapes, which are advancing rapidly to maturity. It is many years since the grapes were of such good quality as at present. The vintage commenced on Thursday last at Baugency, and will become general before the end of the month. Last year it did not commence before the 10th of October, making a difference of a month. Unfortunately the disease has reappeared in many places, particularly in Languedoc and the Bordelais, which will considerably reduce the crop in those localities. In the meantime the price of Wine keeps up, and many proprietors have announced that they will carefully preserve the wines of this year, which recalls to mind the wines of the year 1811.

The Paris correspondent of the Times, in a letter dated Sunday evening says; the French Government has received dispatches from Admiral Parseval Deschenes, dated Tunis, 10th inst., announcing that the Bey had made the following important concessions. The establishment of criminal tribunals and of commercial tribunals; complete liberty of commerce; liberty of industry; right to possess property; respect of persons and property; equality in presence of the law; equality of taxation; a limited period of service and liberty of religious worship. General Daumas, the director of Algerian affairs in the War-office, having been created a senator, will be shortly promoted to a higher rank than that which he holds in the War-office, more compatible with the dignity of a senator.

The Monitor of Senegal of the 11th ult. gives the following account of the hostilities between the French and the insurgent natives: "Al Hadji, the insurgent chief, in spite of the

defeats to which he had been subjected by the French, went at the beginning of June to blockade the fortified town of Medina, in which, in addition to the garrison, was a native population of 6,000 souls, favourable to the French. The object in view was to take the place by famine; but, in addition, Ali Hadji made frequent assaults on it, which caused a loss on both sides. The French Governor of Senegal having at length determined on going to the relief of the place, sent off a small force of 120 men (only 20 of them whites) in the Basilic steamer, and went himself at the head of 80 men. At Bakel, the Governor obtained the co-operation of about 40 laptots (native volunteers), and went up to Medina, where he arrived on the 17 of July, and was shortly after joined by the Basilic. After burning down the abandoned village of Soutoukholie, he attacked the forces of Al Hadji, consisting chiefly of Toucouleurs, and after an engagement, or rather a succession of engagements, in which the Toucouleurs fought with savage energy, he drove them away, and relieved the town. The loss on the French side was five killed or wounded, and on that of the enemy 40 killed. The garrison, headed by the commander, M. Paul Holl, and all the population, went forth to meet the French, with every demonstration of joy; they were in a frightful state from hunger and disease; the town, too, was dreadful from filth, and at the foot of the walls were between 300 and 400 dead bodies in a state of putrefaction. If the French had not arrived, the resistance could not have been much longer prolonged, as the inhabitants of the place had no more powder, and the garrison had only one or two charges for their muskets, and two for their four pieces of cannon. Al Hadji having rallied his forces and received reinforcements, advanced to attack the town on the 23rd, but the governor went out to meet him, with a part of his forces, and having fallen in with him in a ravine at about three quarters of a league from the place, on the road to Gondioucou, attacked him with impetuosity. A sharp engagement ensued, and the result was that the enemy were obliged to retire, leaving 50 dead on the ground, and having a great number wounded. The French, however, did not think it prudent to pursue them, but they captured a great number of oxen and other booty. It was reported that the Toucouleurs were abandoning Al Hadji, and that the latter, being greatly discouraged, contemplated retiring to Dinguiray, his own village, in the Fouta Dialou.

There has been a commencement of inundation in the departments of the Gard owing to the heavy rains. The rivers Vidoule and Gardon have overflowed their banks. The circulation on the Alais Railway has been stopped. The crops are greatly injured; flocks of sheep have been carried away, and several persons drowned. By the last accounts, the rain continued to fall in torrents, and it was greatly feared that much valuable property would be destroyed.

A letter from Algiers, of the 10th instant, contains an account of the cordial and hospitable reception given to Admiral Lyons and the officers of his fleet on their arrival there. On entering the port of Algiers on the 4th instant, and after exchanging the usual salutes with the batteries, the Admiral landed and paid a visit to General Renault, acting Governor General in the absence of Marshal Randon. General Renault accompanied by his staff, returned the Admiral's visit the same afternoon. The officers and seamen of the fleet visited the town during the 5th 6th and 7th instant. On Sunday the 6th, a great part of the population of Algiers visited the English fleet. At 6 o'clock the same evening General Renault gave a splendid dinner to Admiral Lyons and several English and French officers.

Paris.—The Emperor left the camp of Chalons at two o'clock, on Wednesday afternoon, Luneville, where he will review the cavalry.—He will be at Strasbourg, on Thursday, and will arrive on Friday, at Stuttgart to meet the Emperor of Russia.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.—The Principalities.—The result of the elections in Moldavia is now known. Out of eighty-seven elections sixty-six have declared for the union, fifteen are neutral, and six only are anti-unionist.—The elections in Wallachia commenced on the 19th, and will terminate on the 29th.

CIRCASSIA.—The Trieste Gazette, of the 18th Sept., says that bloody battles are constantly taking place between the Russians and Circassians. It states that one occurred on a recent occasion between 35,000 Tcherkesses, commanded by Naib Hadjib, and from 20,000 to 24,000 Russians. On the Russian side between 4,000 and 5,000 men were placed hors-de-combat. The Tcherkesses had 833 killed.

AUTHRIA.—The Emperor of Austria and Russia are to meet at Weimar. The Emperor Francis Joseph leaves Vienna on the 29th inst.

PERIA.—An official account of the evacuation of Herat has been received at Teheran.—The Persian troops quitted Herat the 4th of Zil bedje (26th July.) A report was circulated at the same time, that Gholam-Haydar Khan, a son of Dost Mahommed, was preparing to march on Herat and take possession of it. It is to be feared that in such case the Persians would again advance, as the Shah will not suffer the Affghans to retain possession of Herat.

CHINA.—Intelligence from China, via Kjehta, gives a deplorable picture of the condition of Peking and the Southern provinces of the empire. Commerce has almost ceased, and the wretchedness of the people is augmenting daily.