

The Politician.

BRITISH PRESS.

From the London Daily Times, Sept. 30.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN INDIA.

The additional particulars received by the Foreign Office, in the form of a dispatch from the Indian Government to the Secret Committee of the East India Directors, throw a new, and, we must add, a gloomy light on the state of affairs. For the present, and for several weeks more from this last date, we must make up our minds to increasing difficulty, and the consequent probability of fresh disasters, in one quarter or another. Here or there the tide may be turned in our favor. An heroic act, a desperate advance or still more desperate defence, a brilliant victory, or a miraculous relief, a timely panic in the foe or an unlooked-for aid, may serve to console us for casualties of an opposite character. But when things are pushed to the extreme, and everything everywhere is staked on the cast of a die, we cannot expect the chances to be always in our favor. It is not Delhi that is now the chief point of anxiety. Nor yet do Lucknow and Agra, with their gallant defenders, and their hundreds of women and children, monopolize interest. The whole line of communication is threatened and disturbed. We have had to retreat, to surrender points which till lately we were sure of holding, to detain reinforcements, to provide against new dangers, and reduce our position to the least and most manageable nucleus of dominion. All this, of course, is only for a time. Give us the single month of September—let us tide over those thirty days, and there is small cause of fear. But it is terrible to think what may happen in that interval—how much that can only be recovered at a fearful cost—how much that is absolutely irremediable. Such is the distance that we are now almost powerless spectators. Whether the British Government has done well or ill, it can do little more. By and by we will venture to suggest what may be done; but first for the anxious particulars before us.

It is much to be feared that Gen. Havelock has thus far gained no substantial advantage in return for the loss of many valuable lives. At the last date, the 13th, he was still at Cawnpore, with his force reduced to 900 men, worn out with fatigue. It could not be re-enforced in less than ten days or a fortnight—that is, in effect, till the beginning of September, the mismanaged affairs of Dinapore and Arrah having had the sad result of detaining below the Queen's 5th and 90th, that were otherwise going up the river. Instead of advancing and making good his progress, Gen. Havelock was seriously threatened, even at Cawnpore. He expected to be attacked on three sides—by the Oude insurgents on the north, and from Futteypore, and by the Gwalior mutineers from Calpee. It is almost a novelty in this war to hear of the river navigation being employed for any other purpose than the quiet transport of men and material; and it certainly is a melancholy reflection that while we are encircling the earth with a belt of big ships, and have innumerable gun-boats and other craft of all sizes rotting and rusting, nobody knows where there is not such a thing on the Ganges or its tributaries as a steamboat adapted for the purposes of war. No doubt the navigation of these rivers, supplied by mountain torrents, flowing through immense alluvial plains with frequent inundations and changes of channel, is not easy or always possible. But in August and September there is at least, depth of water for vessels capable of steaming with two or three guns, and a hundred or two men. Had the Company but a dozen of such vessels at this juncture! How gladly would England give twenty of the ships-of-the-line now lying in ordinary at half a dozen harbors and estuaries, for as many vessels of one-twentieth of their tonnage moving up and down in the Ganges and its tributaries. It appears there is one such steamer at the command of Gen. Havelock, and he had dispatched it to prevent the Oude people, if possible, from crossing at Futteypore; but he had no means whatever of preventing the Gwalior mutineers from crossing the Jumna at Calpee. Indeed it is too probable that, by the union of these three bodies, he would soon find himself as much besieged at Cawnpore, as Wheeler had been before him, and as our people are at Agra, Lucknow, and half-a-dozen other places.

But it is the general condition of the country, the questionable spirit, the conspiracies, the threatening demonstrations, and the doubtful allegiance, that impart the most anxious features of this intelligence. In the whole of the Bengal Presidency, and in the neighboring States, it is evident that every native, high and low, is considering for himself, not what he ought to do, or what side he wishes to prosper, but what he must do with a view to his own interest and even preservation. We must remember, in common justice to these people, that we cannot expect a devotion unto death from any Indian in behalf of foreign intruders, different in race, in religion, and not less in disposition and manner. We may be

respected, and even loved, by those immediately about us, but the range of personal influence must be very small, and all the social prejudices and political traditions are dead against us. We cannot, therefore, be either surprised or very indignant to hear of friendly Princes, here and there, taking steps that leave it doubtful to us, as it may possibly be to themselves, what line they mean to take. It is only wonderful that so many stand by us. Among the changes to be observed in the latest intelligence is the abandonment of Goruckpore. In the previous report a considerable force of Ghoorkas from Nepal, had arrived there, and more were expected on their way to join Havelock. It is stated that they were desired to occupy both Goruckpore and Azimghur, if possible, but, if not, to abandon the former. This they have done, and it was certainly necessary, if they were to advance with a sufficient force to be useful further on. The Dinapore mutineers were last heard of making for the Jumna, near Calpee, with the evident intention of swelling the numbers against Havelock. Some native troops—infantry, cavalry and guns—had been sent against them by the Political Agent, but with hope of success it would be hard to conjecture. Various portions of the Grand Trunk Road are described as insecure, and though there may be nothing to prevent the passage of the British troops, it may be necessary to detain them, and so add day upon day to the terrible task, possibly the sufferings of our people besieged in Lucknow and Agra.

Delhi itself is now the bright spot in the prospect. There is no longer any talk of a retreat. It was expected that on the 15th of August our whole force there amounted to 11,000 and early in September to 15,000. There was even talk of trying an assault on the 20th ult.; and one account says that we had actually invested the city, and cut off its communications. There had been more sorties repulsed, with fearful loss to the mutineers, and at some cost to ourselves. In the city they were disheartened and divided. Their magazine had been blown up, and 500 artificers destroyed, together with a large quantity of sulphur and saltpeter. They were in want of percussion caps, fuses, and other stores. The King, it is said, had sent off his Zenana. The mutineers, compelled to fight us on their arrival, and even forced to prolong the conflict by the closing of the gates behind them, have to some extent availed themselves of the opportunity to make off and consult safety or pleasure elsewhere. Meanwhile we had been receiving from the Punjab, beside large reinforcements of Europeans and Punjabees, treasure, ammunition and stores. It must, however, be said that though we seem to command the country toward the north-west, the mutineers were established at Allyghur in the name of the King of Delhi. It is quite evident that, with the exception of half-a-dozen places, throughout the whole region from Benares to the Punjab we must be considered to have taken the field, and to be in fact, engaged in the task of reconquering India. When this is the work to be done, it is some encouragement to those engaged in it, to find their services recognized and rewarded with some enduring mark of favor. We have great pleasure in observing that Havelock, who may or may not live to receive a quarter's payment of £100 a year good service pension, has now the rank of Major-General, which he may, indeed, never hear of, and certainly will not if his career is as brief as that of his brother commanders in India, but which will at least be recorded, and remain after his death, a consolation to his family and his friends.

COLONIAL PRESS.

From the St. John New Brunswick, Oct. 17.

THE POSITION OF OUR BANKS.

The News of yesterday says that a petition is in course of signature calling upon our Banks to suspend specie payments during the period that the Boston and New York Banks are in a state of suspension. The panic in New York is unprecedented, and many Banks have suspended, but the Boston Banks have so far withstood the pressure in a most creditable manner, thereby proving their stability.

Our Banks paid out specie yesterday as usual; they feel so strong that nothing but a general run upon them for gold to be sent to the United States could possibly compel them to refuse specie. It is said that on the other side of the line, New Brunswick bank notes are at a premium, and that they are eagerly sought for, as the holders are sure of getting specie for them on presentation at the banks here. How long these institutions will continue to pay out gold indiscriminately it is impossible to say, but we are assured they are in a position to pay gold to all who choose to demand it.

To suspend specie payments, begets distrust in the solvency of the banks; and when this occurs, a panic follows. If our people would only take a reasonable view of the matter they would use every exertion to strengthen the banks, by placing all their spare specie into their vaults. The notes of our banks are as good as gold—they will buy every article in the country as readily as gold, and pass just as current. Knowing then that the banks are

perfectly solvent, they should do all in their power to assist them.

At the same time it is the duty of the Banks to curtail their discounts as much as possible, without injury to their sound customers.—Thus by prudence and good management, the present crisis may be got over without a resort to suspension, which would derange the trade of the Country, injure our credit abroad, and produce a general stagnation in business, which would tell with great severity upon all classes, but more particularly upon the laboring people.

The present crisis in the United States cannot by any possibility continue much longer.—We believe that the worst has already passed over, and that after a brief period confidence will revive and business resume its wonted channels.

We have not the least doubt that the banks will pursue the same course they have heretofore, and we are sure that the thinking, intelligent portion of the people will sustain them in it. Our bank notes are as good as specie, and will command every article of consumption just as easily. The Banks are all, no doubt, or will soon be, prepared to furnish specie to meet the requirements of our trade, with the United States and have a balance in their vaults of some £20,000 or £30,000; while for all local matters bank notes answer every purpose, being as good as gold. We therefore trust that our banks will resist the call made upon them to suspend specie payments, no matter how numerous the signatures, and thus continue to exhibit to the world that they are a stable as we have represented them to be.

Since writing the above we learn that a meeting of the Directors of the Banks in this City was held yesterday, and that it was unanimously resolved to continue specie payments. This determination is sufficient to prove the soundness of our banking institutions, and the confidence the people should place in their management.

News of the Week.

From English Papers to the 30th September. (By steamship Atlantic, at New York).

EUROPE.

The Collins steamship Atlantic, Capt. Eldridge, which sailed from Liverpool at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Sept. 30, arrived at Sandy Hook at 9 o'clock on Monday morning.

In the affairs of Europe, the Imperial interview at Stuttgart, was the only matter of interest. It was generally supposed the its results would be of a peaceful nature.

A letter from Aboo, dated 11th August, in the Poona Observer, mentions that the King of Delhi offered to make terms with us on condition that 35 lacs of rupees annually, instead of 15 as heretofore, should be secured to him and his successors. He was informed that nothing but an unconditional surrender could be accepted.

The Punjab is tranquil. The organisation of Sikh regiments for Delhi is rapidly progressing.

The mutineers at Meer Meer had been cut up. No sympathy was shown to the rebels by the inhabitants of the Province.

The King's magazine at Iodhpore was struck by lightning; 900 persons were killed, and property valued at £1,000,000 destroyed.

The whole province of Bengal seems to be in a state of alarm.

The civilians at Gejah, retreated to Patna, leaving the treasury in charge of a company of the 64th Regiment, which it is feared is in danger.

The 8th native infantry at Hazareebagh mutinied on the 30th June, and liberated all the prisoners. Most of the Europeans escaped to Bagoda; but there is every reason to believe that Major Oakes was killed.

Calcutta was becoming crowded with fugitives from all parts of Bengal.

The London Morning Chronicle says that the call for the immediate assembling of Parliament, is so general throughout the country that the Ministers are about it is said, to deliberate, not on the necessity, but the convenient time for summoning it at the next Cabinet Council.

The average stock of Bullion held by the Bank of England, in both departments, during the month ending the 29th of August, was £11,311,595, a decrease of £283,391 as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of £1,124,763, when compared with the same period last year.

The stock of specie held by the Scotch and Irish banks, during the month ending the 29th of August was £3,821,426, being a decrease of £38,351, as compared with the previous return, and an increase of £9,125, when compared with the corresponding period last year.

The Board of Trade returns for August, show an increase in exports of £855,000 over the same month last year, and the increase during the first eight months of the year is stated at £10,000,000.

A general order issued from the Horse Guards on the 29th of September, promotes Gen. Havelock to the rank of Major General "on account of the eminent services performed by him in India."

Sir R. W. Carden was elected Lord Mayor of London, after some opposition.

The 2nd of November, is now the day fixed for the launch of the Great Eastern steamship.

India.—From Delhi, intelligence comes down to August 12, at which time the city was still in the hands of the insurgents. A good deal of skirmishing had taken place, the rebels being invariably defeated, but with considerable loss to the British.

General Nicholson arrived before Delhi on the 8th. In advance of his force, which was expected between the 13th and 15th, when the number of the besiegers would amount to about 11,000 men. Further reinforcements were looked for early in September, increasing the army to 15,000. It was expected that the assault would take place on the 20th of August.

The accounts in regard to Gen. Havelock and the position of affairs at Cawnpore, are conflicting. According to one statement, the General, after marching a second time towards Lucknow, and defeating the enemy in two engagements, found the rebels to the number of 50,000, strongly entrenched at Lucknow, and had to fall back on Cawnpore, where reduced to only nine hundred followers, he was expecting an attack from the insurgents.

Per contra, the Trieste correspondent of the London Morning Post, telegraphs that General Neill had attacked and defeated a large force near Cawnpore, and that General Havelock had succeeded in reaching Lucknow, the garrison at which place had been in a most precarious position.

Agra dates are to Aug 11. All in the fort were well and amply provided with provisions, but the force was very weak, and calling urgently for relief. The whole chaitian population was within the fort.

Bithoor was reoccupied by 4,000 mutineers but on the 16th, Gen. Havelock attacked and carried the position.

Calcutta was becoming crowded with fugitives from all parts of Bengal. There had been symptoms of disaffection in the 12th Bombay Infantry, forming part of the Rajahpootah's field force. They refused to give up a mutinous trooper and formed around him. He then fired at Brigadier Mocan, when three or four of the European artillery dashed into the square and cut him down. A portion of the infantry were disarmed.

The mutiny at Kolapoor was promptly suppressed, but Lieuts. Norris and Heathfield and Ensign Stubbs got astray and were murdered.

The Times Bombay correspondent says, that taking into consideration, all that has occurred in the way of disaffection throughout the Presidency, whether in Rajahpootans or in the southern country, one cannot but see that the discipline and loyalty of the Bombay army is slowly giving way under strong temptations.

A Meerut letter of the 20th August mentions that numbers of the mutineers were leaving Delhi. About five hundred were seen crossing the Ganges at Gurmuchtesurghat five days previously, and two hundred and fifty more were at Hauper, making for Roohitund, all armed.

The bridge of boats at Delhi is reported broken on the Meerut side and the mutineers were attempting to repair it.

From most of the Native States in Central India the accounts are satisfactory, although in some instances disaffection had broken out.—The rebels at Arrah had been defeated by Major Eyrie. The Moonqrum Holiday, as to which great fears were felt passed off quietly.

From English Papers to October 11.

IRELAND.—Great Floods at Cork.—Accounts from Dublin of the 1st inst., say that the Cork papers received that morning state that on Tuesday a strong gale blew from the Southward, and towards evening rain fell in torrents, and so continued during the greater part of the night. Towards the west rain must have begun earlier, as on Wednesday morning the river was swollen to a huge extent, and was rushing through the town with the rapidity of a torrent, bearing evidences of its rage, in broken trees, spars, and other wreck. Up along the banks of the river we understand, very serious damage has been done. Stacks of hay from the meadows, and of corn from the stubble fields have been carried off by the flow of the water, and in many places the surface has been materially injured.

At Bandon there was a serious inundation, by which a great deal of damage to property has been done. The flood did not take place in the main river which runs through the town, but in a small branch called the Shanagool, which overflowed its banks on Thursday, burst upon a small bridge by which it is spanned, and rushed down the South Main-Street with such force that several shop fronts in that locality were torn away.

PERFIA.—Very important news has been received from Persia. A formidable insurrection has broken out at Topahan, and all the Trak-Adjemi is in a state of great agitation. No particulars have come to hand, and we are still in the dark concerning the nature of the revolt and its instigators.

CIRCASSIA.—Schamyl having made prisoner of the Governor of Khanatz, an emeute broke out in that district. The Russians have imposed upon the Kazimauck rebels a tax of 10,000 roubles.

Loss of a Russian Line-of-Battle Ship with a Thousand Souls.—We learn from St. Petersburg, via Lubeck, on the 1st inst., that a very awful catastrophe happened to a Russian line-of-battle ship between the 21st and 23rd ult., in the Gulf of Finland, during a violent storm, in which it foundered, with a crew of upwards of 1,000 souls on board, all of whom perished. About 150 were family men, which renders the misfortune still more calamitous. The vessel had arrived near the Island of Hochland, from