

INDIA.

The annexation of the Punjab to our dominions has been announced in form; the British frontier has now been pushed beyond the Indus; and not only do the Sikh states, Jamoo excepted, now recognize the sovereignty of England, but Peshawur and the Dherajat, between the river and the mountains—the most productive and the most cherished provinces of the Dooranee empire—own our sway; and a surface of above 100,000 square miles, containing a population of 3,500,000, and yielding a net revenue of about £1,000,000 sterling, has been added to our already colossal Eastern Empire. No acquisition was ever made by us with more aversion, or by means less open to censure; and by the industrious portion of the people the transfer will be hailed with gratitude. That it will not for a long period to come be able from its own revenues to maintain itself, and that it will prove a heavy tax on our already overburdened finances, is more than probable. The present is, perhaps, the only occasion in our history where territory has been forced upon us, and where we, literally, scarcely had room to choose which measure ought to be pursued.

In our last we gave particulars of the arrival, on the 19th of March, of Major General Sir W. R. Gilbert's force at Attock, and the anticipations we then expressed that he would reach Peshawur on the 21st were realized. Though thus rapid in his movements, and successful in all his other projects, he was unable to overtake the Cabul marauders. The fault was none of his—Dost Mahomed had the start of him; and an army of plunderers who cared nothing for the injury inflicted by them on the people, and whose sole object was to get out of our way, was too fleet for one which had to bring up its artillery, stores and ammunition along with it, and to keep itself fit for action. The Ameer, indeed, had entered the Khyber Pass just as we crossed the Indus, and been enabled, by the forbearance of the tribes, to make his way towards Jellalabad without interruption. His troops had done all the mischief they could as they withdrew. Peshawur had shut its gates against them, but they destroyed the suburbs and villages all around; and the ruins of the cantonments occupied by the Sikh garrison, and of the residence of Major Lawrence, were still smoking when we arrived. The city would doubtless have shared the same fate, had not the Ameer directed the inhabitants to refuse admittance to his ungovernable rabble. The Bombay troops had been directed to stand fast at Peshawur for the present, and cantonments were being marked out. The Afreedees from the hills were carrying on a system of plunder with impunity, and had murdered some of our men on their way back from the town of Peshawur to camp. Sir W. Gilbert was to leave for Lahore on the 22d of April, with the 30th Native Infantry as an escort. So soon as the tidings reached that all which could be attempted had been accomplished, the proclamation intimating the annexation was issued. Mr. H. M. Elliot, Foreign Secretary with the Governor General, proceeded straightway to Lahore, and assembled the Durbar, when it was intimated that Dhuleep Singh had ceased to reign, and the monarchy founded by Runjeet Singh had passed to other hands. The Prince, now Sovereign no more, is to reside within the British dominions—rumour says at Poonah, in the Decan—and is to receive a pension of £40,000 a-year. His mother, who expressed so much anguish on being parted from him, and whose intrigues and machinations were so well calculated to hasten his fall, is to be permitted to join him in his seclusion. The country is to be placed under a Council, of which Lieutenant Colonel Sir Henry Lawrence is to be President, (on a salary of 7,000r.), and Mr. C. G. Mansell and John Lawrence, members, (on 4,000r. each per month). Four Commissioners have been named, viz: Messrs. Edward Thornton, R. Montgomery, D. M'Leod, and M. P.

Edgeworth, with a cloud of Deputy Commissioners and assistants.

From another source we learn that the famous Koh-i-noor Diamond forfeited by the treachery of the Sovereign of Lahore, and now under the security of British arms, in the fortress of Govindghur, will, in all probability, be brought to England, in attestation of the success of our arms in India; and it has been suggested that the mischievous superstition attached to the possession of this unique diamond might be utterly crushed by this retributive consignment. The diamond was formerly the property of Pandoor Rajah, then Chief of all India, Cabul, and Cachmere, from whom it was taken by Timur, and subsequently from Mohammed Shah by Nadir Shah. Runjeet Singh was accustomed to wear this diamond on his right arm, set in gold, surrounded with small rubies. It has been valued at 25 crore of rupees, or 25 million pounds sterling. Tavernier, who saw it in the possession of the great Mogul, states its weight to be 279 9-10th carats; before cutting, it weighed 900 carats; it was found in the mine of Colore, to the east of Golconda, about the year 1550. It is said to have formed one of the eyes of the jewelled peacock of the famous Musnud or throne of Aurungzebe, the *Tukh-i-taous*, or peacock throne. Its twin jewel is numbered among the crown jewels of Russia. Runjeet Singh, Rajah of the Punjab, plundered the "Koh-i-noor" from the ex-princes Shah Shujah-ool-Moolk and Sha Femaun. At the death of Runjeet, the diamond fell, by "lot of inheritance," to Shah Soojah; and, at his death, was bequeathed to the hideous idol of Orissa! The recent war in Mooltan, and disturbances in the Punjab, induced the British resident at Lahore to secure, as a hostage, the person of the boy King, Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, and at the same time to seize the Koh-i-noor. The "Nassuck" diamond, plundered during the Mahratta war from a Peshwah, or feudal chieftain, is a kindred exploit. Such is but an outline of the countless adventures of this imperial and oriental gem. It is, however, a mistake to suppose this diamond to be the largest and most precious in the world, for it is surpassed by several. The value must be grossly misstated. Probably two millions sterling is intended. The diamond is to be sent home for Her Majesty.—*Bombay Times*.

KING'S COLLEGE ENCÆNIA.

The annual Sermon before the University was preached at the Cathedral, on Sunday, June 24, by the Reverend W. E. Scovil, Rector of Kingston, on the spirit characteristic of the Christian Religion "from the days of John the Baptist until now," when the birth of the Messiah's forerunner was commemorated; with special application to the Students of the College, and to the Church Society of the Diocese. To the funds of the latter institution the contributions at the Offertory were on this occasion devoted.

The Examination of the Collegiate School had taken place during the preceding week, when gratifying evidence was furnished of the progress of the several classes. The Scholars whose names are subjoined were rewarded with appropriate prizes:—

Thomas Johnston,—a Scholarship in King's College, together with the Douglas Silver Medal for Classical superiority, and a prize for Translation.

William Murray,—for Mathematical superiority.

Beckwith Hart,—for the best English Essay.

Charles Perley,—the prizes presented by the Lord Bishop of Fredericton, for superiority in History and Geography.

On Tuesday, June 26, the Examination commenced at the College, and continued until Wednesday afternoon, when every Student was found to have satisfactorily kept the Terms of the year, while three had entitled themselves to places in the Honorary Class, and the prizes of Books appointed by the Statutes. The Students thus distinguished were:—

Joseph R. Hea,
Hugh M. Johnston,
Neville G. D. Parker.

The Public Act in commemoration of the foundation of the College was celebrated in the Chapel on Thursday, June 28; when His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor presided in his Visatorial capacity, supported by the Right Reverend the President, and the Reverend the Principal. The Professors and other Graduates composed the Convocation, while Members of the Council, with a highly respectable attendance of guests, occupied the area.