

ARRIVALS AT CALCUTTA.
 April 12th.—English Ship Regina, J. B. Farquharson, from Bombay 6th March and Madras 6th April.
 E-30 Elizabeth arrived off Calcutta on the 12th instant.
 E-37 Regina arrived off Calcutta on the 14th instant.
 April 14th.—English Barque Fattle Curcum, Nacoda from Alleppee 21st April; English Barque John George, J. Storey, from Newcastle 2d Nov. and Madras 9th April.

ARRIVAL OF PASSENGERS.
 Per Bland, for Liverpool and Cape.—Mrs. Fyler and child, Mrs. Murray and 3 children, Mrs. Mc. ree and child, Mrs. Wakefield and 3 children, Mrs. Bond and child, Capt. Davis, 32d B. N. I.; Capt. Montgomery, 3d dragoons, Capt. Murray, 8th Cavalry, Lieut. Haig, Capt. Wm. Roy, Lieut. Seely, Artillery, Lieut. Hopper, R. Wilson, Esq., M. D. Robinson, Esq., Small, Esq., Miss G. Pratt, Masters M. T. and G. Pratt, 2 European servants.

DEPARTURES FROM CALCUTTA.
 13th.—Ida, Thompson, for New Castle.
 14.—Agnes, Jones, for Bombay.

MADRAS.
ARRIVALS.—April 12, Ship Jehangier, Nacoda, from Calcutta 12th March.
 Do. 13, Barque Wm. Lockery, W. E. Braithwaite, from Liverpool 17th Nov., Mauritius 10th.
DEPARTURES.—April 13, Brig Eglantine, R. Heron, to Ekappilly and Chittagong.
 Do. 13, H. C. Transport Livingston, W. Rickerty, to China.
PASSENGERS.—Capt. Otley, Lieut. Harrison, Assist-Surg. Forrester, Assist. Apothecary O'Hara, 1 native Commissioner, Officer, 123 native Non-commissioned Rank and file of the 13 Company of Gun Bore, 46 public and 9 private followers.
 Do. 13, H. C. Transport Lyander, W. Currie, to China.
PASSENGERS.—R. B. Bell, Esq., M. S. Bell Esq., R. Bullen, Esq., Jules Dussan, Esq., China 14th inst.
 Do. 14, Ship Exmouth, W. D. Cook, to Calcutta.
PASSENGERS.—R. B. Bell, Esq., M. S. Bell Esq., R. Bullen, Esq., Jules Dussan, Esq., China 14th inst.
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PASSENGERS.—R. B. Bell, Esq., M. S. Bell Esq., R. Bullen, Esq., Jules Dussan, Esq., China 14th inst.

SINGAPORE.
ARRIVALS.
 Feb. 17 Royalist, Hart, Borneo Proper 7th inst.
 " 17 Nerva, Melville, Glasgow 24th Sept.
 " 18 H. C. Steamer Diana, Congalton, Malacca 17th instant.
 " 18 Sir Wm. Wallace, Lovett, Calcutta 18th ultimo.
 " 18 Fly, Kong Eng, Malacca 15th inst.
 " 18 Zeehoorn, Sing. Penang 28th ult.
 " 20 Tenasserim, Tapley, Penang 14th inst.
 " 21 Kuroviev, Jackson, Siam 9th inst.
 " 22 Sylph, Gey, Calcutta.
 " 23 Island Queen, Dala, China 15th inst.
 " 23 Maia, Sproule, China 10th Feby.
 " 19 H. M. S. Wellesley, Mailand, China 15th Feby.
DEPARTURES.
 Feb. 17 Cowanjee Family, Durham, China.
 " 18 Kim, Yappoon, Beng Chuan, Penang.
 " 19 H. C. Steamer Diana, Congalton, Penang.
 " 21 Samuel Horrocks, Boon Eng, Malacca and Penang.
 " 22 Sylph, Gey, Calcutta.
 " 22 Benecolen, Calbeck, Cork.
 " 23 Kuroviev, Jackson, Bombay.
 " 23 Island Queen, Dala, Bombay.
 " 23 Maia, Sproule, Bombay.

ARRIVAL OF PASSENGERS.
 Per Steamer Diana—Sir Wm. and Lady Norris, and child, Miss Eyer, and family, C. Rodyk and W. A. E. Robertson, Esqres.
 Per Tenasserim, Mrs. Tapley, and Capt. Keld.
 Per Kuroviev—Revd. Mr. and Mrs. W. Dean, the Rajah of Quedah and 14 private followers.
 Per Island Queen—Sir F. Nicholson, R. N.
 Per Maia—Messrs. Worms and Hebert

MILITARY ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES.
ARRIVALS.
 April 21st. Lieut. W. W. Taylor, 5th Regt. N. I. from Poona.
 Do. do. Lieut. J. A. Evans, 2d Eur. Inf. from Poona.
 Do. do. Capt. Bald, 30th Regt. N. I. from Quetta.
 Do. do. Capt. John Ramsay 9th Regt. N. I. from Dur.
 Do. do. Capt. C. Stewart, 14th Light Infantry from Kir.
DEPARTURES.
 April 22d. Lieut. R. Phayre, 25th Regt. N. I. to Mahabla.
 Do. do. Lieut. E. S. Blake, Artillery to Do.
 Do. do. Lieut. B. Jopp, 16th Regt. to Bhoj.
 Do. do. Ensign Baskin, Do. do. do.
 Do. do. Ensign Davidson, Do. do. do.
 Do. do. 2d Lieut. Welch, Artillery to Nuggur.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES—BOMBAY.
BIRTHS.
 At Poona, on the morning of the 15th instant, the Lady of Major W. Stone, 30th Regiment B. I. of a daughter.
 On Wednesday, the 20th instant, the Wife of Sudanund Wassudevjee, of a son.

CALCUTTA.
BIRTH.
 At Newparrah, on the 10th April, the wife of George Edwin South, esq., of a daughter.
 At Sealdah, on the 12th April, Mrs. Daniel McDonaie, of a daughter.
MARRIAGES.
 At the house of John Oman, Esq., Colong, on the 30th March by license, by the Rev. W. Winchester, Frederick Horton Esq., of the house of the Colong indigo concern, to Helen Caroline, third daughter of the late Garrett Driver, Esq., of Rajshay.

DEATHS.
 At Calcutta, on the 11th April, of teething and convulsions, George Francis, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Crowe, aged 1 year, 2 months and 25 days.
 At his residence, at Santollah, in Joranko, of cholera, on Wednesday afternoon, about 2 p. m. Baboo Oddit Chand Dutt, banian of Messrs. Macvicar Smith and Co. deeply and deservedly regretted by his disconsolate family and a numerous circle of friends and dependants. He was a most affectionate father, a kind husband, and a steady and faithful friend, whose good and open heart, and devotedness to all his acquaintances.
 At Calcutta on the morning of the 7th April, Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, lady of Cornelius U. Smith, Esq., aged 54 years.
 At Calcutta, on the 14th April, Christopher Egan, Esq., of the late firm of Messrs. Macdon, Egan and Co., aged 29 years.

MADRAS.
DEATHS.—At Arungabad, on the 5th of April, Georgiana Isabella, the beloved daughter of Captain H. Morland 27th Regt. M. N. I. aged 9 months.
 At Vizapatnam, on the 7th April, after a painful and lingering illness, Leonard Horner Esq., aged 38 years, deeply and deservedly regretted by his numerous relatives and friends.

AGRA.
BIRTH.—At Ameer, on the 20th March, the wife of Deputy Assistant Commissary of Ordnance T. O'Brien, of a son.
DEATH.—In Camp Futtungunge, near Bareilly, on the 12th inst., Elizabeth Howard, the infant daughter of Captain White, 71st Regt. N. I., aged 10 1/2 months.

C A L E N D A R, — APRIL 30 DAYS 1842.

Week.	Month.	REMARKABLE DAYS.	High Water.	PHASES OF THE MOON.
A. M.	P. M.			D. H. W.
296	11 44	0 61		
297	0 27	1 31		
298	1 31	0 40		
299	1 49	1 31		
300	1 49	2 32		
301	2 27	3 47		

Original Poetry.

SIR WILLIAM HAY MACNAUGHTEN was assassinated on the 25th December 1841, heroically exclaiming that death was preferable to dishonour, that we put our trust in the Lord of Hosts; and in his name defy our enemies.
 His Roman words shall be a Spirit-spell,
 To touch with life the soul of future days.
 Mothers shall exclaim, before dishonour's bell
 And their sweet teaching shall become his praise,
 While whate'er must know change, with change decays,
 In many a hero's breast, on many a lyce,
 His name - his country's property - shall blaze;
 Nor shall his high appeal to heaven expire,
 Till distant age, to age rehearse it, and admire.
 M. M. S.

North Western Intelligence.

AGRA UKHBAR.—APRIL 16.
 Our Extra, issued on Friday, will have apprised our readers of the success of General Pollock's operations in the Pass and his occupation of Ali Musjid, which may be considered as decisive of his final success. Beyond Ali Musjid the Pass becomes much more open and affords little vantage ground to the enemy, who if they will defend it, must expose themselves nearly as much as our own Troops, a risk they will hardly venture, after the severe lesson taught them the first day. At Lundeek Khana, which is about 8 miles from Ali Musjid, the gorge is commanded by a high and precipitous rock, where some slight loss may be experienced if it be manned, but the Afreeds are represented as too dispirited to offer further resistance. The country, however, is so open that the country is sufficiently open for Artillery and Cavalry manoeuvres and the enemy must meet us all vantageless and on equal terms. On the 7th the Force was to move from Ali Musjid and on the 12th would under expected circumstances effect a junction with Sir Robert Sale and his gallant garrison. On the junction being effected, General Pollock will for the present discontinue his operations and will take up a position at Jullalabad, or fall back upon Peshawar. At one or other of these places he will remain, until the season is more advanced and until General Nott has been supplied with cattle to enable him to move from Candahar. For this purpose Camels and Bullocks are being procured in Multan, Bawalpur and Belochistan, and when a sufficient number shall have collected, they will be sent to Candahar. General Nott will then move upon Cabool, simultaneously with General Pollock, who will as the first step towards the settlement of our future relations with Afghanistan, re-take that city. Such we are given to understand as a skeleton plan of our approaching operations in this country, but Orders from Home are expected, which may modify them considerably or altogether annul them. The present ministry may however be looked to with confidence for the adoption of vigorous and resolute measures towards the obliteration of the steam, which has fallen upon our arms.

General Pollock's Camp was struck at Kawalar on the 31st of March 1842 at 5 A. M., and the force moved to Kuddum between the Sikh Fort of Junrood, and the Khybur Pass. The arrangements were excellent and not withstanding the long string of baggage and stores, the rear guard was up about 11 A. M. The sun was very powerful and the heat excessive, which was followed by a heavy rain towards evening. There was also rain on the 1st and 2nd of April which prevented any onward move. On the 3rd at noon the weather indicates more rain, which, if it does come may cause a further delay. There are now slender hopes of the Pass being bought, the Khyburees appear in great force at its entrance, and are hard at work in working the Pass, and the Pass is so narrow and rumour has it that, several barricades have been made between the entrance and Ali Musjid. The number of men to oppose the force in the Pass is said to be upwards of 12,000 including Khyburees, Plunderers, and Afghan sent down by Akhbar Khan.

Owing to the splendid arrangements which are now made, and the accompanying fine force, we hope to give the Khyburees such a lesson of our power that will keep at a respectable distance. They are only strong from their defiled 26 miles and their lofty hills up which it is difficult to follow them, more especially in such weather as this, but in all other respects they are contemptible.
 Letters received from Jullalabad yesterday state that the Sikh force is daily increasing in strength, and that he is daily increasing his store, and that he is not desirous that this force should move until the 31st Foot arrives. The relations of Ukhar Khan who attend him during the day are said to supply Sale with provisions at night. His want of the shews of War is causing a great dejection among his followers, and he is so weary that he will be a fugitive before General Pollock arrives at Jullalabad, if not a prisoner owing to the little faith to be placed in the honor of his Mussulman followers, when placed in competition with their love of money and the inducement held out to seize or slay him by Shah Soojah's offer for his head, which induced his own Khittmitgar to attempt his life; that he has received intelligence one he is said to be sinking under. His Khittmitgar was rolled up in a sheet and burnt alive. Letters arrived in Camp on the 2nd, from some of the Cabool Prisoners to their relatives in India.
 News has reached Peshawar that Shah Soojah is continually engaged in conflicts, and daily losing ground among his loving subjects, a just reward for the base treachery of which he has just been guilty. He is miserably afflicted with the palsy, and is in a most miserable state. Rajah Goolub Singh has just been visiting General Pollock, he received on arrival and at his departure a salute. It is said, 10,000 Sikhs are to accompany the General's Force, but no reliance can be placed on them, part of them being the men who were refused to accompany Brigadier Wild's force, after they had been paid by the Political authorities for their aid.

Brigadier White's Brigade joined General Pollock's force on the 30th, having made forced marches after passing the Jelum. The whole moved the following morning to beyond the fort of Junrood, and encamped in front of the entrance to the Khybur Pass. The Troops marched in the same order in which they are to force the Pass, that is to say, in three columns, the right and left being those to crown the heights. About 800 Camels deserted on the 31st, but a considerable number were recovered by the two Troops of Native Cavalry. Some of the tribes have been bought over, but the Khyburees are busily employed barricading the entrance of the Pass and building a line of fortification, which will be in the hands of the had been brought into Camp from Jullalabad. General Sale had food for the Europeans to 7th April and Ath sufficient to last till the 27th. All the Yaboes and sickly horses of the 6th Cavalry and Artillery had been destroyed.
 Three men of MacNaughten's arrived the day before yesterday, having escaped from the garrison.
 The 31st Foot expected by the 12th, but whether General Pollock is going to wait their arrival is not known. The general impression is, that we move on to-morrow, but the rains since we have been so heavy, that morning was out of the question.
 The 33rd Native Infantry are to arrive to-day and the force is expected to move to-morrow.

SAUGOR.—A Letter from Saugor of the 10th Instant, just received says that the station was in all the bustle and din of preparing a force to take the Field against a body of Boondees, who to the number of nearly 5,000 men, had suddenly appeared in the North Western boundary of the Saugor Division, where they were committing all kinds of outrages. They had gained possession of Kimlass and Narbat, at the latter of which places they had murdered five Police Sowars and wounded others, besides making several prisoners. The full extent of their violence was not known at Saugor, at the date of our letter, but it was apprehended that it would turn out to be considerable. A Report was received from the Marathas, which after the receipt of the intelligence, a force was ordered

out consisting of four Companies of Infantry and all the Irregular Cavalry at the station, amounting to 200 Troopers. Should this not very strong party fail in dispersing the Insurgents, some Artillery will be sent, the gallant General Commanding the Division, desiring following the example shown by the Commander-in-Chief in his Excellency's admirable arrangements for relieving Jullalabad. We hope however, the blunder of not sending a gun or too in the first instance, will turn out lucky one and not as His Excellency's has Mr. Om, any, C. S. accompanies the Force.

AGRA.—Last week we noticed the occurrence of a fire, in the lines of the 61st Native Infantry, by which the lines of two Companies were destroyed. Since then two more fires have occurred, which have consumed the lines of, we hear, two more Companies of the same Regiment. That some of these fires, if not all, are the work of incendiaries is hardly to be doubted from the fact, that in the roof of a Native Officer's house, a bundle was found, fortunately before it had communicated with the building, formed of Cotton Cloth or rags smeared with Indigo, in which was a ball of lighted Charcoal. All this reflects strongly upon the Police of the Cantonments, who are, however, too small a body to check such a crime. The precautions taken by the Military Authorities are evidently of a kind which will admit, but until the lines of Native Regiments be constructed of less inflammable materials, nothing will prevent these fires, which destroy so much property.

Colonel Sutherland has returned to Ameer or rather to Jneepoor. The troublesome and intriguing Naths of Joolpore have been compelled to leave the city, which they bound not to return by a penalty of confinement, perpetual imprisonment and under circumstances, decollation.
 A Court of Enquiry is sitting at Kurnal to inquire into some affairs, which have lately taken place between the 3rd Buffs and the European Artillery stationed there.

We learn that the Goolanduz of the Sverree Artillery company, who had deserted a week during Lieutenant Smith's visit at this station last month, was lately recognised and seized in Captain Abercrombie's Camp; the unfortunate woman was cut and mutilated in a most fearful manner, and it is to be hoped that our Ally Scindiah, will, in the punishment awarded to this miscreant, give us the best proof, that Akbar Khanism cannot be practised in his dominions with impunity.

THE COURIER.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1842.

Various extracts from the *Agra Ukhar* of the 16th instant will be found under the usual head. There is however no later intelligence from General Pollock's force than that published in our extra of Saturday last.

We have received Calcutta papers of the 15th of the present month. The amount subscribed in the City of Palaces, for the relief of the sufferers by the Afghan war, exceeds twenty thousand rupees. It is said that the iron Steamer *Medusa* is not to be sent to China, but is to be permanently placed under the orders of the Commissioner of the Tenasserim provinces.

The Madras papers of the 16th instant contain no intelligence of importance.

Our Calcutta contemporaries have lately been amusing themselves, and the public, by canvassing the propriety of the Hon'ble Mr. Bird's conduct, in having, as Deputy Governor of Bengal, appointed his son a young man about nineteen years of age, to be his own private secretary. As usual on such occasions much has been said on both sides. In our opinion those who condemn the appointment display an over-zealous spirit, whilst those who approve of it exert more ingenuity, and labour more seriously than the occasion demands to show that the selection is perfectly justifiable. The thing surely speaks for itself. If there is any one appointment, which above all others a public functionary is entitled to bestow upon either a relative or personal favourite, without reference to the merits of the party, it is that of private secretary. One moment's consideration, of the designation of the office, is sufficient to convince any man of common sense, that the public taste or judgement has in this instance no right to be consulted. A private secretary to a high official personage should be one in whom the latter can place the most implicit reliance, as a confidential organ of communication, on subjects requiring at least temporary concealment from the public and the subordinate Government functionaries. Secrecy and an ordinary degree of general intelligence are in fact the only indispensable qualifications for a private secretary. Neither the youth of Mr. Bird junior, nor his short period of residence in India furnishes the slightest grounds for supposing that he is deficient in the above mentioned qualities: of which indeed no one can be so good a judge as the person by whom he is employed. Moreover the appointment being only held during pleasure, it can be revoked in an instant. If any error however gross is committed by a private secretary, the functionary to whom he is attached, is wholly responsible for it, and cannot urge the neglect or criminality of his subordinate in extenuation of the blame ascribed to himself. With an official or public secretary the case is different, for if he omitted to act upon proper instructions from his superior, or executed them in an improper manner, the fault would rest principally if not entirely on the said secretary. This constitutes the grand difference between responsible and irresponsible appointments. Attention to this point should always be shown by those who are fond of criticising the manner in which patronage is exercised. When an office is of such a nature as to render it incumbent responsible to the state for the due execution of its duties: then the public have a right to expect, that the authority, in whom the power of nomination is vested, shall select a person who possesses the requisite qualifications of character, talent, long or distinguished services, and a knowledge of the duties of the department in which the vacancy has occurred. But with regard to appointments to offices, the duties of which involve no public responsibility: or for the performance of which the patron, and not the presentee, is solely responsible, we hold that a Cabinet minister, a Colonial Governor, a Commander in Chief or any other similarly situated functionary, is entitled to consult his personal taste and feelings, to the same extent that is generally practised, in any of the relations of purely private life.

We have heard that the Remount Agent at this Presidency has been directed to purchase with all possible expedition two thousand horses. Their minimum height is to be fourteen and a half hands: being intended for the use of three regiments of European Cavalry which are expected to arrive in India on or before the 1st of November next.

retired for the purpose of taking up a more favourable position, and with the view of preserving their energies unimpaired, for the grand struggle in the most difficult portion of the pass. That the British will be victorious we sincerely hope. Indeed the results of a failure would be so disastrous, that we scarcely dare to contemplate such a contingency. Still we are perfectly aware of the almost unparalleled difficulties which the defile presents to the movements of a regular force more especially to the advance of Cavalry, Artillery and the Commissariat Cattle. All depends upon the General having discovered, and that speedily too, some unguarded or inefficiently guarded mountain path, by means of which the European Infantry aided by dismounted dragoons may be enabled to scale the heights which command the excessively narrow road, midway up the face of the precipice, and along which the main body of the troops must move. If these heights be once crowned by Her Majesty's 9th Foot, the day is won, and all minor obstacles will be eventually overcome. Unless this be effected the expedition will, we are afraid, be a total failure. We hope for the best, but in our most sanguine moments do not conceive it possible that the force can reach Peshawar, without incurring a loss of five hundred killed and wounded amongst the Europeans. We do not expect that the natives will incur a proportionate loss, provided the attempt be successful; but should a retreat be necessary, the casualties amongst the sepoy will in all probability be exceedingly numerous.

SUKKUR, April 10th 1842.—The Wing of the 3d Light Cavalry (which arrived from Balmeer some days since) and the Head Quarter of the 12th Native Infantry started this morning with the Convoy to Quetta. Ere this you have of course received the intelligence of Brigadier England's defeat, he went out three marches from Quetta with the first Division, consisting of the Light Battalion, a Wing of the 41st and Leslie's Troop of Horse Artillery, but unexpectedly came up with Atta Mohammed; an engagement took place and poor Major Athporthe 21st N. I. was mortally wounded, and has since died, Captain May H. M.'s 41st and sixteen men of the same Corps were killed. The Europeans fought most gallantly but the Sepoys had evidently read S hakspear well, and had, fully impressed on their minds the maxim, "He that fights &c." Lots of the Enemy were slain; it was rather too hot work tho' for our fellows to stop and count them. Brigadier England has returned to Quetta and will again march forward and attack the enemy on the reinforcement of the 3d Cavalry, the other wing of the 41st and detachments of her Majesty's 40th and 22nd joining him. This it is expected must have taken place about the 1st instant. We are all quiet here, and the Murries have shewn themselves to be our Friends in the Bolan, by bringing in a very large quantity of baggage &c. stolen some time since. The Steamers to bring up the 22d from Kurrachee will be here in a day or two. The Barracks, intended for a European Corps, are not quite ready but every endeavour is being made to complete them quickly. The Recruits of the 40th (180) in number are healthy and quartered in the fort. They have just got into their Barracks, which are good and by far the best I have seen in the Bombay Presidency. Twenty Bengal Officers started this morning with the convoy to join their respective regiments.—It is currently reported as true that Ghuznee has fallen and that Athab has been put to the sword. Colonel Palmer, who it is said was afraid of the water failing in the Tank!!! entered into a capitulation and his Force has been cut up to a man.—If true, what infatuation to trust to a capitulation; however, time will tell.—I hope this version of the tale wont turn out to be fact, tho' from what I have heard and can judge, it looks more than likely.—We have plenty of ammunition here and food, such as grain, salt, meat &c. &c.—all in the Fort. Our indefatigable commissary, deserves to be a Pope of Rome, let alone of Sukkur, for he is working like a Horse, and has succeeded in bringing in a large number of Camels: others all also coming in from other quarters. The left wing of the 12th N. I. will leave for Quetta on the arrival of the Bengal 29th, expected daily.

The above was given as a postscript to our last issue, but we have republished it to-day as it may possibly not have reached some of our Subscribers.—Ed. B. C.

Mr. Escombe might be removed to another appointment at a moment's notice and a new Post Master General be appointed, totally ignorant of the duties. Under such circumstances let us suppose for one instant that the present Deputy Post Master General were to become unable to perform his duties, what would be the consequences? We reply that all the late improvements in the delivery of the contents of the dawks would be rendered nugatory, for there is no one, holding a subordinate position in the department, who possesses sufficient energy, and intelligence to conduct and supervise the details of the office. There ought most decidedly to be two intelligent Europeans, retained as head clerks: one in the European and the other in the Indian branch. These should receive liberal salaries, and have held out to them as a further incentive to exertion, the hope of eventually succeeding to the appointment of Deputy Post Master General; with the understanding that they should qualify themselves for the situation, and be ready to undertake the temporary discharge of it's duties, whenever sickness might cause the absence of their immediate superior.

No two things can possibly be conceived more at variance with each other than the mode of acting, adopted by the Bengal Government, in endeavouring to meet the wishes of the public, by giving, through the medium of the press, early and general publicity to all news received from beyond the Indus; and the course pursued under similar circumstances by the Bombay authorities. The supreme Government immediately it receives a despatch from the scene of war either publishes it in a *Government Gazette*, or if it be not of sufficient importance to require such a proceeding, sends without delay a synopsis of it's contents to each of the Calcutta papers. There is no attempt at misdirection, no favour or partiality displayed to any particular journal at the expense of the others.

At Bombay, on the contrary, intelligence is either altogether suppressed or else allowed to ooze out in a semi-official and partial manner. This was evidently the case with regard to the news, of General Pollock's progress, which was published in the *Bombay Times Extra* of Friday last. It is manifest that this intelligence was communicated to our contemporary by an official functionary, who had access to the express received on the morning of that day from General Pollock's camp. The communication was certainly most meagre and unsatisfactory. It would have been far better to have been more explicit. It would be creditable to the Bombay Government if more impartiality had been displayed, and the intelligence, such as it was, communicated to every Bombay journal; instead of being restricted by such a marked display of favouritism, such an evident desire to make the information possessed by Government available for promoting the pecuniary interests of a few individuals, rather than for consulting the general convenience of the community.

The uncertain state of affairs in the Khybur pass, subsequent to the 7th instant, is a source of deep and painful anxiety to the public of India. The early stages of General Pollock's progress have certainly been most propitious, but it cannot be denied that at the date of the last intelligence from his camp, the difficult nature of the journey is such that the advance to Ali Musjid can only be regarded as child's play, when compared with the obstacles which the force must overcome in making good the first days march beyond the fortress. The evacuation of the place by the followers of Ukhar Khan may be regarded by some as indicative of a panic which will have rendered further operations extremely facile. We do not however put much faith in this opinion. It is more likely that the Afghans,

Proceedings of the Public Meeting held at the Town Hall on Thursday Last.

Moved by the Honorable the Governor, seconded by General Barr.
 That a subscription be entered into at Bombay in aid of the funds now being raised at Kurnal, and other places, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the sufferers by the late events in Afghanistan.
 2d. Moved by the Lord Bishop, seconded by Captain Oliver.
 That a Committee be formed for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the previous resolution, consisting of the following gentlemen:—
 Major General Barr, Mr. Brown, Colonel Dunsterville, Mr. Willoughby, The Revd. W. K. Fletcher, Colonel McDonald, Mr. Malcolmson, Cursetjee Jamssetjee, Dadaboy Pestonjee, and Mr. S. Dickenson.
 3rd. Moved by the Commander-in Chief, seconded by Mr. Bruce.
 That the Committee place itself in communication with the Committee at Kurnal for the purpose of furthering the objects of this meeting.
 4th. Moved by Cursetjee Jamssetjee, seconded by Bonanje Hormuzjee.
 That the Committee take under their consideration cases coming before them, whether arising out of the services of this Presidency, or elsewhere, reserving such portion of the funds as they may deem necessary to meet such.
 5th. Moved by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Reid.
 That the Committee be requested to address a Circular to the several stations of this Presidency, inviting their cordial co-operation in the objects of the present meeting.
 6th. Moved by Mr. Malcolmson, seconded by Mr. Willoughby.
 That Mr. Henry L. Anderson be requested to act as Secretary to the Committee.
 7th. Moved by Dadaboy Pestonjee, seconded by Mr. Willoughby.
 That subscriptions be payable into the Bank of Bombay, and that Subscription Lists be left at the Bank, the Library of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, and at the Town Major's Office.
 8th. Moved by Colonel Dunsterville, and seconded by Mr. Willoughby.
 That the best thanks of this meeting are due to the Hon'ble the Chairman for his conduct in the Chair.
 9th. Moved by Mr. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Bruce.
 That the thanks of this meeting are due to the Sheriff, J. L. Johnson, Esquire, for the promptitude with which he complied with the wishes of those who requested him to convene the same.

The following is a list of the subscriptions:—

G. W. Anderson	125
The Bishop of Bombay	250
Henry Roper	400
Thos. McMahon	400
T. Vallant	200
W. C. Bruce	300
J. P. Willoughby	500
J. Jejeebhoy	1000
J. Jamsetjee	500
B. Jamsetjee	300
S. Jamsetjee	200
M. A. Rogay	200
C. Fardoonjee	250
Jehanzeer Cursetjee	150
Dhunjeebhoy Framjee	100
D. Harr.	200
Robt. Oliver	200
J. P. Larkins	50
W. S. Ang. White	50
W. S. Sang	50
D. Blane	300
E. Armitage	50
J. H. Dunsterley	100
A. Spens	50
Lieut. Col. Macdonald	200
T. S. Smith	20
Secy. Assist.	30
W. Graham	50
R. T. Webb	200
M. E. Skinner	100
White	50
Major Hagart	100
John Gordon	100
George Cooke	100
W. E. Harrison	100
S. Bubington	50
H. J. Barr	50
T. Barr	50
L. R. Reid	50
A. Bell	200
W. R. Morris	250
	Rupees 12,722

BOMBAY TIMES.

HERAT.—Intelligence from Herat has been received at Quetta to the effect that Yar Mahomed has got the best of Kamran Shah, and that he has dispatched from 1200 to 2000 horse under Achter Khan, the former Governor of Kandahar, to attack General Secy. Assist. in the country beyond the frontiers of the province. The suppression of an Asiatic prince by his Wuzzeer is so common an affair in oriental history, that this portion of the news conveys intelligence of no more than a revolution of yearly occurrence; where the ruler is compelled to quit the throne to make room for it for the late tenant of the prison which the governor of India in council is second portion of the intelligence less probable than the first, though neither is vouched for on authority on which entire reliance can be placed. If the two should prove authentic, it is not impossible that Candahar may shortly be subjected to a siege. In this case General Nott will be reduced to the dilemma of having no carriage to enable him to retire on Quetta, or move out to a considerable distance in quest of the enemy, and no provisions adequate to maintain his troops within the walls.—April 23.

Indian Intelligence.

CALCUTTA.

BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Fort William, 6th April, 1842.—No. 93 of 1842.—In continuation of general orders No. 54, of the 24 March 1842, the right honble the governor general of India in council is pleased to direct, that the following para. of a military letter, No. 2, from the honble the court of directors to the governor general of India in council, dated 24 February 1842, be published in general orders.

"Referring to our military letter of the 19th ultimo, relating to the donation granted by her Majesty to the forces employed in the late operations in China, we have to signify your that the secretary to the state for the war department has stated, with reference to the minute of the lords of the treasury, on that subject, that the only persons who are entitled to participate in the bounty are those who were actually employed in the operations against Canton in May 1841, under the immediate pressure of which, the sum of money, out of which the bounty is to be paid, was obtained from the Chinese authorities."

N. STUART, Major, Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Milly. Dept.

THE MEDUSA.—We hear that the destination of the Medusa, iron steamer, is altered from China to Moumian, where she is to be stationed under the immediate order of Mr. Blundell, the Commissioner of the Tennessee Provinces. This arrangement, we believe, emanated from Captain Kaper, of the Caliope, and is, in our opinion, a very proper one.—Ibid, April 15.

RETIREMENT.—In the few arrangements which Lord Ellenborough has had an opportunity of making during his brief residence in Calcutta, it is easy to discover that a principle of rigid economy is likely to be one of the main features of his administration. The appointment of Marine Pay Master and Storekeeper, which were the duties of the late Mr. Ramesh, has been divided since it fell vacant; the Paymaster's office has been incorporated with another office, and the Storekeepership assigned to a worthy individual, of moderate expectations, on salary equal to one half that of the former incumbent. The arrangements in the Military Auditor General's Office appear to have been governed by the same economical principle. The office of Deputy Auditor has been abolished, and the salary is to be divided among three Assistants; to Mr. Mansell's office has been conferred on Mr. Thornhill, the Post Mr. General, without any additional pay—if report may be credited—and Mr. Grey, of the Bangalore district, has been placed in charge of the Post Office, without as far as we can learn, any increase of allowances. If this should be the case, Mr. Thornhill has some reason to complain of being removed from a post where he had little or nothing to do, to the office of Deputy Accountant General, and Accountant in the Judicial, Revenue, Commercial, Marine, Salt and Opium Department, which is a more important and responsible department, he will have a great deal to do, and without increase of pay.

The Post Office seems to be considered a complete sinecure, in which any man may be provided for. It has already made the complete circle of the Service; it has been given to a Controller of the Customs, to a Judge, to a Collector, to a Commissioner of Revenue, to men in actual service, to men who have retired from the service; to men with brains, and some without them. Proverbially brief as is the tenure of office in India, the Post Office seems to have been especially selected by Government as the post in which this brevity should be most strikingly exemplified. When Talleyrand took the oath of allegiance to the new Government, he charged Philip de la Roche with the *voila levezicis*. Mr. Moore, the Deputy Post Master, on welcoming his new master, may exclaim with equal truth, *voila le vingt-trois*; for, if we are not out in our calculations, there have been no fewer than twenty Post Masters, during the period in which he has been attached to the establishment. In these appointments every individual has been considered as a candidate for the public; and this important office has been systematically bestowed upon the principle that it required neither aptitude nor experience. During these perpetual mutations, the efficiency of a department in which the public convenience is more deeply involved than in any other, has been kept up by the sole energy of the Deputy Post Master, who has been the constant support to the pole-star of the present administration, the wisest and most frugal plan would be to make Mr. Moore the Post Master General, with a suitable increase to his present allowances. He had richly earned the step; and unless posts are still to be fitted to men, instead of men to their posts, it would be far more rational to select the best man for the post, than an individual thoroughly acquainted with all its principles and details, than to bestow it on men totally ignorant of them.

But the organization of the office is open to the most serious objections. We have seen a rotation of men placed over this department who had every thing to learn, and who were moved as soon as they had ob-

tained some knowledge of their duties. We have also seen individual competent to the management of the office, and who had acquired a general acquaintance with the post, and unapparently for himself a fixture also as regards salary; we have only one such individual in the department. In all other offices, the subordinate assistants consist of men who are expected to render themselves competent to succeed to the first post—among the unconvicted—whenever it may become vacant. But no such arrangements are made in the Post Office. We look in vain through the inferior ranks, for any person able to take Mr. Moore's place, should the country be deprived of his services. This is scarcely fair to the public. In a department in which the Covenant Head is not expected to know any thing of its large and complicated machinery, it is more especially necessary that provision should be made to supply any vacancy, which may be occasioned by the indisposition or death of the Deputy, on whose shoulders the whole weight of the system at present rests. Surely it would be a wiser arrangement to re-construct the office; to reward the long and faithful services of the Deputy by placing him nominally, as he has been, in the rank of a General; and to provide for the exigencies of the future, by the training of efficient Assistants, competent by their intellectual acquirements to undertake the large responsibilities of this office.

But if Lord Ellenborough be bent on economy, there are other departments of the state in which it may be exercised on a more extended scale. There is the costly pegerity of the Agra Government, which stands the fourth in some five lakhs of Rupees per year. Sharma's fourth Presidency has been of the power and importance which it was the intention of the Charter to confer on it, it seems an anomaly to perpetuate this shadow of a Government at so heavy an annual outlay. We believe all reflecting men, and in this number we include those who have navigated this grinding throut on them, have long been aware of the absurdity of an arrangement, by which an expenditure is incurred, twice as great as that which is devoted to public education, and for which we have no return beyond the mere existence of a Government without administrative powers or responsibilities. When therefore the Agra Government shall expire, in the natural course of the time, it is to be hoped that it may be discontinued with no resurrection.

Then again, there is the Law Commission, established with the view of forming a uniform code for all India, but so absurdly constituted that there is little reason to hope that India will ever reap much benefit from its labours. We need not go over the old ground, and show that a body of men whose sole duty, as defined in the Charter, is to report on the progress of the *Parliament*, like other Law Commissioners of Whig creation, is not likely to fulfil those expectations which the public not unreasonably form a view of the annual cost which it entails on the State. In these remarks nothing can be farther from our intention than to cast the slightest reflection on the eminent men who compose the Commission, whose personal abilities, integrity, and worth, we hold in the highest esteem; but they are placed in a false position from which it is desirable to relieve them. The censure, which belongs in all fairness to the principles on which the Commission was established, is now unhappily concentrated on the individuals who compose it. From this invidious position we should be happy to see them liberated. There are other departments of the state, in which equal economy, in which their services would be appreciated and applauded. We hear with no little pain, taunts and reproaches constantly cast on the Commissioners, as though they were the first sinecurists in this government; while at the same time, it is evident that with the impediments thrown in their way by the construction of the Charter, it is most impossible for them to complete any thing. Eight years have passed away, and twenty lakhs of Rupees have already been expended, without any visible result. The documents which they are now presenting to Government as the Code of Civil Procedure, must be laid before Parliament, which body is becoming annually less competent to direct the course of the business, and less disposed to interfere. After having been laid on the Table of the House, it will be embodied in its archives, along with the Criminal Code, of which not the slightest notice has yet been taken. Under the most favourable circumstances, this Code of Procedure can scarcely become the law of the land under four years from the present time; that is, the first benefit conferred on the country by the Commission will be delayed for a period of thirty lakhs of Rupees. A uniform and universal Code for all India, may sound very pompous; but it is all but an impossibility. If at the end of twenty years, and after an expenditure of half a Million sterling, such a code should be completed, it would be an act of signal injustice to bring it into operation in a country, in which the habits of the people are so different, the usages, laws, and prejudices, it is true, that the Code of Aurungzebe, *Futwa Alamgiri*, is said to have cost fifty lakhs of Rupees; but that is no excuse for our throwing away the same sum. We ought to rise above these Mahomedan predilections.—*Friend of India*.

AKBAR KHAN.—Some days since, we communicated to our readers information which we had received from Peshawar, and on the truth of which we relied, to the effect that it has been proved by credible evidence, taken by those who were appointed to investigate as far as possible into the case of the Envoy's murder, that Akbar Khan was personally the assassin of the Envoy, and that he was the only individual who was the author of the crime. Information from the same quarter to the same effect, an effect entirely corroborative of the previous account given direct to a friend of our's by the Kafilah Bashee of Sir Alexander Burnes, who was an eye-witness to the deed, and whose relation was never contradicted, though whether it ever reached Government, except through the hands of the Envoy's staff, we do not know, but deem most probable that it did. We can now state that the person who has lately at Peshawar corroborated this account, is a native whose respectability there is no cause to doubt, and who has escaped, we know not how, from manifold dangers of not only Cabool and Jugdulluck, but of the previous ones of Chareekar, in the course of which he has suffered the essentially confirming relation of a friend of our's by the Kafilah Bashee of Sir Alexander Burnes, who was an eye-witness to the deed, and whose relation was never contradicted, though whether it ever reached Government, except through the hands of the Envoy's staff, we do not know, but deem most probable that it did. 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against Mr. Plunkett (2, however, to be found in the fact of his having remained drinking in the society of Mr. Carew after he had desired him to consider himself under arrest; the command having been reported to Major Trevor by some paltry eavesdropper, as having been given in earnest; whereas, it appears to have been intended as a joke. What the nature of the representation made of these facts to the House of Commons, we are not at all conversant with; but, that it was sufficiently unfavourable, may be inferred from the fact that the authorities called upon Mr. Plunkett either to sell out, or stand a court martial. He has accordingly availed himself of the latter alternative. On this somewhat slender substratum a series of charges, four in number, was founded. Whether from a consciousness of their comparative frivolousness, or from other motives which do not appear, Major Trevor has since superadded a fifth charge, having reference to a squabble between Mr. Plunkett and a gentleman who combines the somewhat anomalous pursuits of butcher and pastry-cook at Sheerness, in the course of which an assault is said to have been committed on the purveyor of a rum-steak in the dining-room, and a chair, stool and a crippled table thrown from their equilibrium—such conduct being, of course, "unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman." A rumour is, indeed, current, that independently of this catalogue of grave offences, one of the charges imputes to this ostentatious young gentleman "cohabitation with a young woman of loose character," an offence, the specification of which was looked for in vain, in the "Articles of War," and the "Regulations, published by authority, for the guidance of officers of Her Majesty's Army." What makes the matter more ridiculous still, is the fact that Mr. Plunkett's commanding officer has made a special journey to Sheerness for the purpose of collecting materials for substantiating this charge.

In sober seriousness, if the time of General Cartmichael is to be applied in the investigation of charges like these, there is no saying where their duties are to end considering the vast number of young ladies of "loose habits," and "looser principles," who are permitted to infest our garrison towns. Rumour affirms that the fair cyprins of Chatham and Sheerness intend to apply for a "criminal information" against the gallant purveyor for training his charges so as to affect the characters and interests. Mr. Plunkett is the son of Lord Lovth.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have ordered that all steam-ships in future are to be fitted with a pillar in midships, on the quarter-deck, to carry an azimuth compass, by which the true bearing of the ship may at all times be correctly ascertained.

THE MASTER AND MATE OF THE "YAGSLEA."—On Tuesday, at Newcastle, and on Wednesday, at Sunderland, Messrs. Macdowall and Wardrop, a deputation from Glasgow, attended large and influential meetings of ship-owners and merchants, and brought under their consideration the propriety of a compulsory enactment for ascertaining the competency of masters and mates, before they are permitted to discharge their duties of vessels. The meetings commenced with the representatives of the merchants and shipowners of Glasgow, and made arrangements for memorializing the Board of Trade on the subject.

THE FRENCH ARMY IN AFRICA.—The *Toulomois* states that the French troops in the North of Africa at the present time are as follows: In the provinces of Algiers and Titter, 24,780 men; Oran, 18,940; and Constantine, 16,975—total, 60,695.

THE EARL OF ELIO.—The wife of the Earl of Elion, died a short time since at Chivary, in Piedmont. The fate of the general's family is peculiarly sad. His father, who was also a general, died on the scaffold in 1822; and his mother soon followed her husband's death, by the same means. His brother-in-law, the Marquis de Lealtad, died an exile from Spain, and he is now himself left with five children of tender age, four sons and a daughter.

TRANSATLANTIC STEAMERS.—Bristol, as well as London, has been compelled to admit that Liverpool is the port of transit for passengers as well as goods to the United States. The British and North American Steamship Company (the Great Western) for several seasons to and from New York, re-owners have resolved to run her alternately from Bristol and Liverpool to New York, and thence alternately to Liverpool and Bristol. By the new arrangement, the Great Western will during the season, sail twice from Bristol to New York; thus competing directly with the British and North American royal mail steamers—Liverpool and Boston.

FLOATING BREAKWATER.—A correspondent of the Morning Post denies the originality of Captain Taylor's Floating Breakwater. He says that, so far back as 1811, when the idea of a breakwater, in Plymouth Sound was under the consideration of the Government, the late Sir Samuel Brindley, an architect and engineer of the Navy, submitted to the Admiralty a proposition for constructing a floating breakwater at that port, founded upon the same principle, and in its leading details precisely similar to that now brought forward by Captain Taylor, as will appear from the following extracts, of a minute addressed by Sir S. Brindley to the Board of Admiralty, on the 18th of February, 1812. This plan suggested the employment of wooden floats chained together, and that they should be constructed of a triangular form.

Spirit of the European Press.

COLONIAL BISHOPS.—We have now upon our table a circular, addressed by the Bishop of London, to the Clergy of his diocese, in which they are exhorted to make collections in their respective Churches in aid of the fund for the endowment of Bishopsricks in the colonies. His Lordship, whose zeal in the good cause goes beyond all praise, recommends that the Clergy begin their labours on Palm Sunday next, and that the offering of their people be solemnly laid upon the altar, while their minds are engaged in the noble oblation to Him in whose service the funds so collected are to be spent. We sincerely hope that as far as it may be practicable to do so, his Lordship's recommendations will be attended to. We think that the circumstance of being thus called upon to dedicate openly a portion of their wealth to God's service, will not be without its effect in enabling the Clergy of the wealthy dwellers within the metropolitan diocese. We are confident that there needs but a right understanding of the subject to convince them that by no other dedication of a portion of the good things which have fallen to their share, could they more acceptably serve and honour the Being to whom they are indebted for those good things.

The history of a movement which will, we believe, result in the accomplishment, under God, of unpeakable advantages both to the Church and realm of England, is in few words this:—

If there be any persons who suppose that a desire to appoint resident Bishops in the several colonies which own their English Crown, is a sentiment which was yesterday in the infancy of the world, and that they are entirely mistaken. Never, from the period when our North American settlements first grew into importance, has the great duty of planting a perfect Church among them been without its advocates. So early as the beginning of the last century the Crown was petitioned from various quarters to erect sees in America. A most able reasoner, among others, the celebrated Dr. Berkeley, afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, strongly pressed the point, having, during his noble efforts to establish his College at Bermuda, found abundant ground for his remonstrances. But Church principles being in those days connected in the minds of politicians with a sentiment which was by no means so odious as it now is, we met with attachment to the exiled family—one Cabinet after another resisted the project; and the consequence was, that for the mere lack of means whereby to keep her sons together, the Church became, ere long, numerically speaking, the feeblest sect in the provinces. We are not going to assert that had the King's Ministers adopted a different tone in this respect, the separation of the colonies from the mother country

never would have taken place. The time must come when all colonies, provided they be sufficiently powerful to stand alone, will assert their independence; and the United States were not very likely to prove an exception to this rule. Still one thing is very certain, that no sooner were American Churches freed from the restraining influence of the British Government, than they did that for themselves, which the British Government had refused to do for them. They sent several of their Clergy over to the mother country, where they were consecrated; and now their Church can boast of maintaining almost as many dioceses as make up the United Church of England and Ireland. We need not say, however, that what had occurred elsewhere, the Government did in time consent to erect into a See, that which was then the capital of such of the North American colonies as still adhered to the Crown. The See in question grew by degrees, into two, three, and four; and it has every-where been found, that in exact proportion to the increase of Bishops, has been the increase of inferior Clergy, and of numerous, loyal, and devout congregations.

There was long a pause after the establishment of the first Bishop in North America, which was at length broken in upon by the mission of Dr. MIDDLETON to Calcutta. By and by, the wants of the West India Islands were considered, and in 1824, Bishops made their appearance in Jamaica and Barbados. The same excellent result ensued in the instances as had occurred in other, and in 1836 Dr. BACOT was, originally Archbishop, was consecrated Bishop of Australia. But in this, as in the prosecution of other good works, public appetite has grown by what it fed on; and now from every one of our large dependencies the inhabitants stretch out their hands to us and say, "Deal with us as ye have dealt with our brethren." Up to the year 1839 every effort made to confer the advantages of a perfect ecclesiastical system on the colonies, was made at what is called the public expense. Parliament and the East India Company were called upon to provide the Bishops' salaries, and Government were in consequence slow to take up and promote projects which they could not hope to carry through without bringing the Church herself into collision with such as dissented from her. The system of which the Bishop of LONDON has the merit of being the author, proceeds upon a different principle. The Church, not the State, is called upon to provide means for the extension of her own influence, and the diffusion of her pure principles throughout the colonies. It is of Churchmen, not of Dissenters, that subscriptions are requested, such as shall enable the Government to provide for the settlements in the Mediterranean, New Brunswick, the Cape of Good Hope, Van Diemen's Land, and Ceylon. The Church, moreover, looks still further, and confidently reckons, through the liberality of her sons, on being able to afford a like blessing to many other places. Shall the Church plead in vain? We do not believe it. We are sure that the collections made on the plan which the Bishop of London has suggested, will testify to the zeal and liberality of the members of the Church throughout the diocese.

One word more, and we have done. In a declaration put forth and signed by the whole Bench of Bishops, recommendatory of the project, and accounting for its adoption, there is a sentence which we are bound to quote.

"More active Romanists have already twenty-three Bishops or Vicars Apostolic in our colonies; and it will argue ill for the sincerity and zeal of ourselves, who profess to belong to a pure Church, if we suffer whole provinces, either in habitability or in respect to the same See, to remain any longer without those Apostolic ordinances, which can be secured only by a resident Episcopacy." We shall probably return next week to a subject, which the want of time has not enabled us to handle according to its importance.—*John Bull, Feb. 26.*

Extracts from New Works.

THE BANQUET HALL OF DEATH.

GHOST GOSSIPS AT BLAKESLEY HOUSE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE BUCKNER."

When the party at Blakesley House re-assembled in the evening, Mrs. Dagleish had got such a violent toothache, that she could not tell her story of the Black Knight, and the ghost in the parlour, and the little circle, especially of Mary Falconer, who said "they never were to have it," and seemed to think the toothache had been suborned on purpose to prevent its being told.

"I wish you had it," said Mrs. Dagleish, drawing up her leg; "you would see whether you could talk." "I would talk to you," said the Buckner, "when you would talk any toothache away in half an hour." "Do you think so?" replied Mary, briskly. "What a pity you are not a toothache, I'm sure I'd try." Hugh looked a little disconcerted, and Mr. Carlie, fearing a wispish answer might produce discord, interposed with an offer to supply Mrs. Dagleish's place, by telling them in a story of the ghost story. At these words, all settled themselves for listening. "Mrs. Dagleish put another piece of ginger into her mouth.

"Once upon a time," said Mr. Carlie,—"that's the orthodox way of beginning a nice ghost story,—once upon a time, when knights and their squires used to roam in search of adventures, there was a chivalrous person, who, in a country of Britain, who, accompanied by a faithful follower named Jasper, had his courage put to a test such as few men except himself could have sustained. They were returning home from the Holy Land, (where he had, of course, performed prodigies of valour under the banner of the Cross,) and took for their route the centre of Germany, at that time covered with immense forests, the scene of many a fearful deed of necromancy. Coming to the entrance of one of these forests, just at night-fall, which took away Jasper's stomach for going on.

"Master mine," said he, "hadn't we better remain on the outside of danger? It's better than getting in to the middle of it. Suppose we stay where we are to-night; we shall then have day-light for our work."

"You may," quoth Sir Lindsay, "but I shall not; for I see a light yonder, twinkling like a tiny star between the trees, and doubt not it will conduct me to some hospitable roof, where I shall find a courteous reception." So saying, he put spurs to his horse, and plunged into the thicket, as if he were a black dragoon. "A plague on those lights!" said I, muttered Jasper, following his master, because he was afraid to remain behind; "we paid dearly for trusting to one of them the last Sabbath evening; moreover, I see no light."

"Look!" replied Sir Lindsay, pointing in the direction of it.

"Do look," quoth Jasper, shutting both his eyes, "but protest I can see nothing."

"They rode on in silence for about half an hour, and Jasper, who had recovered his eye-sight, saw more plainly than he wished the little luminous speck glittering before them, which seemed, however, to keep the same distance, notwithstanding the speed at which they were going on."

"Truly," said he, "on might well say it looks like a star, for it is one; and we shall ride long enough before we get to it."

"Silence!" exclaimed Sir Lindsay, angrily; "what's that?"

"What's that?" replied Jasper, pulling up his horse, and holding his breath. "Nothing."

"Did you hear nothing?" "Nothing," replied Sir Lindsay. "I wish I hadn't," quoth Jasper, his teeth chattering as he spoke; "for then—O Lord! what's that?"

"What?" inquired his master, eagerly.

"Lord! it's nothing, a great green bough was flapped in my face, and I declare I thought it was a great cold hand giving me a slap."

"I'll see the end of this, come what may," said Sir Lindsay, urging his jaded steed into a quicker pace.

"It will see the end of us, I guess, muttered Jasper, trying to keep up with his master, and silently commencing himself to all the tutelary saints whose names he could recollect."

"Sir Lindsay continued to ride on, his eye steadily fixed upon the light, and wondering wherefore he approached no nearer to it, when his horse suddenly stopped. He now saw that further progress was obstructed by two huge stone doors, on each side of which stretched lofty walls of the same material.

"Alas!" said he, "here we are at last. Dismount, and give some signal of our presence."

"Yes, here we are at last," quoth Jasper, doing as he was bid; "and now for the beginning of Heaven knows what."

"He groped about for a bell to pull, or a horn to blow, but could find neither; so with the pommel of his sword he struck three heavy blows.

"They waited a few minutes, and then heard the slow, heavy tread of footsteps approaching.

"Who is without?" growled a voice, that hardly seemed to issue from human lungs.

"A Christian knight, bewildered in the tangled mazes of this forest, who craves shelter till the dawn," replied Sir Lindsay.

"That is, provided it will put you to no particular inconvenience," added Jasper, who was most anxious to bespeak a good reception by his politeness, and at the same time suggest an excuse for not opening the door.

"If you be a true knight," replied the voice, "the portals will fly back at your bidding; if you be not, go to the devil."

"Worthy master," quoth Jasper, "I know I am but a fool, with reverence be it spoken to the father that begot me; but for once take a fool's advice. Stone doors that open of themselves can lead to no good; let us show them our backs; there's wretched in them."

"That we shall see anon," said Sir Lindsay, as he alighted; and advancing towards the ponderous gates, he struck three times with the silver cross that surmounted his trusty falchion, repeating at each blow, "A true knight, who has knelt at the Holy Sepulchre, and fought against the Infidel, bids thee open."

"At the first stroke, heavy bars and chains were heard to fall; at the second, enormous bolts were withdrawn; and at the third, the doors slowly rolled themselves back, and disclosed a flight of four or twenty marble steps, on each of which stood a slave, covered from head to foot with black crape, and holding in his hand a blazing torch. At the top, on a kind of throne, which was of ebony, sat DEATH. His outstretched bony arms and ghastly smile seemed to welcome his two adventurous guests.

"Dial!" he said, "what would come of it?" said Jasper, sinking like a reed, and making preparations to remount his horse and be off. Hitherto, master mine, I've followed you—now follow me."

"Hold!" exclaimed Sir Lindsay, sternly. "I move not at your peril, except it be to advance, as I move to do."

Jasper crossed himself, but he could not help muttering, for not a limb of his would stand still. Sir Lindsay paused a moment to survey the scene before him. Even he was somewhat dismayed. A profound stillness prevailed. He looked at the crape-covered slaves: he could not perceive that they breathed; and they were perfectly motionless. Were they living beings, or but the mockery of life, ranged there as fit attendants upon the grim semblance above? Where, too, was he whose voice had answered them? He advanced a few steps—there was a loud groan—it came from Jasper, who now concluded it was his master's determination to go on, and that he must either do the same or remain by himself, a choice of dangers which made his heart sink within him; so for each step that Sir Lindsay took, he took half a one. This, however, gradually brought them to the stone door, when they stood before it, the lights were extinguished, and they found themselves in utter darkness.

"Very pleasant!" quoth Jasper, in a voice which singing-masters call a natural shake.

"We are in the power of evil," said Sir Lindsay, "and must invoke the protection of Heaven."

"Lord have mercy upon me!" quoth Jasper, dropping on his knees, and holding up his hands, as if he were in this infernal place! Holy St. Nicholas be my speed! The blessed Virgin take care of me! The glories—"

"Peace!" cried Sir Lindsay, cutting short the pious aspirations of his faithful but terrified follower. "Seest thou nothing yonder?"

"I see nothing," replied Jasper, turning his eyes slowly in every direction.

"Yonder, as nearly as I can judge in this profound gloom, exactly over the spot where the grisly image of Death sat enthroned."

"Jasper looked again, and then saw a faint streak of silver light, like a silken thread, which gradually assumed the form of a fiery spirit, and hovered at in the air, and presently beheld a scroll behind the light, bearing this inscription, 'COME TO THE BANQUET OF THE DEAD.'"

"A sorry feast that for the living, I trow," quoth Jasper.

"What may this mean?" said Sir Lindsay.

"It means, I fear, that we shall shortly be a supper-table with the King of terrors, who, as you know by advice, we, who have escaped so many perils by field and flood, by fire and tempest, should not have met with this scurvy fate, juggled out of one's life by the foul fiend."

The light had now increased sufficiently to render the marble steps once more dimly visible, when Sir Lindsay perceived that the crape-covered torch-bearers had all disappeared, and that he was alone.

"I will ascend them," said he, "and see whether they lead."

"And I," said Jasper, "with your leave, will remain here till you see whether you want me."

"On, slave!" exclaimed the identical voice which had answered them from within. "At the same time he heard a heavy thump, as from a stout cudgel, upon his shoulder."

"This is most marvellous!" said Sir Lindsay, looking round, and perceiving no one.

"It is most barbarous," rejoined Jasper, who also looked round, to return the blow with interest; for his blood was up at the affront.

"Come that may, I can bear this no longer!" exclaimed Sir Lindsay, and he began to ascend the marble steps, followed by Jasper at a respectful distance, who considered he had no alternative but to advance, or be buffeted by his invisible assailant.

"They reached the top, and the next moment felt it sinking beneath their feet. Their first impulse was to rush down again; but, to their infinite dismay, they discovered that they were standing, in mid-air, upon that portion where they had seen the grisly phantom of Death.

As they descended, they saw gradually open before them a spacious hall, or chamber, hung round with black, and intersected with innumerable doors. Along the centre of this chamber, and extending nearly the whole length, ran a black altar, covered with black drapery, on the head of which, surrounded by shadowy forms continually appearing and fading away, and which seemed to enter through one or other of the many doors that opened from the sides. As they arrived, a venerable-looking man, with a beard that descended to his middle, led them to the head of the table, where Death received them with a smile of horrible delight, and then, with a flourish of his scythe, he said, "I should know that old gentleman," said Jasper in a whisper to his master, who stood surveying the scene with a perplexed but fearless spirit; "I have seen his picture many a time in my grandmother's missal."

"At this moment, a shadow glided past Sir Lindsay, which filled him with grief and amazement. It was the semblance of his own father, but so pale and wo-begone, that it made his heart ache to look upon him. He was about to address it, when the phantom spoke.

"Why art thou here, my son, before thou hast put off mortality? This is the Banquet Hall of DEATH. Here the universal monarch holds his revels, and

receives each moment from the hand of Time his countless victims."

"Hast thou, then, put off mortality?" exclaimed Sir Lindsay.

"Within this hour a wasting fever dried up the current of my life."—"Ah, me! then I shall never see thee more."

"But thou shalt see what no mortal eye, save thine, hath ever seen,—mysteries which I have power to show thee. When we are of the world,—when we walk among the living, we startle at a single death. Behold here the TRUTH OF DEATH, that never ceases, fed by battles, shipwrecks, plague, famine, old age, murder, suicides, disease, accidents. Space and time are here annihilated. There, enters one who while I speak, has been drowned in the Euxine; there, another, who has just expired on the frozen summit of Mount Caucasus; there, a troop of brave spirits, from a field of slaughter beyond the Apennines, who the strife of war still rages; there, the crew of a stately ship that foundered this instant off the coast of Sicily; and there, the babe of a minute old, which but breathed one breath of life, and took its flight. But who can number them? Every spot of the green earth, every valley, every hill, the crowded city, and the sequestered village, the desert, and the forest, have their silent payment yielding tribute. To look on this scene, you would think there was nothing but death; but when we look upon the world, Death is so great a stranger that we never are prepared for him."

"Now mark a mystery of the world. There is but one entrance into life. We quit it by a thousand. Observe those who, in the gloomy evening, wave their hands each—War, Self-Slaughter, Broken Hearts, Intemperance, Madness, Melancholy, Love, Jealousy, Age, Ambition, Pride, Grief, Want, Pestilence, Disease, Gluttony, Fire, Water, Air, Earth, with all the numerous ills and countless disasters that suffice to rob us of that fragile thing called life. As bubbles rise to the surface and burst, so our lives pass and are gone. The world itself is nothing but one huge charnel-house; for, for every created being that moves upon its bosom, a million lie beneath."

"I read your thoughts, my son. Your eye is wandering from door to door to observe which yields the greatest quarry. Have you remarked which yields the least? The door of Broken Hearts has opened only once, and then to give entrance to only solitary victims. The whole world has had but one broken heart within the period which has given Death his thousands. And who was that one? An ill-starred lover? A wronged and forsaken maid? A childless widow? A father, too proud of a darling son, whose name was stained with infamy? No. A usurious Jew, cheated by a Spanish cavalier, who gave him bonds for true gold, and the muck-worm laid him down and died for very grief amid his piled-up money-bags."

"But, see how War fattens the lean ribs of Death!—how they come thronging in from each quarter of the globe! Self-Slaughter, too, whose purveyors are Love, Pride, Ambition, Madness, Jealousy, and Want, sends a goodly train to the banquet-table. War, and despatch their bloated offerings every moment; and Age supplies a constant stream. All the things that are Death's workmen. A loose stone, a rotten plank, a rusty nail, a little venomous worm, a few drops sucked from the green leaf of a wild plant, the dark midnight air, the rays of the glorious sun himself, shall send a goodly train to the banquet-table. What a loss is lost of all for then, what is he?—A loathsome carcass, which the living huddle out of sight, lest it offend their nostrils."

"I have been watching that centre door, said, Sir Lindsay. "It is larger than any of the rest; and yet it seems too narrow for the multitudes that pass through it."

"That," replied the phantom, "is set apart for the exclusive use of those who are sick of being well, and employ physicians to cure them. They are a countless host. Death has no friend like the physician. His pen slays more than the sword."

"Master mine," said Jasper, "the sun is up the birds are singing; and if we would have the first of the morning for our journey, it is time to be jogging."

"Sir Lindsay opened his eyes, and saw his faithful squire standing by his side, with the steeds packed the ground, and impatient to be gone.

"Have we really escaped from that horrible place?" said he.

"What horrible place?" quoth Jasper.

"The Banquet Hall of Death, here I saw and conversed with my father's spirit, and here I saw—"

"Who would have thought now," interrupted Jasper, "that the beautiful bed of moss and green leaves which I prepared for you under this tree at sundown last night would have put such an ugly dream as that into your head?"

"Why, I declare," exclaimed Mary Falconer, addressing Mr. Carlie, "I have had just the same thing myself; and it is nothing but a dream of your own making."

"But is it not what I promised you," replied Mr. Carlie, laughing, "a very nice ghost story?"

"That it is," said Mrs. Dagleish; "and I thought it was a real one, and was wondering how the poor things would ever get out of the cellar. The Major, you managed it uncommonly well, if there is really no truth in it."

"Nay," said Mr. Carlie, "as to the truth of it, you must settle that among yourselves."

"I see, cousin," said the Major, addressing Mrs. Dagleish; "your toothache is no better."

"No; hang the tooth! It was tolerably easy all the while I was listening to Mr. Carlie, and I was coming on as bad as ever. I must go to bed, and wrap my head up in a yard of new flannel."

This caused the party to separate somewhat earlier than usual; but not before the Major promised them a capital story next morning, "founded on fact," in case his cousin should still be unable to tell hers of the "Black Riband."—*Bentley's Miscellany for March.*

MISCELLANEA.

From Bell's New Weekly Messenger.

THE ECCENTRIC DR. RADCLIFFE.—In 1697, on the return of King William from Holland, being sent for by Kensington by his Majesty, he treated his patient with such unceremonious freedom, that he was never afterwards received into his favour. On that occasion, after a long conference and consultation, he thus addressed the king:—"If your Majesty will adhere to my prescriptions, it may be in my power to lengthen out your life for three or four years; but beyond that period nothing in physic can protract it; for the juices of your stomach are all vitiated, your whole mass of blood is corrupted, and your nutriment, for the most part, turns to water." Nor was the King's life prolonged beyond the time predicted; he saw the physician but once again; when, extending his swollen ankles, whilst the rest of his body was emaciated and skeleton-like, said, "What think you of these?" "Why, truly," replied the doctor, "I would not have your Majesty's two legs for your three kingdoms." Many other extraordinary assertions and anecdotes are recorded of him. 1714 he predicted his own death with the same confidence with which he spoke concerning that of others. In that year he declared to several of his friends that it was high time for him to retire from the world, and to set his house in order; for he had notices within which told him that his abode in this world could not be twelve months longer. He died at Carshalton on the 1st of November following, being then in his sixty fifth year. Dr. Radcliffe bequeathed for the establishment of the library which perpetuates his name the sum of forty thousand pounds; in addition to which he endowed a public school, and gave one hundred and fifty pounds for the purchase of the books, and a similar sum for repairs."

The lives and characters of some of our great theologians are sketched with animation and fidelity. We submit the author's descriptions of the fate of Cranmer and Ridley.

THE DEATH OF CRANMER.—"He was committed to the Tower on a charge of high treason, and adjudged guilty at Guildhall, on the 23rd of November, 1543. The Queen (Mary), on his humble supplication, was

pleased to pardon his treason, but this meek act of clemency was followed by orders that he should be proceeded against for heresy, on which charge he was condemned. This sentence was, however, void in law, the Pope's authority being not yet re-established in Rome, and therefore a chamberlain was sent from Rome for Cranmer's trial and conviction. The commissioners met at St. Mary's Church, Oxford, where the archbishop was brought before them. He defended himself with great resolution and ability; when he had concluded, he was cited to appear at Rome within eighty days, to answer in person the charges brought against him. But during this time he was kept in close confinement, and at the end of the proscribed period was declared contumacious, and was in consequence degraded, after which he was prevailed upon to sign a recantation, wherein he renounced the Protestant religion, and embraced again all the errors of popery. Notwithstanding this conquest, the Queen resolved on committing Cranmer to the flames, and the 21st of March, 1556, was the day appointed for the horrible execution, when he was brought to St. Mary's Church, and placed on a low scaffold over against the pulpit. During the sermon, which was preached by Dr. Cole, he wept incessantly, but when at the conclusion he was called on to make a public declaration of his faith, he, with great disappointment of his enemies, renounced the recantation which their artifices and the fears of death had induced him to sign. On this he was dragged from the scaffold and hurried to the place of execution. When the fire was kindled he stretched forth his right hand and held it there, unmoved, till it was consumed, repeating often "This martyr's right hand! This hand is appended after the last of his getting up, he expired with the dying words of St. Peter in his mouth, Lord Jesus receive my spirit!"

TO THE LADIES.—During the last war, when landings, and rumours of landings of the British kept every man's boots and spurs on, and every lady's plated silver spoons, etc., done up in napkins, in the seaboard, it was a custom to burn the napkins, and the spoons, the British were disembarking. All was hazy, confusion and flight. Militia colonels, captains, and other well looks of awful responsibility, and militia privates wished themselves more decidedly and unequivocally private, making at the same time demonstrations of intention to become so. In the heat of the bustle, one notable housewife, however, had her husband's name ranget placed all the provisions in the house in a cooking position, and set a table for forty. Just as her arrangements were completed in came her husband in a perturbation. "What are you doing?" "Getting ready to dine British officers, to be sure." "Madam, you are crazy!" "Not a whit—a good dinner begets good humour, and I am sure the enemy will be appeased after meals of this kind." "The husband looked a little ashamed of his hasty preparations for flight—walked out of the house—rallied his neighbours—and it was unanimously resolved that the town's people should take one glimpse at the foe before they showed their backs. So down they marched, in martial pomp, to the point of danger—A fishing boat taking in water.—*An American Paper.*

THE FOUR CHANCELLORS.—On Tuesday the four peers who sat during the day in the House of Lords to hear appeals (the first time their Lordship have sat this session) had all been Lord Chancellors. They were Lords Lyndhurst, Brougham, Cottenham; and Campbell.

JUSTICE TO WALES.—GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

TO JOHN BULL.

My dear good John Bull, I am so coming up from Bristol on Saturday last by the Great Western Railway. I was so shocked with the injustice done by that Railway to an inoffensive class of Her Majesty's subjects, that, by Plenipotentiary, says I, I'll write to John Bull and he'll see Justice to Wales done!

The injured class consists of all the pretty girls who come over in many a fair barge from South Wales to Bristol, and who, in their way to the metropolis, are allowed an honest calling in town as milkmaids, deedly-assistant-dry-nurse, under-nursery-superintendent-upper-sabbly scrubbers, and so forth. These girls invariably being excessively pretty, it is no wonder that (N. B.) they should feel liable to be asked to marry, and thence, as they usually do not understand five words of language except their own consanguineous Welsh, they have each a natural quite mating up their minds that whenever an English swain shall duly make his appearance to sue for her hand and purse-on, and all that, he will of course be compelled to address her in a very off-hand laconic manner. She is prepared for courtship by signs and hieroglyphics; one word will suffice, says she.

Now, it is not to be thought that John Bull, while versed in many a dead and foreign tongue, must understand Welsh, a home and British tongue; so I need not tell you that the Welsh word "GWR" means husband. Yea! and the very same word "GWR" that the Great Western Railway cruelly uses as the initials to mark that Company signifies a husband in the Welsh language. I leave it then to John Bull whether this is not a grievous wrong, and if so, to see that it is rectified.

Imagine a simple Welsh lady, lovely and marriageable, with a warm heart, seeing all about her fine strapping fellows, each labelled a HUSBAND! it is not enough to set her mad? Justice to Wales! the Welsh nation will not stand it. Think, I say, of the poor artless Welsh girls, seeing tall, comely, healthy-looking, civil, well-dressed men

P O S T S C R I P T.

BOMBAY "COURIER" OFFICE,

2 P. M. TUESDAY, 26TH APRIL 1842.

The following extract from a letter, dated Sukkur the 14th April has just reached us. It appears that General Nott has gained another victory in the neighbourhood of Candahar but the particulars had not transpired at Sukkur on the date of the annexed communication. We regret to find that desertion is becoming frequent amongst the native troops employed in Upper Scinde.

Sukkur 14th April 1842.

"Intelligence has just arrived of another Fight having taken place at Candahar,—General Nott has been victorious but the particulars are not yet known here. Brigadier England is entrenching his Camp at Quettah on a grand scale, for fear of an attack. It is my opinion that the Candahar Force will meet the fate that, that of Cabool did: however, time will shew. The other Wing of the 12th marched this morning for Quetta, tho' the 19th Bengal N. I. have not yet arrived.—I much regret to say that the Sepoys are deserting by fifty at a time.—Will this not frighten the Government and cause them to send more Europeans to this part of the world.—I have it from report, that the leading Battalion in Brigadier England's late Force consisted of 400 men, and were opposed by not more than 500 Affghans;—These Fellows are really a very brave race, and as a proof of it, merely look at this picture, 400 regulars against 500 irregulars: the former compelled to retire with the loss of 2 Officers and 100 rank and file killed and wounded. Nothing but a force of at least 5000 Europeans, will ever retain this country, with honour."

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