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## MILITARY AND NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

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the critique, our attention may be confined this morning.

"A DISABLED OFFICER" writes in so popular a style, and with such an easy mastery of his subject, that no difficulty will be experienced in following his dissertation through its somewhat unaccountable length, and it will be found that he states the following general allegations:—Sir COLIN CAMPBELL might have completed the conquest of Lucknow when he first attacked it, instead of retiring; when he retired, though he did indeed come off victorious to General WINDHAM's relief at Cawnpore, he might have spent much less time in preparation before he marched upon Lucknow for a second and final assault. This delay, or aggregate of delays, is distinctly characterized by the "great historical pivot" on which turns all that happened and is likely to happen. The "relinquishment of Lucknow" was the fact which gave "the whole tone and character to the subsequent war and present positions," for the enemy, previously beaten and dispirited, took courage anew, a native Court became established in Oude, "with a defiant kingdom and a great army," fortifications arose round the capital, and to render our inaction still more deplorable, the cool weather was slipping away and the season destructive to European troops coming on. This is the substance of the indictment. We now ask our readers to observe, first, the circumstances under which the retreat from Lucknow was made; and next, the actual consequences of this movement, as ascertained by experience and described by the "DISABLED OFFICER" himself.

We run no risk of error or exaggeration when we say that the one great object of anxiety in this country—the one achievement for which all classes were waiting in painful suspense, was the relief of the Lucknow garrison. It was not the mere capture of the city or the dispersion of the rebel force; not the conquest of Oude, nor even the chastisement of the main body of the mutineers, for which the public at that moment was so painfully solicitous. Our feelings had been harrowed by the massacres of Delhi and Cawnpore, our expectations were strained to the utmost pitch by the knowledge that at Lucknow Englishmen and Englishwomen were still holding out with more than mortal resolution against a similar fate, and the one prayer of the nation was that a repetition of the past horrors might be spared us.

Be it remembered, too, that HAYLOCK had vainly attempted, though with almost superhuman energy, to cut his way through the besiegers, that he and OUTRAM together had only so far succeeded as to become besieged themselves, and that hitherto all efforts had been barely sufficient for relief, and utterly ineffective for rescue. It is well known, too, in India that in Sir COLIN's own opinion the first advance upon Lucknow was made without a sufficient force for conquest, and that it was undertaken solely for the sake of the garrison, which was believed to be in even greater extremity than was actually the case. What, then, was the result?

Why, that the British Commander reached Lucknow, penetrated its streets, carried off the entire garrison, and sent every woman and child in perfect safety to Allahabad, in the face not only of the enemy at Lucknow, but of the Gwalior mutineers, then collected at Cawnpore. The great object, therefore, of the first operation was triumphantly achieved, and if we do not say anything of the very timely support with which Sir COLIN's return provided General WINDHAM at Cawnpore, it is because we can well dispense with the argument. "A DISABLED OFFICER" may fancy that the British General made rather too great a point about the escort and conveyance of this living convoy, not only from Lucknow to Cawnpore, but from Cawnpore to Allahabad, but the public at home entertained different opinions. When it was known here that this heroic garrison had been placed actually and absolutely in safety beyond the reach of their foes without the loss of a life, the gratification was infinitely greater than any mere military success could have occasioned.

Take now the next point, which can be settled with even still greater decision. Lucknow might, as the Officer thinks, have been taken and held in November. This, however, is at best an assertion which may or may not be well founded, but which certainly admits of no proof. As things happened, it was not taken till March, so that the enemy had four whole months to fortify their position, and the heats of summer were by so much the nearer at hand; in fact, "the last of the cold weather," we are told, "passed away before anything was done." One would expect, therefore, that the critic would proceed to show how the city was found all but impregnable, how the rebels had acquired an extraordinary amount of resolution, and how the British Army suffered frightfully in consequence. This would be the natural course of proof—the only evidence, in fact, by which the charge against Sir COLIN's tactics could be sustained. What, however, do we find? What are the facts, as related in the very words of the complainant? Here they follow:—"Lucknow was ours, with small loss to us. The enemy, notwithstanding all that was said about his 'pluck' and 'defiance,' was seen 'flying in crowds,' and we entered into easy and absolute possession of the city. But how about the cost of the conquest?—how about the condition of the army, which only 'at last came into action' with 'the warm month of March'?" The force at Lucknow after the victory was, says "A DISABLED OFFICER," "magnificent," the Artillery was "quite unexampled in Asia," the European Cavalry was "very strong and fine," and, finally, the British Regiments present in the city—those very battalions which had been led against so terrible an enemy in such destructive weather,—"were 'all of the fullest strength, unimpaired by any sufferings or losses, thanks to 'the fine climate and Sir COLIN's good care of them.' As if, in short, to destroy his own case utterly and altogether, our military critic proceeds to remark that, great as had been the dangers of the delay, "nothing very serious had occurred; and 'at last the great gathering of the enemy in the city, which they had fed their vanity to a 'pitch which made their fall more bitter, had been dispersed with an ease and manifestly excessive superiority and superfluity of force which 'sufficiently showed our power. In fact, the rebels 'moved away, and broke up dispirited and disheartened in an excessive degree.'"

We venture to think that "A DISABLED OFFICER" has now disabbed himself. If in India the "public disappointment was excessive," we can assure him that the impression in this country was of a decidedly opposite and far more agreeable character. We rejoiced most of all when the garrison was rescued. We were well enough pleased to hear that the city had fallen, though we had never much misgivings about that event; but when we learnt that the result had been achieved with scarcely any loss, and that Sir COLIN's good care had saved his soldiers harmless, the public gratification was immeasurably enhanced. Whether the British General has really, as the hostile critic asserts, had to pay extravagantly afterwards for a caution unnecessary at first, we shall see on a future occasion.

There is no question on which the public apathy is so astonishing as that of the Private Business of Parliament. Votes are not to be got, telling speeches are not to be made, no operations

cheers to be extorted; but we venture to say that more good is to be done to the public, more salutary changes to be effected in the practical business of the Session, by a radical reform in the manner of conducting Private Business than by all the Reform Bills—Tory, Whig, or Radical—with which we are every Session threatened. With scarcely a practical grievance left to correct,—at least, of those that interest the great mass of the people,—we are perpetually urged on by our leading statesmen to organic changes which are to lead us no man knows whither. Parliament is to be subjected to the most sweeping changes in its public capacity, while it is allowed in the carrying on of its Private Business to practise a system of vexation, extortion, and delay discreditable to the institutions of any civilized country. What aggravates the grievance is that the persons out of whose capital the House thus unmercifully levies contributions are exactly those most worthy of consideration, because they come forward to expend their money on objects of public advantage. Those out of whose resources an enormous tax is levied in the shape of Parliamentary fees, who have to pay consented to argue twice that which ought to be maintained witnesses at the first hearing, and to maintain witnesses in town while committees are dawdling over their work at the rate of two or three hours a day, to prove twice over facts the greater part of which nobody disputes, are the projectors of docks, railways, harbours, water and gas companies, and almost every other salutary and public spirited enterprise. In other countries these things are done by the State. In England the State does not even stand neutral, but by unnecessarily increasing every expense, delay, and uncertainty, throws the most formidable obstacle in the way of their completion. If taxes on the raw material of manufactures are justly and universally denounced, surely such heavy discouragements imposed on the first stage of beneficial public enterprises, the aggregate of which has made England what it is, are equally impolitic and unphilosophical. If there must be a denial of justice somewhere—if we cannot do without extortion, delay, and uncertainty—a position which we, at least, are not prepared to admit—let us throw the burden rather on private litigants than select for our victims those persons who come forward in order to spend their money on works the only condition of whose success is that they contribute to the public advantage.

The first question which naturally occurs to any one who considers the heavy burden imposed on enterprise of every kind by the present mode of administering the Private Business of Parliament is, "Why is any such Private Business required at all?" Why are persons embarking in certain kinds of enterprise obliged to obtain the assent of the Legislature before they are allowed to embark their capital in the speculation which they are anxious to execute? Why must a man go to Parliament for leave to compete with a railway or a gas company, while he may compete with an iron foundry or a cotton mill without asking such permission? Is Parliament a better judge in one case than in the other? How is any tribunal to judge whether it is for the public interest that such competition should take place or not? What are the principles it is to apply? What are the facts it is to require to be proved? If the establishment of a particular kind of business gives in any case even a qualified monopoly in such a trade, why does it not give it in all, and why is the capital which has been embarked in a grocer's shop not entitled to the same protection against competition as the capital which has been sunk in waterworks or in gasworks? On the ground of preventing undue competition the interference of Parliament is, on the clearest principles of political economy, indefensible. The maxim of laissez faire has no more legitimate application than in the case where Government seeks to take upon itself the province of the individual, and to decide for him what he may wish with so much more propriety be left to decide for himself.

Formerly Acts of Parliament were required for the purpose of incorporating and limiting the liabilities of adventurers in public companies, but the recent Joint-stock Companies Act has done away with this necessity, and by so doing has materially diminished the amount of Private Business in Parliament. The only other ground on which the interference of the Legislature can be supported is that the persons engaged in the enterprise will require for its completion compulsory powers to take the lands of others, and that such powers should only be granted under the direct sanction of an Act of Parliament. This is a proposition which we apprehend no one will be disposed to deny; the only question is whether a general Act of Parliament might not lay down the terms on which such powers should be granted by putting the applicants to the expense of a Parliamentary contest as a necessary preliminary to any enterprise requiring the power of taking another person's land. The question is one of immense importance, and merits more consideration than it has received. One exception strikes us at once. There may be cases where the owner of land has an interest in it so peculiar and so special that no money could compensate him for its loss or its alteration. It is clear that no general Act could be applied to such a person without an unpardonable breach of the rights of property, and that where such a case can be made out the owner is entitled to be heard, not indeed, against the project altogether, but against the appropriation of any part of the land possessing such peculiar value for the purposes of its execution. There are also cases, such as fortifications and harbours, where the public interest would be compromised if any company were armed with a compulsory power of taking land. But, with these two exceptions, practically of no very great extent, it does not appear why any company formed for any object calculated to benefit the public which has given proof of its bond fide intention to carry out the work by incorporating itself for the purpose, and paying into the hands of some public officer a stated proportion of its capital, to be forfeited if the enterprise is not executed, should not be allowed to take whatever land be required for such enterprise, paying for it an ample compensation to its proprietor. The maxim that private rights give way to public needs especially applicable to such a case as this, nor does it seem any very formidable invasion of the rights of property that such land may be wanted for any public work, and possesses no special or exceptional value in the eyes of the owner, may be taken for that work on a full and satisfactory compensation. Nobody pretends that the right to retain private property is indefeasible; every Railway Act, every gas or water company's Act, overrules it. The question is why that right may not be qualified once for all under proper conditions by a general law, instead of being nominally inviolable, but really at the mercy of any one who has money and patience enough to obtain a Private Act of Parliament? It is just like the argument of last year. When it was asserted that marriage was indissoluble, it was replied that it was dissolved every year by Acts of Parliament, and that it was mere prudery to deny the power of doing that by a public law which it was every day's practice to effect by a private one.

Had such a law as we have been contemplating been in force from the first origin of the railway system how different would have been the position

of the railway interest at this moment! We could at the worst have only had competing lines in every part of the kingdom, as we have now, though the probability is that the knowledge that there was no limit to further competition would have acted as a very salutary check to railway enterprise. On the other hand, the railways would not now be paying interest on seventy millions of pounds expended in futile Parliamentary contests, some glaring scandals would have been saved, and it would no longer be said with truth that the railways had made the fortunes of everybody except their shareholders. Nor would the proprietors of railways be, as they are now, by virtue of their proprietorship, the owners of a never-ending law suit, which drains into the pockets of attorneys, counsel, engineers, and witnesses the money which ought to pay dividends on undertakings which have turned out so much more exclusively public benefits than their unfortunate proprietors intended. The subject is a new one, but we should like to hear some good reason why a general Act should not be passed laying down the conditions on which powers necessary for great public works should be granted without delay and without expense, and thus the greater part of private Parliamentary business be swept away and abolished.

It would be counted against us for a hideous blunder if after the lapse of a generation or two it were found that England had improved the breed of her horses, her cows, her sheep, her swine, her poultry, and everything animal or vegetable, but had allowed her breed of men to fall into hopeless degeneracy. But that is what is meant when we are told that the increase of England and of the whole British Isles is in her towns, and not in her villages, and that our town population is stunted in figure, impoverished in blood, enfeebled in body, and generally sunk in the scale. It is not so with those classes that can take care of themselves. In spite of several changes in our habits not favourable to health, it is believed that the gentry, and all who live where they like, enjoy life, and take care of themselves, are at least as strong, as handsome, and as healthy as the young Masters and Misses of the last century. Some people tell us that we do too much railway travelling, and that frequent jolting and express trains are bad for the unformed structures and delicate tissues of the youthful heart, brain, and nerves. Others suspect that England will be a long time getting over the course of calomel administered by fashionable doctors during the first thirty years of this century. Then, the London season, our ill-ventilated theatres and concert-rooms, the nightly purgatory of rooms crowded with human beings in a cubical space of air about one-tenth of that declared by scientific men to be necessary to existence, and the practice in many households of always eating and never taking a meal—these and other absurdities may certainly claim their victims, not in deaths, but in pale cheeks, drooping forms, and enervated minds. But, on the whole, we have no doubt our nobility, gentry, and middle classes could turn out as great a number of fine young fellows ready for any work, and fine girls who would make them very good wives, as at any past period. It is not in these quarters that we fear degeneracy. It is in the working population. The population of these islands flows into the towns and there decays. As we have already observed, the fact is slightly compensated and largely disguised by our increasing immunity from violent and epidemic disorders, and the diminution of those diseases which cut down the healthy, the young, and the strong. A return of mortality comforts us with the assurance that the average of deaths is so many per ten thousand less than it used to be. But whatever the truth or the worth of that statement, we seem to care little for it when we learn that increased longevity now means a longer continuance of a lower life. We may have gained in quantity, but we have lost in quality.

"Very well," we could almost hear some people say, "what of this?" A man need not be six feet high, and two across the shoulders to sit at a loom, to turn a lathe, or carry light parcels. Civilization wants light men. You want 6 feet 2 inches for a footman, but not for a groom, a coachman, or even a stevedore or sailor, much less for the innumerable petty functions of a greatly subdivided manufacturing system. They don't want six feet to vault over counters and run up steps at a draper's shop, or indeed at any shop. Then, as for health and strength, these things have social and moral as well as physical aspects, and if one has to admit a man into one's household, or if one has to keep five hundred of them in order on the larger and rougher scale of a factory, then there are obvious reasons for preferring a smaller and tamer variety of the species to handsome and lusty Anakim, Titans, and sons of the gods. The man is one for mules, or even donkeys, not for race-horses, or the animals between horses and elephants employed by our brewers. Even all this may be readily granted; yet mistakes and oversights are never so certain as when we discover reasons for reconciling ourselves to facts intrinsically bad, unsatisfactory, disagreeable to our better feelings, and contrary to the just laws and right tendencies of Nature. No argument whatever should induce us to acquiesce entirely in the degeneracy of the greater part of our race. No nation that was ever worth anything acquired readily in subjection to a stronger and wealthier Power, even though on the inducement of material prosperity. Independence has fought hard for its rough mountain fare and its weather-beaten chalets, though promised houses and palaces and food at Kings' tables. But this degeneracy is an actual subjection. Nay, the very argument which reconciles many people to the fact is that it does subject, subdue, and abase the vigor, rudeness, and turbulence of the lower orders to an industrial system which is, on the whole, for their good. They must be made slaves. It is best for them. As slaves, they ought not to be stronger, handsomer, and more high-spirited than their masters.

We need not reply to this view of the subject, because few of our readers will want a reply to it. The fact is one that speaks for itself. Englishmen have only to realize what is meant by a general degeneracy, and they will feel impelled by every feeling of their nature to deprecate it with their whole heart and soul. How we have taunted our neighbours across the Channel, and all Europe—mild German, slavish Russian, and all the natives of southern climes—for their want of strength, stature, courage, and endurance! Have we given one moment's consideration either to the part that Nature may have had in the fact, supposing it to be such, or to her wisdom in adapting men to their condition, their political state, or their employment? In comparison with others, it has always been our custom to assume that an inch in height or across the shoulders, a greater volume of muscle or girth of limbs, a quicker and brighter nature, and everything which, as far as it goes, gives one man an advantage over another, is a positive gain, and something worth trying for, if it lies in our power. Do we not wish our children to be tall, strong, and handsome, and even ambitious, daring, resolute, lively, and all that used to be summed up in the single word

"generous?" Yes, we all do. But what we wish for our own children, if we care for our country, we wish for our people and our nation. In the abstract we all have this wish. Could the nation be polled it would declare with one voice its horror of national degeneracy, and its wish that everything should be done which may arrest it. For our part, we have no doubt whatever that this low state of vitality, this condition, which can neither be called disease nor yet health, neither infirmity nor strength, and which, in the nature of things, must tend to something worse still, may be arrested. It is a pest which the earth gives out to the air, and the air to our lungs. Other causes there are, well known to those whose business it is to hunt out labour to its lair, poverty to its refuge, or crime to its den. There is not a cause which is not remediable. But this one cause, the impurity of the atmosphere, is the scourge of cities, and it may be stopped at its origin—in the ground itself. It is a purely mechanical question—that is, of calculation, money, and time. But it can be done, and we should grudge no amount of millions on the work of making our cities really fit for the people that live in them.

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in the affair of the WELLINGTON MONUMENT, has taken a leaf out of the book of Mr. SAMUEL SLICK, the clockmaker of Slickville. That eminent tradesman was in the habit of relying upon what he called "human nature" whenever he came across reluctant customers. He did not ask them to buy—that was not what he meant—nothing could be further from his thoughts than to palm off his wares upon persons who were not anxious to possess them. All he wanted was leave just to stick up one of his clocks in a corner of the cottage—it was for his own convenience he made the request—until he should happen to be passing by again. The fact was, his wagon was overloaded with clocks, and he would take it as a particular favour if the careful New England housewife would just let him put one up, and oblige him further by pulling up the weights every day. The end of this invariably was, that when Mr. SLICK did pass that way again, and called in to take back his property, he found the cottagers had become so accustomed to the clock that they would not part with it. This is pretty much what Lord JOHN MANNERS has been about with the WELLINGTON MONUMENT. He has seen quite enough of the temper of the House and of the country to be aware that his little plan for illustrating his Edifice by the erection of a fourth-rate Monument to the memory of the Great DUKE would scarcely be palatable. He does not, therefore, ask to be allowed to erect the Monument, but to make an experiment. His present proposal is, that Mr. STEPHENS should erect a full-sized model of the Monument afterwards to be erected—if approved—on the proposed site. Then, if Mr. STEPHENS is not found equal to the task, we shall have an opportunity of leaving the execution of the Monument to some more practised hand. It was this suggestion which no doubt gave to Lord JOHN MANNERS his majority of 18 the other night. The members felt, or imagined they felt, that they had not committed the country to any definite course. It would be time enough to say that the design was unworthy of the nation, and of the hero in whose honour it was to be erected, when they were convinced with their own eyes that there was a mistake. Meanwhile they might enjoy the lazy consciousness that something had been done which might lead to good, and could not possibly commit the House irretrievably to an erroneous course.

Nothing being done! Is nothing done when a foolish youngster throws his first Napoleon on the green cloth at Homburg? Is nothing done when a man accepts his first batch of scrip, which it will, of course, be possible for him to throw overboard at any time? Is nothing done when a country gentleman requests the opinion of a friendly architect as to the propriety of throwing out a wing from his square, comfortable, hideous, red-brick residence? Nothing done when in an unguarded moment you offer your arm "for a turn" to the fair ISABELLA under the eye of her parent, the Lady LACKLAND? To come nearer to the point, was nothing done when the foolish Trojans took the first haul at the wooden horse, pregnant with two or three regiments of Grecian Grenadiers? Or, nearer still, was nothing done when the yet more foolish Londoners allowed that wonderful statue of the Duke of WELLINGTON which now stands opposite Apsley-house to be set upon that arch, "just to see how it would 'look'?" Every man in London who was so far gifted with prescience as to know that May followed April, and that Saturday generally came close upon the heels of Friday, knew well enough that when that brazen abomination had been once hoisted up to its bad eminence it would never be removed. The clock had been fixed. The SAM SLICK of that day felt that his work was done. Ridicule, shame, indignation, laughter, fear, would all be thrown away upon that fearful fixture. As it was supposed, and as it was announced over and over again before the fact, there stands the horse at the present moment, on the horse there sits the rider, and on the rider is the inevitable cocked-hat. With reference to this matter we are hopeless of change. The present generation of Londoners must make up their minds to tolerate that brazen caricature. Until the arch brimmed to pieces, and the hero comes down in a summary manner upon the head of the porter who inhabits the monument, there he will remain. But surely we might from the past take a hint for our guidance as to the future. We have been once so grossly befuddled in a matter of this kind that even gentlemen dull of apprehension might just indulge a suspicion that what has happened once may happen again. And it surely will happen unless such a pressure of public opinion is brought to bear upon Lord JOHN MANNERS as will compel him to retrace his steps, and to secure the best available talent for the market for the execution of this great national Monument. It must not be forgotten that, even if we are not wholly dissatisfied with the model when it is put up for public inspection, we are only passing judgment upon what we do see, not upon what we do not see. Mr. STEPHENS's design may be a very respectable one. It may not violently offend the eye, nor grossly violate propriety; but might not other designs and models have been obtained from artists of more established reputation which would have been far more beautiful, far more worthy of the nation, of the age, and of the Great DUKE?

While we express so strong an opinion upon this point, we are most anxious not to say one word which should be really disrespectful to Mr. STEPHENS, or calculated to injure him. Is it not the plain truth that he is an artist of great promise, but that there are also in England other artists who have actually done what he hopes to do? Would Mr. STEPHENS inscribe his own name upon the list of the six most eminent sculptors of England if he were asked his own candid opinion of the position which he has yet attained? Why, then, is he chosen for this work? After all it has come to this—that the selection of this gentleman for the execution of this great work is a matter of arbitrary choice. Lord JOHN MANNERS had the profession to choose from,

and he has *mero motu* chosen a man who has yet his reputation to establish. Mr. STEPHENS, to be sure, competed, but he did not gain the first prize. Among the competitors, again, the names of the leading sculptors of England were not found. If the real point were to visit these gentlemen with the heavy displeasure of His Majesty's Government for insubordination, no doubt the course pursued might be very good and proper. The misfortune is, that in punishing them we punish ourselves. Because they declined to fall into the terms which we proposed, we bind ourselves to accept the work of a comparatively untried man in place of such a work as the masters of the art might have designed for us. During the recess we propose to keep this subject before the public attention, for it will indeed be a grievous thing if we cannot in the end obtain a better decision from the nobleman who, unfortunately for the public interests, is charged with the responsibility of this affair. Here, in a word, is the common sense of the question as it stands at present:—a sum of 20,000*l.* is forthcoming for the erection of a Monument to the late Duke of WELLINGTON. We have also an apt site for the Monument in the Consistory Chapel of St. Paul's.

We have at least half-a-dozen sculptors of high eminence in the kingdom. Not one of these is to be employed upon the work, which is, by the arbitrary decision of the Commissioners, to be intrusted to a gentleman to whom we wish every success in his profession, but who is comparatively unknown.

**LATEST INTELLIGENCE.**

**THE FÊTES AT CHERBOURG.**



## THE ROYAL VISIT TO CHERBOURG.

COWES, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Her Majesty and the Prince Consort left Osborne House soon after their visit to the Emperor of the French at Cherbourg.

The ships of war which were appointed to form the escort to Her Majesty left Spithead at an early hour this morning, a proceeding necessary for the consequence of the very superior speed of the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert. This necessity can be easily understood. Her Majesty and the Prince Consort left Spithead at an early hour this morning, a proceeding necessary for the consequence of the very superior speed of the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert. This necessity can be easily understood.

The Osborne Royal yacht, the Black Eagle, bearing the Admiralty flag, with Sir John Pakington, First Lord of the Admiralty, on board, left Spithead at 10 o'clock, and proceeded up the Solent, and for a considerable distance the company had an opportunity of witnessing the contest for Her Majesty's Cup by the yachts of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Her Majesty's yacht, the Victoria and Albert, was seen from Cowes coming down the Roads at 20 minutes past 12 o'clock. The Royal standard was run up to the mast of the Royal Yacht Squadron-house, and the vessels in the Roads soon followed the example. Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, accompanied by the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Northumberland, and the Duke of Cambridge, were on board the Victoria and Albert. The yacht was accompanied by the Duke of Devonshire, the Duke of Northumberland, and the Duke of Cambridge.

The Royal yacht then steamed up the Solent towards the Needles, and it was expected that she would be off Cherbourg by about 4 o'clock this afternoon. Her Majesty's yacht was in attendance upon Her Majesty.

Last night the members of the House of Commons arrived from London at Southampton and proceeded on board the Pera, lying in the Southampton Roads, for the purpose of proceeding to Cherbourg. The members of the House of Commons arrived from London at Southampton and proceeded on board the Pera, lying in the Southampton Roads, for the purpose of proceeding to Cherbourg.

The urgent steamship, Commander McDonnell, followed the squadron of Lord Lyons, and arrived at Cherbourg yesterday morning. The urgent steamship, Commander McDonnell, followed the squadron of Lord Lyons, and arrived at Cherbourg yesterday morning. The urgent steamship, Commander McDonnell, followed the squadron of Lord Lyons, and arrived at Cherbourg yesterday morning.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. G. Grey started on Tuesday night in his sailing yacht Portsmouth.

THE CHERBOURG FLEET.—SOUTHAMPTON, Wednesday.—Lord Malmesbury, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, embarked from the docks this morning, at half-past 10, on board the Royal Yacht, Master Commander Sir John Pakington, to accompany Her Majesty to Cherbourg. The Admiralty steamer Vivid, Captain Allan, left the docks to-day for Cherbourg, with dispatches for Her Majesty.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO CHERBOURG.—The *Moniteur de la Flotte* gives an account of this visit from the earliest period of the Emperor's reign. The Emperor's visit to Cherbourg is clearly known as Harold, King of Denmark. William the Conqueror was there several times. The Emperor's visit to Cherbourg is clearly known as Harold, King of Denmark. William the Conqueror was there several times.

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## THE CHARITY CHILDREN AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

The "Handel Festival Orchestra" at the Crystal Palace presented a more imposing sight than yesterday afternoon, when it was filled with no less than 4,000 children from the metropolitan charity schools. The anniversary meeting in St. Paul's Cathedral has often been described to our readers as a spectacle which only London could furnish, and which naturally excited the astonishment of every foreigner who was fortunate enough to witness it. When, therefore, it is stated that the gathering in the Crystal Palace yesterday exceeded in number the annual assembly at St. Paul's, the surprise—consisting of children from the same schools, for, of course, no child could be accommodated in the metropolitan cathedral—occupying the galleries immediately contiguous to the orchestra, the magnitude of the *coup d'oeil* may be readily imagined.

Between the rehearsal and the regular performance refreshment was provided for the children in the north wing, which is just now fitted up with preparations for the forthcoming great poultry show. The confectioners and good milliners and milliners, and the vendors of whole-some unobnoxious milk and water. These were supplied in the old picture gallery, whence the juvenile "connoisseurs" received the music of the orchestra. The children were seated on the floor, and the orchestra was placed on the stage. The children were seated on the floor, and the orchestra was placed on the stage.

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## THE LATE CAMPAIGN IN INDIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I have lately returned from India wounded and worn out, and shall probably not again see this country. But I look with much interest to the future of the land in which I have served for several years, and to the fate of companions left behind there to whom I am bound by many ties. I am but a plain regimental officer, and have had none of the advantages of staff situations and peeps behind the scenes. Perhaps I may be considered heterodox, a free thinker, a traitor to the military hierarchy which I so long have served. But in England every man is free, and even a soldier becomes an Englishman. I have on my way home scribbled something of my particular view of this season's campaign in India, and of our situation there. My object was principally my own amusement, and the information of some very dear friends from whom I might hope to find sympathy. But one friend has written me, saying that the imperfections are not to be laid to the account of

A DISABLED OFFICER.

DUBLIN, JULY 15.

SIR COLIN CAMPBELL'S CAMPAIGN.

The history of public events is seldom read aright till we have a key to them in a knowledge of the character of the principal actors. We are also often misled by confounding the personal with the public character of distinguished men, for there is frequently a wide difference between the two characters. The man who in his personal conduct is brave and prompt is sometimes, as a public man, pusillanimous and vacillating; or he who has physical courage is not always possessed of moral courage. The present Commander-in-Chief in India presents in some respects singular varieties of character, which, as a man, are very generally understood. As a man he is hardy and brave, frank, dashing, and unaffected; he seems certain of a real soldier; as a General he seems certain of a real soldier; as a General he seems certain of a real soldier.

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teghur and completing our possession of that part of the country, by the order to proceed towards Lucknow. Towards Lucknow this column had accordingly gone. From the other direction there had arrived at Cawnpore several of the British regiments, originally destined for China, and of the regiments released from Bengal by the arrival of orders to take their place. A strong force occupied Allahabad, the remainder were fresh and ready at Cawnpore, and more were daily arriving by rail. Within Lucknow itself was the considerable garrison, formed by the union of the forces of Inglis, Havelock, and Outram. In short the Commander-in-Chief took the field with a force such as had not been since the commencement of the outbreak, when the better part of the work seemed to be already done, and a great army, despatched from England to our aid, and their landing in Calcutta, formed a reserve exceeding our most sanguine hopes. At Lucknow there were no fortifications, no signs of any obstinate resistance; there were but the rebels whom Havelock had so often beaten, and nearly conquered.

Non content with this, our moral prestige was immense. We had been everywhere successful; in no single instance had any one of our outposts, however weak, been successfully stormed by the mutineers; and the single occasion on which an act of treachery had occurred, our small party had been able to carry off a large trophy. We on our part had carried on the war with a dash and vigour which struck terror into the Asiatic mind. In the fearful attack which had burst upon us the best qualities of Englishmen had been developed in a degree of which their countrymen will ever be proud to remember. We had carried on the war with a dash and vigour which struck terror into the Asiatic mind. In the fearful attack which had burst upon us the best qualities of Englishmen had been developed in a degree of which their countrymen will ever be proud to remember.

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public. It did, however, so happen that a second column from the old Delhi force coming down country with carriage and supplies, and with the Futehghur forces, defeated them, captured most of their guns, and completely drove their teeth. So it was only left for the Commander-in-Chief and his army to march into Futehghur, after no more than a petty skirmish, and find the enemy. They were there joined by the new and vigorous Chief's army. There was then in and around Futehghur a force of which any prince might be proud. All India was breathless to see its achievement. What did it now do? Agra simply nothing. The Commander-in-Chief paused and paused at Futehghur, and at last it became known that it was determined to order down a siege train from the Agra magazine. That train might be expected at Cawnpore early in February, and then we should go to Lucknow. But January was gone. Yet indeed, another, and the very best months was lost to us; and some were who began to get seriously alarmed about the delay. Still the climate was delightful, the military pomp exhilarating, the grand attack on Lucknow impending, and even yet most people had faith in the Chief. But the Chief was not waiting why, if the siege train was wanted, it was not thought of before? Either the Commander-in-Chief had formed plans, or he had not. If he had, why was not the train ordered in November instead of in January? If he had not, he ought to have done so. Most assuredly the Chief's famous reticence was a veil which concealed little, and as if, in fact, we had been but drifting. Certain it is that the Chief being at Futehghur with the grand army in January, it then, and then only, occurred that another train was wanted, and that further operations must be deferred for another month.

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January was gone and February came—the last month of the good weather. The Commander-in-Chief and his army retraced their steps to Cawnpore, and he was there stronger was his force, and tremendous his artillery, for the new siege train had arrived. Did the Chief now act? No, not a bit of it—no foolish people should not hurry him. Day after day, and week after week, and still the long rows of white tents stood, while the sun got warmer and warmer, till at last February was actually gone, and still nothing was done. By this time, in truth, those whose faith in Sir Colin was not very strong could stand it no longer, and they began to wonder why the Chief did not move, and the cold weather was gone, and the heat was upon us, yet the campaign not really commenced.

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