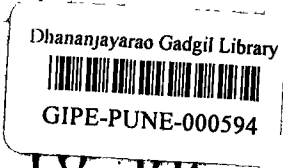


⑩

Rare section: 594

INDIA
AS IT OUGHT TO BE



UNDER THE NEW CHARTER ACT.

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.

BY

MAJOR WILLIAM HOUGH,

BENGAL RETIRED OFFICER,

MANY YEARS A DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,

Author of several Works on Military Law—of the “First Campaign to Cabool under Lord Keane”—
of the “Chief Political and Military Events in India from 1756 to 1849,” &c., &c.

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ADDRESS.

TO THE FRIENDS OF INDIA.

It is pleasing to an old Indian Officer to observe that the affairs of India are now becoming of considerable interest and importance in Great Britain; indeed in the United Kingdom. The period of the renewal of the lease for a further term in the hands of the East India Company appears even to be regarded by the apathetic as an event of some moment; for in 1874 the East India Stock will cease, and the profit and loss question is deserving of consideration. Those who have retired with the means of enjoying *otium cum dignitate* may think it a bore to be reminded of a residence in India during the hot winds;* others have no appointments to ask for, and get reconciled to the dull monotonies of a London Club life; or like to rusticate in the country, or to pass their time in travel, to drive away *ennui*. But even great legislators have not those reminiscences, — they have grave and important

* Thermometer at 96°—steady strong wind.

evidence to reflect on; many may not have read the despatches of the late and celebrated Duke of Wellington. As to subjects connected with the natives, the Author will quote His Grace's sentiments, which deserve to be printed in golden characters:—"I would* sacrifice Gwalior, or every frontier of India, ten times over, in order to preserve our credit for scrupulous good faith."

THE AUTHOR.

Oriental Club, London.

May, 1853.

Despatches, vol. 3, p. 168. Letter to Major Malcolm, 17th March, 1804.

In regard to the chapter 2nd, on "Suttee" and "Infanticide," I think it my duty to make my most sincere acknowledgments to Lieut.-Col. J. Ludlow, Bengal Army, for his kind assistance. India is much indebted to him, for his very great exertions in the cause of humanity.

THE AUTHOR.

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THE
RENEWAL OF THE CHARTER ACT.

THE renewal of the Act of the Charter for granting to the East India Company a continuance of the government of India for a further period or term of years, is naturally a subject of great importance to the Court of Directors, and to the British public. Having arrived in Calcutta in 1806, and having served forty years in India, I have been enabled to possess some experience in Indian affairs, aided by a very extensive reading of the reports during many years.¹ Several previous writers have written largely upon many very interesting subjects regarding British India. I propose to touch upon several points which I deem of very great importance, and particularly on two or three subjects which are deeply interesting to the natives of India, and which affect the faith and honour of the British parliament. In doing so, we must not lose sight of the fact, that upon our conduct towards the natives of British India will depend the feelings of the natives of the independent states towards us. I have the means of saying much upon these subjects; but I have reasons for not doing more here, than allude to the provisions contained in the Acts passed in 1813 and 1833².

At the Meetings held lately at Manchester, there have been some strange doctrines broached. The *first* proposition is, to cause evidence to be taken regarding the defective state of the roads in Western India, and as to the imperfect state of the

(¹) See Appendix (D.)

(²) The reader is referred to Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, vol. 26, p. 1017; 53 Geo. III, cap. clv., 21st July, 1813; and 3 & 4 Wm. IV, cap. lxxxv., 20th August, 1833.

growing of cotton¹ in India—the *second* is, that 10 per cent. of the revenue of India should be set aside, for the purpose of making roads, canals, etc.—the *third* is, that the said portion of revenue should be placed under the *control* of the said Manchester etc. Association—the *fourth* and latest proposal is, to take counsel as to the best mode of carrying on the Government of British India; but the desire is, not only to govern the East India Company, but to govern also the natives of India.² The improvement of their *social* condition at Manchester railroad-speed, would be a very dangerous experiment, and looks like an attempt to do that which was deprecated by *Mr. Wilberforce* and others in 1813. I must recommend a special *Manchester* Committee to be sent out to India to make enquiries, instead of the *Government Commission* proposed last year, to take evidence. The natives of India will thank the Association for their sympathy, but, as to *religion*, they desire not their aid. It is said that the Ministry desire to bring out the new Act this Session. The present Charter Act expires on the 30th April, 1854. It is to be hoped that the native petitions will be well inquired into. Though some may dispute the right to complain of the working of the Government of India, the natives of India have clearly justice on their side, in *urging* that laws or acts shall respect their prejudices, which the parliament in 1781, had conceded to them above seventy years ago.³

¹ See Appendix (E) regarding American Cotton and Slavery in that country.

² When the East India Company were "Merchants trading to the East Indies," many of the Directors were Merchants and Bankers, etc.—We require men chiefly who have *Indian* knowledge.

³ 21 Geo. III.; see also 37 Geo.

APPENDIX.

A

TRADE OF INDIA.*—IMPORTS.

Year ending.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.
30th June 1835,	£4,261,106	£1,893,023	£6,154,129
,, 1843,	7,603,360	3,443,291	11,046,694
,, 1850,	10,299,880	3,396,807	13,696,696

EXPORTS.

Year ending.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.
30th June 1835,	£7,993,420	£194,740	£8,188,161
,, 1843,	13,551,824	215,796	13,767,621
,, 1850,	17,312,299	971,244	18,283,543

“These are striking results in so short a period. In fifteen years the imports show an increase from £6,154,129, to £13,696,696; and the exports from £8,188,161, to £18,283,543. And, as may naturally have been expected, England, more than any other country, has been benefited by this extraordinary increase of trade. In no market has our trade increased so rapidly. In 1834, the entire value of our exports to India was, £2,578,569, and in 1850, it was £8,022,065.”

“Under the Government of Lord *Dalhousie*, much has been done to create new means of irrigation and of mutual intercourse. Canals extending over hundreds of miles, have been cut; railways have been commenced, and are being vigorously prosecuted under the guarantee of the Government; and some of the most extensive rivers, such as the *Godavery* and the *Indus*, are being converted into important channels of trade.” “But by far the most important improvement of late years, has been the new settlements of whole districts of countries for fixed periods, varying from twenty to thirty years, by which land is held at a moderate stipulated rent on lease, and the cultivator secured in all the improvements he makes. This new system has already been extended to large districts, especially in the north-west; and wherever it has been adopted, has acted like a charm upon the condition of the people.” “Let the attention of the Government of India be confined to these great duties, and all the rest may be entrusted to private enterprise; and whether the people grow cotton, and if they grow it, whether they export it or con-

* The *Economist*, March 26th, 1853, p. 334.

sume it, or whether they grow rice, or sugar, or indigo, will be determined by far sounder principles than the directions and interference of the wisest governments." See also Table (F).

B.

No. 4,595. Fort William Foreign Department, 7th of December, 1852. Notification.* "The Most Noble the Governor-General in Council has much satisfaction in publishing for general information, the following translation of a proclamation, issued by the Maha Raja of Joudpore, distinctly prohibiting the rite of Suttee in his territory."

Translation of proclamation regarding Suttee issued to the Hakim† of Pergunnahs in the Marwar territory.

"In compliance with the desire of the Honourable East India Company, it is ordered that Suttee should be forbidden. In case any one wishes to be a Suttee, the Jageerdars, and Boomeeahs, Rajpoots, and Ryots, all must be responsible for their own houses, that neither Suttee nor Sumanđ takes place. Should a Suttee occur, a fine will be levied on Jageerdars, 200 Rs ‡ on their Reh,|| (per 1,000), and from Ryots according to their property. A Perwanah to this effect is to be prepared for each village. It is the order of the Maha Raja."

"By order of the Most Noble the Governor-General of India in Council."

(Signed) C. ALLEN.

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

C.

ABOLITIONISTS. (Twenty.)

Jypoor.
Kotah.
Jhalawar.
Boondee.
Jessulmœre.
Banswarra.
Purtabgurh.
Deongurpore.
Kerowlee.
Sirhoee.
Dholepore.
Ameer Khan.
(Mahomedan).*
Jodhpore.
Hyderabad.*
Indore (Mahr).
Rewah. †
Rundilkund.
Gwalior (Mahr). †
Cashmœre.

NON-ABOLITIONISTS. (Fifteen.)

Meywar (Oodeepoor).
Ulwur.
Bikaneer.
Kishengurh.
Bhurtpoor, (Jaut).
Baroda (Mahr). †
Katteewar.
Bhopal.*
Cutch.
Dhar.
Sawuntwarree (Mahr) †
The four protected Sikh States.
Twenty Abolitionists (Jodhpore since joined).
Fifteen Non-Abolitionists.

* Calcutta Gazette, 8th December, 1852, p. 1540.

† Judges, or Chief Magistrates.

‡ Burying alive.

|| £20.

|| Dues paid to Government, or to a feudal Chief.

* Mahomedans.

† Mahrattas (Mahr).

D.

- 1834 Tanjore Creditors.
- 1835 Imports and Exports.
- 1836 Law Commission.
- 1838 *Carnatic and Tanjore.*
- 1838-42 Finance.
- 1838-43 Sindh.
- 1839 Produce of India.
- 1839-40 Afghanistan.
- 1840 Customs in India.
- 1840 Acts.
- 1840 China War.
- 1841 Military.
- 1842 Law Commission.
- 1843 Afghanistan.
- 1844 Treaties.
- 1845 Supreme Court of Madras.
- 1846 Army of India.
- 1846 Sikh War.
- 1847 Indian Accounts.
- 1847 Raja of Sattara.
- 1847 Law Commission (Two).
- 1847 Lahore Durbar.
- 1847 The Salt Monopoly.
- 1847 Indian Railroads.
- 1847-49 Punjab War.
- 1847 Cotton.
- 1848 Cotton.
- 1848 Sugar and Coffee Planting. (8 Reports).
- 1848 Irrigation of the Delta of the Godavery.
- 1848 Teak Forests, Report on.
- 1848 Hypothecation of Goods.
- 1848 Customs' Duties.
- 1848 Insolvent Debtors.
- 1848 Railroads (3rd Report).
- 1848 The Mint of Calcutta.
- 1848 The Rajah of Sattara.
- 1848 The Baroda Case.
- 1849 The Registrar of the Calcutta Supreme Court.
- 1849 The Raja of Sattara.
- 1849 The New Mutiny Act.
- 1849 Suppression of Slavery in the Persian Gulf.
- 1149 The Punjab.
- 1849 Idolatry in India.
- 1850 Steam Navigation between Suez and Bombay.
- 1850 Law of Marriage in India.
- 1850 Hypothecation of Goods.
- 1850 Report on Sugar Cultivation.
- 1850 Sanitarium at the Neilgherries.
- 1850 The Juggernath Pagoda.
- 1850 The Roman Catholic Church in India.
- 1850 The Raja of Sattara.
- 1850 The Law of Adoption in India as to Natives.
- 1851 Public Works in India.
- 1851 Idolatry in India.
- 1851 The Law of Marriage in India.
- 1851 Indian Accounts.
- 1851 Customs and Post Office Duties.

- 1851 Trigonometrical Survey in India.
 1851 Irrigation of Lands in India
 1851 The Raja of Sattara.
 1852 The Burmese War.
 1852 Evidence regarding the Renewal of the Charter Act. (Two Volumes)
 1852 Education in India for the Natives.
 1852 The Cultivation of Sugar in India.
 1852 The Baroda, or Col. Outram's Case, (2 parts) or 2281 pages.
 1852 Conduct, etc., of the Ameer Ali Morad. (Sinde)
 1853 Statistical Papers relating to India, (East India House, 28th March, 1853).
 77 of these, 35 large, and 40 Small Blue Books, 1834 to 1853).
 53 do. large, from 1773 (including the years from 1756) to 1833.

—130

The Volumes contain an enormous amount of information—which few have looked into—*seriatim*.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Accounts, Indian, 1847, 1851. | Law of Marriage in India, 1850, 1851. |
| Acts, 1840. | Madras Supreme Court, 1845. |
| Adoption, Law of Natives, 1846. | Military, do. 1841. |
| Affghanistan, 1839-40, 1843. | Mint of Calcutta, 1848. |
| Ali Morad (Sinde), 1852. | Mutiny, New Act, 1849 |
| Army of India, 1846. | Railroads, India, 1847, 1848. |
| Baroda Case, 1848. | Roman Cathohe Church in India, 1850. |
| Do. and Col. Outram, 1852. | Produce in India. See India. |
| Burmese War, 1852. | Public Works, 1851 |
| Calcutta Supreme Court's Register, 1849. | Punjab, War, etc., 1847-49, 1849. |
| Carnatic and Tanjore, 1838. | Salt Monopoly, 1847. |
| Charter Renewal (Evidence), 1852. | Sanstannum, Neilgherries, 1850. |
| China War, 1840. | Sattara, Rajah, 1847, 1848, 1849. |
| Cotton Reports, 1847, 1848. | 1850, 1851. |
| Custom's Duties in India, 1840, 1848. | Sikh War, 1846. |
| Do. and Post Office Duties, 1851. | Sinde, 1838-43. |
| Education in India, 1852. | Slavery, Suppression of, in Persian Gulf, 1849. |
| Finance, 1838-42. | Statistical Papers, 1853. |
| Hypothecation of Goods, 1848, 1850. | Steam Navigation between Suez and Bombay, 1850. |
| Idolatry in India, 1849, 1851. | Sugar and Coffee Planting, 1848 |
| India, Produce of, 1839. | Do. Cultivation, Report, 1850, 1852. |
| Imports and Exports, 1835. | Tanjore Creditors, 1834. |
| Insolvent Debtors, 1848. | Teak Forests, Report, 1848. |
| Irrigation of the Delta of the Godavery, 1848. | Treaties, 1844. |
| Do. of Lands in India, 1851. | Trigonometrical Survey in India, 1851. |
| Juggernath Pagoda, 1850. | |
| Lahore Durbar, 1847. | |
| Law Commission, 1836, 1842, 1847. | |

A great proportion of these Volumes are regarding the products of I. d. a. etc.

E.

AMERICAN COTTON AND SLAVERY.

An American Planter, a Physician, said the English abolition of slavery in the West Indies "was a very small affair—a local disease, far removed

from the heart of the empire, unconnected with the interests, and adverse to the feelings and habits of the people generally." "Now," he said, "slavery with us is an internal disease, that affects the whole system. It cannot be suddenly expelled, it must be gradually removed." "Slaves becomes extinct before their labour ceases to be profitable. At present England supports it too well, for that to be the case."

"We supply England with cotton, the cultivation of which, employs the majority of our slaves. Should England see her own interest sufficiently to abandon her restrictive policy, and allow her colonies to develop their resources, we should probably lose our best customer, since she possesses a vast extend of land suited to the growth of cotton, in various parts of her dominions, especially in India, where a dense population might be turned to good account in cultivating it, who would take her manufactures in exchange. Thus by extending the freedom of her own subjects, she would most effectually diminish slavery with us."—(*Marianne Finch*—"An Englishwoman's experience in America," p. 312, 1853.)

F.

The Earl of *Derby* said in his speech in the House of Lords, (*Times* 3rd.) 2nd April, 1852, regarding the East India Company's Charter.

	Tons.
Tonnage of British Ships between this country and India—	
<i>arrivals</i> in 1834-35, were	108,000
In 1849-50	252,000
Departures in 1834-35	83,776
Do. 1849-50	280,897
Imports* 1834-35, in round numbers 61,000,000lbs.	5,000,000
Do. 1849-50,	12,000,000
Exports in 1834-35	8,000,000
Do. 1849-50	18,000,000

See, Table (A) ante.

G.

PUBLIC WORKS.†

1. New trunk-road from Calcutta to Delhi, and Lahore and Peshawur.
 2. The Bombay and Agra road.
 3. The Calcutta and Bombay mail-road.
- 1st. The trunk-road from Calcutta to Delhi, and thence to Peshawur (commenced about 1836), is 1423 miles in length, viz. :—

	Miles.
Calcutta to Delhi	887
Delhi to Kurnal‡	78
Kurnal to Loodiana	124
Loodiana to Ferozpoore	74
Ferozpoore to Lahore	50
Lahore to Peshawur	210
	1,423§

* The last year, for which there was then a return.

† Statistical Papers relating to India.—Statistical Office, East India House, 28 March, 1853, p. 81. There is a Map.

‡ It is *Kurnal*, not *Kurnool*.

§ Add 239 miles of road from Jubbulpoor to Mirzapoor.

2nd. The Bombay and Agra road was commenced under Lord *Amherst's* administration in 1840. The length of the road is 734 miles, viz

	Miles.
Agra to Indore	370
Indore to Akberpore	51
Akberpore to Sindwa	43
Sindwa to Bombay	270
	<hr/>
	734

This road is not macadamized, except in parts. It cost £243,076, or about £330 per mile.

3rd. The formation of the Calcutta and Bombay mail road (commenced 1840.)—

	Miles.
Calcutta to Ahmednuggur (via Sumbulpore, Raepore, and Nagpore)	1,002
Ahmednuggur to Poona	74
Poona to Bombay	94
	<hr/>
Total	1,170

<i>Summary.</i>			
	Length in Miles.	Cost.	Ann Repairs
Grand Trunk Road, Calcutta to			
Peshawur	1,423	£1,423,000	£50,000
Calcutta to Bombay	1,002	500,000	35,000
Bombay and Agra Road	734		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	3,159	2,166,676	90,000

Provision made for Cross Roads.

CANALS.	
Ganges Canal	810 miles
From Hurdwar to Allyghur	180
Allyghur to Cawnpore	170
Allyghur to Humeerpoore	180
Branch to Futteghur	170
Ditto to Boolundshuhr	60
Ditto to Coel	50
	<hr/>
	810

The whole volume of water from the rivers of the Himalayas, available for irrigation, has been estimated at about 24,000 cubic feet per second in the dry season, viz. —

Ganges	6,750
Jumna	2,870
* Ravee	3,000
* Chensab	5,000
* Sutlej, at Roopa	2,500
* Jhelum	4,000
	<hr/>
	24,120

*The Punjab rivers.

A surface of 24,000 square miles may be ultimately irrigated by these rivers.

The whole stream of the Jumna has been diverted from the main channel into two canals, called the Eastern and Western Jumna Canals.*

	Miles.
The length of the Western Canal, with its branches, extends to	425
That of the Eastern	155
	580

The Ganges Canal.—Its main object is the irrigation of the North-West Provinces.

Total cost estimated is £1,555,548, of which—£722,556 have been expended. The Ravee Canal (Punjab) in progress. Its length, with the branches, will be 450 miles.

Madras.

Extensive system of Canal irrigation on the Godavery, Cauvery and Kistna rivers.

RAILROADS.

Bengal.

The sum of £2,000,000 for the Railroad from Calcutta to Raj Mahal, has been sanctioned under contract at 5 per cent. for the first £1,000,000, and 4½ per cent. for the second £1,000,000.

Madras.

The sum of £500,000 sanctioned at 4½ per cent.

Bombay.

An experimental line of railway from Bombay to Calian. The capital of 1,000,000, at interest of 5 per cent.

The East India Company's Guarantees (on £3,500,000) amount to a payment of £167,500 yearly.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.†

There is, between Calcutta and Kedjeree,‡ a system of Electric Telegraph communication, measuring, with its ramifications, a distance of eighty-two miles, at a cost of £5,200.

There will be established an entire line of telegraphic communication, measuring 3,150 miles, connecting Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Agra, Simla, and Lahore; the cost is estimated at £35 per mile, or £110,250 for the whole distance.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH TO ALEXANDRIA, IN EGYPT.§

A company for the establishment of this project has been formed in France. It is intended, (says the *Patrie*), to continue the Submarine Telegraph which

* Near Culpee there are sandy flats, which render the river shallow. They might be passed by a Canal, like the Sax Gotha, in Sweden

† Statistical papers, p. 85.

‡ At the mouth of the river Hooghley, fifty-two miles S. by W. from Calcutta.

§ United Service Gazette, 14th May, 1853.

comes from England to France, by land to *Nice* and Genoa, reaching *Spezzia* at the bottom of the gulf of the same name. The new line will then start from that point over *Corsica* and *Sardinia*, to the coast of *Algeria*, as far as the regency of *Tunis*. This part of the work will be finished in two years. At the end of that time, the line will be prolonged along the shores of the *Mediterranean* to *Alexandria*. The cable will be at the bottom of the sea, and the points chosen for crossing are very favourable. From *Spezzia* to *Cape Corse*, the maximum depth is only 220 metres, in the Strait of *Bonifacio*, it is only eighty, and from the extremity of *Sardinia* to *Bona*, on the coast of *Africa*, it is only 327. The average depth is much less considerable. This will be the means of expediting the communication of intelligence some days earlier, and make it more regular up to a certain point.

THE TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.*

An arc of the meridian has been measured from *Cape Comorn* to the sub-*Himalaya* Mountains, a distance of 1,460 miles. This important work was brought to a successful termination in 1840. In 1847 the home authorities authorized the *India* Government to extend the survey to the extreme limits of the Empire (*Peshawur*). The area triangulated to the end of 1848 amounted to 477,044 square miles, at a cost of £341,278, or about 14s. per square mile. The completion of the work may be expected in three or four years. The triangulation supplies an accurate basis, upon which the revenue surveys are constructed.

Revenue Surveys	£235,655
Ditto Settlement..	337,069
	<hr/>
	£572,724

The revenue surveys of the lower Provinces of *Bengal*, (that of the Upper, being complete), and also of the *Bombay* territories, are now in progress, and ultimately the plan will be extended to the whole of *India*.

The great Atlas of *India*, on a scale of four miles to an inch, is in the course of preparation.

KURRACHEE MOLE AND ROAD

Among the public works constructed in *Scinde* may be mentioned the *Kurrachee Mole and Road*, at an expense of £30,961.

COST OF PUBLIC WORKS IN INDIA.†

The public works, roads, bridges, embankments, canals, tanks, and wells, executed in *Bengal*, *North West Provinces*, *Madras*, *Bombay*.

	Grand Total.
Year 1837-38 .. .	17,35,913 Rupees
1849-50	31,01,815 "
1850-51 .	33,46,511 "
1851-52 (estimated)	69,35,290 "

RIVER COMMUNICATION.‡

On the river *Ganges*, steam vessels for goods and passengers have for many years been established. They convey troops on urgent occasions. Consider-

* Statistical papers, p. 86.

† Statistical tables, p. 88, to latest accounts received.

‡ Lord W. Bentinck established a steamer in 1832, but in 1834, steamers were available to the public.

ble sums have been laid out to remove the obstacles to navigation below Allahabad.

Steam vessels have been established on the river *Indus* for the conveyance of goods and passengers from *Kurrachee** to *Mooltan*, and it is intended to extend the line to *Kalabagh*† on the *Indus*, and to *Jhelum*‡ on the river of that name.

EDUCATION.||

The sum now disbursed from the gross revenue for educational purposes amounts to between £70,000 and £80,000 per annum.

OPIUM.§

Receipts from the revenue from the Opium revenue from the year 1834-35

1834-35.....	£728,517 ⁴
1839-40.....	316,666
1840-41.....	819,635
1841-42.....	955,093
1842-43.....	1,478,046
1849-50.....	3,309,637

Number of Chests of Opium sold in* Bengal or exported from Bombay.

	Bengal.	Bombay.	Total.
1840-41.....	17,858.....	16,773.....	34,631
1848-49.....	36,000.....	16,509.....	52,509

A Bengal chest contains 164 lbs. or 80 Seers. The cost to Government rupees $3\frac{1}{2}$ per Seer, or 280 per chest. The Malwa chest contains 140 lbs.**

COTTON EXPORTED FROM INDIA TO GREAT BRITAIN AND OTHER PLACES.††

Years 1834-35.....	326,875,425 lbs.
„ 1849-50.....	775,469,000 „

PRICES AT LIVERPOOL.

1834-35.....	5d. to 6 ³ / ₄ d.	7 ¹ / ₂ d. to 9 ³ / ₄ d.
1849-50.....	3d. to 4 ¹ / ₂ d.	4d. to 6 ¹ / ₂ d.

Pague.—In consequence of Mr. *Cobden's* question to *Sir C. Wood* (President of the Board of Control, on the 20th May, 1853,) in the House of Commons, as to the annexation of *Pegue* by the Government of India, I have referred to the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*.†† It comprehends the Delta of the *Irawati* (*Irawadi*) and the lower course of the *Sá-lwén* river, and extends from *Ré* (*Yé*) in 15° 13' *North*, and 98° 4' *East*, to *Sedwé*, or *Sandwé* (*Sandoway*), in 18° 23' *North*, and 94° 17' *East*. “The area extending in one direction from

* Just before the battle of *Mecanee*, Feb. 1843. Her Majesty's 41st Regiment were conveyed by steamers from upper *Scinde* to *Kurrachee*.

† About sixty or seventy miles below *Attock*.

‡ Thirteen marches from *Attock*.

§ Statistical papers, p. 77.

¶ Do. p. 75.

¶ At 2s. the *Sicca* rupees. In 1835 the Company's rupees were in circulation.

** A better weight, as it dries down to 133 lbs., the Chinese peecul.

†† Statistical papers, p. 69.

‡‡ Vol. 23, p. 165, (*Pegue*) by *Crawford*, (1829) pp. 463, 434. It contains an able account of *Burmah*, *Pegue*, etc.

the sea to the promontory of Kyaok Taran, just above Nyaong Suré, on the Irawati (*Irawadi*), and in the other from the river Bassaen to that of the Martabán, constitutes (Crawfurd 434) the natural country of the Talains, or Natives of Pegue, and measures about 27,300 square miles.* It now forms a part of the Burman Empire, and is divided into the districts of Bassain, Hansawati, and Martaban."

"About 20,000 Talains emigrated from Pegue, when it was restored after the peace to the Birmans, but even including them, the rich province of Martabán has not five inhabitants for one square mile."† We could not *agam* give up the Peguers to the tender mercies of the Burmese. Alompra obtained possession of Ava from the Peguers in 1753. In these wars the French favoured the Peguers, while the English supported the Birmans. In 1754 the Peguers were defeated in an attempt to retake Ava. In 1755 Alompra defeated the king of Pegue's brother; after which the Peguers deserted Bassaen. In 1757, Alompra attacked the city of Pegue. The Peguers revolted. In 1760 Alompra died. On his death Namdojee Pran succeeded. He died in 1764. He was succeeded by his brother Shembuan. He, in 1765, sent an expedition against the Siamese with partial success. In 1766 the Burmese took the capital of Siam. In 1767‡ the *Chinese* sent an army of 50,000 men from the Western frontier of Yunnan,|| which advanced as far into the country as the village of *Chiboo*, where they were hemmed in by the *Birmans*. The Chinese were attacked, and wholly destroyed, except 2,500, whom the Birmans sent in fetters to the capital.

We are to keep Pegue, and of course Martaban, Bassaen, and Rangoon. Mr. *Cobden* may rest assured he is mistaken in supposing the population of Pegue to be anything like 4,000,000 of people, which would be about 140 to the square mile, there may, probably, be 30 to a square mile. As the Chinese have of late years migrated to several countries, perhaps numbers may leave the Chinese province of Yunnan. In the year 1325, the Emperor of India (Mohammed Toghlaq)§ "sent an army of 100,000 men through the Hémaláya mountains to conquer China; but when the passage was effected, the Indians found a powerful Chinese army assembled on the frontier." The Indians, reduced in numbers, etc., were forced to retire, owing to the want of provisions, and the approach of the rainy season. The rains checked the Chinese who pursued the Indians. "So terrible were the calamities of their retreat, that at the end of fifteen days scarcely a man was left to tell the tale."

The vulnerability of our position towards Nepal has been spoken of by a gentleman of a high position at the East India House. At the Peace of 1816 we had taken half of the territories belonging to the Goorkhas. During the Sikh war of 1845-46 the Rajah came to the plains, it was said to be on account of sport, but he brought many troops with him; the Resident accompanied him. The Deputy Governor of Bengal detached an European regiment to Dinapore, and other arrangements were made. There was a plot discovered at Patna, and certain letters were found at Katmandoo regarding the said plot. There is no doubt that *entrenched camps* opposite to the passes would become necessary in case of any serious war in the North West Provinces. We should thus command the *Terrace* (or low country), the principal source from which the Goorkhas obtain their grain, &c.

* Nearly the size of Scotland (29,167 square miles). Pegue, if not of an irregular figure, would have 44,265 square miles. The Provinces ceded by the last war are said to be equal to 33,800 square miles. (Vol. 23, p. 177.)

† Crawfurd, p. 482. The population of the ceded provinces were stated, altogether, a one and a half inhabitant to a square mile. Mr. *H. H. Wilson's* Narrative of the Burmese War (1824-26) of 1852 shows a large increase of population.

‡ Burman Era, 1131.

§ The city of Ava is about half way between it and Martaban.

§ Elphinstone's History of India, 1841, vol. 2, p. 60.

The first Burmese war cost about £10,000,000 too much! It was a necessary war. At the peace between England and France, in 1783, Admiral Suffrein, on his return to France, in 1784, told Louis XVI. that the best mode of invading India would be by obtaining possession of Aracan.* By the possession of Pegue, reaching to the north as far as Prome, we possess an additional defence for Aracan. We protect Siam by the annexation, as Pegue lies between Siam and the Burmese territories. We gain possession of the teak forests. By having the command of the river, and the possession of Rangoon, &c., we shall command not only the trade of the country, but of the country which supplies the Burmese with rice!

The importance of Egypt to India is very great. I have before stated† that during the Sikh War (1845-46), it was said a proposal was spoken of to obtain the Pasha's consent for troops without their arms, being allowed a passage through Egypt. It has been proposed to form a route through Arabia by a canal‡ from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, thence overland to Basra, and then to have steamers to run to Bombay by the Persian Gulf, etc. This has been suggested in case Egypt failed us. Many think wars are likely to take place in a few years. The author of the the "Struggles of Nations," reckoning sixteen years from the year 1843, prophecies that in the year 1864, after many battles, the great battle of "ARMAGEDDON" is to be fought near the Euphrates.¶

Wars have been expensive, notwithstanding the opinion of his late Majesty George the Third. Some sixty years ago Dr. Watson (then Bishop of Llandaff) who was a chemist, had made some improvements in making gunpowder. At a levée, the king said he understood that the bishop had made the said improvements, upon which the bishop replied, "I take shame to myself for having so mis-spent my time." "Pooh! pooh!" said the king, "my Lord, the more expensive you make wars the less we shall have of them." Mr. Cobden may be assured that the present Burmese war will not be so expensive as that of 1824-26. It cost about £500,000 last year, and in 1853 will very likely be finished. The total cost will be, probably, about £2,500,000. Then he must recollect the teak forests, and that we shall have the means of doing a great deal of good to the country—open up a new trade, defend the Peguers from the horrid Burmese, and protect the Siamese. We shall be able to introduce into England the Pegue ponies, which are very beautiful animals.‡

In the India Reform Pamphlet, No. IV. p. 6, it is stated there are 398,918 troops kept up by the native Princes of India, besides the contingents and the British troops,¶ paid for by 53,000,000 of people. This amounts to 132 to 133 persons to pay for one soldier. But why do these princes keep up all these troops? The accounts of the troops in the service of the native princes must be taken cum grano salis. We find that Abul Fazel, in 1582, gave the numbers following for the provinces.—

	Cavalry.	Infantry.
Bahar	11,415	449,350
Bengal**	23,330	801,158
	34,745	1,250,508
		34,745
		1,285,253††

* My Political and Military Events in India, 1756 to 1849, Vol. ii. p. 124.

† Ditto, Vol. i. p. 224.

‡ The levels near the Dead Sea have been taken, and the country is to be examined.

¶ Revelations, chapter xvi. verses 12 to 16.

§ A fine opportunity for sending some of those beautiful creatures for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the other Royal Princes and Princesses.

** Grand total, 726,758.

†† The amount at the Capital for the whole province is given usually by Abul Fazel, in the Aeen Akhwee!!!

††† The province of Orissa, included in the Institutes of Acher.

The revenue was :—

Bahar	Sicca Rupees	53,47,985
Bengal	„	1,49,61,482
Total		2,03,09,467

This would absorb all the revenue, and give sixteen rupees (or £1 12s. 0d.) for each soldier per annum. The troops for Agra, Allahabad, Bahar, Bengal, and Surhind, amounted to 2,127,593, with a revenue of 4,17,76,439 sicca rupees. This would give Rs. 19-10-0 for each soldier, or about forty shillings a year, absorbing the whole revenue. For Lahore* the amount of troops is stated at 480,566. We know that many of these Infantry were only *Pradas*, or foot men, in fact watchmen (*Chokeedars*). The whole account of *Abul Fazel* appears to be a romance.

It is said that the employment of a certain portion of the population of India does good, inasmuch as it provides for a portion of dissolute persons. After the Pindaree and Mahratta War (1817-18) a number of the former were located in Rohilkund, etc., and became quiet subjects. The sudden discharge of a number of Sepoys in 1802, shortly before the Mahratta War of 1803-4, was a very impolitic measure, for these very men fought against us at the battle of Laswaree (1803).!!

† At 162,000 square miles, and 300 persons per square mile, we should have one man in thirty-seven a soldier.

THE END.

ERRATA.

- P 18—text, line 12 bottom, for “bad cities,” read “*crises*.”
 P. 26—note 3, line 4, for “*Little*,” read “*Littler*.”
 P. 27—par. 2, line 8, for “Governor-General,” read “Governor” of Bengal
 P. 42—line 8, for “*Paosa*,” read “*Poosa*.”
 P 42—line 2 from bottom, for “land heads,” read “sand heads.”
 P 43—line 12, for “acclimated arrival,” read “animal.”
 P 44—line 2, for “Ferozshah,” read “Ferozshah.”
 P 45—line 6, for “horses, and the other horses,” read “169 horses, and the other 212 horses.”
 P. 56—note 1, for “Pannipuk,” read “Panniput.”
 P 57—line 9, bottom, for “be much surplus,” read “so much surplus.”
 P 63—line 3, after “as in our army,” add “formerly.”
 P 84—line 17, for “£1,910,” read “£191.”
 P 92—line 2, for “1718,” read “1781.”
 P. 99—text, bottom, for “besides, etc,” ending East India Company, read “Salt is now.”
 P 113. note 4, for “and is now,” read “and is now equalized.”

W. HOUGH.