

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

From the Watchman.

We must say that, while we rejoice to hear the voice of mercy making itself impressively heard, we cannot approve all the arguments and statements to which appeal has lately been made. The reaction in favour of the Sepoy is as excessive as was the earlier movement against him. The most monstrous of his offences are denied, and the entire character of his rebellion palliated. Where, it is asked, are the women and children who have been mutilated? Will any lady or her relatives, send to the newspapers an authentic account of the outrages she has suffered? If such evidence is required, we may be satisfied that nothing like it will be produced, except perhaps some dark hints in a few posthumous memoirs published when this generation has passed away. There is a double ignorance of human nature shown by all who require living examples to be produced of the foulest deeds which have been committed. Those who dismember children and dishonour women do not permit, or do not spare, spectators who are likely to tell the tale. If by any chance life and reason survive such atrocities, the public ear will never be entrusted by the victims of them with such fearful memories. There are indeed witnesses to some of the very worst facts alleged, but these witnesses are natives, and their testimony, it seems is not admissible. So much is it now the fashion to throw discredit on all reports prejudicial to the Sepoys, that the massacre of the men, women and children who came down the Ganges from Fattyghur, and the equally barbarous and treacherous murders of the remnants of the Cawnpore garrison, would be denied if it were possible. But as it is impossible they are simply never mentioned. Of NANA SAHIB himself so little is said in this country that he might be a myth. In India the impression of recent horrors has not so soon faded, and that is the reason why our soldiers refuse quarter. It is not that they have been forbidden to show mercy by their officers or by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL; want of moderation towards the rebels is not one of the faults imputed to Lord CANNING. His lordship has been looking out to find a penal settlement for the prisoners, but he has not yet been troubled with them; those who fled from the field were sabred or bayoneted by the soldiers, and those who were caught lurking about the villages were tried by court-martial and hanged or blown from the cannons mouth.

We must be careful, while pleading for mercy in future, not to give such a representation of the past as will throw a stain upon the British character. On three distinct grounds the rebellious Sepoys merited death. Their offences combined all the elements of treason, mutiny and treacherous bloodshed. State law would have capitally condemned them for violating their allegiance, military law for rising against their officers, criminal law for their murders and other offences still more detestable. But surely nine or ten months are enough to glut vengeance, and justice, restrained by mercy, may now be permitted only to make a selection of the worst criminals. The danger to British rule in India is almost over, the war is narrowed to a campaign in Oude, and that part of the population who have there taken up arms against us are to be distinguished from the Sepoys who have fallen back upon that kingdom as their last stronghold. We cannot but admit that MAUN SINGH and the talookdars of Oude have drawn the sword from motives of patriotism. They rebelled to obtain a restoration of their far from unquestionable rights. Technically they are traiters, they have incurred the guilt of civil war, and they have identified their cause with that of Sepoys who now oppose us in the country which to many of them is their native soil. But the people of Oude have not eaten the salt of the Company and then mutinied against the flag under which they took service. They, and even the Sepoys who have fled into their country, are anxious to separate themselves and their cause, which they feel to be now desperate, from the inexorable atrocities of the tiger Bithoor. Of him some recent information appears to have been obtained. We are told that, "according to the natives, he was still in Oude, but in the last extremity of terror and despair. Deserted by, or having dismissed, all his followers but a few Mahratta Irregular Infantry, he wanders about the country with such precipitation and impatience of delay that, in the expressive native phrase, 'He dines in one place and washes his hands in another.' By thus constantly shifting his position, and by equally constant changes in dress and accoutrements, he seeks to lessen or to counteract the increasing chances of capture by an enemy against whom he knows that he has sinned too deeply to be forgiven." On the other hand, MAUN SING and his retainers are said to be asking for terms, and sending in women and children whose lives they have preserved. It pleads much in their favour that they showed the same mercy at the commencement as well as the close of the struggle. On these accounts, and for the sake of our common humanity, we have reason to expect that this, which we hope may be the last campaign of the Indian Rebellion, will be distinguished from those military operations which have preceded it as much by the clemency of the British as by the complete and decisive success with which we may say that they may be crowned.

ARRIVALS OF REFUGEES FROM LUCKNOW.

Among the passengers by the Colombo were the following from Lucknow:—Lady Inglis (daughter of the Lord Chancellor, and wife of the late Commandant at Lucknow Brigadier-General Inglis) and three children; Mrs. Bruene and four children, Mrs. Ruggles, Mrs. Aphorpe and two children, Captain Lawrence, Lieutenant Foster, and Lieutenant Cook. Great interest was, of course, excited to catch even a momentary glimpse of Lady Inglis, who we are happy to say, looked well and cheerful, despite of the sufferings and privations she has been called upon to endure. Much regret is felt at the loss of her ladyship's diary of the seige, in common with nearly all the baggage of the passengers, by the wreck of the ill-fated Ava steamship. Lady Inglis was welcomed on board the steamer by her brother (Colonel Thesiger), sister, and cousin (Captain Tilling, R.N.); while others of the Lucknow heroines were received by their respective relatives and friends, the mutual interchange of affectionate greetings rendering the scene on the deck of the noble steamship one to be long remembered by those who witnessed it. Major Isaacs of the 82d, who lost an arm in General Windham's disastrous affair at Cawnpore, was also a passenger by this packet.

The Mayor and other members of the Local Relief Committee were early on board the Colombo, in pursuit of their philanthropic mission; but the only case calling for their interposition was that of a female servant, the wife of a sergeant, who lost everything she possessed in the Ava, and also 18*l.*, which she had saved from her hard earnings in India. The poor woman received a small gratuity from the gentlemen in question, who also forwarded her to London, and intend to lay her case before the general committee in the metropolis for their consideration.

FOR THE EXPRESS.

Reform the Representation Bill. Justice to the Outport Districts.

Mr. Editor,
This is no sectarian cry—no party shibboleth, but the voice of the outport constituencies, breathing forth their claims according to the letter and spirit of the constitution. Although opposed to the party in power—the framers of the existing representation law—yet it must be admitted that they have been mainly instrumental in obtaining Responsible Government for this Colony. It rests with the constituencies so to exercise the power which the elective franchise vests in them, that we may have the government responsible to them in effect and not nominally as hitherto. To this end a reform of the Representation Act, based upon population, without regard to either creed or party, has become absolutely necessary. It is beyond question that the Capital, with a population of 30,476, has an undue influence in the Assembly; with 6 members of its own, and 16 representatives of outports resident in St. John's, all more or less interested in the Capital, the eight remaining members resident in the outports, cannot effectually cope with the centralizing influence of St. John's. The outport population numbers 88,822, whose representative numerically, is only slightly in excess of the dense population of the Capital.

To show how unfairly the existing representation is apportioned, I beg reference to the subjoined statement of the population and number of members for each district.

District	Population	Members
Bonavista	8,850	3
Placentia & St. Mary's	8,334	3
Harbor Main	5,336	2
Ferryland	5,228	2
Burin	5,529	2
Being for each member	33,327	12
Being for each member	2,777	
Harbor Grace	10,067	2
Twillingate & Fogo	9,717	2
Port-de-Grave	6,489	1
Carbonear	5,489	1
Bay-de-Verds	6,221	1
Being for each member	37,983	7
Being for each member	5,426	
Trinity	10,736	3
Fortune Bay	3,493	1
Burgo & LaPoile	3,545	1
Being for each member	17,774	5
Being for each member	3,555	

Thus it will be clearly seen that the pet districts of Placentia and St. Mary's, Harbor Main, Ferryland and Burin, with the districts of Bonavista, to give an appearance of fairness, have 12 members for 33,327, while Harbor Grace, Twillingate and Fogo, Port de Grave, Carbonear and Bay de Verds, have only 7 members for 37,983. An additional member to each of these districts would only bring up their representation to 12, that of the other group of districts having a less population by 4,656. Again the aggregate population of Harbor

Grace, Twillingate, Port de Grave, Carbonear, Bay de Verds, Trinity, Fortune Bay, and Borgeo districts, is 55,757, with 12 members, while the remaining districts of the colony, including the densely peopled Capital, with a population of 63,547, have 18 members.

Is it possible to show a more skillfully arranged scheme for giving the control of the government and legislation of the colony to the representatives of a minority of its population?

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St. John's }
April 12, 1858. }

[FROM THE "NEWFOUNDLANDER."]

We are glad to be enabled at length to say that a contract for Direct Steam Communication has been arranged, the Executive and Mr. Wier, of the North Atlantic Company, having come to terms for carrying this great boon into effect.

The conditions of the agreement are, that the ships shall be of 1200 tons, capable of making the run between Liverpool and this port in twelve days—the term to be three years or five, and the number of trips each way to be fourteen for the first year; fifteen, for the second; and sixteen for the third and last.

The first steamer to leave Liverpool for St. John's, Halifax, and Portland on the 20th July next. The Government are to give the Company £250 a year for wharfage at the north-side of St. John's harbor. The subsidy to be £10,000 per annum—£7000 from the Colonial funds and £3000 from the Imperial Government—the whole arrangement subject to confirmation by the Imperial authorities and by Mr. Lindley's proprietor of the ships.

We cannot doubt it will be universally agreed that the Government have done well—indeed the best possible, in concluding this contract. It is not the best to be desired as to the speed of the steamers, though extreme speed is not wanted—it is however on the whole a bargain involving, as we believe, vast good to the colony in our various interests; and we therefore rejoice that the opportunity has been turned to account to secure the greatest advantages within our reach. With regard even to the speed of the ships, the deficiency will in a little time be supplied by competition, on the presumption that the owners will find their account in having vessels as attractive to the passenger and freight traffic as those of other companies.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, 12th April, 1858. BY AUTHORITY.—His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint William H. Ridley, Andrew Drysdale, and Thomas Higgins, Esquires, to be Commissioners for the introduction of an increased supply of Fresh Water into the Town of Harbor Grace.—Gazette.

THE CONCEPTION-BAY MAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21st 1858

Altho, on the part of the Outports, we objected to the large amount of public money appropriated to the purpose—still that amount being decided, we are glad to find that the advantage of Atlantic Steam Navigation to this country is about to become an established fact. We copy the notice entire from the "Newfoundlander" it containing somewhat less of what may be termed official braggadocio than usually accompanies authoritative notices in that paper. There can be no doubt that the benefit to the country derivable from Direct Steam Communication, will be considerable, but we still think that the whistle is dearly paid for, and that the final arrangement is no great bargain after all. The boasted £3000 Imperial subsidy will little more than compensate us for postal advantages which are secured to our Imperial Rulers and the delegation money which our local Rulers must pocket for their quixotic cruise in quest of steam last year, will we think easily swallow the remainder, and as O Connel once observed, have a tolerable appetite afterwards.

With regard to Steam Communication between St. John's and the Outports, tho we would be glad to see such a measure properly carried out, we are by no means so sanguine as some of our contemporaries upon the advantages of an occasional visit from the St. John's 'Tug Boat, in fact we look upon the arrangement as little more than a sop to the Speaker and a few others whose opposition might be formidable, and a humbug to deceive credulous outport men. When we reflect upon the large amount of money appropriated for ocean steam navigation and for improvements in and about the Capital we feel indignant that so small a

sum as three or four thousand per annum should have been denied, for an object the great utility of which has been universally acknowledged.

Whilst we would give the Government some credit for the increase of the Education fund, we cannot refrain from expressing our disappointment at the little which was introduced by way of improvement upon the old measure. A tinkering legislation, a little top repair without hauling up was all that the liberals were either disposed or capable of effecting upon this long deferred subject of deliberation, whilst the whole system required thorough remodelling, and the introduction of a more healthy and vigorous mode of procedure. Incompetent persons must still occupy the place of schoolmasters, and for those more competent there is still no hope, no increase no encouragement. The 20—40 and £ 50 salaries will doubtless remain stationary, and even those who have laboured for years and established some of the best schools in the land must labor on to a good old age without having their worth recognised or their services properly rewarded. Much may be done by Boards and Directors, but where salaries are carved out by the legislature a more liberal scale might be expected.

We hazard no crude opinion when we observe that if the government had appropriated a certain sum for Public Schools without reference to sectarian views, and engaged to supplement those amounts raised by the different religious bodies for educational purposes, by an equal amount—the Public would have been better satisfied, and the Children better instructed than under the present anomalous and prejudice fostering system.

We have been informed that the petition on behalf of the fire sufferers, has been treated by our Responsible Government in the manner which those who are actually represented by political hirelings should expect their appeals to be treated. What was there, but the lack of independence, to prevent our Members from standing boldly for that assistance which sufferers by such a calamitous visitation should receive? Had they done so, we know enough of the General Assembly to believe that success would have attended their efforts; but in this as in other matters the interests of their constituents should give way to their own, and they durst not move in the matter without leave from their employers.

The Subscriber would publicly express his deep sense of obligation, and feeling of gratitude, to the Rev. John Walsh, W.H. Ridley Esq., and those other friends, who, by their influence and exertions, were the means of saving his house and property from the late disastrous fire.

Edward Pike Sen.

ARRIVALS FROM THE ICE.

Gem	T. Green	4000
Maria	Keefe	3000
Emily	Poor	2000
Harriet Ridley	Murphy	5500

Several others have arrived with a few hundred each.

DIED.

On Wednesday evening last, at the Roman Catholic Episcopal Residence, in the 78th year of his age, THOMAS MULLOCK, Esq., father of the Rt. Rev. Dr. MULLOCK. The deceased gentleman was a native of Limerick, and has been in this country but a few years, sufficiently long however, to have made him very generally respected.

shipping intelligence.

ENTERED.
April 15—Queen, Bailey, Liverpool 14 days.
19—Euriquez, (Sp.) Paris, Cadiz, 50 days.
Punton & Munn.
April 16—Margaret Ridley, Brown, Brazils 29 days.
19—Haidee, Tucker, Cadiz, 28 days.
CLEARED.
April 21—Margaret Ridley, Brown, Brazils Ridley & S. 2s.

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