

## THE LAST NEWS FROM INDIA.

The news brought by the last Indian mail, of which we were enabled to give the heads—thanks to the extension of the electric wire to Malta—in our impression of last week, but which only reached England in a really authentic and intelligible shape on Monday, is once more of a chequered character; and though on the whole, we are thankful to say, the good seems to predominate, yet we are far from being altogether freed by it from the load of anxiety which has weighed heavily upon us for the last three months. The heroic band which has maintained itself in Lucknow, with its precious charge of tender women and helpless children, ever since the first outbreak of the mutiny, although rescued by the devotion of Havelock and the valour of his handful of men from imminent destruction, is still unweaved. Havelock himself, and Outram, who has now assumed the command, are already in a critical position. They have plunged into a sea of enemies, and its waters have closed behind them. We, in fact, know little of them except that they are at Lucknow—their communications with their rear cut off, poorly provisioned, and waiting for reinforcements. It appears that they reached Lucknow without much difficulty, not finding the enemy in force upon the road until they neared a place called Allumbagh, a fort three miles short of the capital, where the rebel army occupied a fortified position. Allumbagh, "the garden of the world," is a country seat of the Oude princes; and consists of a residence placed in the middle of a square enclosure, which is about 500 yards each way, and is surrounded by a wall ten feet high, flanked by towers at the four angles. Having stormed this enclosure, and driven the enemy from it, the British General, finding it defensible, resolved to leave there his sick and wounded, with a detachment to guard them, amounting to about 600 men, while he pressed on to the relief of the beleaguered garrison of Lucknow. He did this, fought his way to the Residency—attacked the enemy's entrenchments and the town from it, and succeeded in taking about one-third of the town, which stretches along for nearly six miles in a direction from south-east to north-west. While this proceeded, Havelock, according to one account, was despatched by Outram (who had by this time taken the command) to convey the women and children, so long prisoners at Lucknow, to the enclosure at Allumbagh, where they are said to have arrived in safety. On Havelock's return, however, from this service, the enemy, who hung upon his rear, broke down, we are told, the bridge over a broad canal traversing the plain between Allumbagh and the city, and have ever since mustered so strong in this direction that all communication is cut off, although the distance to Lucknow is only three miles. They have also succeeded in interrupting the communications between Allumbagh and Cawnpore; for although, on the 3rd of October, a party under Major Bingham advanced from the latter place, and threw provisions into Allumbagh, yet on the 14th, twelve days later, a party under Major McIntyre was less fortunate, finding the enemy in such force upon the road that they were compelled to entrench themselves, sending the stores back to Cawnpore. Thus, at the date of the last letters, we had a body of troops, about 1,000, entirely isolated at Allumbagh, and another, amounting to perhaps 3,000, even more completely isolated at Lucknow. With one or other of them were above 1,000 women, children and invalids. Round these small garrisons were clustered vast masses of the enemy, estimated at not less than from 40,000 to 50,000, Oude having become the rallying-point to which all the mutineers flock, and the whole country being congested under arms.

Under these circumstances, we scan the Indian correspondence most anxiously, to learn what real chance there is of effective reinforcements soon reaching the spot. The prospect, though it might be brighter, is far from disheartening. Letters from Cawnpore of the 20th of October, state that on that day two Queen's regiments, the 93rd and the 53rd, were within one day's march of that place. On their arrival they would be immediately despatched to Lucknow. At the same date another convoy of provisions, with detachments of the 78th, 84th, 90th, and 5th Fusiliers, was starting for Allumbagh, which it was thought would be strong enough to make its way. Major McIntyre, who entrenched himself on the 14th, only asked for 600 troops in order to force a passage.

Further, it is to be noticed that a steady stream of reinforcements seems at last to be pouring into Oude. Few days pass, we are told, in which 200 or 300 troops do not reach Cawnpore. The head of the home column having now at last shown itself at Calcutta, will enable this supply to be kept up or even increased; so that we may trust—even in this way—to have soon an army in Oude capable of giving a good account of any number of Asiatics.

Meanwhile, however, succour is approaching from another quarter. Colonel Greathed, having been sent out from Delhi on the 23rd of Sept., at the head of a

column some 2,000 strong, has marched rapidly in a south-east direction, everywhere driving the rebels before him, and inflicting on them no fewer than three severe defeats—at Bolyndshuhur, at Allypbur, and at Agra. At the last named place his arrival was peculiarly opportune. The Indore and Mhow mutineers, having been joined by some of the fugitives from Delhi had resolved to make a dash at Agra, and arrived about half an hour after Col. Greathed's column had marched into cantonments. The consequence was a surprise on both sides. Our men were taken at disadvantage—three or four were slaughtered unawares—a gun was carried—but in a few minutes the tables were turned upon the foe. Our line advanced, our artillery began to play, and the mutineers, though more than double our numbers, at once broke and fled. They were pursued a distance of twelve miles, and lost, it is said, 2,000 killed, besides all their guns, ammunition, baggage, and treasure. The loss on our side was but 13 killed and 54 wounded. After this brilliant achievement, Col. Greathed gave his troops a few days' rest at Agra, which he left about the 15th on his way to Lucknow. By the 19th he had reached Mynpoorie, seventy miles from Agra, in the direction of Cawnpore, whither he would probably direct his march, unless he should prefer to cross the Ganges at Cawnpore and proceed by the more direct route upon Lucknow. That place is distant about 180 miles from Mynpoorie, and might probably be reached in eight or nine days. Col. Greathed, we are told, was expected at Lucknow by the 30th, when it was calculated that Sir James Outram would be at the head of 7,000 men.

Such are the hopes entertained in India. They do not appear to us extravagant or unreasonable. Meanwhile, we have confidence that the Generals who have shown such energy, resource, and indomitable spirit, will be able to maintain themselves, though for the present isolated. The stories of Havelock and Outram being wounded seem to be the mere surmises of alarmists, and not to rest on any solid foundation. The last that is known of these two Generals is, that having been separated for some time in their attacks upon different parts of the town, they were again united; that they had demolished and cleared away the buildings for a certain distance round the Residency; and in that place, which they had strongly fortified, they were prepared to hold out to extremity. Their chief difficulty would be for provisions, but the part of the town which they have taken would probably furnish some, and they may be trusted to supply themselves to a certain extent from the enemy.—*London Guardian, Dec. 2.*

THE TERRIBLE EXPLOSION AT MAYENCE.—A letter, dated Mayence, Nov. 18, 4 p.m. gives the following:—

"A fearful catastrophe occurred about an hour since. The old prison tower at the Gauthor, which had been converted into a powder magazine, has exploded. A great number of persons in the vicinity have been killed. The Church of St. Stephen is a heap of ruins; the Evangelical Church is also much damaged. In the citadel the soldiers were at drill when the explosion took place. A great number of them were wounded. The so-called school of English young ladies is destroyed, but the inhabitants are saved. Gaud street and the old Gasticht, with 150 shops, are in ruins. An enormous block of stone fell on the roof of the Café de Paris, and crushed through all the stories. Shells are continually bursting near the powder magazine, and no one is allowed to approach too near. The magazine contained 200 cwt. of powder."

(From the St. John, N. B., Courier, Dec. 12.)

## EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The Western mail with Boston papers of Wednesday arrived just as we were going to press. The President's Message occupies nearly six columns of the Boston Journal. The first topic discussed is the banking question. On this it says:—

"It is one of the highest and most responsible duties of Government to insure to the people a sound circulating medium, the amount of which ought to be adapted with the utmost possible wisdom and skill to the wants of internal trade and foreign exchanges. If this be either greatly above or greatly below the proper standard, the marketable value of every man's property is increased or diminished to the same proportion, and injustice to individuals as well as incalculable evils to the community are the consequence.

"Unfortunately, under the construction of the federal constitution, which has now prevailed too long to be changed, this important and delicate duty has been dismembered from the coining power and virtually transferred to more than fourteen hundred State Banks, acting independently of each other, and regulating their paper issue almost exclusively by a regard to the present interest of their stockholders. Exercising the sovereign power of providing a paper currency, instead of coin, for the country, the first duty which these banks owe to the public is to keep in their vaults a sufficient amount of gold and silver to insure the convertibility of their notes into coin at all times and under all circumstances. No bank ought ever to be chartered without such restrictions on its business as to secure this result. All other restric-

tions are comparatively vain. This is the only true touchstone, the only efficient regulator of a paper currency—the only one which can guard the public against over-issues and bank suspensions."

On British relations the Message states:—

"The diplomatic difficulties which existed between the government of the United States and that of Great Britain at the adjournment of the last Congress have been happily terminated by the appointment of a British Minister to this country, who has been cordially received.

"Whilst it is greatly to the interest, as I am convinced it is the sincere desire of the governments and people of the two countries to be on terms of intimate friendship with each other, it has been our misfortune almost always to have had some irritating, if not dangerous, outstanding question with Great Britain."

The President then gives a long detail of Kansas difficulty and concludes:—

"The fact is that when two nations like Great Britain and the United States mutually desirous, as they are, and I trust ever may be, of maintaining the most friendly relations with each other, have unfortunately concluded a treaty which they understand in senses directly opposite, the wisest course is to abrogate such a treaty by mutual consent, and to commence anew. Had this been done promptly, all difficulties in Central America would most probably ere this be adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties. The time spent in discussing the meaning of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty would have been devoted to this praiseworthy purpose, and the task would have been more easily accomplished, because the interests of the two countries in Central America is identical, being confined to securing safe transits over all the routes across the Isthmus.

"Whilst entertaining these sentiments, I shall, nevertheless, not refuse to contribute to any reasonable adjustment of the Central America question which is not practically inconsistent with the American interpretation of the treaty. Overtures for this purpose have been recently made by the British Government, in a friendly spirit, which I cordially reciprocate; but whether this renewed effort will result in success I am not yet prepared to express an opinion. A brief period will determine."

On the Central America question the President says:—

"The isthmus of Central America, including that of Panama, is the great highway between the Atlantic and Pacific, over which a large portion of the commerce of the world is destined to pass. The United States are more deeply interested than any other nation in preserving the freedom and security of all the communications across the Isthmus. It is our duty, therefore, to take care that they shall not be interrupted either by invasions from our own country, or by wars between the independent States of Central America. Under our treaty with New Granada of the 12th December, 1846, we are bound to guarantee the neutrality of the isthmus of Panama, through which the Panama railroad passes, "as well as the rights of sovereignty and property which New Granada has and possesses over the said Territory." This obligation is founded upon equivalents granted by the treaty to the Government and people of the United States.

"Under these circumstances I recommend to Congress the passage of an act authorizing the President in case of necessity, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States to carry into effect this guarantee of neutrality and protection. I also recommend similar legislation for the safety of any other route across the Isthmus in which we may acquire an interest by treaty."

On the Kansas question the Message says that she ought to have been long since left to manage her own affairs in her own way, and that the peace and quiet of the whole country are of greater importance than the mere temporary triumph of either of the political parties in Kansas. At the same time it insists that if there shall be a majority in favor of the "Constitution with no slavery," then the article providing for slavery shall be stricken from the Constitution by the President of Convention; and it is expressly declared that "no slavery shall exist in the State of Kansas, except that the right of property in slaves now in the territory shall in no manner be interfered with," that is, if the clause in favor of slavery in the new constitution be adopted, slavery in Kansas shall continue, and if it be rejected, slavery shall not be annulled.

On the Utah difficulty the Message is decidedly warlike, and recommends the raising of four additional regiments of troops.

A military and mail road across the continent from the Western boundary of Texas to California, is the only important domestic improvement recommended.

CATTLE STOLEN BY MORMONS.—A skirmish had taken place between the Mormons and Col. Alexander's troops, and three or four of the former were killed.

The Mormons had run off with 400 cattle in sight of Col. Alexander's Camp, Green River.