

News Department.

ENGLAND.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LECTURE.

In his lecture at Chester, Mr. Gladstone dwelt chiefly upon the history of Colonies, their foundation and growth, their desirability, and the best mode of Government. The subject of the Colonies, the right hon. gentleman said, was one of the most legitimate interest to every Englishman:—

"One fact would prove this. In the middle of the last century the American colonial empire of England was the envy and admiration of the world. It was thought that nothing had been seen for centuries at all to compare with it yet at that time the American population only amounted to 2,000,000 souls. What was the state of things now? The single colony of Canada contained a population nearly equal to the whole American States of that time. Look at the subject in another light. There was scarcely a European language of note that was not spoken in our colonies—not merely by families or inhabitants of particular districts, but by great masses of the population. The subjects of the Queen in Malta, and those of the Ionian Islands, spoke the beautiful language of Italy. The people of Canada, or the Mauritius, or St. Lucia, and other of the West India islands, spoke the language of the French nation. In British Guiana and the Cape of Good Hope Dutch was spoken; Spanish was the language of Trinidad. Look at the matter from another point of view. Consider the great subject of emigration, which twenty or thirty years ago was regarded only as a means of getting rid of the overflowing of the population, and was now become a matter of tender and domestic interest to many of the most intelligent and best conditioned families in this country. In the year 1815 the whole number of emigrants who left the shores of England was 2,000; up to 1829 the annual average was 25,000. It afterwards rose to 40,000, while in 1851 the total was 267,000. The *immigration* was reached in 1852, when the number was 398,000—a net 1,600 per day. This was not only an increase in quantity; its most remarkable feature was the character of the emigrants, for a long time emigration was only the resort of the most necessitous; now, on the contrary, it is frequented by the most valuable member of society in the sphere in which he moved, who went to seek his fortune in these distant lands. This change in the character of emigrants was capable of being tested by figures. While it was an emigration of paupers it was Irish, but in the first nine months of the present year, ending on the 30th of last September, while the Irish who left this country were 67,000, of English and Scotch 79,600 had proceeded to the colonies."

Speaking of the motive for acquiring colonies, Mr. Gladstone declared his belief that the love of gold had been the chief original excitement. "It was this that drew forth from Italy, from Spain, from France, from England, from Portugal, those men of bold and adventurous spirit who crossed and founded successfully, in the midst of indescribable danger, those colonies which had grown into the great States of Northern and Southern America. They went in search of gold, but found comparatively none; for the colonies of South America, where it was found in greatest abundance, were not to be named now with those of North America. In the latter there was, however, the discovery of a great country—a most extensive field for the development of human industry in every branch. Thus, by the wise dispensation of Providence, the very delusions of mankind were made to subserve their greatest interests. This passion for gold did a work which the true ideas respecting colonisation never could have done; for those who went to North America would not have gone if they had known that they would have there to use the hatchet and spade as in this country. In some minds there was an idea of the propagation of the Gospel, but it did not appear that this notion was very happily associated with the other, for the love of gold obtained a great preponderance over the spiritual motive. There were other motives which had led in a great degree to the promotion of colonisation across the Atlantic. Some had said it was to improve the revenue of the mother country, and in the colonies of Spain they had an instance of this at the present day. Others thought it was desirable to possess colonies, because they made a large addition to the territories of a country. Certainly it was, but only when they knew how to make use of it. Again, people had a notion that for the reputation of England she should possess colonies. It it was meant by this to make a show in the world—for which they had no substance to corre-

pond—that was not a good reason for the maintenance of their colonial possessions. They should desire to appear only what they are worth, neither more nor less. (Cheers.) A more vulgar notion than any of these was, that it was desirable to possess colonies in order that the Executive Government might have the patronage in their hands of public situations in the colonies at their disposal. He did not envy the man who thought in the present day that Government could be carried on by patronage. A feeble instrument to trust to, and very liable to be abused. The moral tone of those who relied on it. Another much more prevalent than this was, that the colonies ought to be maintained for the purpose of establishing an exclusive trade, the whole profit of which should be enjoyed by the mother country. This was the basis of the modern colonial system of Europe. The interests of the colonists were attempted to be made subservient to those of the mother country. People were allowed to go to the colonies, but what they made there was sent to British markets in British vessels, and in the raw state; for if sent in other vessels it would not be to the interest of British shipowners, and if in the manufactured state it would not benefit the British manufacturers. The question was not whether they should give a temporary stimulus to trade in the young colonies; the trade monopoly of that time was rather of the nature of a patent, which involved the principle of a monopoly. They thus proceeded upon the principle that a colony should only benefit the mother country by its trade, and this was still at the bottom of many national transactions, and not very long ago the groundwork of our own. It was wrong to suppose that there could be any other benefit except the benefit of both parties concerned. The fallacy still prevailed in many countries of Europe that what was lost on the one side was gained on the other; the truth, on the contrary, being that what one man gained another gained also. (Cheers.) The idea that if other countries were allowed to come in our trade would be carried away perverted the whole system of colonial government, and it was never supposed there could be a general commerce between Europe and America. England accordingly tried how much of her neighbour's colonial possessions she could get; and in the last century she had the advantage of being the most powerful of the European powers. It certainly was the case that we possessed many colonies which we did not found; but nobody else possessed colonies which we did found, with the sole exception of the American States, which were lost by the fault of our policy. These were the reasons which at different times had promoted colonisation, and yet none of these reasons were founded upon a good and faithful basis. Why, then, were colonies desirable? Both for the material and moral and social results that a wise system of colonisation was calculated to produce. It increased trade, and while a man by emigration increased his own wages, he also, by lightening the market, increased the wages of those who stayed at home. He likewise created a demand for capital in that colony, and, by taking capital, the emigrant created trade between the colony and this country. Trade might be increased in three ways—by opening new fields in foreign countries, at home, or in the colonies. In an increased trade with foreign countries they undoubtedly gained a profit, but were liable to the disadvantage of being hampered by unwise and bad laws in those foreign countries. In the case of trade with the colonies there was no such danger, because it was under the control and governed by the same system of laws as the mother country. Thus, with the colony they had trade, and security that it would have its full development. In opening new fields at home—as, for example, when the great iron district that enveloped Glasgow was discovered not many years ago—they obtained trade, security for its development, and also the advantage that those who carried it on helped to contribute towards the expenses of the Government. There could be no doubt, therefore, that the possession of colonies like those of England, which were peopled by men who exercised a free judgment in carrying their labour and capital to what they thought the best market for it, was a great advantage, not because it created a more profitable trade, but because it gave rise to a great deal of new trade, that would not otherwise have existed. The moral and social advantage of colonies was a very great reason for their possession, for who doubted that our country was blessed with laws and a constitution eminently calculated to benefit mankind? And what could be more desirable than that we should have the means of reproducing in different parts of the globe something similar to that country which we so much loved and enjoyed? Mr. Roebuck had said the object of colonisation was the creation of so many happy England."

(Conclusion next week.)

GERMANY.

A Russian loan has been contracted at Berlin; it is not said for what amount. The Swedish Government has also contracted one for three quarters of a million sterling. Some mysterious stories are told in the Prussian capital respecting missing despatches, from which scandal credits Lord Panmure with having obtained his information telegraphically to General Simpson respecting the orders to the Russian army, in the Crimea. The despatches were stolen by two valets-de-chambre of Lieut.-General Gerlach, who stands high in the confidence of the King.

The appeal of the English Consul at Cologne against his sentence for illegally enlisting for the Foreign Legion has been unfortunate. The Court have condemned him to six months' imprisonment instead of three; and his secretary, who was acquitted, has been now sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

TURKEY.

Omer Pacha celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Inkermann, or its "morrow," by a victory over the Russians in Georgia. On the 5th, or 6th, for the despatches vary as to the date, the Turkish General, at the head of 20,000 men, forced the passage of the river Anakara [also called Onfour and Ingour] under a terrific fire. The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in his despatch to the Ottoman Minister in London, says—

"The river was defended by 16,000 Russians, and our coloniers were in water to their armpits. The Sultan's troops attacked the Russian redoubts with the bayonet, and carried them, notwithstanding the desperate defence made by the enemy. The Russian troops were completely routed, and took to flight. We have taken five guns, seven powder-carts, and forty prisoners. The Russians have left more than 400 dead on the field of battle, among whom are two superior officers and a hundred subalterns. Our loss is sixty-eight dead, and 220 wounded."

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe states that the Russians were partly entrenched, and adds—"The British officers did honour to their country." The French Ambassador says—

"The enemy's army was composed of 8,000 regular troops, and about 12,000 Mingrelian and Georgian militia. After a combat of five hours, in which the Russians suffered severely, the Turks crossed the Ingour at four points. The Generalissimo is marching upon Kutais."

INDIA.

The Santal insurrection, it appears from the accounts by the last mail, is still very far from being suppressed. On the contrary, they had shown themselves on new points; but at the latest dates thirty Santal villages had been burnt, and great preparations were in progress for an effective campaign. The religious dissensions in Oude, between the Mahomedans and Hindus, have proceeded to blows at Fyzabad, and the latter were victorious; upon which Ameen Ali, the Moulavi, or high priest of the Mahomedans, at Showlee, twenty-five miles from Lucknow, proclaimed a crusade against the infidel. A considerable number of fanatics joined his standard; but when he seemed about to act, he suddenly repaired to Lucknow. The Government gave out that he was strictly watched; but this was supposed to be a ruse on their part, in order to inflame the Mahomedans, and give Ameen Ali time to increase the number of his followers. Lucknow swarmed with agents; inflammatory pamphlets, similar to that entitled "The Sword, the Key of Heaven and Hell," were spread abroad; and Ameen Ali disappeared from Lucknow, richer in men and money than before:—

"Four days passed," says the Bombay correspondent of the Times, "before his flight was made known to the King, who, professing the utmost surprise and indignation, ordered out troops, and despatched them under the guidance of some of his principal generals and attendants to bring back the Moulavi alive or dead. Ameen Ali, surrounded by his fanatical chiefs, received the summons of his Sovereign; but, far from obeying, ordered the two officers, who were specially intrusted with the mission into a confinement real or pretended. The leader of the troops, instead of attacking the Moulavi, as a rebellious subject, treated with him upon terms of equality; and finally the following conditions were agreed to:—The troops were to return to Lucknow unmolested and unmolested; for one month the Moulavi was to remain quiet; if within that month, dating from the 4th of September, the Darbar, in the name of the King, should order the demolition of the temple and the erection of a masjid on its site, an order which the general pledged to obtain, Ameen Ali still remained quiet; but if the Darbar should fail in his duty to Ajlah and his Prophet, then the Moulavi was to be at liberty to carry his followers to Fyzabad, and act as should seem to him advisable and advantageous to the faith."