

**SIR CHARLES DALRYMPLE,  
BART., M.P.**

Sir Charles Dalrymple, of New Hailes, Midlothian, Scotland, was born in 1839, and is an M.A. of Cambridge, and a barrister of Lincoln's Inn. He entered Parliamentary life in 1868 as M.P. for Buteshire, which seat he held until 1880 when he was elected for Ipswich, which constituency he still represents. There are not many persons who have had the honour of sitting for thirty years without interruption as a member of the British House of Commons. He was a Junior Lord of the Treasury during 1885-86. He is Deputy-Lieutenant for the County of Haddington. He has also been a Director of the Bank of Scotland for many years. For his public services he was created a Baronet in 1887.

A lovelier day for a sail one could hardly imagine, but all along the Red Sea there has been an almost entire absence of life apparent—scarcely even a gull to be seen.

We failed to identify the reputed Sinai. The ranges of mountains in that neighbourhood are simply dried up eminences—abrupt, broken, barren, without a vestige of life, animal or vegetable—a terribly God-forsaken looking region. If the land and water in Moses' time had any approximatedly relative size, or position, or depth, &c., that they now have, Moses had a truly hard job on hand when he assumed command of the Israelitish emigration.

BOMBAY, 18th Jan., 1898.

As you will see by the papers I am sending, the plague continues rampant in Bombay City. I have been to the infected, overcrowded districts, and looked at the bodies burning, and seen the Towers of Silence. There is really not much repulsive in cremation. The wretched vultures looking for a corpse I do not care to look at, nor do I invite the thought of their beastly work. But the plague is, I am satisfied, the result of unsanitation. Only the weak in mind and ignorant are afraid of it. The approach of hot weather it is believed, will lessen and drive it away."

**DOTTINGS ROUND THE CIRCLE.**

**III.**

Near Aden on the Red Sea.

"We have just had a review of all the crew upon the hurricane deck, and a grand sight it was. The Europeans in blue or white regulation caps, blue sack coats, and white trousers; the Orientals in blue petticoats, or long wrappers to the knees, white trousers, and turbans with red or plaid fringe. They were all arrayed in line and the muster roll quietly called.

Yesterday there was a muster for fire practice and preparation with compasses to man the boats. The hydrants had hose on at full speed, and certain officers hurriedly brought down from the bridge compasses and other instruments for guiding the boats, while the men were busy running about with streams of water to put out the supposed fire. In the midst of the greatest commotion a camera was busy taking in the scene to be subsequently reproduced as a permanent picture. It was all deeply interesting to the passengers and good practice for the crew. Now, the bugle having sounded, the Commander is reading the Church of England Service in the dining saloon.

**CARELESS LIFE ASSURANCE.**

When the public comes to understand that the money it invests in life assurance is an investment, and not a speculation and a gamble, it will proceed with as much caution in this matter as it does in buying a house, a bill of dry goods, or groceries. The reckless manner in which persons take up life assurance in doubtful, risky, and even bankrupt concerns is simply amazing. Persons who do this sort of foolish business will watch the grocer's scales to see that they get full weight when they buy a pound of coffee or sugar; but at the same time will permit some smooth-tongued agent to beguile them into taking out a life-assurance policy which does not assure.—*"The Hermit" in Leslie's Weekly.*

"My brethren in the ministry say, 'Trust in the Lord.' So I say; but then I say, trusting in the Lord for your wife and children if you die early and suddenly means assurance on your life as good as you can make, and pay for, year by year."  
—*Rev. Dr. Collyer.*