

Current Events Abroad.

THE tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales through India is occurring among every circumstance of distinction and impressive observance. An indication of the changes, even in that changeless east, is furnished by the fact that the Prince's first visit to a feudatory chieftain was that paid to the Maharana of Udaipur, a journey which his father was unable to make during his visit of 30 years ago, because of the lack of railway facilities. His next place of stopping will be Jaipur, almost directly across India, making the journey by railway without a break. The same condition of easy transport will prevail almost wherever he goes throughout the great peninsula. The tour is arranged to close at Gwalior, in the very centre of Hindostan, on Christmas Day.

In reply to the Rajput's address of welcome at Udaipur, the Prince said that they felt themselves to be in a new world. If it is a new world to the sight it is still more a new world psychologically. Even the European who has given years of study to India and its people can have at the best but the most uncertain glimpses of the real feeling and springs of action that actuate and move these crowded millions. The question, are they now, or will they ever be content with foreign rule, is one that may be answered variously, but it is likely that the great bulk of opinion would be that they never will be. They merely yield to force. Reason and argument have very little to do with it. The fact that justice and the pax Britannica reigns from the Hindoo Koosh to Colombo is probably not at all appreciated. The ryot is not grateful that when he appeals now for justice he gets it, instead of being hamstrung or gibbeted as was apt to be the case under his old native princes. After more than a century of British rule he would probably prefer to run whining at the heels of his native rajah, plucking at

his robe and howling against his oppressors than trust to the cold though absolute justice of a British Court.

The whole system still has its foundation on force. This would be a sure foundation were it not that a large part of the force is composed of the very men whom it is necessary to intimidate. The British ruler has to prepare himself to resist attack from without and to do this he has to arm and train large numbers of the natives. Then to prevent these from over-setting the Government a considerable European force has also to be maintained. The maintenance of both these bodies is a charge on the Indian exchequer and the peasant knows that his taxes go to keep an army in being to ensure his subjection.

Certain precautions, it is true, are taken to minimise the danger of a revolt of the native troops. For example it has been a maxim of policy not to train native troops to the use of artillery. This precaution Lord Kitchener is disposed to abandon, however, and it is understood that he is preparing to train a body of native artillerymen. Those who deplore the triumph of the military over the civil power, which precipitated Lord Curzon's resignation, point this out as one of the consequences of the emancipation of the commander-in-chief from the restraint of the civil authorities. They argue that a soldier is apt to view problems from one side only. All his efforts will be devoted to evolving a great army. But a great army in India, if civil considerations were largely or wholly ignored, might only be an instrument for the destruction of British power. In the last number of the *National Review* Sir John and Sir Richard Strachey contribute an article under the heading "Playing with Fire." Each is an authority on India, one as a military, the other as a civil ad-