

which David hung those who slew Ishboshoth, after cutting off their hands and feet. It was while dwelling in the Valley of Hebron, that Jacob sent the lad Joseph to visit his brethren, feeding their flocks at Shechem; and here, also, King David lived several years, making this his royal city, before he transferred his throne to Jerusalem. This, also, was one of the six cities of refuge established by God, and hence became one of the Levitical cities under the Mosaic dispensation. It does not appear that our Lord, when he tabernacled in the flesh, ever visited this place; it hence has no traditions linking it with his advent. All its associations, from the time that it was built, "seven years before Zoan in Egypt," are with the patriarchs and kings of the Old Testament; chiefly, however, it is associated with the memories of Abraham, the Father of the Faithful; and to this day it bears the name by which he is known throughout the East—El Kail, or the Beloved.—*Rev. Dr. Stevens.*

News Department.

Extracts from Papers by Steamor Europa.

OUR FORCES AT HOME AND ABROAD.—INDIA.

The third reading of the Militia Bill in the House of Commons, on Thursday, Aug. 20, gave rise to an interesting debate on the state of our military forces, and the withdrawal of a portion to India. *Sir F. Smith* suggested that 1,000 Sappers and Miners might be usefully sent to India, where engineers were greatly wanted. He believed there were none before Delhi, and the Native Sappers and Miners being among the mutineers, they might, if they pleased, turn the city into another Saragosa. Their sorties have been conducted with considerable skill, and at present it was evident that the only chance of taking the place was by assault. *General Sir De Lucy Evans* and *General Williams* concurred in the recommendation, the former in a discursive speech complaining that only 10,000 Militia were to be raised, and that the scant addition of 2,000 seamen looked very much like a repetition of the culpable negligence before the Russian war. There were several vessels lying idle that might be sent out to India, and many of the ships of war might be employed in taking out troops. He thought the Commander-in-Chief, *Sir Colin Campbell*, ought to have power of conferring the Victoria Cross for deeds of valour on the spot; of filling up vacancies and giving promotion, subject to confirmation by the Government. He hoped that it was true that the forces under *General Jacob* had been ordered back to India, where the presence of a man of such great experience, great scientific attainments, and undoubted ability, would be of the utmost value. He could not see why the troops might not be sent through Egypt, and complained that the 17 Artillery regiments sent out had only 134 gunners each, instead of 204 as in the Crimea. *General Williams* also concurred in the latter complaint. The men were about to leave for a deadly climate, and not only ought to be sent out in an efficient state, but with every precaution as to casualties. He did not concur in the wish that Delhi should be destroyed, and not a stone left upon another, as it was a very fine arsenal. The mistake was to have intrusted it solely to black troops. For the future, he would say, care should be taken never to let one be seen within the walls of the city:

He agreed in all that had been said with respect to the want of fortified places in India. He had been in all the presidencies of that country, and he had seen, so to speak, the nakedness of the land—station after station without a single stronghold. The consequence was that when we were attacked all went over like a pack of cards. He hoped that Parliament would turn their attention to this subject, and that we should never again permit so great a calamity—ho might say disgrace—to fall upon the nation.

He warned the Government against listening in future as they had done to the cries for reduction of the forces at the beginning of the year, and reverting to the question of Sappers and Miners being sent out, reminded those in authority that he had suggested that the troops at Aldershot might be trained in some of their duties, and the making of gabions, &c. He hoped this had been attended to, if not, those concerned might probably hear opinions expressed in the discussions next year that might not be very agreeable. *Sir H. Verney* insisted that the Government alone were to blame for the reductions they had unnecessarily made in the army. He suggested the sending out of small armed steamers to operate in the rivers; and that care should be taken that the troops had ample medical assistance with them. *Admiral*

Walcott suggested that *Admiral Seymour* should receive orders to despatch all the small steamers and gun boats which he had at Hong Kong to India. *Lord Palmerston* replied to most of the suggestions. The place of the troops sent out was being rapidly supplied by recruiting at home. It would not have done for to have used the ships of war for conveyance, as then our shores would have been left in a defenceless state in case of a European outbreak. A large naval flotilla would be useless in the rivers of India, obstructed by shallows and shoal banks. Small boats alone could operate. The suggestion of sending troops through Egypt was well worthy of consideration, and it might be possible on short notice to send a small force across from Alexandria to Suez. The Government had been attacked for reducing the army, but the course it pursued was the only one possible, acting under a representative system, for it to pursue:—

Different forms of government have their different advantages. Undoubtedly a despotic Government is the best for providing in time of peace the means and preparations for war, because such a Government being subject to no control but its own will, and possessing the foresight which you must assume all governors of countries to have, keep up in time of peace a larger force than is actually required for defence, and when war unfortunately occurs, is at once ready to meet the pressure which is thereby occasioned. On the other hand, when war does break out then comes the advantage of representative institutions, because then it is that the whole nation, rallying round the Government, gives to it a support and a force which no despotic Government can by any means or by any possibility possess. In time of peace, however, a representative Government is comparatively weak. It is not that if we were to press this house we might not persuade it to vote men in committee of supply. We might induce it to give a larger peace establishment both of army and navy, but your votes of supply are of no use whatever, unless they are accompanied by votes in ways and means. That is the limit of your peace establishment. What happens when peace arrives? What took place last year? During the war the country was ready to submit to any reasonable and necessary sacrifice to carry it to a successful issue. It bore great burdens, and would have endured greater still, if it had been satisfied that they were necessary for the vindication of the national honor and the assertion of the national interests. Nations, however, have no foresight, or, at least, very little. Individuals may have, but multitudes have none. The consequence was, that the moment peace was made, everybody, from one end of the country to the other, cried out for the remission of the war income tax. That was a cry which this house was neither disposed nor able to resist; the consequence was that the Government found it absolutely necessary to bow to the national will, and the war income-tax was given up. That reduced our income, and we were necessarily compelled to proportion our peace establishment to the income which Parliament, as the organ of the country, chose to give us. That was the real reason of the reduction of our military and naval establishments to an amount lower than would have been expedient at the present moment.—Still, with all the inconveniences which these changes of opinion and of system may produce, there are inherent in a representative assembly so many advantages that these should only be regarded as defects which the country must at all times be ready to repair by prompt and speedy measures; and I am quite sure that those exertions will never be wanting when the occasion may require them. The present case, however, is not one of so much difficulty as was presented at the breaking out of the Russian war, because when that war begun all the addition to our military was to be made at the expense of the country. The expense of any additions made now falls, not upon the revenues of the empire, but upon those of the East India Company. Therefore, no additional expenditure is required on the part of the nation, and all that we have to do is, as troops are from time to time withdrawn for action abroad, to keep up our establishments at the numbers voted by the committee of supply.—That, I think we shall be able to do; but this house has already unanimously voted an address to the crown, assuring her Majesty that nothing shall be wanting on our part to enable her to carry on operations in India with vigor and success; and if between this and the period at which Parliament usually meets it should be necessary to ask for further assistance, I am quite sure that no members of this house would grudge the attendance which would be necessary to afford that assistance to the Government. (Cheers.)

With respect to the force in Persia, the engagements of the treaty had not yet been fulfilled. Reports had appeared even that fresh troops were being sent from Persia to Herat. This was denied by the Persian Ambassador. At any rate, whilst doubts are entertained of the good faith of the Persian Government, and the stipulations of the treaty remained to be carried out, it would be desirable that a British force, under such a distinguished soldier as *General Jacob* should remain. In conclusion, the house might depend that no exertions would be wanting on the part of the Government to maintain our empire in India.

Mr. Disraeli did not see why we might not have a Channel fleet, and yet send troops to the East in war ships; 5,000 men might have been sent through Egypt and ought to have been at once, as they would have been of the greatest service. He expressed his mortification that, after all that has been said of scientific progress, we cannot have recourse to any of those new sources of strength. He was glad to hear that the Militia was not to be looked upon merely as a means of recruiting the Line, but he wished they had been called out on a greater scale. The house only had one object—to let the Government understand that members are most anxious to forward all measures calculated to suppress the mutiny, reserving the right of criticism. Much depended upon the late of Cawnpore:—

"I think it a much more important question than that of Delhi. There is a railroad from Allahabad to Cawnpore, to the extent of sixty miles, and, although the locomotives are liable to destruction from local causes, it is still used as a tramroad. There will be 60 or 70 miles more, over which the troops would have to march, and in a country where the population is to a great extent in insurrection; but it may be assumed that in five or six days the force from Allahabad would arrive at Cawnpore, and that would be the signal for success. It appears to me that on the late of Cawnpore much if not everything depends. If we can maintain our post there until November, when the advance of the army takes place, we may indulge hopes of success. But in so doing it is of the utmost importance that we should in November make an advance, both by the Indus and through Bengal, which would demonstrate to the whole peninsula of India that our force is comprehensive and irresistible. I trust the plans of Her Majesty's Ministers will justify these expectations."

Mr. Disraeli doubted them, and asked what had been done in respect to the troops at the Cape? The 45th Regiment, which had been out there fifteen years ought to have an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, which they had not been allowed in the Crimea. The right hon. gentleman then took up the observations of the Premier as to the reduction of the army, justifying the House of Commons in the course it had taken. Every aid was given by the country to Government to carry on the Russian war, and the moment a peace was ensued, their bounden duty was to use economy.

The only return we could make to the people for the zeal and patriotism with which they came forward in the emergency, was by showing that, when the crisis was past, we were mindful of our duty as stewards of the public purse; that we were not debauched by the habit which prevails in Parliament during a time of war, of easily voting public money; but that we were prepared to force upon the Government a system of reduction and economy. This was the first duty of Parliament; and it was the first duty of Government, if they believed that peace was secured, to respond to our wishes. I say, therefore, so far as the House of Commons was concerned, that we acted most wisely in the course we took; because, what excites in emergencies a prompt and passionate response to the appeals of the Government on the part of the community, who have been described by the noble lord as so short sighted, but the conviction that advantage will not be taken of their generosity, and that when the desired result has been accomplished their interests will be consulted, and that they will be allowed to husband those resources which, if an emergency should arise, will enable them to afford similar assistance to the Government? It is the economy, the retrenchment, and the reductions of taxation effected after the war, which enable the community when an emergency again arises to come promptly and powerfully to the aid of the Government. (Cheers.) There is some distinction between the position of a mere member of Parliament and that of a Minister of the Crown. A member of Parliament deems it his duty on the termination of a great struggle, and after the commencement of peace, to enforce reduction and retrenchment. Something more is to be expected from the Minister of the Crown. He has sources of information not open to us, and he has a policy in his mind of which we are not the sharers. He has a responsibility on him ten thousand times greater than all the members of Parliament put together; and if the Minister believes it to be not wise or expedient to effect reduction or retrenchment, the Minister, under those circumstances, is bound to come forward, and if he had that conviction it is not only his duty, but, in my opinion, it would be on his part a duty which he could successfully fulfil, to impress that conviction on Parliament. If Parliament pressed the Government for reductions which they believed would be injurious to the country, it would be in the power of a Minister—and I assure it would be in the power of the noble lord, addressing the house in a warning and monitorial tone, without making revelations inconvenient to the public service—to make such an impression on Parliament as to induce members to relax in the course of the war.