

we observed—The Earl of Shaftesbury, chairman of the "Special Services Committee;" Lord Radstock, Admiral Sir Henry Hope, Admiral Vernon Harcourt, Sir E. N. Buxton, Bart., M.P., Robert Hanbury, jun., Esq., M.P., Mr. T. Fowell Buxton, Hon. Capt. Maude, R.N., &c.:

The Earl of Shaftesbury (after reading a number of letters from gentlemen unable to attend) explained that the object of the deputation was to obtain the counsel and advice of his Grace, under the circumstances brought about by the Rev. A. G. Edouart's prohibition. "The noble earl dwelt with much emphasis on the fact that while Mohammedanism, Mormonism, or other forms of false doctrine might be preached in public halls, without legal hindrance, it was only the Evangelical clergy of the Church of England, filled with truth, who were subjected to have their mouths thus stopped by the irresponsible act of an incumbent. He adverted to the effect of this anomalous state of things in enabling opponents of the Established Church to point to such restrictions in a way humiliating to Churchmen. He must, however, bear his testimony to the creditable conduct of the Nonconformists on the present occasion. In continuing the special services to the working classes they had adopted our Litany, and held themselves ready again to surrender the hall when the original promoters of the plan might be at liberty to reoccupy it. He concluded by expressing an earnest hope for the removal of the existing hindrance, so that within the four seas the "Word of God might have free course and be glorified."

The Archbishop said in reply that he regretted as much as any of the deputation the circumstances which had brought them there, and the difficulties to which "we" were subjected in the present instance. He used the word "we" advisedly, to show how he identified himself with the movement. He felt, however, the necessity of upholding the principles of the parochial system, which undoubtedly prevented a clergyman officiating, in any technical sense, in a parish without the consent of the incumbent. He had no doubt that Mr. Edouart had acted on the known law in this respect, and he (the Archbishop) felt the difficulty of altering a general law to meet a particular case; but it was an absurd thing to apply a general law of that kind to a case which had not been foreseen, and he could not believe that such meetings as those in Exeter Hall could be regarded as in conformity with parochial order. He was confirmed in this view by the fact that a meeting of thirty metropolitan clergymen, to whom Mr. Edouart's intention to interfere had been made known before it was carried out, they all, after discussion, agreed that special services in places such as Exeter and St. Martin's Hall did not come within the scope and intention of the existing law. With regard to the bill which the noble earl (Shaftesbury) had introduced into the House of Lords, he (the Archbishop) had not had the opportunity of consulting his right reverend brethren on the subject, and it would, therefore, be premature to express an opinion further than that, on the whole, he agreed to its principle. After some observations of a conversational character between his Grace and members of the deputation, the interview terminated.

At Thornton Heath, about a mile from Croydon, a shocking tragedy has occurred. The whole of a family—a mother and her two sons—were poisoned by the eldest son, Mr. William Holton Smither, on Thursday morning. The servant-girl at the house had taken up a wine glass to Mr. William Smither the first thing in the morning; some time afterwards, finding the brothers did not make their appearance to breakfast she went to the bedroom of Charles and listened for a moment or so, and hearing no noise, she pushed the door open, and the first thing that caught her view was the countenance of her young master, with a quantity of coloured foam about the mouth and nostrils. The sight so alarmed her that she retired from the room, and at once ran to the house next door for assistance, and returned with the servant-man. The two persons then entered the bedroom, where they found both the brothers perfectly lifeless, and a phial and a wine glass on the foot of the bed. The first exclamation of the servant was, that she was sure the shock would kill her mistress, and she hesitated for a few moments as to how she should break it to her. In a few moments, however, she summoned resolution and proceeded to her mistress's bedroom, on the same floor, and on entering it, shocking to relate, found the unfortunate lady numbered amongst the dead also. She lay on the bed with her head resting on her right hand, the bed perfectly unruffled. It appears that Mrs. Smither had been ailing for some days, and that her son William had been in the habit of giving her the medicine prescribed for her illness, and by this means had been enabled to give her the fatal dose, which must, in a moment, have terminated her existence. It is the opinion of those that had seen him that the fatal drug must have been poured into the mouth of the youth Charles while he lay on his back, and that the sudden shock to the circulation had caused the foam to the mouth and nostrils. It is also believed that the quantity of Prussic acid taken by the unfortunate murderer himself was so great that his death was instantaneous. William Smither was a

clerk in the Bank of England, and his brother Charles was expecting an appointment in the same establishment. The murderer was in difficulties from speculating in the funds, and dreaded exposure. An inquest was opened on Saturday, when the servant was the principal witness. After telling the sad story, as given above, she added—

William was a very excitable young man, and had drunk to excess on the two days previous to his death. Mrs. Smither gave William £20 to put away for her; but he had used the money, and could not bear to tell his mamma of it. I think William did not like to die alone. All the family seemed to live very happily together, and to love one another very much. I think William gave Charles and his mother the prussic acid out of affection for them.

A phial, labelled "Prussic acid—poison," was found in the bed. The medical testimony was to the effect that the two brothers had undoubtedly died from prussic acid; but the cause of the mother's death was not so clear. The inquiry was therefore adjourned for the purpose of having a post mortem examination made. It was resumed yesterday, when the medical evidence was to the effect that Mrs. Smither had also been poisoned by prussic acid. The jury found—"That the deceased Mrs. Mary Smither and the deceased Charles Smither were both wilfully murdered by the deceased William Holton Smither, and that the said William Holton Smither committed suicide while in a state of temporary mental derangement."

INDIA.

A letter written by M. de Bannerot, a French physician in the service of Musur Rajah, and published in *Le Pays*, gives the following account of the relief of Lucknow, as described by a lady, one of the rescued party:—

On every side death stared us in the face; no human skill could avert it any longer. We saw the moment approach when we must bid farewell to earth yet without feeling that unutterable horror which must have been experienced by the unhappy victims at Cawnpore. We were resolved rather to die than to yield, and were fully persuaded that in twenty-four hours all would be over. The engineers had said so, and all knew the worst. We women strove to encourage each other, and to perform the light duties which had been assigned to us, such as conveying orders to the batteries and supplying the men with provisions, especially cups of coffee, which we prepared day and night. I had gone out to try and make myself useful, in company with Jessie Brown, the wife of a corporal in my husband's regiment. Poor Jessie had been in a state of restless excitement all through the siege, and had fallen away visibly within the last few days. A constant fever consumed her, and her mind wandered occasionally, especially that day, when the recollection of home seemed powerfully present to her. At last, overcome with fatigue, she lay down on the ground, wrapped up in her plaid. I sat beside her, promising to awaken her when, as she said, "her father should return from the ploughing." She fell at length into a profound slumber, motionless and, apparently breathless, her head resting in my lap. I myself could no longer resist the inclination to sleep, in spite of the continual roar of the cannon. Suddenly I was aroused by a wild, unearthly scream close to my ear; my companion stood upright beside me, her arms raised, and her ear bent forward in the attitude of listening. A look of intense delight broke over her countenance; she grasped my hand, drew me towards her, and exclaimed, "Dinna ye hear it? dinna ye hear it? Ay, I'm no dreamin', it's the slogan of the Highlanders! We're saved! we're saved!" Then, flinging herself on her knees, she thanked God with passionate fervour. I felt utterly bewildered: my English ears heard only the roar of artillery, and I thought my poor Jessie was still raving, but she darted to the batteries, and I heard her cry incessantly to the men, "Courage, courage, hark to the slogan—to the Macgregor, the grandest of them all! Here's help at last!" To describe the effect of these words upon the soldiers would be impossible. For a moment they ceased firing, and every soul listened in intense anxiety. Gradually, however, there arose a murmur of bitter disappointment, and the wailing of the women who had flocked to the spot burst out anew as the Colonel shook his head. Our dull lowland ears heard nothing but the rattle of the musketry. A few moments more of this death-like suspense, of this agonising hope, and Jessie, who had again sunk on the ground, sprang to her feet, and cried in a voice so clear and piercing that it was heard along the whole line—"Will you no believe it now? The slogan has ceased indeed, but the Campbells are comin'! D'ye hear, d'ye hear!" At that moment we seemed, indeed

to hear the voice of God in the distance, when the pibroch of the Highlanders brought us tidings of deliverance, for now there was no longer any doubt of the fact. That shrill, penetrating ceaseless sound, which rose above all other sounds, could come neither from the advance of the enemy nor from the work of the Sappers. No, it was indeed the blast of the Scottish bagpipes, now shrill and harsh, as threatening vengeance on the foe, then in softer tones seeming to promise succour to their friends in need. Never, surely, was there such a scene as that which followed; not a heart in the Residency of Lucknow but bowed itself before God. All, by one simultaneous impulse, fell upon their knees, and nothing was heard but bursting sob and the murmured voice of prayer. Then all arose, and there rang out from a thousand lips a great shout of joy, which surrounded far and wide, and lent new vigor to the blessed pibroch. To our cheer of "God save the Queen," they replied by the well-known strain that moves every Scot to tears, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot," &c. After that, nothing else made any impression on me. I scarcely remember what followed. Jessie was presented to the General on his entrance into the fort, and at the officers' banquet her health was drunk by all present, while the pipers marched round the table playing once more the familiar air of "Auld Lang Syne."

The *Times* Bombay correspondent declares the news to be satisfactory, as the disturbed districts were settling down, those threatened considered safe, and the whole rebellion concentrated in Oude. The positive news from Lucknow is little beyond what is given in the telegrams. In addition to the despatch sent by Lord Canning, announcing that "all is right at Lucknow," Sir Colin Campbell is said to have received a letter from Sir James Outram, declaring that the garrison could hold out some days yet, and begging that no thought of its danger might interfere with a complete victory.—Communication between Allumbagh, where the sick and wounded of Havelock's force had been left, and Cawnpore, was "perfectly clear for a party of moderate strength," and provisions were conveyed on the 25th of October; but the dense masses of mutineers encamped on the three miles between Allumbagh and the Lucknow Residency presented "difficulties formidable to an army." There has scarcely been a line of intelligence, therefore, from the latter place since the 21st of Sept., the day it was relieved. It is expected, however, that Havelock and Outram continued their operations till they were in possession of a third of the town; they then found their casualties had been so severe that they were obliged to retire once more within the Residency. The *Bombay Times* says—

"On the 18th Oct. a tremendous explosion was heard at Allumbagh, supposed to have been occasioned by the blowing up of the principal magazine of the enemy. Provisions now began to fail, and an attempt is supposed to have been contemplated to return to Allumbagh. On the 19th severe fighting is said to have occurred in the streets, in an endeavour to reunite the divided troops, or probably to secure some position of the enemy's, occasioning special annoyance—for our information is little better than the echo of a rumour. Maun Singh, the great Oude landholder, who promised to join us with 15,000 men, is said to have become incensed against us about the time of Outram's arrival by a malicious falsehood, intimating that his zenana had been violated. On discovering that he had been made the victim of a deception, he is said to have expressed his regret for what he had done, and to have proposed to join us; but these things are to be received as rumours only, still wanting confirmation. It was understood the garrison expected to be able to hold out till the 10th November. At this date they would be relieved, and able to resume the offensive at least 7,000 strong."

On the 31st Oct. Colonel Greathed's column, now under Brigadier Grant, of the 9th Lancers, and increased to 5,000 strong, crossed the Ganges, and reached Allumbagh, without opposition, on the 3rd Nov. They took with them fifteen guns, 2,500 cauals, and 500 carts, with supplies for Lucknow. Speaking of this force, the *Times* correspondent says—

"It mustered 3,500 men, its losses on the march and in action having been supplied by about 400 of the 98th Highlanders, and details of the 5th Fusiliers and the Royal Artillery. The column reached Allumbagh unmolested, and when last heard of, about the 8th inst., was halted there, awaiting the arrival of Sir Colin Campbell from Cawnpore. The Commander-in-Chief reached that station a few days after the departure of Grant's force, and crossed the river on the 9th. We do not know what