

young Wheatley, of the late 54th (one of the few who had escaped the massacre), was taken from the middle of us, a large piece of the shell striking him in the shoulder and nearly cutting him in two. He dropped down dead, poor young fellow! Five of us who were sitting within a circle of ten yards, were more or less struck, but none seriously. I got an admonitory thump on the shoulder from a large piece of a stone that was sent whizzing by my ear; thank God, a stiff shoulder is the only damage done. Two more were cut about the face. The splinters then left us alone in a most curious way and went about six yards, I expect with a large piece of the round shot, which must have struck the wall at the other end of the gateway and burst again, for it killed two men of the 6th Carabineers who were sitting at the mouth of the gateway, smashing their massive brass helmets and thick turban covers as if they had been made of thin glass, and at the same time five or six Goorkas of the Sirmoor battalion were killed on the spot, also a poor syce. It is a most wonderful thing we were not all killed, but a merciful Providence was watching over us. We have now some sandbags as a wall in front of the gateway, and are pretty safe from shot and shell.

The guns of the mutineers appear to be well served. This is the first scrimmage in India where the enemy have had an unlimited supply of artillery of every description. They are splendid gunners, and pitch their shells with most disagreeable precision. One round shot the other day killed one officer and six men, and wounded two others mortally. I was sitting in the battery the day before yesterday smoking a pipe, when a shell came bang bobino, and burst in the parapet. It knocked me well forward, but did not even upset a sandbag, to my great joy, for I was rather fearful that the battery was too thin. If they don't give us a medal when this is over, I will never speak to a Director again. The rains are coming on in a day or two, by all appearance. I hope the men won't get ill in tents.

Another officer writes:—

Our batteries are playing on the city and palace of Delhi. The sickness inside is awful; they have their dead and wounded all together, and the stench is frightful, even outside. Two European deserters were cut down at the guns. One had dyed his face, but he called for mercy in English, and was in a thousand pieces in a minute. Martial law has been declared, and we hang six or so every evening, most of them the butchers who were engaged in the affray, and had assisted here in murder and plunder. I rode out this morning to see the bungalows, and found nothing but heaps of bricks and rubbish. Every bungalow here nearly was burnt. The moment the Sepoys broke out thousands of villagers swarmed in, and carried off everything.

An Artillery officer at Pashawur gives an instance of the use of the telegraph, by which communication had been kept up with the Panjab:—

A letter was intercepted at Pindco, which said "Three natives of high rank (giving names) sit in council to-morrow to decide what to do against the English." Telegraph said, "Let a spy attend and report." This was done, and in a few minutes after the outlines of the plot were before Lawrence. Telegraph again, "Hang them all three." In fifteen minutes more they were hung. Short work!

Since the 10th of June, the date of the first despatches speaking of disturbances in India, 43 sailing vessels and 14 steamers have left England with troops. The number of men these have taken amounts in all to 20,717 men. Eight more sailing vessels and six more steamers are under orders, and by the end of the week, if all is well, 27,450 men will have been despatched to India in 72 vessels.

Four hundred rounds of ammunition per man is to be allowed for the troops going out to India and China; and the greater part of this was shipped in the *Victoria* and the *Sydney* transports on the 13th inst.

It is understood that the Government has placed three regiments at Gibraltar, two at Malta, one at Corfu, and two at the Cape of Good Hope, under orders of readiness for embarkation, should their services be required in India. The vacancies occasioned by the withdrawal of the troops from the Mediterranean will be filled up by regiments of militia, a plan which, it will be remembered, was adopted with great success during the Russian war.

Colonel the Hon. Percy Herbert, M. P. for Ludlow, will, it is stated, command a brigade in the army which has just been despatched to India. The gallant colonel was deputy quartermaster-general of the division under Sir De Lacy Evans in the Crimea, and was afterwards quartermaster-general in the Crimea.

The despatch of troops to India has lowered our home establishment of infantry of the line to fourteen battalions, instead of forty, the proper proportion for the United Kingdom, and it is quite obvious that for some time it will be necessary to maintain a considerable European force in that country. It has therefore been determined to make a considerable addition to the army immediately, which will consist, at the least, of twenty new battalions of infantry.

The Divorce Bill, as amended in the Lords on Monday, was finally agreed to in both houses yesterday, Sir G. Grey explaining that the majority of four was against the insertion of the provision that a single act of adultery on the part of a man should deprive him of the right to obtain a divorce on account of the misconduct of his wife, and not in its favour as misreported in the morning papers. Mr. Henley made a further protest against the abandonment of the clause allowing divorce for adultery in the conjugal residence, and blamed the Government for having given way upon it. Lord Palmerston replied they had defended it in the House of Lords, but were beaten by the right hon. gentleman's own friends; but after it had been struck out in the other house by 44 to 27, it would be useless now to insist upon its reinsertion, and he should vote against it. The Lords' alteration was then maintained by 43 to 11.

The Convocation of the Prelates and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury was yesterday prorogued, in the Jewel Chamber, Westminster, by the Vicar-General, Dr. Twiss, under a commission from his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitan, to Friday, Oct. 9.

Last night's *Gazette* announces that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Rev. John Bowen, L.L.D., to be ordained and consecrated Bishop of Sierra Leone, in the room of the Right Revd. John Willis Weeks, deceased.

Major General Windham has been taking leave of his constituents in Norfolk, preparatory to his departure for India which takes place to-day, (Aug. 26) under the following circumstances, as related in his speech last Thursday. After some local greetings and explanations, he said—

"The same appointment that has been offered to me now was offered to me a year ago. At that time there was no war going on, and I did not see, as I had no real want of money, why I should go out and leave my wife and family, to whom I am much attached, when there was no real military call for it. As soon, however, as I saw that there was a really dangerous disturbance in the East, I thought it my duty to write to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and tell him I considered active service and peace service very different things, and although private reasons made me desirous of staying at home, I was still perfectly ready to accept any active employment her Majesty might choose to give me. The next thing I heard from him was a very short one, merely saying, "Hold yourself in readiness, as your services are required in India." I was down at Cromer, pursuing the evil habit of smoking, when a telegraphic message came ordering me immediately up to London, as his Royal Highness wanted to see me. I went, and found I was to take the command of General Redd's division before Delhi. I have a very strong opinion that Delhi is not yet taken, and I am sorry to say I do not think it will be taken quite so fast as many men in this country think it will be. I sincerely hope it may, and that it may have fallen ere now, for it would be an immense advantage. I assure you, after two trials of Sebastopol, I do not covet in the slightest degree the honour of flinging the sword which you were kind enough to present to me on my return from the Crimea in an attack upon Delhi.—Any man would be vain and foolish, and if he were serious and religious, if he were to boast of what he could do in war; for every soldier must know that every instant of the day his life is not in his own hands. Any man must be a fool to boast of what he could do in war, when the whole thing is in the hands of God; but I most sincerely pray and honestly hope that if I am called upon to draw the sword presented to me by this country, I shall bring it back again without disgrace. (Loud cheers)

It is formally announced by the Government, in both Houses of Parliament, that the question of the Principalities was really settled at Osborne, and that England and Austria, unable to defend the conduct of the Moldavian elections, have consented to annul them. A rumour follows that Lord Stratford, unable to brook his desertion by Lord Palmerston, is to return home. It is more probable that he will concentrate his efforts and assist Prince Vologodski to play his game over again. Will that mend matters?

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—It has not yet been finally decided whether a renewed attempt should be made to submerge the Atlantic cable during the present autumn, or whether the proceedings should be deferred until next summer. The directors of the company have adopted measures for ascertaining the opinions of nautical men as to whether the state of the Atlantic will be such as to justify the company in endeavoring to lay the cable in the month of October. Captain Harrison, who has had a very large amount of experience, probably more than any other naval man in sailing over the North Atlantic, is strongly of opinion that the attempt should be made. An immense number of observations recorded in logs have been collected, and are now being

very carefully studied by a committee of naval men, who are expected to make their report in the course of a few days. Should the report be against proceeding this autumn, the directors will accept one or other of the offers which have been already made by the companies proposing to complete the telegraphic communication to India. The parties proposing the Euphrates line have, it is said, the funds in hand, and the promoters of the Red Sea line have obtained the promise of assistance from the Government to the extent of £20,000 per annum. There will be no difficulty in getting a sufficient amount of cable made to replace the quantity which has been lost, together with the additional length of "slack" which the directors have resolved upon in the event of a renewed attempt. There are no circumstances connected with the accident which has occurred to render doubtful the success of the great undertaking. With one small exception, every submarine cable which has been laid was inaugurated by a failure, and the experience gained in the present case has been cheaply purchased, even if the lost portion of the cable should never be recovered.

Various rumours report that peerages are to be conferred on Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord John Russell, Lord Henry Vane, Sir F. Baring, Sir B. Hall, Mr. G. G. Harcourt, Mr. Compton Cavendish, and Mr. Langston. The *Globe* admits that—

There is some foundation for the statements made by some of our contemporaries as to the creation of new peers, but the number will not be so large as the language of the journals would appear to warrant us in anticipating. The number of new peers will, probably, not exceed three; Lord Robert Grosvenor, M. P. for Middlesex, will be one of them. As regards the other gentlemen named, we do not think that our contemporaries are correct in their announcement.

The claim of Lord Lovat to rank among the peers of Scotland, after being before the House of Lords nearly thirty years, was decided yesterday session. The Lord Advocate for the Crown, expressed an opinion that the evidence was satisfactory; whereupon, on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor, the committee agreed to report to Her Majesty that Lord Lovat had sustained his claim.

No fewer than two generals, nine colonels, seven majors, twenty nine captains, and thirty two lieutenants, proceeded by the Overland Route on the 4th of August to India; and one general, eight colonels, two majors, thirty one captains, and nineteen lieutenants, left by the same route on the 20th inst; making a total of 140 officers.

#### IRELAND.

In the *Times* of yesterday appears a letter signed "David Buchanan," and dated "Westport, Ireland." The writer says that in 1848 he was one of the "Young Irelanders," and had to fly his country. After the lapse of these eight years he has returned, and now very candidly deposes that—

Ireland is no longer the land it was; beggars do not now swarm round public conveyances as in former days. In the Episcopal city of Tuam, where, ten years ago, mendicants, witty, clamorous, and abusive, crowded about the coach doors in dozens, I only saw one poor old creature as I passed through asking alms. From Athoorny, where I left the railway for Bianconi's car, to Westport, a distance of seventy miles, I saw no signs of abject misery or poverty. Doubtless there are cabins to be seen that might shock a "Sassenach's notions of comfort," but had he seen the same district twelve years ago, he would take courage, as I do, at its flourishing appearance; and when he contrasted the improved cultivation of the present with the wretched scraping of the past, the little white cottages on the mountain sides or in the lonely glen, the flourishing patches of oats and potatoes far up among the rugged rocks on the steep hill side, the healthy, happy appearance of the peasantry, the utter absence of beggars, with things as they were in those days, then he would cease to wonder that the hot blood of the Irish rebel of '48 flows in a more temperate flood, and that while there are men in Ireland who do not "fear to speak of '93" or "'48," yet the brave, the wise, and the experienced, thank Heaven that their mad schemes failed, and that prosperity dawns over the length and breadth of Ireland.

ENORMOUS MASS OF NATIVE COPPER.—According to the *Lake Superior Miner*, of March 7, there is now in the Minnesota mine a single detached mass of apparently pure metallic copper which is some forty-five feet in length and as much as eight or nine feet thick where thickest. If pure as it appears, it contains about five hundred tons of metal, and is worth as it lies more than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.