SIR H. LAWRENCE ON THE STATE OF OUDE.

The following is an extract from Sir Henry Lawrence's article on Army Reform, in the September, (1856,) number of the *Calcutta Review*.—(only seven months before the commencement of the mutiny,) which throws considerable light upon the powerful and obstinate character of the opposition there, and is interesting as a late expression of the opinion of this distinguished man on a subject which he so well understood :

"Oude has long been the Alsatia of India. In that province were to be met, even more than at Hyderabad, or at Lahore, the Afreedee and Durukzye of the Khyber, the Belooch of Khelat, and the Wazeree of the Sulimani range. There are also congregated the idle, the disaffected of every native state in India. Added to these were many deserters from the British ranks; yet the contingent of 12,000 men has been almost wholly filled from the old Oude army. The reason assigned for the different line of conduct is, that the Punjaub was conquered, but that Oude fell in peace. In this there is a fallacy,—little understood, but not the less a fallacy. Proportionally few of the instigators of opposition at Lahore and in the Sikh army were Sikhs. They were British subjects, many of them British deserters. The general feeling of the Sikhs was hardly hostile. Many of the Sikhs were friendly, decidedly so, compared with the Hindostanees in the Punjaub service.

"The King of Oude employed 50,000 soldiers; his chiefs and officials at least as many more. Of these vast numbers, one fifth at the utmost have found employment in the police and irregular corps. Yet these levies, with half a dozen regular corps, form the whole army of occupation. This seems a grave mistake. Why not, at least, make a change? Why not move some of the Punjaub regiments that have been keeping constant watch and ward on the Indus for seven years to Oude, and send some of the King's people to the North-west? The King had some 8000 artillery; of these about 500 may have obtained employment, the rest, old and young, are on the world. Surely, if there was danger in employing Sikhs in 1849, it would be well to remove some portion of the Oude levies from Oude, where such materials for mischief still remain. In the province are 246 forts, besides innumerable smaller strongholds, many of them sheltered within thick jungles. In these forts are 476 guns. Forts and guns should all be in the hands of Government, or the forts should be razed. Many a foolish fellow has been urged on his own ruin by the possession of a paltry fort; and many a paltry mud fort has repulsed British troops. . . .

"The 80,000 or 90,000 disbanded Oude soldiers are the brethren of the British Sepoys. . . .

"A paragraph in the *Delhi Gazette*, announcing that the Oude authorities are disposed to dispense with the services of the regular regiments for Lucknow, tempts a few further words of caution, though we do not altogether credit the newspaper report. The earliest days of annexation are not the safest. Be liberal, considerate, and merciful; but be prompt, watchful, and even quietly suspicious. Let not the loose characters floating on the surface of society, especially such a society as Lucknow, be too far tempted or trusted. Wellington's maxim of 'keeping the troops out of sight' answered for England; it will not answer for India. There must be trusty bayonets within sight of the understandings, if not of the eyes, of Indian subjects before they will pay willing obedience or any revenue. Of late years the wheels of Government have been moving very fast; many native prejudices have been shocked. Natives are now threatened with the abolition of polygamy. It would not be difficult to twist this into an attack on Hindooism. At any rate, the faster the vessel glides the more need of caution—of watching the weather, the rocks and the shoals.

THE HERO OF THE CASHMERE GATE.

The following letter was written to his mother on the very eve of his death, by Lieut. Home, of the Bengal Engineers, who had so large a share in the blowing up of the Cashmere Gate, at Delhi :—

"Camp, Malaghur, near Bolundshuhur, Oct. 1.

"My dearest Mother,—In the hurry and work of the siege of Delhi, the last mail-day passed without my knowing it, or being able to write, and I am now on duty with the moveable column, whose destination is not known, and which has, as yet, only reached thus far, after an engagement with Walidad Khan's men at Blundshuhur, on Monday last. He bolted, and has left the fort in our hands, which I am at present rendering untenable. You will doubtless, ere this, have heard of the fall of Delhi, and that the king is in our hands. Mogul Beg and two other princes have been killed. The former was the man who killed uncle Simon. I must now tell you something about the siege, and of my goings on in it. For ten days I was pepetually on duty, day and night, first on the right and then on the left. I had charge of the construction of our first breaching battery, which was constructed in one night, a thing which has only been done in one other siege. The Engineers were highly complimented on it. I then had the construction of the battery nearest the city—at only 140 yards from it, which was finished satisfactorily, and breached the water bastion of the city. I remained in charge of the battery since the assault, in which my duties were as follow: I was directed to take charge of a party of 14 Sappers, with three non-commissioned officers and another officer of Engineers, named Salkeld, and to proceed and blow in the Cashmere Gate of the city. Owing to delays, the assault did not take place till sunrise, and I had to advance from Ludlow Castle (uncle Simon's house) in broad daylight to the gate, place powder bags against them, and then give the signal for the advance. We arrived at the gate quite safely, although we were under a heavy fire of musketry from the walls and through the wicket of the gate, which was open. However, as we were laying the bags at the gate, we began to lose men. There were two European non-commissioned officers and one native killed. Salkeld was badly wounded in the arm and leg. He has lost his arm, and his leg, being wounded, is in splinters. I hope he may recover, but it seems very doubtful. I had also two natives wounded. I myself escaped with a blow on the leg, above the knee, from a stone knocked up by a bullet. Out of twelve persons who were at the gate six were killed or wounded. For blowing in the Cashmere Gate, in broad daylight, General Wilson has put in orders that Salkeld, a serjeant, a bugler, and myself are to get the Victoria Cross; so we are, of course, proportionately proud, we being the first persons in the Indian army to receive this decoration. After we got into the city, owing to the heavy loss of engineers, nine out of 17 who went into action being killed or wounded, I was the third senior officer fit for duty, so got charge of the left column of attack, and was continually on duty until the king evacuated the palace. I had never more than four hours' sleep in the 24, and then only by snatches. I had also the pleasure of blowing in the gate of the palace, though no one luckily fired at me, there being so few men left to guard the palace, and they were asleep. The gate was blown in at noon. So now the Delhi business may be considered over, and I hope the country will soon begin to get settled. We had a tolerably sharp action with the rebels at Bolundshuhur, which they occupied with about 2000 men and some fourteen guns; however, after three hours' fighting they bolted. They had however managed to attack our baggage, and to cut up two sick Europeans who were being carried in dhoolies. We found a lot of European property in the fort, which had been looted from Blundshuhur. Walidad Khan was some relation of the King of Delhi, and had continually intercepted our communications during the row. He has now, I believe, gone to Rohilcund, which has become the refuge for the destitute. I do not know where we go from this place; I believe that the force is to go to Agra, but I should not be astonished at it being ordered on to Cawnpore, to join the force under Havelock. It is quite cool in camp, though the sun is still powerful. I have not received any letters from you by this mail, but hope to get some soon. With best love to you all, believe me, your affectionate son, Duncan C. Home.

The King of Delhi's Mode of Execution.—The following has been communicated to the *Poona Observer* :—It appears from a journal of a European traveller that a new and fearful mode of execution had been adopted by the King of Delhi. The instrument and process are thus described :—A box, each side of which is 15 feet square, is constructed of timber 18 inches thick, dovetailed together, and braced with iron rods. The outside of the bottom of the box is covered with a plate of beaten iron, one inch in thickness. The interior is filled with perfect cubes of granite, weighing in the aggregate several thousand tons. A machine is erected after the manner of an ordinary pile-driver, but of course on an enormous scale, and of tremendous strength. The mass is raised by powerful machinery cast in Birmingham for the express purpose, though it is to be presumed that the machinist by whom the work was furnished had no idea of the horrid purpose for which it was intended. The human victim is placed upon a block of granite, of a corresponding surface, buried in the earth immediately beneath the enormous mass, and covered with a plate of iron. At a signal given by the vicramadack, the executioner touches a spring, the mass falls, and the victim, crushed at once, is suddenly annihilated, and spread out like a sheet of pasteboard! The huge weight being again raised, the flattened body is withdrawn and dried in the sun. When completely prepared, it is hung over the wall of a public building, there to serve as a warning to the multitude.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

(*From Wilmer's European Times, Jan. 2.*)

We shall know little, we presume, of the intentions of the Government respecting the contemplated changes in the affairs of India before Parliament meets next month. One authority in the press states that "several plans have been under consideration, and it is currently stated that a modified representative system is to be established, the representatives to form a lower house and a supreme council; a governor-general to be appointed, as at present; the seat of government for the three presidencies to be Calcutta, as at present. With respect to the re-organisation of the Bengal army, it is understood that 60,000 Europeans is the extent that will be allowed for the army of India; the remainder of the army will be composed of Africans, Affghans, Sikhs, Goorklas, and natives of India Proper. The armies of the three presidencies will be consolidated, and the troops, instead of being confined to one district, will be obliged, as is the case with the British army, to serve in all; caste will everywhere be discouraged, and each regiment will contain an admixture of Hindoos." An evening paper, clothed with official prestige, commenting on the spirit of the extract we have quoted, gives a slight glimpse of the ministerial policy. "There is nothing in Lord Palmerston's announcement which renders it probable that the financial system of India will undergo any alteration, that the Indian and Imperial Exchequer will be confounded, or that the Indian revenue and expenditure will be deprived of that separate character which they have hitherto invariably possessed. An alteration in the form of the home Government does not necessarily, or naturally, entail any alteration in the operations of the local Government, or in the incidences of the charges upon its revenues. The Charter Act of 1833 defined the financial position of the Indian Government, upon the abolition of the trading functions of the Company; and its language is quite explicit as to the debts of the Government of India, both past and future, being charged upon the revenues of India. There is nothing in the measure announced by Lord Palmerston which seems likely to interfere with this arrangement." But we place little reliance upon these announcements of ministerial intentions. The views entertained by the Cabinet may be considerably modified before the time comes for placing them before the nation.

The ravages of the earthquake in Naples have been most devastating. Churches have been knocked down, private buildings levelled with the dust, whole villages depopulated, and the destruction of human life fearful in the extreme. Some of the accounts state that 20,000 persons have been destroyed. A writer on the spot thus describes the scene :—"The movement appeared to be almost vertical, as the ground swelled beneath my feet, and the table rose and fell; and on the 4th night"—the writer is speaking of the metropolis—"many persons spent the night in their carriages in the open squares. The Government has sent assistance in beds, medicine, lint, food, nurses, and food for barracks to the site of the disasters, as also engineers to see what can be done to repair and restore."

The accounts from China state that the fleet was about to move into the Canton River, and Canton was to be seized and retained until compensation is made for the insolence of Yeh, and his insult to the English flag. The French fleet is to operate with the English fleet.

If the statements in certain letters from Paris are to be credited, the British Minister at the Court of Persia has again become involved with the Shah. One version of the rupture is, that our representative refuses to acknowledge the legitimacy of the heir to the throne, because the young Prince was appointed at the suggestion of the Russian Government. Another account declares that the English Minister was invited to the coronation of the Shah's son, and refused to lend his sanction to the event, on the ground, that the real heir was a refugee in Bagdad. It is to be hoped that they have seen the last of those squabbles. The country will certainly not tolerate another Persian rupture.

The commercial crisis on the Continent is fast subsiding. This week the Bank of France has reduced the rate of discount five per cent. No new failures have occurred at Hamburg; but Poland, and more especially its capital, Warsaw, has felt the pressure, and some of the ports in the Baltic have been seriously affected. In Sweden also much embarrassment has prevailed, but, in their entirety, the accounts are reassuring.

The French Government press is strongly advocating the course pursued by our neighbours in the matter of negro slavery, but the representations of Lord Clarendon have induced the appearance in Paris of M. Reges, the head of the Marseilles house which contracted to supply the French Government with negroes. What form the affair may assume, we can only infer from the language held in Parliament by Lord Clarendon, before that body adjourned for the Christmas holidays, and that language induces us to believe that the system will be put down by the Power that inaugurated it. Louis Napoleon cares something for public opinion in England; he has shown that he does; and nothing would compromise him so much on this side of the Channel as a persistence in what is a virtual revival of the slave trade.

A Formidable Enemy.—A correspondent of the *Mofussilite*, writing from Oude on the 6th ultimo, makes the following report of a strange affair in which our troops had been concerned :—"The troops, however, encountered a much more formidable and enterprising enemy on their way back to camp, and I am ashamed to say the 9th Lancers turned tail; both officers and men fled in utter confusion, while the Artillery drivers abandoned their guns, and bolted like mad, but without avail, for the enemy pursued them to camp, which friend and foe entered at the same time, the latter getting among the tents and having the audacity to attack our whole force, which had turned out in great alarm to cover the retreat of the Lancers and the others when they were seen running in such wild despair! The kilted Highlanders did not on this occasion display the courage for which they are famed, for, if anything, the 93rd sought shelter from the attacks of the victorious enemy with more agility than their breeched comrades, though I confess that being less protected they suffered more. The sailors of the Naval Brigade also, strange to say, showed the white feather, and 'topped their booms' with the rest, uttering naughty nautical ejaculations in the extremity of their terror. There is no mistake about it, our fellows were utterly routed, and the enemy continued to hover around the camp for some time, without our daring to molest them, and ultimately they retired in good order, and with very trifling loss." Don't be alarmed or indignant, good reader; imagine what you would yourself have done if attacked by a swarm of bees! While the force was returning from the Alumbagh to camp, one of the Lancers was tempted to poke his spear into a bees' nest, and the result is as above described.—*Bombay Gazette, Dec.* 4.

Murder in the Punjaub.—In the Punjaub the hill rebels still give considerable trouble. Lieutenant Neville, proceeding to Bombay to meet his intended bride, recently arrived there in the Windsor Castle, was killed at Pali Puttun, where his boat lay at anchor for the night. The following account of his death has been published :—It appears that Lieut. Neville started from Ferozepore in a country boat, and as his boat was dropping down the stream by a place called Jumlera, on the Sutlej, a party of the rebels, numbering 40, hailed the boatmen from the bank to put to. The request being backed by threats that they would be fired upon in the event of con-compliance, was at once obeyed, when the boat was attacked. A conflict ensued between the ill-fated occupant and the rebels. Lieut. Neville is said to have made a stout resistance, cutting down two of his assailants, but being himself wounded, he was seized and carried off to the rebel camp. He offered to pay the sum of 2000 rupees as a ransom for his life, and the party who made him a prisoner agreed to the arrangement. But no sooner was he taken before the chief of the insurgents than a command was issued to put him to death, which was done in the most diabolical manner. The commissioner, Major Hamilton, visited the scene of murder soon after, and I hear picked up a few relics belonging to the unfortunate man.

Compensation for Losses by the Indian Mutiny.—We believe we may state with confidence that the Government of India have received instructions from home to grant compensation to all persons who have lost property through the mutinies. We have not heard the precise nature of the arrangement, which we believe is to be settled by a committee; but we have heard that the compensation is to be awarded upon a certain regulated scale, according to the rank of the person. Of course, by this means some persons might receive less, and others more, than they lost; but the plan has the advantage of being simple and speedy in operation.—*Bengal Hurkaru, Nov.* 19.

The United States Senate committee on commerce have agreed to bring in a bill repealing the fishing bounties.

RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.

(From the *Times'* Special Correspondent at Calcutta.)

Calcutta, Nov. 23.

The clouds are breaking rapidly. The garrison of Lucknow has been relieved, and although the danger is not actually over, the destruction of the city and the dispersion of the rebels appear, humanly speaking, inevitable. Sir Colin Campbell arrived at Cawnpore on the 3d of November. It was believed that he would advance immediately, and indeed statements apparently authentic were received of his arrival at Alumbagh. It appears, however, that he waited for some heavy guns which were long upon the road. As Sir James Outram had informed him that he could hold out for some days longer, the delay was simple wisdom. At length, on the 11th of November, he started with too squadrons of cavalry as an escort, and a sharp ride of forty miles brought him the same evening to his camp. There he found the following force collected :—He was joined at the Alumbagh by 900 effective men, and had with him, besides, two troops of European Horse Artillery under Captains Remington and Blunt, with five guns each; a European Horse battery under Captain Bouchier; 60 European Royal Artillery, with two 18-pounders and two 8-inch mortars; 320 of the 9th Lancers; a squadron of Sikhs and Pathans from the 1st, and 2d, and 5th Punjaub Cavalry and from Hodson's Horse—altogether 430 men; 600 of Her Majesty's 8th and 95th Regiments; 1,000 of the 2d and 4th Punjaub and Sikh Infantry; two Companys Sikh Sappers, and some of the old Sappers and Miners; nearly the whole of Her Majesty's 93d Highlanders; 200 of Her Majesty's 5th Fusiliers; 360 men of H. M. 53d; 300 of the Naval Brigade with guns, and two squadrons of cavalry, with two guns, that escorted the Commander-in-Chief from Cawnpore to the British encampment.

Some of the camp followers had died of hunger, but the Europeans were in tolerable condition, and the entire force, though short-handed as to artillerymen, was in admirable order. At the Alumbagh he was joined by a European disguised as a native, with despatches from Sir James Outram. The information they contained changed the Commander-in-Chief's plans. He had intended, as I informed you, to cross the Goomtee, shell out the enemy from the further side of the stream, and bring off the women and children under cover of his guns. He found, however, that the garrison was in good heart, able to hold on, and most anxious that no thought of them should impair the completeness of the victory. He discovered also that to cross the Goomtee would be to spare the most dangerous portion of the town. The enclosed plan of the city will explain the difficulty, the quarter furthest from the Residency being the one occupied by the main body of the mutineers. Accordingly, all preparations being completed, on the 13th of November he attacked and blew up Jellalabad, a small fort near the Alumbagh. On the 15th, following up his stroke, he stormed the Martiniere—the great fortified house built by Claude Martine—and the Dilkoosha, the King's Palace. Thence, after repulsing one desperate sortie, he advanced upon the city proper, smashing his way, as he had threatened, with his big guns. On the 16th he crossed the canal upon the Secunder-bagh, "which was carried after a most severe struggle, the enemy suffering enormously.

These positions having been occupied, the Sahmuck was attacked with heavy artillery for three hours; it was carried at dusk, after one of the severest fights ever witnessed. Early on the 17th communications were opened to the left rear of the barracks towards the canal. A cannonade having been kept up all the morning in the Mess-house, that very strong position was carried by assault at 3 p. m. The troops rushed rapidly on after carrying the Mess-house, and were able to seize the Mothee Mahal before dark. Sir James Outram and Sir Henry Havelock then came out to meet the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief's wound is very slight, and does not interfere with his duty. In other words, the Commander-in-Chief had fought his way right through the great suburb east of the Cawnpore road. No details of his loss have yet transpired, but it must have been very considerable. The enemy fought splendidly, as they always do under cover, or on ground where shiftiness is more valuable than steady valour. The list of officers killed and wounded is a heavy one in proportion to the force. Sir Colin appears to have taken himself and his staff into the thick of it, forgetting that his death at this moment would be as disastrous as a defeat. It must have been a strange meeting that between him and General Havelock, both having accomplished the same task in the same way, though it may be hoped with a different result. It is understood that Sir Colin Campbell's first object is to send off the sick and wounded, women and children to Cawnpore. It is supposed that this task is easy, as his communications have evidently been kept open. He will then open fire on the remainder of the city, reduce it as far as possible to a ruin untenable even by Sepoys, and then establish himself firmly either in the Residency or one of the Palaces. As reinforcements arrive they are to be formed into flying columns, which, radiating from Lucknow, will cleanse Oude, Gurockpore, and the North-East countries. To strengthen these columns every soldier who arrives at Benares is ordered on to Cawnpore, with strict injunctions not to fight if he can help it on the road. This order leaves Benares, Allahabad, and Behar almost defenceless, but the new fort at the former place is rising rapidly, and will contain 10,000 men. Allahabad is similarly protected already, and Behar, though denuded of Europeans, is garrisoned by two regts. of Sikh police.

During Sir Colin Campbell's stay at Cawnpore an incident occurred which will show you better than any words of mine how critical was the position. The Gwalior mutineers, with some 5,000 men—1,500 of them cavalry, 25 siege guns, and a large siege train, were at Calpee, forty-eight miles from Cawnpore. It was rumored that they intended to advance. If they had done so, the Commander-in-Chief must have stopped to chastise them, or leave his rear exposed to the enemy, and his supplies, including his ammunition, to capture or destruction. In the meantime Lucknow might have fallen, and with it the prestige secured by the fall of Delhi. The Gwalior men, however, dared not advance, a fact which speaks volumes as to the military capacity of their leaders. According to one account, they remain immovable; according to another, they are "preparing" for the attack on Cawnpore. The former rumor is the less probable, as the mutineers, living altogether on plunder, must move as their supplies fail.

P.S. The women and children began moving from Lucknow on the 20th of November.

The Motee Mahal, as you will see from the enclosed plan, must have fallen under the Residency guns. Sir C Campbell has demanded orders to hold or leave Lucknow. He wants reinforcement bitterly, the sepoys swarming in the city and fighting as desperate Asiatics always fight. Fifteen hundred dead bodies, all sepoys, were counted in the Secunderbagh alone. Where are the reinforcements to come from? Ten thousand men have arrived in Calcutta in the past fortnight, but there are no means of carriage.

The Gwalior men, with their heavy artillery, are threatening Cawnpore. Our dawks have been seized within five miles of the station. Our troops, 2,000 strong, with twelve pieces of cannon, are posted on the road four miles outside Cawnpore.

The *Calcutta Englishman* states the loss of the enemy at Lucknow at 7,000 men.

Among the passengers by the Nemesis is Rajah Sir James Brooke, who is visiting England on private affairs. Captain Hall, of the Oude Irregulars, was also on board. He fell into the hands of some friendly rajahs, who passed him down the Ganges. His wife and two children died in Lucknow from the sufferings they endured. Mrs. Henry, widow of Captain Henry, who was killed at the head of the constabulary while fighting against the rebellious Bheels, was also a passenger.

Sepoy Victims in England.—The *Medical Times* says :—"It has become the fashion for certain writers to throw doubts upon the truth of the reports of the atrocities committed by the Sepoy mutineers upon our countrymen in India. It is said that these reports have come through native spies, have been coloured by the Indian press, and have not been authenticated by European testimony. How far these arguments are worthy of credit our readers may judge from the following statements. We have been assured by a medical friend that he has been consulted by a lady who has recently arrived at Bayswater, from India, whose nose has been cut off. Her child, three years old, has neither hands nor feet; they were all cut off by the mutineers. How the child survived is a mystery. The governess of this family escaped with the loss of her ears, which were cut off as an easy way of getting her earrings. Another friend is attending a lady whose nose has been slit open, and her ears have been cut off. She has brought home to England three young children, all blind. Their eyes have been gouged out by the Sepoys. We have heard from another source, quite beyond question (a lady who speaks from personal knowledge), that there are several ladies now in Calcutta who have undergone such unspeakable degradation that they obstinately refuse to give their names. They prefer to be thought of by their relations in England as dead. There are also in Calcutta several young children whose names are quite unknown. One little creature says she is 'Mamma's pet;' and that is all we are ever likely to know of her past history."

BURNING OF THE SARAH SANDS SCREW TRANSPORT STEAMER.

We regret to announce that a fearful catastrophe by fire has happened to the Sarah Sands transport steamer on her passage to India from Portsmouth with the head-quarters and a large portion of the men of the 54th Regiment on board, whose preservation and that of the crew may be fairly considered one of the most marvellous on record, as may be inferred from the fact that the ship was burning furiously in a heavy gale of wind 16 hours, the whole of her after part being burnt out to a shell.

The Sarah Sands was an iron ship, upwards of 2000 tons burden, and was formerly employed in running from Liverpool to America. She was chartered by the East India Company for the conveyance of troops to India, and on the 16th of last August she left Portsmouth for Calcutta, under the command of Capt. J. S. Castle, with a portion of the 54th regiment on board, comprising Lieutenant-Colonel Moffat, Captains Brett, Thomson, and Gillum; Lieutenants Galbraith, Hughes, and Crowpe; Ensign Wood; Lieutenant and Adjutant Houston, Surgeon Grant, Assistant-Surgeon Donovan, Quartermaster Hipkin, Paymaster Daniel, 21 serjeants, 15 corporals, 11 drummers, 306 rank and file, 8 women, 7 children, and a number of ladies, relatives of the officers. The voyage appears to have been favourable until the 11th Nov., when the ship had reached lat 14 S., lon. 56 E. (upwards of 400 miles from the Mauritius) About 3 o'clock in the afternoon of that day the troops berthed on the after orlop deck noticed a smell of burning, which apparently proceeded from beneath them in the hold. It rapidly increasing, the alarm was given to Captain Castle, who at once ordered the after-hold to be examined, and, to the astonishment of all, the cargo stowed there proved to be on fire. It is stated that the bulk of the cargo there consisted of Government stores. Bale after bale was hauled up in the hope of getting at the seat of the fire; but in a short time the smoke became so dense as to defy any of the crew getting further into the hold. There was no confusion, however; every order was obeyed by the men with coolness and courage. The course of the ship was stopped. Colonel Moffat was seen in earnest consultation with Captain Castle deciding upon measures for suppressing the flames, while the crew were actively employed in taking all sail in and bringing the ship before the wind. Others ran out lengths of hose from the fire-engines, which were passed down to hands below, while hose was also put on the donkey-engine. It soon became apparent that all these exertions failed in checking the progress of the fire. Col. Moffatt, at the suggestion of the commander, directed his men to at once cast overboard all their ammunition, and in a short time they succeeded in clearing out the starboard magazine. The remainder of the powder in the port magazine, however, excited great apprehensions. Already had the after part of the ship become almost unapproachable from the dense smoke and heat which filled every portion of it. The colonel appealed to his men for volunteers to attempt to rescue the contents of the magazine now so threatened. Several brave fellows instantly came forward and heroically succeeded in reaching the magazine and clearing it with the exception, it is supposed, of one or two barrels. It was a truly hazardous work, several nearly lost their lives, they became overpowered with the smoke and heat and fell, and when hauled up to the deck by ropes they were senseless. The flames soon afterwards burnt up through the deck, and running along the various cabins, speedily set the whole on fire. There was a heavy gale blowing at the time, and Captain Castle, perceiving the critical position of the ship, at once took measures for the safe lowering of the boats. They were launched without the least accident, the troops were mustered on deck, there was no rush to the boats, and the men obeyed the word of command with as much order as on parade. Colonel Moffatt informed them that Capt. Castle did not despair of saving the ship, but for their own preservation it had been deemed advisable to keep the boats off, so as to act in case of emergency. The women and children were lowered into the port life-boat and she was directed to stand off until further orders. All hands then turned to constructing a raft of spars. In a short time three were put together, which would have been capable of saving a large portion of those on board. Captain Castle succeeded in launching two overboard, and the third was left across the deck, to be lowered at a moment's notice. In the meanwhile the flames had made terrible progress; the whole of the cabins, saloon, &c., were one body of fire, and about 9 o'clock the flames burst through the upper deck and ignited the mizen rigging. Through the forethought of Captain Castle in bringing the ship to the wind the fire and smoke were swept sternways, but serious anxiety was felt lest the ship should pay off, and so render her destruction inevitable. During this fearful suspense a dreadful explosion took place, no doubt arising from one or two barrels left in the port magazine, which blew out the port quarter. The ship from the main rigging to her stern was in one general body of fire. Captain Castle still had hope, although he expressed his fears to the commanding officer of the troops that the ship would be lost. Providentially the bulk head of the after part of the ship withstood the action of the flames. Here all efforts were concentrated to keep it cool. Party after party of the troops volunteered for the work, and so endeavoured to prevent the fire making its way forward. For hours did this state of affairs continue. Although the men kept the fire at bay below it gained the main rigging. Mr. Welch, the chief officer, with several of the soldiers, at once went aloft with wet blankets, and after considerable peril and risk succeeded in extinguishing the flames. As it was, however, some of the yards were destroyed. Towards two o'clock the following morning the men had the satisfaction of seeing the fire diminishing. The flames were gradually beaten back, and by daylight were entirely extinguished. It was not till then that the fearful havoc made by the fire was clearly ascertained. The after part of the ship was burnt out—merely its shell remaining, and now another fate threatened her. The gale still prevailed, and the ship was rolling and pitching in a heavy sea, constantly shipping water at the port quarter, which had been blown out by the explosion. She had fifteen feet of water in her hold, and active steps were necessary to prevent her foundering. All the men were set to the pumps and baling water out of the hold. Captain Castle, fearing the stern would fall out, got two hawsers under the bottom and made them taut. The next difficulty was to stop the water which was pouring in through the quarter. Spare sails and blankets were placed over the opening and the leak was partially stopped. There was no abatement in the gale during the morning, and in every heave of the ship the water tanks in the hold which had got loose were dashed from one side to the other. The state of the ship and the constant severity of the weather rendered the constant working of the pumps and the baling imperative. It was not till two o'clock in the afternoon that the boats containing the women and children could be got alongside. They were got on board, and the other boats, which had been ordered off during the raging of the fire, returned, with the exception of the gig, which had been swamped during the night; the officer in charge of her, however, Mr. Wood, and the hands were picked up by another boat. During the remainder of the day, the following night, and succeeding day, the who e of the hands and troops were engaged working the pumps and clearing the ship of the water. By the evening of the 13th the crew succeeded in securing the stern and getting steerage-way on the ship. She had then drifted as far as long. 13.12 south. Captain Castle then set all sail, and bore up in the hope of making the Mauritius, and, to the joy of all on board, made that port in eight days, where her arrival and marvellous escape excited considerable sensation. The officers in command of the troops speak in the highest terms of the conduct of Captain Castle during the trying occasion.

By the latest arrivals the head quarters and men of the 54th Regiment continued at the Mauritius, awaiting the arrival of a ship to take them on to their destination.

The Sarah Sands was heavily insured at Lloyd's.

Strength of Delhi.—In reference to the fall of Delhi the *Hurkaru* observes :—"That to judge from the accounts of the state of things during the siege, the strong position of the enemy, and our want of appliances and means—the overwhelming numbers and inexhaustible resources on the one side, and the small meagre battalions which melted away almost as fast as they were reinforced on the other—the marvel seems to be, not that Delhi was so long in being taken, but that it was ever taken at all. Large as it is, it requires only 20,000 men to defend it, the rebels had double that number to do the work; and so far from having wanted ammunition, our contemporary has the best authority for stating that after the siege was at an end the victors found lakhs of caps, barrels of gunpowder without end, shot and shell enough to last for two years' siege, and a city as well supplied with grain as Calcutta—nor had money become scarce, for every Sepoy was found with coin upon him.

The Protector & Christian Witness

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1858.

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

The following, from the *Halifax Catholic*, we would make the subject of a few remarks :

"There are many and grave objections to the use of the Bible as a class-book for children. The very fact of the Divine truths which it contains is an argument against its use as a school-book. 'Familiarity breeds contempt,' is a sound maxim, which has received the approbation of all ages. And, to any man who remembers the days of his boyhood, and how irksome the school-room and class-book were to him, this maxim will appear so evident that it will force itself with the very strongest conviction upon his understanding. Consequently, therefore, he will understand how wrong it would be to expose a book which deserves so much veneration and respect (as the Bible does) to the contempt of every urchin who enters the school-room. Again, there are serious moral objections to the indiscriminate use of the Bible. The Bible, particularly the Old Testament, is in many cases the record of human crimes and human misery. It is not easy to calculate what evil the plain language in which there crimes are recorded, can produce in the young heart. Thus it often happens that the book which, if properly studied and used, would produce such salutary results, brings sin and misfortune into many an innocent soul."

Strange reasoning! "The very fact of the Divine truths which it (the Bible) contains, is an arguments against its use as a school-book." We are accustomed to put into the hands of our children, books written by persons of approved learning and piety. We do not anticipate that they will receive any harm from their perusal. Much less would we expect that they would receive injury from that precious volume, whose author is infinitely perfect. But, forsooth, "Familiarity breeds contempt." Romanists sometimes pretend great respect for the Bible. But, under pretence of reverence for it, they would take it out of the hands of our children,—they would shut up its pages from the youthful mind,—they would not allow our little ones, like Timothy, to know the Holy Scriptures. At all events, they must be forbidden an entrance into the school. Latin and Greek authors, although often stained by details of sickening immoralities, are not denied admission; but the Bible, the book of God, must be excluded. And what does God himself enjoin upon this point? "These words which I command thee this day shall be in thine head; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thine house, and upon thy gates." If this method of teaching do not produce familiarity with the Word of God, we know not what will. And would he have enjoined it, if it would lead us to despise his word? Children have a right to the Word of God. The things which are revealed belong to them as well as to those that have arrived at maturity. How many have received their first impressions of divine things in the Bible lessons of the school-room—impressions never wholly effaced through all the changing scenes of life,—impressions to which, in all probability, they would have remained strangers, had the educational system, under which they were trained, contained no religious element. And how many must grow up without any religious instruction, if the Bible be excluded from the public schools? since their parents are both unable and unwilling to impart it to them. Those legislators who would shut out the Scriptures from our public schools, when it is in their power to introduce them, must be answerable for the consequences. The great Dr Johnson has well said: "If obedience to the will of God be necessary to happiness, and knowledge of his will be necessary to obedience, I know not how he that withholds this knowledge, or delays it, can be said to love his neighbor as himself. He that voluntarily perpetuates ignorance is guilty of all that ignorance produces; as to him that would extinguish the tapers of a lighthouse, might justly be imputed the calamities of a shipwreck."

And will familiarity with the Bible produce in us a lower estimate of it? We have been accustomed to think that the more this precious book was read, the more it would be prized. The greatest students of the Bible have loved it most. We could easily produce numerous examples in proof of our assertion. We select only a few. The pious Romaine, whose writings are extensively and favorably known, studied nothing but the Bible for the last thirty or forty years of his life. "John Boyse, one of the translators of our Bible, had read all the Scriptures before he was five years old. Joshua Baines is said to have read a small pocket Bible over, a hundred and twenty times. Mr. Roger Cotton read the whole Bible through twelve times a year." And did any of these persons prize the Scriptures the less on account of their familiarity with them?

"Again, there are serious moral objections against the indiscriminate use of the Bible." So says the editor of the *Halifax Catholic*. But what saith the Scriptures? "Seek ye out of the Book of the Lord and read." "All Scripture is profitable." Whether it is right in the sight of God to obey the Romish Church rather than God, let our readers judge. What harm can result from the indiscriminate use of the Bible? Had it been calculated to do us injury, would its Divine Author have given in no hint of this? Would he have sent it into the world without any hedge around it for our protection? We cannot attribute to him such unkindness. Compare those countries where the Bible is indiscriminately used, with those where it is under the vigorous censorship of the Church of Rome. Which are the most prosperous? Which are most distinguished for their wealth, their intelligence, their morality? Which enjoy the greatest amount of true liberty? Compare England with unhappy Spain, down-trodden Naples, poor degraded Rome, where the Pope must be maintained upon his throne by French bayonets. Can any candid mind be at a loss to determine which are entitled to the preference?

We ask, then, shall government exclude the Bible from the school-room? Has not England already suffered sufficiently from such policy in India? We have a melancholy picture there, of the disastrous results of the exclusion of the religious element from the public schools. We shall mention only the case of Nana Sahib. Mr. William Rankin, jun., the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Missions, gives the following account of him :

"Nana Sahib—I need no epithets to paint his character, that Mahratta name will hereafter be a word of significance which no English can express—Nana Sahib is an educated East India gentleman, a man of pleasing address and polished manners, the true type of Anglo-Indian civilization. He was trained in the schools and college established by the government, and had every advantage of cultivating such a mind and heart as it is their province to form. Here the Koran and Shastres are text-books, taught by professors of oriental literature. From these institutions every book that gives any favorable notice of Christianity is carefully excluded. The Bible is not permitted upon their library shelves, even as a curious compilation of wise or unwise sayings, of true or untrue history. By possibility, its wonder-working, softening influence might touch the tender Hindoo or Mohametan mind, and thus defeat the British policy of non-interference in matters of religion. Behold the product of that policy in Nana Sahib, the deceiver and murderer of scores of Eng-

land's confiding sons and da
our beloved missionaries, the

Need we say more, in reg
sults of the exclusion of B
schools?

THE PET

We regret that so few s
received for the Petition to
India. Is the country aw
Company have been giving
for the support of idolatry
Bombay alone, about £70
pended in feeding and cloth
rating temples, paying for
idols, &c. How long is t
Empire is punished for the
We shall not. Let ministe
look to this, and promptly r
of condemning idolatry an
Jesus over India.

We trust that the Petiti
in reference to the Normal
be vigorously prosecuted.
the 16th February, so tha
The country must speak o
or nothing will be done.
duty, and not look to anoth
do. Let the zeal that st
year animate them on this
fear of the result. Prote
transfer the Petition we
paper, and let any friend
district append his name
time to your most zealous

THE MICMA

We have received the
the Micmac Missionary S
decided progress has be
field has been long fallow
prayerful exertions, comb
tience and perseverance,
with success. Three Go
and published, and are no
Genesis and the Psalms w
One hopeful convert has b
tant church, and several
instruction. The convert
mas. He is now attend
Truro. An Indian lad i
School there. Mr. Rand
diligently employed in visi
to place, reading and ex
to them. We doubt not t
fall into some hearts prep
receive it.

MISSIONARY

Foreign Mission of the
nod of the Free Church er
Island, Cape Breton and N
establish a foreign mission
Home have had for some tin
mittee" engaged in colle
localities, hopeful openings
verted Greek, Petros Const
procured, and sent to Scotl
Hearing that the Synod in
occupy that field, the moth
Constantinides as their fir
its last meeting in Halifa
choice was announced by t
Glasgow, N. S., convener o
stantinides. The followi
which, although brief, wil
It is intended to send him
to be ordained by the Syn
completed A visit to t
expected.

Edinburgh, 25 Anne S

My Dear Sir,—Allow
grateful sentiments to you
both in me, in my nation,
earnest prayers are hear
swer already fills my exult
Beyond this day of small
of the Sun of Righteousn
and the profound darkness
vanish