

News Department.

Extracts from Papers by Steamer Europa.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, AUG. 28.

The Commons having been summoned to the bar, the royal assent was signified by the royal commissioners to the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Bill.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

The Lord Chancellor then read the following Royal Speech:—

* My Lords and Gentlemen,

We are commanded by her Majesty to relieve you from further attendance in Parliament, and at the same time to express to you her Majesty's cordial acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have performed your important duties during a session which, though shorter than usual, has, nevertheless, been unusually laborious.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you her satisfaction that the present state of affairs in Europe inspired a well-grounded confidence in the continuation of peace. The arrangements connected with the full execution of the stipulations of the Treaty of Paris have, from various causes, not yet been completed; but her Majesty trusts that by the earnest efforts of the contracting parties to that treaty, all that remains to be done with reference to its stipulations may ere long be satisfactorily settled.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that the extensive mutinies which have broken out among the native troops of the army of Bengal, followed by serious disturbances in many parts of that presidency, have occasioned her Majesty extreme concern; and the barbarities which have been inflicted upon many of her Majesty's subjects in India, and the sufferings which have been endured, have filled her Majesty's heart with the deepest grief; while the conduct of many civil and military officers who have been placed in circumstances of much difficulty, and are being exposed to great danger, have excited her Majesty's warmest admiration.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she will omit no measures calculated to quell these grave disorders, and her Majesty is confident that, with the blessing of Providence, the powerful means at her disposal will enable her to accomplish that end.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Her Majesty commands us to thank you for the liberal supplies which you have voted for the service of the present year, and for the assurances which you have given her of your readiness to afford her Majesty whatever support may be necessary for the restoration of tranquillity in India. Her Majesty has been gratified to find that you have been enabled to provide the amount required to be paid to Denmark for the redemption of the Sound dues, without on that account adding to the national debt.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Her Majesty commands us to convey to you her heartfelt acknowledgment for the provision which you have made for her beloved daughter, the Princess Royal, on her approaching marriage with his Royal Highness the Prince Frederick William of Prussia.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she has seen, with satisfaction, that, although the present session has been short, you have been able to pass many acts of great importance, and to which her Majesty has given her cordial assent.

The acts for establishing a more efficient jurisdiction for the proving of wills in England and Ireland, correct defects which have, for many years, been complained of.

The act for amending the law relating to divorce and to matrimonial causes, will remedy evils which have been long felt.

The several acts for the punishment of fraudulent breaches of trust, for amending the law relating to secondary punishments, for the law concerning joint stock, for consolidating and amending the law relating to bankruptcy and insolvency in Ireland, for the better care and treatment of pauper lunatics in Scotland, for improving the organisation of the country police in Scotland, together with other acts of less importance, but likewise tending to the progressive improvement of the law, have met with her Majesty's assent.

We are commanded by her Majesty to express to you her confidence that, on your return to your several counties, you will employ that influence which so justly belongs to you, to promote the welfare and happiness of her loyal and faithful people, and that the blessing of Almighty God may attend and prosper your endeavors.

DIVORCE.

The Divorce Bill having practically passed, it is as well to state what it is, not only in the few points that have been most keenly contested, but as a whole. It embraces two subjects—"judicial separation," formerly called divorce *à mensâ et thoro*, and divorce proper, formerly called divorce *à vinculo matrimonii*. Under the present Act separation may be obtained by either party, on the ground of adultery, cruelty, or causeless desertion for two years, and by application to the "Divorce Court," to a Judge of Assize, or to the Recorder of the city or town in which the complainant resides. Wives judicially separated are, with regard to property and its rights, to be treated as single women. And women deserted by their husbands may, by application to a police court or petty sessions, obtain a legal right (which they could not formerly acquire) to their own earnings, or to property which may have accrued to them since their desertion.

Thus far there is little to be said against the Bill.—The provision, indeed, which enables a husband or wife to procure a permanent legal separation upon a desertion for two years (unaccompanied with adultery or cruelty) is summary. It savours more of a hard heathen common sense than of that holy long-suffering which Christianity enjoins to all human beings under all relations, but especially under that one, consecrated alike by nature and religion, as the closest, the most sacred, the most enduring of which mere humanity is capable. But it is to be remembered that this separation effects little beyond a severance of proprietary rights, and is capable of being terminated at once by the will of the parties. And the Act is really valuable, as under certain circumstances, it protects an ill-used and deserted wife from grievous injustice. So far, then, there is little to complain of in the Act.

We now come to more delicate ground. Divorces operating as an actual dissolution of marriage, and leaving both parties alike free to marry again, may be obtained by the husband on the adultery of his wife; by a wife on her husband's adultery, coupled with circumstances as involve deliberate or unusual depravity—such as incest, cruelty, desertion, or other iniquity not to be spoken of. Such divorces are to be obtained by application to a Court composed of the "Judge Ordinary" (Judge of the Court of Probate), and two of the following persons:—the Lord High Chancellor, the Chief Justice, the Chief Baron, and senior Puisne Judge of each Court. A suit of this kind may be dismissed on proof of connivance, collusion, condonation, unreasonable delay, or desertion on the part of the complaining party.

We have only now to notice the clause which affects the clergy. No clergyman is bound to celebrate the marriage of any person divorced for adultery, but he is bound to allow any other clergyman of the diocese to celebrate such a marriage in his church. This clause is little more than mockery. It ought either to meet the conscientious difficulties by which a clergyman is likely to be embarrassed, or, through the agency of the Church to inflict indirectly that stigma on vice which the State is afraid to inflict for herself. It does neither. The difficulties of the clergy are that some think remarriage forbidden altogether, some think it forbidden to the woman. But the Act releases them only from the obligation to marry the guilty party.—It does not, therefore touch, except accidentally, either of these difficulties. And it expressly disables the Church from fulfilling her appointed office of branding sin, by enabling the guilty parties to take possession of the parish church, we may almost say in triumph, and there to employ any vagrant and disreputable priest: who may be willing to officiate in blessing their union.—*London Guardian*.

INDIA.

The arrival of news on Saturday, five days before it was anticipated, took London by surprise—not that it was very satisfactory when published. The despatch in question was from her Majesty's Consul at Calcutta, and was received at the Foreign office on Friday evening at 7.45 p.m. We give it verbatim:—

Alexandria, Aug. 14, 9 p.m.

The *Nubia* arrived at Suez to-day. She brings dates from Calcutta to the 21st July, Madras, 25th July; Galle, 28th July; Aden, 8th inst.

The telegraphic message from Suez is meagre and confused, and there is not time to receive explanation before the departure of the steamer *Baotia* for Malta.

It is stated that Delhi is not taken, but the date is not given.

Genl. Barnard is reported to have died from dysentery. The news given in the *Bombay Times* of the 14th July, by last mail, respecting the taking of Cawnpore by the rebels, and the massacre of the Europeans there, is confirmed.

The Suez telegraphic message then goes on to say as follows:—

"The *Simoon* and *Himalaya* arrived at Calcutta with about 1,500 of the China forces, to proceed at once up country. Only 300 more troops were expected—General Hancock's [Qy. Havelock] forces. Rebels beaten on three occasions, and several guns taken, between Allahabad and Cawnpore; the latter retaken from Nana Sahib, whom Havelock is following up the Blittoo [Qy. Bishoor, about ten miles.

"Sir Henry Lawrence died of wounds received in a sortie from Lucknow, where, at present, all is well.

"All the troops in Oude mutinied.

"Agra all quiet. Native troops disarmed.

"Gwalior contingent mutinied. Supposed to have marched on Indore.

"No political China news given.

"The *Transit*, Government steamer, totally lost in the straits of Sunda. Crew and troops all arrived at Suez to-day.

"This telegraph received from Acting Consul-General Green at Alexandria, for the Earl of Clarendon.

"Consul CRAIG."

It will be noticed that the death of General Barnard is only "reported;" we trust it may prove incorrectly. The news from Cawnpore requires explanation, but it is supposed to relate to the dreadful massacre of one hundred Europeans on his rear before reported, and not to General Wheeler's force in a separate fort or entrenched position. The paragraph relating to the *Transit*, it is suggested, should probably read "The crew and troops all saved," with the words "Suez, to-day," added as the date of the despatch.

Upon the despatch, the *Times* remarks that the retaking of Cawnpore, whatever they may mean, is not the only success ascribed to General Havelock, who appears to be able to move freely in the Doab of the Jumna and the Ganges, and who has obtained three victories over the rebels:—

"As all this country is within reach of the reinforcements rapidly arriving up the Ganges, every such success is sure to be made good, and the country becomes the basis for operations elsewhere. The general statement that all Oude had mutinied is no addition to what we have been told already. The Gwalior Contingent also was in mutiny at the last date, and nothing is now added except its rumoured march on Indore. The object of this movement can only be a matter of speculation, but it certainly was not the boldest course open to the mutinous contingent, which could nowhere do us so much harm as by marching to Delhi, or molesting our communications with that place."

The private letters in the daily papers do not add much to the general knowledge of affairs and progress of the mutiny; and are interesting chiefly for the incidents they relate—many startling, most sad, and not a few heroic. The following are extracts from the narrative of an officer before Delhi, describing operations between the 11th and 24th of June. Having described various repulses, he proceeds:—

On the 16th and 17th they determined to loiter us with their big guns, and so commenced building a battery on the right of the city, about three-quarters of a mile beyond the walls. As this battery would have sent shot and shell flying into every part of our camp, and would have made our house perfectly untenable, we quietly waited until the afternoon of the 17th, when, the battery being just finished, and one gun already brought down to it, we sallied out, knocked the whole thing about their ears, bayoneted and shot down a number of those who positively tried to hold their ground, captured their gun, and burnt two or three villages in the vicinity. The loss on our side was miraculously small, for they had fired their gun, and had the large force they had with them concealed in the villages fired well on us, we should have suffered fearfully; this bold sally of ours has so astonished them that they have not come outside of the wall since. At present they confine themselves to their guns. They have a large battery on the left of the Cashmere-gate, one at the gate itself, one at the More-gate, one at the Ajmere-gate and one at a place name unknown, but in the city walls, and in a direct line between Hindoo Rao's house and the Jumna Masjid. Three of these play on the house, one on the high observatory close to us, and one on the Masjid to the left of the observatory. On our side we have three batteries— one at the house, one at the observatory, and one at the Masjid, so that whichever battery of ours they fire at they get answer in return. This house is fearfully shattered; our engineer and artillery officers say they work their guns beautifully, and fully equal us in good shots. We who are on outpost duty here, some 20 of us, officers and men, all live in the gateway of this house. The day before yesterday, the 17th, while quietly sitting and chatting together, a round shot came humming and whistling right into the mouth of the gateway, struck the wall when it had gone about three yards, and burst into a thousand pieces, Poor