

SAILING OF LADY FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION.—The Fox screw steamer, fitted out at Aberdeen by Lady Franklin, sailed from that port on the 1st instant, in search of the remains of Sir John Franklin and his crew. The vessel has been supplied with every article of equipment which could possibly be desired, and many and valuable have been the gifts that have been presented to aid in the department of provisions.

The statement that Mr. Douglas Jerrold left his family penniless has been contradicted; it is now said that he has left all his family well provided for, and his widow with an income of £600 a year, and that the performances announced in connection with his name are for the purpose of raising a memorial to him.

The Government seem to be roused to the utmost activity in despatching troops to India, and in a few days nearly 10,000 will have left. The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company have offered a reduction of one fourth the passage-money to officers on leave returning to India. We only hope that the troops sent out will not be detained by any disgraceful "accidents," such as those which recently befel the *Transit*.

INDIA.

The telegraphic despatch from Trieste, received in London on Saturday in anticipation of the Indian mail, startled the island with the intelligence that—

The mutiny in the Bengal army had spread in a most alarming manner from Meerut. The 11th and 20th native infantry had united with the 3rd Light Cavalry in open revolt. After some bloodshed, they had been dispersed by European troops; but they fled to Delhi, where they were joined by the 38th, 54th, and 74th Native Infantry. Delhi was in possession of the mutiniers, who had massacred almost all the Europeans without regard to age or sex, plundered the bank, and proclaimed the son of the late Mogul Emperor as King. Disturbances had also broken out at Ferozepore, but had been suppressed. The Rajah of Gwalior had placed his troops at the disposal of the British Government. Government was taking active measures to suppress the revolt, and was concentrating troops around Delhi.

The news was not exaggerated, and the worst was confirmed by the arrival of full particulars by the mails reaching London in time for Monday's publications. It was, however, somewhat alleviated by more full intelligence of the steps taken to meet the crisis. It will be remembered that the last mail brought intelligence that the 3rd Bengal cavalry had mutinied at Meerut. Since then things have gone on from bad to worse, till at the two great stations of Meerut and Delhi the whole of the native troops have broken out into mutiny and murder. From the former place they have fled or been expelled. The latter (where no European troops were quartered) remained, at the date of the latest accounts, completely in their possession. At the beginning of May, the native force at Meerut consisted of the 3rd Light Cavalry, and the 11th and 20th Regiments of Native Infantry. The 34th had been disbanded. Among the men of the cavalry corps the question of the greased cartridges, which had previously been mooted at Barrackpore and other stations, was freely agitated; and it is stated by the Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* that the Sepoys are fully possessed with a frantic belief in the intention of Government to convert them to Christianity. Accordingly 85 men of the regiment refusing to handle the cartridges were tried by court-martial, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment with hard labour. On the 9th their sentences were read out on parade, and the offenders marched off to gaol. Up to this time disaffection had shown itself only through incendiary fires in the lines, hardly a night passing without one or more conflagrations. But on the 10th it appeared at once in all its unsuspected strength. Towards the evening of that day, while many of the Europeans were at Church—for it was Sunday—the men of the two Native Infantry regiments, the 11th and 30th, as if by previous concert, assembled together in armed and tumultuous bodies upon the parade ground. Several officers hurried from their quarters to endeavour to pacify them. The Sepoys of the 11th, though they joined the mutineers, are said to have protected their European officers; but many of the officers who were present with the other regiments, it is feared, have been murdered. Colonel Finnis, of the 11th was one of the first to arrive, and was the first victim of the outbreak. He was shot down while addressing a party of the 30th, which is said to have been the foremost regiment in the mutiny. Other officers fell with the colonel or in the terrible moments that ensued, for the

troopers of the 3rd Cavalry poured out of their quarters to join the insurgent infantry, and the whole body, thoroughly committed to the wildest excesses, rushed through the native lines of the cantonment, slaying, burning and destroying. Every house was fired, and every English man, woman, or child that fell in the way of the mutineers was mercilessly massacred. Happily, however, many of the officers and their families—the great majority, it is believed—had already escaped to the European lines, where they took refuge in the Artillery School of Instruction. Fifty men of the 3rd Cavalry and about 150 of the 11th Native Infantry remained with their officers, and are still at Meerut. Mr. Greathead, the Commissioner, and his wife were saved, it is said, by the fidelity of their servants, who assured the assassins that their master and mistress had left their house, though they were at the time concealed in it. The mutineers set fire to the bungalow and passed on, and Mr. and Mrs. Greathead escaped, passing the whole night under a tree. While the main body of the mutineers were thus destroying the houses in the native lines, some of their number proceeded to the gaol, broke it open and released the prisoners of the 3rd Cavalry. Which regiment had furnished the gaol guard on that day is not stated; but as we hear of no resistance and no loss of life at that point, we may presume it was one of the native corps. Meanwhile the European portion of the Brigade was called out and marched down to the native lines. It consisted of the Carbineers, the 1st Battalion of the 60th Rifles, and Artillery, horse and foot. But they were too late to save life or property, and, night falling fast, they were unable, we are told, to inflict any serious loss on the insurgents, who abandoned the station and betook themselves to the open country. Some of them—how many is not known, but probably a large body—made the best of their way down to Delhi, distant some forty miles. The garrison of this city was entirely native. It consisted of three regiments of infantry—the 38th, 54th, and 74th, and a company of one of the native battalions of artillery. On the arrival of the mutineers from Meerut, the whole of the infantry force ran to arms, and forced, as we are told the reluctant artillery to join them. The latter stipulated for the safety of their officers, all of whom accordingly have reached Meerut. The infantry showed no such good feeling, but attacked their officers, though with different degrees of inveteracy, the 38th being the worst. There the insurgents ran riot through the city, which was entirely at their mercy, and the bloody scenes of Meerut were reproduced in the streets of this ancient Mogul capital. How many English lives have here been lost will in all probability not be fully known till the day of retribution has arrived and the place is again in our possession. Many are already known to have escaped, as will be seen from the list subjoined. But it is feared to be only too certain that Mr. Fraser, the Commissioner, has fallen, and Captain C. R. G. Douglas, Commandant of the Palace Guard, and Mr. Jennings, chaplain of the station, with his daughter and many others of all degrees, including Sir Theophilus Metcalfe and Mr. Le Bas, to the number probably of one hundred.

Some of the Europeans escaped across the Jumna, and thirteen are reported to be now near Bagput, on the left bank, protected by the zemindars; but the rest, it is deeply feared, including the ladies and children, have been brutally murdered. The mutineers then proceeded to the city, in which are situated the arsenal, the fort, the King's palace, and the civil station, and took unresisted possession of the whole, murdering all the Europeans they could lay their hands on. Only the arsenal and magazines were saved from falling into their hands by the gallantry of Lieutenant Willoughby of the Artillery, who blew them both up, and it is supposed fell a victim to his own act of gallant devotion, though one account says he was only blackened by the explosion. The mutineers presented themselves at the Palace, and were received by the King, acting, no doubt, under severe compulsion. A postscript to the Calcutta letter of the *Times*, dated May 19, says—

The mutineers at Delhi have plundered six villages in the vicinity for subsistence, and sent out advanced posts to Shabdera and Dadree. Everything is in a satisfactory state at Agra and elsewhere, in the Upper Provinces, except at Delhi and Meerut. The Lieutenant-Governor has sent a party of Gwalior cavalry into the Doab, to put down the petty plundering that is going on here and there for the want of light troops. The Synds and Jats of the Meerut district are acting upon our side. A Synd brought in three British officers from the Delhi force, whom he had protected from the mutineers. Sir Hugh Wheeler reports from Cawn-

pore that everything there is in a satisfactory state, and equally good accounts have been received from Bonares.

Having thus got rid of all the English in the city the insurgents proceeded to proclaim some offshoot of the old royal house Sovereign of India, and in this position with the town and its treasure at their disposal. but, as we shall presently see, no further rising or influx of mutineers to assist them, they await their inevitable doom.

But to revert to Meerut. On the evening of the 16th occurred the murder of Captain Fraser, commandant of the Bengal Native Sappers and Miners. He was marching down from the head-quarters of his corps at Rorkee to Meerut with a body of his men. On reaching their destination the Sappers fell out among themselves, probably in discussing the propriety of following the mutinous example that had been set them, and when their commanding officer attempted to compose their quarrel one of their number shot him through the head. They then broke and fled, but were pursued by parties of the Carbineers and 60th, and about fifty killed or captured, the rest managing to reach Delhi. Since this occurrence Meerut has been tranquil. Fears being entertained that the convent at Sirdhans, with its children school, might be attacked and devastated, a party was sent out from Meerut, which brought in all the nuns and children to a safe asylum at the station.

The following list of names of those who have fallen victims in Meerut, and the wounded in that station also, together with those who have escaped from the massacre at Delhi, is from authority, but is open to correction:—

Killed at Meerut—11th Regt., N.I.—Colonel Finnis, Mrs. Chambers. 20th Regt., N.I.—Captain and Mrs. Macdonald, Capt. Taylor, Lieut. Henderson, Ensign Pattle. 3d Light Cavalry—Lieut. McNab, Veterinary Surgeons Phillips and Dawson, Mrs. Dawson and children. 6th Dragoons—One private, name unknown. Sappers and Miners—Captain Fraser, Mr. Tragear, inspector in the Educational Department.

Wounded at Meerut—6th Dragoons, two troopers; Artillery Recruits, twelve; Artillery, Lieut. Colonel Hogge; 3d Light Cavalry, Dr. Christie.

Escaped from Delhi—Mr. Le Bas, Judge to Kurnaul or Umballah; Brigadier Graves, ditto; Captain Nicoll, Brigade-major, ditto; Dr. Balfour, and Miss Smith, ditto; Mr. Wagentriebel and family, ditto.—Artillery—Captain and Mr. De Teissier and child, to Meerut; Lieuts. Wilson and Asable, ditto. Engineer Lieut. Selkeld, to Meerut. 38th Native Infantry—Colonel Kayvett to Meerut; Captain and Mrs. Tylter to Kurnaul or Umballah; Miss Hallings, Mrs. Holland ditto; Ensign Gambier, Lieut. Proctor, to Meerut; Ensign Drummond and Glubb, to Kurnaul or Umballah. 54th Native Infantry—Lieuts. Osborn and Vibert to Meerut. 74th Native Infantry—Major Abbot, Captain and Mrs. Wallace, to Meerut; Captain and Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Batton and children, Ensign Mew, and Lieut. Taylor, to Kurnaul or Umballah; Lieut. Forster and family, assistant commissary of Ordnance, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Fraser, Engineers, Mr. Marshall, merchant, two Battery Sergeants and families, and Mr. Murphy, to Meerut; Messrs. Thompson and Stewart to Kurnaul or Umballah.

The insurrection in the north west may, it is hoped, be said to be confined within the walls of Delhi.—One of the first acts of the Lieut. Governor was to issue the vigorous proclamations, placing under martial law the districts around Meerut and Delhi, to the eastward of the Jumna, warning all landholders and others from joining the insurgents, and announcing that prompt vengeance would overtake all past or future delinquents:—

The great blow will come from the north; but by all the great roads in other directions troops have been closing in upon the doomed city. The *Sirmore* battalions were at Boolundshahr, on the east, the Agra brigades, strengthened by cavalry and artillery from Gwalior, advancing from Meerut on the south, the troops of the Jat Rajahs of Bhurtpore and Ujwar moving up on the west. From the north-west were pouring down the horsemen of the Rajahs of Puteana and Jherand, while the great road from the hill stations by Kurnaul and Meerut lay open for the march of the Commander in Chief. Gen. Anson was to leave Umballah, whither he had repaired in haste from Simla, on the 18th. He had brought with him from Kasowlee her Majesty's 75th Regiment. A Umballah he found the 9th Lancers, the 1st European Fusiliers marched in from Dugshan, the 4th Light Cavalry, the 5th and 60th Native Infantry, and two troops of (European) Horse Artillery. The whole of this force he would, it was expected, take down with him to Meerut, where he would find the Carbineers the 60th, and a strong force of artillery, and taking them with him, would advance at once upon Delhi. The city lying upon the further or right bank of the Jumna, and being connected with the left bank by a bridge of boats only, which the insurgents have doubtless destroyed, it is possible that some time may be occupied in conveying the troops across the river.

CHINA.—Famine is sore in the land—fresh outbreaks by the rebels are reported—and altogether the *Friend of China* is of opinion that a combination of circumstances renders the present a favorable opportunity for forcing our way into China.