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Evans sumendum est optimum.—Cic.

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INDIA.

The Camp before Delhi.

The following is an extract from a letter from a Staff Officer of rank, dated the 26th of July:—

Here, you see, we are still before Delhi, and no immediate prospect of our finding ourselves inside the walls of the city. Since I last wrote, just the same kind of thing has been going on as before; attacks always terminating in the same result, the entire repulse and discomfiture of the enemy, and often with great loss, but never without a greater number of casualties on our side than with our small force we can well afford. The newsletters from the city describe the mutineers to be much disheartened at their constant want of success; and no doubt it must be so, for their attacks of late have been much more feeble, and as each day is adding to the strength of our defences, no fear is felt of their being able to make any impression on them. You will hardly be prepared I dare say, at home to hear of our still remaining on the defensive; but so it has been, I may say, from the day of our arrival here, and when the strength of our little army is known, people will be less surprised to find such to be the case. It looks mighty well on paper—six regiments of Europeans and four of native infantry, (Sikhs and Ghoorkas,) and I have no doubt the number is set down at ten thousand men, but the real strength is probably under four thousand, say 2,400 Europeans and the remainder natives. I have not seen the returns lately, but I think I must be above the mark in saying we have four thousand infantry. In artillery we are fortunately tolerably well off, but in cavalry the enemy perhaps outnumber us five to one. It is as well they are a most unenterprising set of scoundrels, the cavalry, or they might do us infinite damage in cutting off our supplies. As it is, our rear is perfectly open, and supplies are as plentiful and cheap as they would have been in the best-regulated cantonments. You will ask impatiently what we are going to do, and how long we are to remain in our present position. I am not in the general's secrets, but I fancy there is no doubt that we shall do nothing towards attacking the place until we receive considerable reinforcements. Matters are in such a distracted state below, that although troops are known to have marched from Allahabad on the 4th of this month, they may have so much to do at Cawnpore, Lucknow, and elsewhere, that we almost give up the hope of their reaching us in reasonable time, and we therefore look forward to the reinforcements on their way from the Punjab to join us. All ought to be here about the 12th or 15th proximo, and then we shall be strong enough to set to work in real earnest with the wretched city. The troops coming down amount altogether to some 4,000 infantry, of whom about 1,400 are Europeans and the rest Ghoorkas and Sikhs. There are also artillery and cavalry and another seige-train with heavier guns than we now have, and our force will on the whole, very nearly be doubled, certainly so in infantry, in which we are now comparatively weakest. We have only to pray that sickness may not overtake us here before these fresh troops arrive, and there is every hope that it may not be so, as the sickly season seldom commences here before the middle of September or later, when the rains leave off. At present there does not appear to be more sickness than there would be were the men quietly located in their barracks, and several of the regiments, the commanding officers tell me, are positively healthier than they probably would be in cantonments. When once our fresh troops are here I should think a week ought to put us in possession of the city, and once in there the Palace and Old Fort could not hold out a day.

From a Staff Officer at Benares.

The following is an extract from a letter written at Dinapore. The date is August 3. Just come back from Raj Ghat. Three 18 pounders and two 24 pounders just arriving from Chunar, and ditto and some mortars to come from Allahabad. We have just heard very bad news. Havelock is obliged to suspend his advance. As it is impossible that he can be reinforced from this side for a fortnight it is a regular fix. Both his force and Lucknow look very fishy. If it had not been for General —'s fatuous idiotry, strong reinforcements would have been sent Allahabad already. I really should not wonder if that Dinapore folly does end by losing Lucknow, Havelock and Agra. Five or six of the mutineers of the Sikh corps here (the drill men) were discovered, through the evidence of the Sikhs who remained faithful, to be in the Benares Rajah's service. A court martial is sitting now, and they will all be hanged, no doubt. The Rajah has been intriguing, and is under surveillance. We reinforced Chunar last night; the fellows passed our bungalows

low singing one of the most ringing English sounding choruses you could imagine. It drives one savage to think of —'s perilling Havelock by his idiotic belief in the three Sepoy corps; they are now hemmed in by the detachment of the 5th Fusiliers and two guns, who went to Buxar by steamer, landed and went down the road, and the 10th from Dinapore coming up; but whether they will not get away by a cross road, which exists, is I fear, a probable contingency. They killed the collector of Arrah, and fifty Sikhs who were his guard. Here we shall be impregnable, worst come to the worst, but I am very anxious to know about higher up. If they could only take Delhi, Havelock might be relieved.

More news just in. The detachment from Dinapore came on the rebels. They, i. e., our fellows, had no advance guard or flankers; they came suddenly on a wall, up jumped the Sepoys and blazed into them. Out of 300, two-thirds were hors-d-combat. By this sudden volley eighty were killed, and three officers, and the remaining 100 barely got away with their wounded to a steamer. Somehow, nobody knows how, the brutes had got eight guns; in Arrah, probably, hid there beforehand. They have murdered all the Europeans in Arrah, and the worst of it is, that the detachment from Buxar will fall into the trap too, for there is no way of warning them. Havelock will get no reinforcements and will be driven back. Fenwick, of the 10th Queen's, has taken command at Dinapore. We are working like mad in getting our stores, &c., down to Raj Ghat. It is my private opinion that this place and Allahabad stand a chance of being the only two places in our occupation between Calcutta and the Punjab, unless that Delhi force does something quick. I have no fear of the ultimate result, of course, for I believe God does not mean us to lose the country, but we are very shaky just now. The Grand Trunk road is all up, so I try this by Bombay. It is a most fortunate thing we began to fortify ten days ago, and have Pat Stewart and Limond and a first rate civil engineer, Piddie, here. Jenkinson, the joint magistrate, too is a trump; he drills Khitmagars in boots, it is true, but the style of his recruits has nothing to do with him. He works like a horse, and is always ready to go twenty miles and scuttle boats, or anything else where dash is wanted.

The Use of Ventriloquism.

A night or two since an officer of the Sixth Ward overhauled a colored individual who was coming away from the wharf with a coil of rope. Darkey was questioned as to where he got the chattels, and he replied that he was a hand on the steamboat Forest, and that both the rope and its custodian were "all right." The officer turned ebony to the right about, and both went together on board the boat. Nobody was in sight, and the darkey went boldly to a gangway and shouted out "Hello, Bill!"

"Hello it is!" came a response in a gruff, sepulchral tone, which Bill would have envied, and which seemed to emerge from the depth of the steamer. "Come up on deck right away, Bill; dere's a boller get me for steadin' dis rope!" "Ay, ay!" again shouted the gruff voice. "Just wait, can't you, till I git on my trousers!" "Well, pull a heel den and be quick for I wants to be off."

This colloquy served to measurably satisfy the officer, and he relaxed his watchfulness over his prisoner. The latter embraced the opportunity to take his leave slyly, and he took the coil of rope with him. The officer meantime became tired of waiting and went in search of the voucher for his late prisoner. After considerable trouble a man who was sleeping below was foused up and questioned concerning the colored man and the coil of rope. The sleepy individual avowed that he knew nothing about either, and the officer finally ascertained that he had been regularly "sold" by a thief who possessed first rate ventriloquial power.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

A Case of Probable Suspended Animation.

We find in the New York Evening Post, of Wednesday, the following singular statement:—

On the second of October we published the death of a married lady of this city, which occurred suddenly on Thursday, the 1st inst. The friends of the family assembled on Saturday the 3d, to attend the funeral, but it having been discovered early on that day that the body still preserved its natural appearance, it was decided to perform the services in the house, deferring the burial for the present. The body was accordingly removed from the coffin to the bed, and now continues in a state of perfect preservation and natural condition, on this the seventh day from its supposed decease.

The utmost solicitude exists, of course, in

the family, and every effort is being made to assist nature in the restoration of her functions, although as yet no symptoms of active life have appeared. It would seem to be a case for the most extreme measures to be adopted, lest the prolonged suspension of life may of itself prove fatal; and yet instances of a pause of weeks in the natural powers are said to have been recorded in Europe.

Marshal Davoust's character.

Davoust constituted himself the spy of the Emperor, and made daily reports to him. He took advantage of private conversations to denounce his friends, and many a ruined man was ignorant for a long time of the cause of his disgrace. Davoust had some degree of probity; but the Emperor by his gifts, so surpassed his possible wants, that he would have been most culpable had he enriched himself by illicit means. His income reached the enormous sum of 1,500,000 francs. Fond of discipline, and providing carefully for the wants of his troops, he was just, but harsh to his officers, and was not loved by them. He did not want for courage; and while possessing, but slight abilities and education, he displayed immense perseverance, great zeal, and feared neither suffering nor fatigue. Of a ferocious character, on the slightest pretext and without any ceremony, he hung up the inhabitants of conquered countries. I saw, in the environs of Vienna and Presbourg, the roads and trees furnished with his victims.

The District of Shanghai.

While other words are almost unknown in England and America, or only used casually in a geographical or business relation, "Shanghai" has become an Anglicism—quite as much used as any other word in the language. Meanwhile very few who use it have any idea of the place from which it originates, and the following account of it may be found interesting to general readers:

In the northern district of China is a locality in which the recent disturbances at Canton have made us feel especial interest. It is supposed to contain 200,000 inhabitants, and presents a busy scene. On the river side of the city, a forest of masts appears, and decorated with flags of every imaginable color and device, extend as far as the eye can reach. The river itself is one scene of bustle and activity, being continually covered with boats and lighters conveying merchandise to and fro. On shore, the movement is, if anything, more perpetual and more complicated in its nature. Native porters, in all directions, are trotting in tune to a loud monotonous song, and bearing every description of load suspended in two packages at each end of a pole balanced across the shoulders. Sedan chairs, containing both natives and Europeans, are crossing and re-crossing at every step. Every body appears in a hurry, but very few of the Europeans are visible during the heat of the day, even in this comparatively cool season. They promenade in their carriages, on horseback, and otherwise, in the afternoon, on the quay, or the race-course, which, indeed, are the only two spots they possess for exercise and amusement in this very small and confined settlement. The surrounding country is impracticable for anything but pedestrianism, being traversed by narrow footpaths only, and intersected by ditches and canals every where. All commerce and communication in this vast province is carried on by water, and such a thing as a horse, mule, or even a donkey, is rarely seen in the interior. I received a most hospitable invitation from the merchants to whom the ship was consigned, to make their house my home, and which, to a certain extent, I accepted; and there was initiated into all the arcana of the tea trade from its earliest preparation to its ultimate disposal—a subject too well known to need any comment in my journal. That profuse hospitality for which our countrymen in the East have so long been celebrated, is here practised to the greatest extent; and dinner parties are the order of the day, of the most luxurious description. The Chinese, with a little instruction from a French artist, soon become excellent cooks; and, as an almost unlimited supply of materials for culinary purposes is to be always obtained in a Chinese market, they possess a very wide field for their operations. Fish of many kinds, and some of them of most delicious flavor, amongst which may be included the alouse or shad, the finest prawns in the world, and a small species of turtle; game in great variety and perfection, such as wild fowl, snipes, and woodcocks, and magnificent pheasants; excellent beef, mutton and pork, and vegetables and fruits in the greatest abundance, form a category of good things that would excite the admiration of a Vatel. Less worthy of Tortoni are of daily con-

sumption throughout the hot season; and all wines and drinkables are admirably cooled. A great many servants are employed in different capacities, as a Chinaman has a great objection to waiting on any one but his particular master; but, on the whole, the service is as quickly and well performed as in any European establishment. The large and spacious apartments are well ventilated; and, during the great heat of summer, the punkia is in continual operation.—*D'Essex.*

America and Britain.

The New York Tribune has been contrasting the Mechanical skill of the two countries. It appears that Mr. Collins built the steamer Adriatic for the purpose of eclipsing the Cunard line. She was laid down the same month as the Persia was. The latter has been running successfully for eighteen months, but the former has not yet been able to leave her dock, owing to some defect in her build and also in her machinery. We give below the remarks of the Tribune; they speak for themselves:—

"The Adriatic like the Persia was to have been completed in the year 1855. In their legitimate rivalry for excellence, the Cunard and the Collins Companies were to produce each a specimen of naval architecture regardless of expense. Nothing was to be neglected; the most skillful engineers and mechanics of England and America were to do the work. The best patents were to be applied; the best officers were to be put in command. National feelings were soon excited; and in January, 1856, the two commercial companies were forgotten, and the contest was looked upon on both sides of the Atlantic as a first move towards the supremacy of the sea. Exact to a day, the Persia sailed; she crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic, leaving every thing behind her; while failure after failure kept the Adriatic bound to the dock. It is said that this vessel will cost her owners a million of dollars paid down, and a million more for loss of profits during nineteen months. What she costs the community by casting discredit on American builders, and damping the spirits of our enterprising merchants, many millions would not repay. At the present time our shipbuilders have no work, while three hundred steamers are building in the shipyards and machine shops of England and Scotland, and in our own ports there are three steamers under British colours to one American. A year ago there were in this city several Russian officers, commissioned by their government to judge for themselves and contact for the building of war steamers. They departed leaving an unimportant order."

A TERRIBLE PEST.—A late letter from the Island of St. Helena says:—This Island has been sorely pestered these few years past, by a small white ant, that was brought here in the wood of a vessel from the coast of Africa, and now swarms by millions in all our houses, stores, trees, &c. &c. It has wings, which very soon drop off, and then this mite eats into wood, cloth, provisions, trees, vegetable, and every thing that can be destroyed; and the first we know of its destructive power, is our houses tumbling about our ears. They eat into wood-work and eat up inside, leaving but a shell, which with your finger you can penetrate. And only in darkness do they work, for their deeds are evil. Houses thoroughly repaired are in less than two years crumbled to ruin. It is a most unfortunate evil to the island, and causes a yearly loss of thousands sterling. We shall soon be obliged to live in iron houses. It is one of the plagues of Pharaoh."

Looking Down a Dandy.

I was dining at a hotel in Philadelphia, writes a gentleman of Knoxville, Tennessee, and sitting nearly opposite Gideon Henderson, of this city, a well known merchant, who was on semi-annual tour to the North to lay goods. He had two young ladies from this State under his charge, and one of them was sitting on each side of Mr. Henderson at table. Directly in front of him sat a dandy, who, having finished his soup, raised his eye glass and stared steally, first one and then at the other of the ladies. Mr. H. seized a heavy glass tumbler, and I thought was about to spoil the fellow's profile by hurling it at his head; but, instead of that, he brought it to his own eye and looked deliberately through the bottom of it at top of the scamp in front of him. The attention of the company was fixed upon the fellow a general giggle began and grew, till he was compelled to quit the table and the room, in the midst of the jeers of the guests."

CRIMAN TROPHIES.—The ship Panthea at Montreal, is at present exhibiting a number of those monster guns that played with such terrible effect on the allied armies of England and France from the batteries of

Sebastopol. These guns are sent to Canada by the British government, to be presented to several of the principal cities for their liberal subscriptions to the patriotic fund during the Crimean war. The largest of these guns are about twelve feet long, and 43 cwt. and their bore is from four to six inches.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR INDIA.—A correspondent of the Quebec Morning Chronicle relates the following most creditable incident to the parties concerned:—

SIR.—The following pleasing incident occurred on Monday evening last, while Captain Jeffery was drilling his Company of Volunteer Cavalry, at their new riding school. Some mention was made of Capt. Burns having with his Company of Rifles, volunteered for service in India. After some very appropriate remarks by Adjutant Kelly, Capt. Jeffery asked those of his men "who would go to the relief of their countrymen and women in the East to step forward," when the whole of his Company, to a man, (to their credit be it spoken), took one step to the front, with that true British cheer which has rung the death knell to many a blood-thirsty sepoy. In face of this, where is the British soldier that will desert, through fear of being ordered to India?—Let the coward blush when he hears tell of our gallant little troop.

SEMPER PARATUS.

Hudson's Bay Territory.—Road from Lake Superior to the Red River Settlement. A letter received from Fort Garry (R. R.) states that the Government Surveying party had reached that settlement. The correspondent says:—"The opinion of the surveyors seems to be that a road from Lake Superior to Red River can be opened for about £200,000, but a very imperfect one. As to a commercial route to compete with Railroad communication from St. Paul's, they regard it as impossible with such means and resources as Canada can command."

THE CRISIS IN HALIFAX.—The Halifax Chronicle offers the following wholesome advice:—

1. At any and every sacrifice, our Banks should maintain their high character and continue to pay in specie.
2. Every aid, consistent with self-protection, should be given to their customers.
3. Merchants should not expect what is not reasonable, but should endeavour to limit their wants or their operations till the market is relieved.
4. All parties should keep cool, and if they cannot be cheerful should be as cheerful as they can. Nothing aggravates a commercial crisis more than unreasoning panic and hurry and distrust. If people lose their heads, and rush about terrifying each other, they only make matters worse. Mutual sympathy, cheerfulness, co-operation and hard work are the remedies for the present state of things. Let these be applied, and the crisis will soon pass away.

A Startling Idea.

SEA TELEGRAPH WITHOUT WIRE.—We find the following speculations on the possibility of telegraphing across rivers and even oceans—using the water instead of a wire as the conductor—in an English journal. The idea seems at first a mad one, but who shall say that it is? May not the people of a hundred years hence laugh at the pains we were taking about 1837 to lay a cable across the Atlantic that was not needed at all? At least the idea, whether ever carried out or not, is startling enough.

Mr. Lindsay, of Dundee, in a contemporary, reminds the public of some curious experiments of his at Portsmouth and elsewhere, in the formation of marine telegraphs without any transmarine or submarine wires except on each of the coasts so connected. In respect to the Atlantic telegraph, he says:—"One plate or sheet of copper might be immersed in the ocean at Lizard Point, in Cornwall, and another at the north-west part of Scotland, connected with the former by a wire and its telegraphs. Here the lateral distance is about 500 miles, and between the parallels of 50 and 59 degrees. Nearly opposite to these are the north-east point of Labrador, and some part of Nova Scotia. The lateral distance being 500 miles, would be a fourth part of the cross distance, which is nearly 2,000 miles, but as much electricity would pass as would move the needle without an excessive battery. By this method the expense would not be a tenth part, perhaps not a hundredth part, of that by cable, and the charge for messages would be proportionately smaller. Cases may, however, occur, when lateral distance cannot be got, that a cable is necessary."—"The Atlantic line," however, not being one of these! The experiment at Portsmouth was indeed considered a remarkable one; but the idea of an Atlantic line without any Atlantic wire is scarcely specifiable.