

round the altar, prayers were intoned by them, and hymns and responses chanted by the singers. The serious and measured music of the Greek Liturgy is rich in beautiful cadences, and may, perhaps, be best described as something between the rigid austerity of the Lutheran choral and the lighter rhythms of the Romish church. The solos are chiefly recitatives, broken by the constant repetition on the part of the choir of the responses, "God, be gracious to us," and "God, we cry to thee." In the more independent parts of the choral singing, soft voices of children are effectively blended with sonorous basses. At a certain part of the service the Czarewitsch and his bride stepped forward from the circle of the Imperial family, and having been conducted by the Emperor to a raised dais, joined in the prayers of the Metropolit. Later, two younger Princes of the blood, one of whom I recognized as Prince Alexis, approached and held above the heads of the bridal pair the marriage crowns peculiar to the orthodox ritual. They resemble in shape and size the Episcopal tiaras, and seem to be of silver wire, or some such material, interwoven with silk.

This singular ceremony continued for about twenty minutes, the officiating Princes being repeatedly obliged to change their hands from weariness. Suddenly the music became softer, quicker and more melodious. Its eloquent notes predicted the speedy consummation of the hallowed act. To this tune bride and bridegroom were led thrice round the altar by the Metropolit. Then they were pronounced to be man and wife. An exchange of rings in this country only takes place at the betrothal.

While the young Prince and Princess Alexander were still receiving the congratulations of their illustrious relatives, a hoary arch-priest, with stentorian voice, intoned a prayer for the health and welfare of the Czar, his wife, and children. His appeal to the Deity was preferred in urgent accents, the other clergy chiming in, and with many inflections and genuflections, asking blessings on the head of their beloved sovereign. A rolling *Te Deum* terminated the service. It was a glorious composition, and jubilantly sung.

At its close the Imperial family, having received the felicitations of the clergy, left the chapel with their royal guests. The only difference to the order in which they entered was that the bridegroom and bride walked side by side. They all acknowledged the respectful salutations of the spectators. The procession re-formed, and accompanied the Imperial personages to their private apartments. As I left the palace the first snow had fallen. Russia had assumed her national garb to welcome her future Queen.—*Correspondence of the London Times.*

3. GREAT BRITISH DURBAR IN INDIA.

One of the most magnificent assemblages, of principalities and powers that ever took place in India, met on the 12th of November, at Agra, to do homage to Sir John Lawrence, Viceroy of India, as representative of the Queen of England. At this Durbar there were more native princes than ever attended the Durbars of the Great Mogul, and yet only about the third part of British India was represented. There was, as we have said, a great concourse of native princes (some of whom traced their descent from before the time of Alexander the Great) all decorated in magnificent and varied costumes, and glittering, not only with 'barbaric pearl and gold,' but with the most magnificent array of diamonds that was, perhaps, ever displayed at any single assembly in the world. These native princes consisted of two, or, more properly speaking, three classes. First, the ancient families of the country, who have always so far as they could, stood aloof from all invading and upstart dynasties, and who had never attended any British Durbar before. These are the chiefs of the Rajpoots and other pure ancient races of India, who have looked down alike on Mogul and English conquerors. The second class were the remaining chieftains of the Mogul empire, dating only some three or four hundred years back; and the third were the upstart Mahrattas and other plundering chieftains, who acquired great power and dominion about a hundred years ago, and who for a long time fiercely disputed the empire of India with England. It is a somewhat singular fact that the British government in India never had any trouble with the first class, and very little with the second. It was only the upstart potentates who were angry that England could stretch farther and grasp more than themselves, that have seriously opposed British progress and authority.

Among the various ranks and orders composing this great assemblage, all exceedingly tenacious of their dignity and privileges, and jealous of the slightest infringement of etiquette, it required a ruler as well versed in Indian costumes and ideas as Sir John Lawrence to maintain order and good humor. The great point with the representatives of the high old families was to get the Queen's representative to advance, not only to the edge of the carpet on which he stood, but a few inches beyond it, so that they might boast of being more honored than the rest; but he, though he knew

exactly to an inch how far to advance to meet each, and came nearest the edge for those highest in authority and antiquity, would not compromise the dignity of the Queen by going in any case an inch beyond. The great difficulty in point of etiquette, however, occurred when the new order of Indian Knighthood was conferred on a select few, and the knights took precedence in the order of their appointment. A high dignitary, who would far outrank another of inferior standing in all other relations, would find himself placed behind that other as a knight of more recent appointment: and it was only after the fullest explanation, that the Prince of Wales himself would take his place below an older knight, that they reluctantly assented to take the places assigned to them.

The excellent Viceroy gave the assembled half-independent sovereigns some very profitable advice, such as they should travel over India and other countries to enlarge their observation and knowledge, instead of shutting themselves up in their castles and devoting their lives to luxury or intrigue, and that they should open up their countries to the civilizing and enriching pursuits of commerce.

Such an assembly as this from all parts of northern and central India, under such enlightened and experienced auspices as those of Sir John Lawrence, cannot fail to do much towards the elevation and enlightenment of India.

4. VICTORIA CROSS IN CANADA.*

A warrant under Her Majesty's sign manual orders that the Victoria Cross may be conferred on persons who may hereafter be employed in the local forces raised, or which may be raised, in the colonies and their dependencies generally.

In the *London Gazette* it is notified that the Queen intends to confer the Victoria Cross on private Timothy O'Hea, 1st battalion, Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade, for his courageous conduct on the occasion of a fire which occurred in a railway car containing ammunition between Quebec and Montreal, on the 9th of June last. The sergeant in charge of the escort states that when at Dunville station on the Grand Trunk Railway, the alarm was given that the car was on fire; it was immediately disconnected, and while considering what was the best to be done, private O'Hea took the keys from his hand, rushed to the car, opened it, and called for water and a ladder. It was stated that it was due to his example that the fire was suppressed."

5. HOW THE SOUTH STILL HONOURS ITS DEAD.

The *New Orleans Crescent* has the following account of the obsequies of the Confederate general Albert Sidney Johnston in that city:—"A tribute of respect was paid to the memory of the great leader which has never before been witnessed in this city—not even when Colonel Charles DreuX was interred—the first of the war victims from the state, and one of the most popular men that has ever lived in our midst. The mark of respect which was shown upon the present occasion was the marching in procession, and on foot of the ladies of the city.

"In this extraordinary procession we observed many ladies of advanced years, and all, young and old, walked through mud and mire in the middle of the street. Such a spectacle has never been seen in New Orleans within our observation. We are told that at the funeral of the wife of an illustrious general, which occurred in the midst of the war, there was a like exhibition of womanly sentiment, a sentiment expressing admiration for heroism and respect to every one allied to the hero; but with the exception of that sad solemnity, which we did not witness, no such spectacle as that of yesterday has been seen in New Orleans during the last quarter of a century, and perhaps never before.

"No one, so far as we could observe, rode, excepting the ministers who officiated, and one of the generals who had lost the use of his limbs. The rest followed, although the way was a long one, on foot. It was composed, without exception, of the most respectable population of the city. It certainly was the saddest we have ever seen. There was not an exclamation or a shout upon the streets as it passed; there was no appeal to the emotions in any dire-like music; there was scarcely any whispering or conversation in the immense throng that followed." The *Picayune* says:

"No stranger could have supposed that the plainly-attired pallbearers who walked beside the hearse were generals high in rank and reputation—men who had led armies to battle and to victory; who had defended cities and who had organized campaigns. Among them were several who had been the friends and associates of the de-

*Few who remember the gallantry displayed by Dr. S. P. May (of the Educational Department of U. C.) Assistant Surgeon of the Queen's Own Rifles, at Ridgeway on the 2nd of June, but feel that he, too, richly deserves some such mark of honor for his heroism on that memorable day.