







THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF  
AN ARCOT RUPEE.

BY  
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RETIRED LIST, MADRAS ARMY.

"They come, the shapes of joy and woe,  
The airy crowds of long ago,  
The dreams and fancies known of yore,  
That have been, and shall be no more."

*Longfellow's Golden Legend.*

IN THREE VOLUMES.  
VOL. I.



LONDON:  
SAUNDERS, OTLEY, AND CO.  
66, BROOK STREET, W.  
1867.

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LONDON:

PRINTED BY CHARLES DOUGHTY & CO.,  
SAVOY STREET, STRAND.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD HEADLEY,  
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*Esq., Esq., Esq.,*

THESE PAGES ARE

DEDICATED

WITH MUCH RESPECT AND REGARD

BY HIS SINCERE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.



## P R E F A C E.

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DR. RUSSELL has published his "Diary in India," after a personal acquaintance with that country of little more than a year. I have ventured to write in another form and of an earlier period, when the incidents were full of interest, if not equal, in their startling nature, to those which gave rise to his well-drawn narrative. He comments upon the last great sepoy mutiny of Bengal,—I endeavour to mark the paths which led to that of Madras in 1806. In comparing the two it may be noticed that, however materially the sepoy of these presidencies differ, the causes assigned for their conduct were, to some extent,

similar. Both were fostered by extraneous influences ; in each, caste prejudices had been needlessly offended, the train prepared for explosion, and the authorities were blindly unexpectant. Here the resemblance may be said to end : the Bengal sepoy had long been unmanageable, even by his native officer ; there had existed for years a chronic state of mutiny, requiring only encouragement and opportunity for its proper development. At the outbreak the two cases were dealt with in very different ways : in 1857 it seemed as if men had forgotten the experience gained in former years, and were now willing to allow revolt its free course.

It is, therefore, not unnecessary to draw attention once more to the partial and promptly-quelled mutiny of so many years ago, significant of the fact that the Madras sepoy has ever been more under control, as he is, in all circumstances, a better man for work than his

haughty brother of Oude, and when trained as military in spirit. Under a different system, indeed,—that is, when mixed in Madras battalions with other castes, considerably predominant in numbers,—the Bengal sepoy is an excellent and a faithful soldier. There he is correspondingly subdued, and his arrogance and consequence are not pampered to a growth exceeding all bounds.

If I indulge a hope that these reflections upon a land wherein I spent my best days may contain something worthy of notice, I know well that they will come far behind those of the Doctor's interesting book, to mention which is to put my poor attempt to shame. His bold and discriminative *living* portraits,—alas ! of the dead in the case of the greatest amongst them, Lords Clyde and Canning, and the gallant and generous Outram :—his graphic descriptions of important places : his battles, skirmishes, and marches ; help to

form the most readable of books on India. The native army is now changed in some respects, yet one may be pardoned in wishing to recal a small portion of its history and gallant proceedings in the past. And, while England is in want of foreign soldiers to guard her extended empire, she ought to be reminded where some of the most tractable and easily disciplined, aye, and—when properly managed—faithful, of her troops are to be recruited.

With a new era for India, it may be useful to review old days in that country,—and to examine the foundation of the structure and the extensive remains of the building it is intended to replace.



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# THE ADVENTURES OF AN ARCOT RUPEE.

## CHAPTER I.

### A RUPEE'S INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD.

To enter minutely into the circumstances of my birth and parentage appears to me unnecessary. In doing so I should doubtless be following the almost invariable practice of biographers, and especially of autobiographers; yet, to use the metaphor furnished by a great poet, whom I have heard quoted—

“The rank is but the guinea's stamp,  
The man's the gowd for a' that.”

I am of opinion that such accidents cannot be stated too briefly. Metal of the purer sort has always been

somewhat scarce in quantity—but all of us, of whatever origin, may go through our several duties, preserving clean hands, and with earnest endeavours after our own refinement, resting any claim to respect and distinction upon intrinsic value alone, unassisted by mere outward and fortuitous aid and adornment. It may be ancestors will influence thoughts and feelings, and warm the aspiration for worthy deeds; but, as the principle of raising himself is sufficiently inherent in man, and he can have all history for his choice of examples, while the light of conscience is given to every one, and Revelation itself is added for the Christian; the eminent merits of ancestors should form but a subordinate guide or motive after all. 7

I came, however, of an old, time-honoured stock, the faithful dependents of a house that has been 41 regal in everything but name. My predecessors and kindred had for many generations supported the 154 dignity and wide dominion of the Nawaubs of the Carnatic, and it was in their tunksal\* that I at once sprang into being. I was made of a very fair colour and shining form; of the purest silver; wearing the

\* Mint.

impress, or distinctive badge, not of a foreign ruler, as my degenerate juniors of the present day do, but of fine broad characters drawn in graceful lines across my breast, in well-raised relief, denoting the titles of the great Prince Mahomed Ally Khan Wallajah\* Nawaub, whose Dewan was Ryajee. In short, I was called an Arcotee, or Arcot rupee, from the Nawaub's mint having been stationed originally at that ancient capital of his country ; a place, let me add, mentioned by Ptolemy.

I shall not enter into the comparative merits of the Emaumee rupee of Arcot which preceded, or the Nāmee and Gid-nāmee of Madras which succeeded us ; the latter were of acknowledged worth, but as a proof of our superiority, a surprising feat of strength may be quoted from the published account of the services of an officer in India. In describing a Poligar Chief, who long and gallantly held out against the *Inglees*—as a great sportsman, that gave up his whole time to hunting and shooting, seeking out and slaying royal tigers with his spear single-handed,—he says, “Being a man of uncommon stature and strength

\* Spelt by one writer Walaw Jaw !

his chief delight was to encounter the monsters of the woods; and it was even said, that he could bend a common Arcot rupee with his fingers.\* By "common" I presume, can only be meant one of the usual kind; and, it will be allowed, that this is saying much indeed for the vigour of the chief, and the hardihood and true consistency of my brethren!

Our silver was so pure that it suited the purpose of the succeeding sovereigns of the country, the *Ingles*, to re-issue many of us, with a large alloy, in almost the worst forms, the bad taste of the native artisans had devised. I need only mention as amongst the earliest of these, a coin having a rude attempt to represent a pagoda with stars shining about it on one side, and an image of a Hindoo deity on the other. My colour ever changed when I beheld this sad error of a Christian Government, pampering the superstitions of its benighted subjects at the expense of its own religious character. Many more of us have met with a less ignoble fate, having been melted up by the simple people of the country, to serve as ornaments for their wives and children.

\*-Welsh's Reminiscences.

\*A depreciated currency led to other bad practices. A number of truly miserable rupees, much less in value than the sum they represented, were purchased cheap and sent to the distant province of Malabar, as pay to the troops. To share in the profit arising from this unworthy transaction, the merchants of Bombay sent down large quantities of these "hookery" rupees, and the Rajahs of the country, seeing the advantage of the traffic, commenced coining rupees of even lower value, until the *Inglees* Government, called upon by its own servants to rectify the general debasement it had been the means of introducing, adopted another sly plan. A large sum was spent in calling-in a portion of these rupees, and they were converted into a smaller coin, the fanam, whose relative worth was made but little better. This leading to more importation and additional debased coinage in the new shape, it was found necessary to call in all the base coin, to issue good coin in lieu, and to put a stop completely to the use of "hookery" money.

And if I may recur again, for a moment, to the present enlightened age, as it is flatteringly termed, there is not much to be said in favor of the poor

things with heads on them now current as rupees, twelve parts in the hundred of which I learn are vile copper ! \*

It would have given me pleasure to dilate, and with becoming respect too, upon the fine old gold coins in repute and comparatively plentiful at the time we flourished ; the noble Ushrufee, and various remarkable scions of the respectable pagoda tree : but I no longer detain the reader with what could now prove, I fear, little interesting to any but such as myself, whose memory can linger with some satisfaction over those days of splendour and renown.

That I was enabled to comprehend these sentiments and events, beyond my own sphere as the uninitiated might suppose, whereas the best information prevails in Indian bazaars,—may have some appearance of mystery. The East is the land of mystery, particularly in all connected with its wealth, and whosoever may be able in his generation to clear up certain misunderstandings on this important subject, will confer a vast benefit both upon the *Ingles* and their

\* Here our friend makes a slight mistake in his reckoning. The standard alloy, both of gold and silver, is 1-12th, or 8 and 1-3rd in the 100. Ed.



Indian subjects. A celebrated writer has pronounced it to be "a feature of the state of civilization in India, for the show of importance, to cover everything with a veil of mystery."\* Had he ever set foot in India he might have seen its real advantage, and, considering myself a better judge of the matter, I shall preserve my secret.

I cannot, indeed, expect in this matter-of-fact world, that my superior means of acquiring information should be universally believed in, although, dear reader, you have been told by a great authority, that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt-of in your philosophy." Suffice it when I say that money is the touchstone of man,—that is, it will like wine bring out all his good or bad qualities. Even of those who sigh for honours, few in comparison, would care for them, if they were wholly unaccompanied by the means of living in accordance with them. Of the warmest friendships, the dearest connections, how many have been severed, and have lamentably split upon this rock.

"How quickly nature falls into revolt,  
When gold becomes her object!"

\* Mill.

Learn, O man ! early to regard money, tutor yourself to keep it, in subservience only to what is good and honest ; let it be the means of accomplishing your high and just desires ; of being instrumental to the principles you are directed to live up to ; let not money itself be your principle or guide, or base indeed will be your best motives. “For,” it has been truly said, “the love of money is the root of all evil.” My narrative commences with the early part of the present century, and in the opening scenes of my life and adventures, I must ask for the learned reader’s indulgent forbearance, both on the plea of the remoteness of the events, and the inadequate conceptions of a youthful mind.

To what length the period which may be called that of my childhood, adolescence, and youth extended, it would be impossible for me now to determine, nor have I been enlightened on the subject by any other biographies. It does appear certain to me that for the whole time I had a clear idea of my own value, and always felt competent to any action, or qualified for any employment that I might have been called to enter upon ; but as, notwithstanding my daily hopes and dreams, no extraordinary fate then befel me, it

only remains to say, that I continued in the same obscurity, and have no relation of early talents, or precocious faculties to give. In short, in this particular I must altogether disappoint the reader, who has been accustomed to find in the pages of the biographer, that the hero of his story invariably found opportunities during this unripe age, of showing, whether by taking one young urchin's marbles, or persuading another to break bounds with him, that the germ of his subsequent eminence was there, and he already gave proof that he would distinguish himself some day in the senate or the field.

I know that I was permitted, in common with my companions, to remain for a long time in what seems to me now a state of total uselessness, without aim or profit; while our sole and ardent desire was to be out in the world, seeking our fortune, winning the smiles of the fair, rewarding the honest endeavours of the poor, or bringing destruction on the head of the oppressor. I remember that great care was taken in examining us periodically, or at least a show made of doing so, to see that we were not falling off in appearance or intrinsic worth, so that when we should be wanted to run our course in the world, we might

do so with that dignity and a *plomb* which is so necessary to all; though alas! how few can be said to remain long of the same ingenuous and simple character they set out with. Roughly handled as I have been, wrung as my nature was at times in utter wantonness, I am still happy in the reflection that, whatever my outward appearance may have become, no change has taken place in the more essential and innate good qualities with which I commenced my career, and thankful that the sharp rubs and friction thus encountered have never reduced me to "feign a virtue if I had it not."

## CHAPTER II.

## AN INDIAN MONEYSER.

THERE came a time however, when we began to discover amongst ourselves but too faithful samples of those vain counterfeits, which were to prepare us for the shallow deceit and false glitter of the world. Our immediate master at this time was an old gentleman of the name of Unajee Row, who then filled the responsible situation of Treasurer to the Nawaub, which included, as usual in those days, the charge of the mint. Unajee had long been in the habit of making the most of whatever office he had the fortune to hold, for his own advantage, a design he managed to effect after the peculiar manner of his people; not that there was any diminution of our numbers, for

when any one of my bright companions was taken, he was replaced, though we could not but notice on each of these occasions, that those newly introduced amongst us were either shorn of much outward splendour, and looked thoroughly ashamed of themselves, or, though corresponding in number and outward figure, bore upon their very faces a *je ne sais quoi*—an indescribable air of falsity, which could not but make one extremely suspicious of them. The truth is, as I afterwards discovered, this wretched fellow was in the habit of passing privately through the mint, certain objects formed of a leaden or copper substance, slightly washed with silver, whose meretricious semblance he foolishly thought might pass amongst us for sterling metal. Such unworthy artifices however did not deceive me, and it occasioned me infinite distress to observe these false characters thrown amongst us, particularly those of the copper sort, which resembling us even in sound must have been to the uninitiated most difficult of detection; and often have I shrunk back from the contamination of such hypocritical knaves, upon whose face apparent innocence and unconcern would reign, while within I knew they were far otherwise, and full of

envy at our worth and superiority. From this odious contact I was in course of time withdrawn, through the avarice of our master, to the company of those of my comrades whom he had accumulated in his own house,<sup>o</sup> and where I found myself again associated with many old friends whom I had known in the boxes of the Treasury.

This master of ours, after his return one morning from bathing at the edge of the tank,—where, as he stood on the stone steps descending to the water, he had also taken advantage of the opportunity, in the intervals of his lavatory process, of making his early morning poojah, or orisons, to Brahma, before the image, seated in its little arched recess, decorated daily with a few gaudy yellow flowers by the females of his family,—was sitting amongst us, viewing with feelings of complacency our shining' faces, upon which he looked occasionally with an eye such as one might fancy fathers regard their most cherished offspring with ; and was occupying<sup>o</sup> his time profitably, and, as I thought, with even more than ordinary diligence, he having paid a visit, apparently, to the Treasury already this morning, judging from the additional number of bright rupees which glittered on

the floor. As he sat now employed, in filing, clipping, rubbing, and in such-like ways appropriating a portion of the silver and setting it aside in a little heap, he was suddenly summoned by a call on the outside of the room in which was the cavern excavated for our reception. This made him hastily jump up and close the door which opened into his Treasure-pit; he then replaced above the trap-door the stone which fitted, with the nicest precision, into the pavement under his own seat, sprinkled some dust about the edges of it, arranged the date mats which usually covered that part of the floor, and unbolted the door of the room. Thus when he desired those who were without to enter, he was seated cross-legged on his mat, very intently employed upon the accounts of the Treasury.

One of the women had come to say that a Duffadar from the Nawaub's Palace was at the outer door, for the purpose of announcing that a confidential Khan\* of his late Highness, was himself about to visit the Treasury in the course of the day. On the receipt of this not quite unexpected piece of intelligence, our master made himself very active in send-

\* Lord.



ing word to his deputy, in ordering peons to see that all the workmen of the establishment were come or sent for, and in giving directions for the court of the building to be shāneed and watered, and that all other preparations should be made for this great, though latterly rather frequent event.

Ram Row, the Naib Khuzānchee,\* at his usual hour that morning walked into the inner court of the Treasury, unlocked a large heavy door which led into his own dufter, or office-room, and settling himself down on the floor at his desk, which stood about three inches off the ground, began to busy himself by scrawling Mahratta figures over the whitey-brown paper with his reed pen. He directed the first musālchee† who arrived to call the shroffs,‡ goomā-shtās,§ mootsuddies, and other employés. These men most of whom lived in small houses built near the Treasury, and were accustomed to go to their work before eight in the morning, crowded into the court, put off their slippers on the door steps, and proceeded to their different ilākahs.||

The guard of the Treasury began to re-assemble.

\* Deputy Treasurer.    † Torch-bearer and lamplighter.

‡ Money valuers and counters.    § Accountants, clerks.

|| Departments.

The sepoys employed on this weekly duty led a tolerably independent sort of life; the portion of their time which was not occupied by meals, or the short intervals they were required to be on sentry, was generally passed by them in the engrossing occupation of sleep. When they roused themselves in the morning from their lodging on the cool floor of the verandah, they, with the exception of the sentry and a non-commissioned officer, and one or two others perhaps from choice, generally dispersed themselves about different avocations for a couple of hours, still wearing the long dingy cloths, such as common turbans unfolded as wrappers, or the cumlies they had slept in. After that they dropped in by one or two at a time, put on their gosling-green coats, black belts and pugrees\* which had been left behind as useless encumbrances, and were drawn out in front of the guard-house by their Subadar. A point of war was then sounded by the fife, with the aid of the drum, which frequently had one sound head, and the Subadar, after shouldering arms and passing between the ranks, would dismiss the parade, and enter into a spirited conversation with his friends amongst the

men on the price of rice and other edibles in the bazaar.

In front of the guard-house the single sentry now walked, or oftener stood, while he noticed what was taking place about him. This specimen of a military man, and the same might be said of his comrades, was not so well designed in appearance as could be wished, to impress an adversary with any great idea of his prowess or invincibility; for in setting up he was anything but perfect, and his clothing and equipments required some improvement. For the convenience of free exercise and ease in his work, his musket, the barrel of which, though of the polished kind, suffered considerably for want of cleaning, was leaning against the wall; in his hand he held a bayonet hanging with its point downwards; his chest and back appeared to have changed places, his knees were bent, and his bare feet, which were countenanced by the legs below the knees, had not a soldierlike effect. The whole effect was heightened by a necklace of glass beads worn round the dark neck, adding a peculiar finish of its own; but as his uniform was altogether *sui generis* I must attempt to describe it. The turban worn on the head was flat, with iron

plates round the brim, the centre of the top being a brass knob or semi-sphere. The coat was indescribable in its fitting and shape, very short in the waist, where it had any, for it was cut away to the sides from the breast-bone, and in the rear there was a sort of demi-tail, destroying all symmetry, except it were of the person, from its scantiness. On the dark legs were white drawers which did not reach to the knee, these were as the privates wore them; with the non-commissioned officers they were below the knee, the native officers having them so long as to approach the ankle! These drawers, as well as the sandal prescribed for wear upon the foot, were the regulation but were only complied with as the men found convenient, so that they were oftener seen when on duty with their lower limbs clothed in little more than nature's garb, or in such costume as suited their fancy. Had other points of efficiency amongst these troops of our prince been attended to, one practice alone would have destroyed all uniformity and advancement. It was, that any sepoy going on leave was permitted to engage a *budlee*, or substitute, to do his duty, and whom he paid as he thought proper. This *budlee* might be any person, neither drilled nor

of corresponding age or height, and it not unfrequently happened that the original sepoy never returned, and the budlee was left to fill his place. It may be that the budlee bought his situation in this way, but it gave the officers little concern so that the same number of names were on the roll, and the budlee had no difficulty in obtaining a permanent place in it. Yet even amongst troops like these, such is the instinct of honour attached to a military life, few if any flagrant breaches of their duty as guards occurred, though they were poorly paid enough, and their pay was generally eighteen months and more in arrears.

To return to our friend Unajee. At eleven o'clock he took his meal of rice and dholl mixed with a curry of comforting mussālā,\* the garlic and onions, as forbidden to Brahmins, being alone left out. This he shared with Ram Row, who had the honour of dipping his finger in the dish with him. After this, Unajee finishing his toilette by wiping his right hand which had been his only knife, fork, or spoon, and squirting some water out of his mouth, arrayed himself in a clean, white, long, ungreka,† stiff with conjee,‡

\* Ingredients of curry stuff.

† Coat.

‡ Starch made from rice.

which he put on over his rather light morning costume, and placed by his side his white muslin turban, resembling in shape a bullock's hump set in a dish, and which was made up in readiness to be clapped on his well shaved head. His head-dress was otherwise complete, the three lines or names, one white, and two yellow, on the forehead, meeting in a point between the eyes, something like the broad arrow of the Ingles, having been duly plastered. Thus he sat down in the inner verandah of his house with Ram Row, to look over the statement of the money in the Treasury previous to the arrival of the minister of the Nawaub.

"Well, you see Ram Row," said the Treasurer when they were alone, "the news you brought me while at the tank this morning, and which you heard from the Dewan, was correct. Ah well, we are ready,"—and the Treasurer uttered a sound from his capacious throat which may have been meant to express his confidence, or have simply proceeded from his remembrance of a satisfactory morning meal. "Now," he continued, "let us examine the goshwāree putty" (abstract account).

"Five hundred and thirty-one bags of five hundred

rupees each ; one bag of four hundred and ten Rajah rupees—that requires calculation, as there are three and a half pise more in the Rajah rupee than in ours, —seven rupees, seven annas additional ; then six thousand Surātee rupees, in twelve bags ; in another thirty-one rupees in pise ; two hundred and three bags, each containing five hundred double annas. All this amounts to two lakhs, eighty-four thousand, six hundred and thirty-five rupees, and fifteen annas in the first three chests. In the others are two hundred bags, each of three hundred star-pagodas ; seventy bags of four hundred double fanams each, twenty-two of five hundred single fanams, and twelve of copper cash ; and lastly a bag of three hundred and forty gold mohurs. . . . Let all be laid out in rows, but it is not likely they will be looked at. There is very little in the treasury at present, particularly of gold, these Khans have taken so much since the Nawaub fell ill. . . . Has no irsāl\* arrived, to-day ?”

“Yes,” said Ram Row, “one has come from Vellore with forty-seven thousand star-pagodas ; they are not counted out yet.”

“Where is the putty ? oh ! well, go and count it all

\* Remittance.

out, and take care, that Mooselmaun Peshkar at Vellore is constantly sending bad coins—the unprincipled loochar\*—I shall have to report him some day to the Dewan.”

So saying the virtuous and watchful Unajee began to sum up the number of foreign rupees and coins and the gold he had in the treasury, that he might turn these to account in the bazaar by selling them at a good premium ; disposing of them in this mannner we might in charity infer, without further information on the subject, for the benefit of his prince. But, to say the truth, the nominal salary of the Treasurer, like those of most native officials, really bore no proportion to his responsibilities, from which he naturally inferred that some supposition was entertained that he would be tempted to add to it by means of pickings ; this expectation he accordingly thought it but reasonable to carry out. Many of these situations were sold, or contracted for by the highest bidder, and the uncertain occupier felt called upon to make the most of his opportunities while he held office, not knowing what another day might bring forth.

\* Thief.



## CHAPTER III.

## A NAWAUB'S GREAT MAN.

UNAJEE ROW had been for some time employed in calculating the exchange of different coins, and it was not until the afternoon that the shouts of the attendants proclaiming the titles of the Khan, and the melodious chant of the bearers of his palanquin drew Unajee and his assistants to the outer wall of the treasury, a little time before the appearance of the cortége, which consisted of a number of officers on horseback surrounding the palanquin, with running footmen half ragged and naked themselves but carrying silver sticks, the Khan's best crimson silk parasol, and silver mounted hookah, with a variety of spears,

swords, and other weapons, and a small guard of mounted sepoys following in the rear.

The palanquin in which Khan Mahomed Shookur Ally sat was a very ornamental piece of workmanship indeed, which had been built by the only European coachmaker at Madras, and presented by the Koompanee Inglees to the late Nawaub's father, in the same way that a king might bestow an honourable addition to the family arms on any of his distinguished subjects. The coachmaker had received orders to gild and get up this piece of state-craft in an unlimited manner, for a peculiarly auspicious occasion, the Nawaub of that day having just contracted a treaty with his friends the Koompanee, of a nature highly favourable, it was expected, to their interests, however much its results might prove to be to the contrary as regarded the condition of the unhappy ryots of the country. In return for the arrangement this was proposed amongst other presents, to demonstrate the satisfaction of the Koompanee towards their faithful ally. This superb conveyance then had been gilt all round the borders, in the centre, and in every corner, whether in appropriate places or otherwise; and was lined with crimson and yellow silk, which again

was trimmed with as much gold braid and as many tassels of the same as could be conveniently placed upon it. The committee of officers, one field officer and two captains of native infantry, which had been appointed to sit on it when it came fresh from the said coachbuilder's hands, pronounced it to be "in every respect serviceable, and agreeable to the indent sanctioned by the military board," and it was accordingly sent soon afterwards under an escort of native infantry to the Nawaub, whose sacred person it had borne for years, until it had in course of time become a perquisite of his confidential minister. It was now less glittering in appearance, but still calculated very much to astonish the natives. The pole by which it was supported on the shoulders of the bearers curled up in front of them to an unusual height, and in this threatening state it showed to advantage a large gilt tiger's head which adorned the extreme end of the pole, and which, as the bearers ran along with this building on their shoulders, appeared to grin and shake defiance at any opposer of its progress.

In this splendid seat of honour sat, in an upright position, Khan Mahomed Shookur Ally, a man of very fair dimensions for his rank, that is, by no means

too small or slight for such responsibility and care as usually sat upon his shoulders. He was now in the prime of life, what his countrymen call moon-faced, and of a fair bamboo colour! If anything, perhaps, his cheeks were a thought too bloated, and his dark eyes only sparkled on occasion, having at other times somewhat of a dullish look,—that is, his enemies might have said so; but, united with a very martial and deeply dyed moustache and whiskers all curled into one, and covering most of the lower part of his face, he was generally thought to bear a striking and imposing appearance. His Khanship was dressed in a coat of cloth sufficiently resembling at first glance cloth of gold, with loose satin trousers contracted only at the ankle, so as to show a really delicately small foot and ankle, never confined by the truly absurd leather cases that Europeans clothe these parts of their limbs in. His hands also were small and effeminate, and his fingers nearly hidden by rings; his signet ring occupying a large space on one joint, and effectually preventing any undue bending of that finger. The nails of the fingers were tinged with the lovely henna, and in short his appearance corresponded in all respects to the dignified position he

occupied. The turban, which I had nearly omitted altogether, was of crimson muslin, brocaded with gold thread, and added, as it always does, immensely to the becomingness of his coiffure; an idea which most classes of his countrymen appear to be perfectly well aware of, from the fact of dressing up the face and head in a smart turban, while the rest of their attire may be simple and airy enough, and even wanting in some—as they would be considered in other strange lands—rather important particulars.

But to return to our master. As soon as the dust arising from this crowd of horse and foot had cleared away, the treasurer and his subordinates were seen prostrate on the ground in front of the gate of the building, their heads as near as possible to the dust, at the feet of the newly arrived sublime cherisher of the poor and light of the world.

“Unajee Row,” said the cherisher, “arise.” Whereupon Unajee Row arose, and his subordinates before following him, resting their hands<sup>o</sup> and knees upon the ground, entered upon a course of gymnastic raising and lowering of the chest and chin, which graceful adoration, repeated six or seven times, being only a thing of daily occurrence, was looked upon by

the Khan and his party with much the same stolid indifference it usually met with. Unajee Row and his people having at length ventured to stand up, or at least rise upon their feet, the treasurer with a body bent forward, and a reverential pace, advanced before his party with a bunch of white jessamine flowers in his hand, to the distance of three yards from the palanquin, near to which stood certain officers, who had alighted from their horses by first drawing their feet out of the slippers placed in their stirrups, and then removing the slippers from the same and replacing them on their feet. By means of following out this ingenious plan, they had come to the ground with some clatter.

Had these riders lost their stirrups, their slippers must have gone also; some of them were good horsemen, while the rest seldom urged their steeds beyond the pace they had been taught in their school, the training of which consisted chiefly in tying the fore and hind legs on the same side together, by a smart red tasseled band above the knee, leading the animal to shuffle along in an ambling pace. The horses both of the officers and men of this body of cavalry were mostly of good

figure and breed, but not used to much work, or to be well groomed or carefully fed. Their lazy riders acted in this respect very much as they pleased, leaving the horses to be attended principally by poor ghorawalas (horsekeepers), who barely cleaned them with their hands or with straw, and fed them with plenty of gram, but with very indifferent long and coarse grass. The caparisons of the horses, too, were not showy, chiefly being of red cloth and braid, a heavy fat saddle of cloth stuffed, underneath which were the horse-cloths and the bags of the horsemen, with ropes and other paraphernalia for picketing and feeding the horses dangling therefrom. These horsemen had done good service in the numerous wars of the Carnatic, notwithstanding that their turbans, bound on to their heads by a handkerchief passing under the chin, their long coats, and the heap of bundles which formed their saddles gave them too much the appearance of old women.

The officers having received the flowers from the hand of Unajee Row, together with sundry necklaces or garlands formed of the same flowers, and two or three dozen of limes thrust into their hands by the treasurer and the heads of his party, the

bearers and the chobdars were directed to proceed, which they did now with a subdued noise, through a lane formed as well as the crowd would admit of. In doing this, they passed by the guard which was drawn out for the occasion, the men standing, some with presented and others with shouldered arms; most of them followed out the order of their Subadar, the rest might have erred through want of practice, or from thinking the one as great a compliment as the other. The palanquin thus arrived at the open side of the cutcherry, where public business was transacted, when the bearers stopped, and the palanquin was held steady by attendants on each side, while this asylum of the world condescended to put towards the ground his tender feet, on each of which an attendant had first placed a slipper ornamented with jewels. The descent of the portly Khan on to the raised platform of the cutcherry being broken by the assistance derived from two men who seized him under the arms, he was thus led across the open hall, helped up a step or two, and conducted to the wall at the end, where he was gently dropped on to the raised seat, and propped up by cushions placed behind his back.



While his train arranged themselves on each side, way was made for a little man to enter who had followed the suite of the Khan, in a less pretending palanquin, but for whom every one displayed the most nervous consideration. This little man took a seat without consulting any one, and the treasurer having received an order from the Khan to be seated, he first knelt down, and then sat upon the lower part of his legs, with his hands placed in front of him in an attitude of prayer.

These preliminaries being settled, there entered a train of servants bearing gilt dishes, on which were, besides nuzzurs of gold and silver, specimens of the productions of nature—fruits, rice, sweetmeats, sugar in various shapes, some being candied in bowls and other forms, and crystalized inside. The sinking spirits of the Khan having been duly sustained by a copious shower of rose-water, and not a few drops about his clothes of attar of roses, he began now to draw his breath with less difficulty, and in time was able to address the treasurer slowly after the following manner.

“Unajee Row!” said he, “you are, no doubt, surprised—at the early—visit, we are now—paying you,

..... Reposing in you that—confidence, which one—deserving like you—the favour—”

His Khanship had been frequently interrupted in this prelude to the gracious intentions he was about to express, first by the shortness of his breath, and then by a violent coughing, which now threatened altogether to prevent any prosecution of his opening speech, and it was some time before he could make a further attempt to continue it. At length, after leaning back, sighing and staring at the ceiling, he resumed with an unsteady voice and in brief phrase.

“Therefore, O Unajee Row,—you are—permitted—to make answer.”

“Ap ka fidvee, your slave,” said the treasurer, standing up, “well knows the compassion which his highness and your lordship feel for us, and the sublime benevolence through which alone we all live, and are cherished under your magnificent and most benign protection. Your servants have been constantly praying night and day for his highness’ health and happiness, and that his highness or your lordship would be pleased to bestow upon them the light of your countenance, that they might lay themselves at the feet of such embodiments of wisdom

and grandeur as they have never before seen in this world, and whose superiors they may not meet with even in the next."

Finishing this slight flourish with a renewed sinking upon his knees, and an approach of his forehead to the ground, the treasurer recovering himself, returned to his former position of sitting on his heels.

The ears of his lordship having become aware of this loyal address, which made its way to some part of the brain of the Khan through a good deal of loose floating or soft material, without affecting in any way His Excellency's features, the Khan, after due pause, proceeded.

"Unajee Row, we shall not—inspect the treasury—because, our time is occupied with other public business. We have no doubt everything has been conducted with the greatest faithfulness to your salt."

Unajee Row here prostrated himself anew upon the floor, repeating this ceremony more than once; after which, rising to his feet, he<sup>o</sup> thus addressed the asylum of the world.

"O, my lord! it is long since your devoted slaves have seen your feet, nevertheless, they have been doing nothing else but putting up prayers for your

long life and prosperity, and that the fame of your great name may be increased. The affairs of this treasury have been managed with the utmost care, so that it will be found that not one *dumree* has been in any way lost to his highness' possessions; on the contrary, very much wealth has been born to him. The great Maharajah, the Dewan is fully aware of the unremitting attention your slave has paid to the supply of his highness' treasury. I have never slept; in this business I am always engaged, night and day, that I may see lakhs and crores added to his highness' revenue. *Ap kā moolaezā furmākur*, if you will order your lordship's attention to it, you may easily see that what I have said is the case."

The little old gentleman before alluded to, and who happened to be the Dewan of the province, or independent kingdom, as it had in fact become, of Arcot, had hitherto sat with great gravity, only showing, when he allowed any change in his features, a very small portion of disdain, or weariness in them. Being thus appealed to, he now spoke.

"It is true," said he, "Unajee Row's care is wonderful. There is not such another treasurer in the world. *Mushoor hue*, is it not spread far and wide?"

"It is well," replied the Khan, "we will now leave you to communicate to Unajee Row what we have to say. . . . . Khuzanchee sahib, *rookhsut leo*, take your leave."

At this our treasurer, after a few more bendings as before, stood again upon his feet, while the Khan receiving a sort of smart chuck at his armpits from the two attendants, was raised to his feet, and with the help of the same assistance waddled forward to the edge of the hall, where he was, after some tumbling and pushing about, carefully deposited in his palanquin again; those present making their salams and obeisances as he passed. The suite, who had not forgotten to sweep up the presents,—the money going to the privy purse of their master, and the rest being shared in a general scramble amongst them,—now mounted and arranged themselves in the order they came in, and departed after the usual amount of confusion and noise, carrying with them their lord of the world, the bestower of bounty and<sup>p</sup>health, the cherisher of the poor, the asylum of the universe, the great Khan Mahomed Shookur Ally, wālāshān (of exalted dignity).

## CHAPTER IV.

## A HINDOO CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

THE Dewan, who had received as much attention as the Khan, and who remained in the hall, was now asked in the most humble manner by the treasurer, to honour the poor house of his slave with a visit. This favour being solicited in a becoming manner, Unajee Row very assiduously all the time touching the feet of his superior with the tips of his fingers, which he then carried to his head, the Dewan was induced to comply with such earnest entreaties, and arose to do so. Unajee and his satellites then rushed up against all the spectators who stood near, cleared a space for the Dewan to approach his palkee, and

had the satisfaction of seeing him placed therein; after this the palanquin became somewhat jostled about amid the crowd of officious persons, each of whom seemed determined to show his face to, and stare at, the little minister, as much as to say "now remember to give me something good next time I ask you." The bearers were eventually allowed to carry their burden across the court to the treasurer's private dwelling.

Unajee having made his way in front, received the palanquin at the verandah of his house; where the descent of the important little man being accomplished, he was escorted to the passage leading into the inner hall, and through that by one side to a door opening into the interior, or private rooms of the house. The treasurer's private sitting-room (being the identical one below which we were concealed) was in the centre of the house, lighted from above by barred windows in a sort of low turret raised above the flat roof. When they were seated there, servants entered with trays as before, the nuzzurs and presents exceeding even the quantity laid before the Khan. These were without delay carried off by the Dewan's confidential attendant, a very tall and black individual

who generally kept very close to his master. Now, however, the door being shut and bolted by Unajee, the Dewan and himself remained alone together. The treasurer then reverentially bent down before his chief, who desired him to sit down.

The little old man to whom these honours were paid was a well dried specimen of his race. Under the snow-white muslin turban (the shape of which, by the bye, differed from that of Unajee Row, this being more like a pigeon's large crop and breast with the tail pointing to the ground) there were the white hairs and faded sharp features of a man who had undergone many a struggle in the world, all in head work and fencing with the intellects of others. His narrow round shoulders, thin bent body, and spare small hands and feet, did not point to any probability of physical strife. His voice was husky and feeble, but there was a look of quiet confidence in his face, arising naturally from his understanding thoroughly his part in life, and his eye was clear and sparkling, and promised talent and decision. He was a Mahratta Brahmin, descended from those who had been brought into the south of India in some of the frequent irruptions of the Mahrattas; he was much attached to his



caste, the interests of which he always endeavoured to promote,—some of the fraternity, and their name was legion, were ever ready to fill the situations he could find for them in the government service. This over-kindness for his own people was his chief fault, but he conscientiously thought them as talented as any others,—and after all, the system is one common with influential people even in more enlightened quarters of the globe, in the west as in the east; his own character stood high, his faults were those of his education and position. He was the superintendent of the revenues and finances of the province, manager of the customs, and virtually the prime minister of the Nawaub, although the other branches of administration were much interfered with by the Mahomedan ministers. Incessant intrigue for power and place and in selling justice formed the chief occupation of those ministers, in fact, the only business that most of them could be said to employ their talents in; as the late Nawaub confessed<sup>a</sup>,—with his Inglees agents, they so perplexed, plagued, and intimidated him, that he wanted resolution to comply with the good advice offered by the Koompanee's government.

“Unajee Row,” said the Dewan, “our business to-

day requires immediate attention. Hitherto, the Inglees retaining the affairs of peace and war in their own hands, left to our Nawaub the civil administration, and the collection of the revenues, but often sought to possess themselves of these also. Very fond of money are these Inglees,—very greedy for it! In making them quarrel amongst themselves we have spent much money, and those houses of agency exact heavy interest; however, it gives them a common cause with us. Now that the Nawaub is dead, the Inglees require his son to transfer the country to them, giving him the empty title, with a fifth of the net revenue and suitable provision for the family; but all of us may be turned out at their will. I have therefore sent to our friends to oppose this arrangement. I want you and Graby sahib to use money with the councillors, and the commissioners; give to him and tell him not to spare it. What money have you in the treasury?"

"Six lacs, sixty-nine thousand, three hundred and nineteen rupees."

"He can have two lacs, or more if necessary. Send a lac of rupees to my expense treasury. These Inglees used to be all open to presents: there was not a coun-

cillor that we could not bribe. I must get back to Chepauk to see what those senseless creatures of Mooselmin are doing, *bud zāt* that they are."

The two plotters now discussed the characters of the native servants of most of the high officers of the English government, through whom they hoped to reach their masters,—and it was evident that many of those called *dubashees* had been purposely placed in their situations through the influence of persons about the Nawaub's court. Not a few of the English gentlemen too had been drawn by these men into receiving loans to a considerable amount, for which they were paying interest proportioned to their usefulness to their native friends; and some native female *attaches* of the English were in the late Nawaub's pay also.

Our master promised instant attention to his part of the scheme, and the Dewan departed, taking his way in his palanquin towards the fort, near the glacis of which he met a little boy on a pony, held on by two servants, and protected by two other men, each with a belt over his right shoulder. These last, called *peons*, were government servants appointed to attend upon the Dewan; the belt they wore, beyond serving

as a badge of office, seemed otherwise *a propos* to nothing, as it did not support any weapon; one of the peons carried an umbrella at the end of a long handle over the boy. The stunted boy thus protected was the son and heir, and in truth the only child of the Dewan, the child of his old age, and was proportionably cared for and educated. At twelve years of age he was already master, as his father believed and was told by the boy's instructors, of four languages; in one of these, the English language, which his father desired him to be most proficient in, his knowledge amounted to plain reading, with a bad accent and but little appreciation of the sense, and some very indifferent round text writing; yet, in this language, he knew as much as his teacher. The boy was intelligent,—but, while studying from eight to ten hours every day, he stood little chance of improvement in growth of body, until, having passed at an early age into the public service, he should lay aside the greater part of this forcing of the brain, which was the darling object of his father.

The son was greeted kindly by the father, and they proceeded to enter the fort together.

Fort St. George had been much improved since it.

stood the famous siege of more than two months by the French under their gallant but unfortunate leader the Count de Lally. It was regularly fortified on the land side; that is, there were bastions, curtains, ravelins, covered way, and glacis disposed equally on each face. Towards the sea the wall was angularised as much as the straight line of beach would admit of, and covered by a narrow paved glacis. Containing for a length of time the private houses, offices, and store-houses of the settlement, the carefully guarded enclosure had been enlarged at different periods, surrounded by ramparts and ditches, and brought into an uniform design. The interior was now cleared and tolerably spacious, and the buildings it contained well constructed, one being the handsome church finished a century before; where worship had been strictly attended by the "Presidents and Factors." The general parade bounded on three sides by barracks, the main-guard, and military offices held on the fourth a statue of the good old Marquess Cornwallis, which seemed still to review the troops he had so often led to victory in person; and a little further back stood a pile of buildings called the Governor's house, in which that high functionary had formerly resided, and

where the council was still held, and the secretaries had their offices.

Here the Dewan alighted at one of the doors, and after walking up several flights of stone stairs, was ushered with his son into a room nearly surrounded by wooden presses and pigeon-holes full of papers reaching from the floor to the ceiling, in which, under a small moving punkah, sat an English gentleman at a table also covered with papers.

Mr. Webbe, at this time chief secretary, possessed, in the opinion of Lord Wellesley, "powerful abilities, proved integrity, and a laborious industry, employed in securing the vigour of the administration, improving the condition of its native subjects, and augmenting the reputation and honour of the British name." The soldiers, Wellesley and Malcolm, in more simple but no less decided sentences, united in considering Mr. Webbe "a very able and a very honest man." He had been for some time the right hand of the Madras government, latterly under an inexperienced governor,—a position which led to his being disliked by public servants less honourable than himself, and he eventually suffered, like other great reformers, for being in advance of his time.

This gentleman came forward and received the Dewan most courteously, shook hands with him, and asked him to be seated. The son was also received with much cordiality, and asked in English how he progressed in his studies.

"Vare wale, tank gew," answered the boy without hesitation.

"Your son, Dewan, will be a wonder," said the Chief Secretary in the Hindoostanee language usually spoken by Europeans in their intercourse with the natives, "if he continues his studies. Who is his master in English?"

"He was a topass (Indo-Portuguese gunner) in the European battalion."

"What can I do for you, Dewan; you know you may command my services?"

"I am anxious to hear what is to be the fate of the Nawaub."

"Oh! true: well,—you have heard what is required from his highness?"

"Yes," answered the Dewan, "but I have not persuaded myself it is really the wish of your government to degrade his highness so completely!"

"No, no, far from it," said Mr. Webbe; "on the

contrary, our only wish is to make his situation honourable, comfortable, and dignified. Lord Clive is particularly desirous of seeing the young prince beloved and respected,—and we make a long step towards that by relieving him of the numerous debts of the late Nawaubs. As for yourself and the present public servants, no change will be made, and the English government is thoroughly inclined to remunerate most handsomely, such useful and invaluable services as yours. Your name is as widely spread in Europe as in India, Dewan.”

“Sahib, you are very good to speak thus, and your great kindness emboldens me to say what is in my heart. It is true that the position of the Nawaub may be made more creditable and respectable, but will you, by deposing him, increase his highness’ personal happiness, will not the withdrawal of all healthy ambition proper to his rank, and any outlet for employing his talents beneficially, dwarf his mind, if it does not drive him into excesses?”

“Your Nawaub, however, will have the means of doing great good. Not to argue the subject on a broader basis, I might instance the nobility of England, who with princely incomes, but no independence



of the law and the will of their Sovereign, employ themselves usefully, and are the pride and honour of their native land."

"Do not compare the position we may find ourselves placed in, all untried as it is, with your great institutions, which still took ages to ripen into their present form; our Nawaub was born to independence, and to him there will not be that share in the Government which the nobles of England enjoy. Place what restraints you think proper on our authority, but leave us somewhat of our independent rule, sahib."

"It cannot be, Dewan; the order has gone forth, and there have been but too strong reasons for this course being taken."

"Will you not use your influence to delay at least this fatal change?"

"Nothing can prevent it now, Dewan."

"Can no advantages offered in the name of the Nawaub change the determination? If we promised an extra contribution to the company's treasury to pay the expenses of the late war?"

"It is beyond our power to comply with such offers."

"The Nawaub would enrich the government and its officers. I am ready to promise in his name that princely fortunes should await the disposal of those who helped him."

"If you think, Dewan, that English gentlemen can accept of fortunes, or indeed of anything from your prince, without obtaining the leave of their government you are greatly mistaken. You know it to be strictly prohibited; and, though I fear these orders have been evaded by some, through the agency of inferiors, and that there are adventurers who undertake to assist in such arrangements, yet I would strongly advise you not to trust them; they will only deceive you for their own selfish interests."

"Oh! sahib, I meant that the Nawaub's gratitude could only be shown in that manner. Pray take our hard case into your merciful consideration, and let me leave you now."

"Salam, Dewan, but remember that the plan is unchangeable."

The chief secretary accompanied his visitor to his palanquin. The Dewan and his son returned by the side of the beach towards Chepauk, and as they jogged along while the father was wrapt in medita-

tion, the boy watched the young black children of the boatmen, who were running in and out of the water, laughing at the loud surf and strong wave that dashed repeatedly over them, imitating their fathers' "yālee, yālee," and little heeding the risk they ran from sharks which were known occasionally to come within the outer surf. The Dewan's son looked on at their proceedings with interest, and no doubt wished that he was allowed to join in such famous sport.

## CHAPTER V.

## AN EUROPEAN GREAT HOUSE OF BUSINESS.

THE first thing Unajee Row did after the Dewan had left him, was to order his palanquin to be prepared, and the next to see the bags of money replaced in the treasure chests; when these were carefully locked up he sat down again in his private apartment, where he was for a short time lost in thought. He then fastened the door, opened his cave, and after looking over a roll of thin papers of various sizes which were kept in a small box, he gathered a number of us into bags in a hasty manner, and concealing them as well as he could under his clothes, tied to his kumurbund, or waistband, he took up the box and

issued from the room with a slow and measured step, placing himself deliberately and carefully in his palanquin. The bearers raising it with unusual difficulty, proceeded towards Chepauk, the place the treasurer had indicated before his subordinates. When the bearers had thus proceeded about half-a-mile, they were suddenly ordered to turn towards the sea-beach on the other side of the fort, where they finally set the treasurer down at a large house he had pointed out. Unajee Row, ordering one of the bearers to follow him with the box, made as little hesitation as he could help in walking up some stone steps to a long verandah looking out upon the sea, and thence into a room where he found a stout shortish gentleman at a desk putting away papers, and evidently preparing for a move.

“What, Unajee Row, my friend,” said the agent holding out both hands, “how is my very excellent worthy friend, Unajee.”

Unajee, with the weight about him, was glad to sit down expeditiously, and then, dismissing his attendant, said,—

“I have brought a few rupees to add to my account. These are hard times, and I must put by all I can for

my family's sake ; many men make much money in these days, but I am a poor man, and have no friend but Brahma."

As he delivered himself in this humble way he unfastened the bags from his girdle, and laid them on the seat beside him.

"Money brings good interest now on private loan, I am told," continued Unajee ; "I should like to lend some money to the Nawaub, but we will talk of that another time."

The agent assenting, called for a shroff, when the bags were counted out in a marvellously speedy and exact manner on the floor by this manipulator of coins, who stooping with head between his legs, which were upright as high as the knees whence the weight of the body depended, his flexible back-bone forming an arc behind, dexterously gathered the rupees together by fives with the tips of the fingers and thumb of his right hand, and then hitched them towards him into a heap. The bags were refilled, sealed, numbered, and entered in a book, and a receipt given.

Unajee next opened his box, and selecting certain papers, placed them in the hands of the European gentleman.

"Ah! my friend," said he, "these are valuable indeed; what do you wish done with them?"

"I wish," replied the treasurer, "a receipt given me, that I may apply for them whenever I require them."

"Very well," said he, "you shall have one—here William, make out a receipt, and enter in it these documents, government securities, and bills of exchange as I read them over."

The clerk, who entered from an adjoining room, having done this, the agent carefully looked over the paper before he signed it, desired the clerk to make out a duplicate, which he put with the papers in his own desk, and then asked Unajee if there was anything else he could do for him.

"I have a few valuables," said the treasurer, "which I should like to keep in a sealed box in your treasury. They are only family trinkets, mere family trinkets."

"Certainly," was the reply, "we shall keep them in our treasury with pleasure—so old a constituent deserves all our attention."

"The information you sent me last night was of great importance," said the treasurer, when they were

again alone, "and I have something to say to you on the subject if you can attend to it."

"I can," said the agent, "but you know this is Saturday evening, I am now setting off for Ennore, where I spend to-morrow as usual with a few old friends. We will defer it until Monday if you think it can be done with safety. To-morrow is our day of rest you know."

"Who is to be with you to-morrow?" asked Unajee.

"Mr. Ford, Major Brower and Captain Hackle (the Deputy and Assistant Adjutant General), Mr. Little, and one or two others perhaps."

"If I were to come there to-morrow, would you be able to see me at any time?"

"Why, yes—oh! yes, whenever you wished, say about ten in the forenoon, or eleven."

"Very well," said Unajee, "I will come then. Salam Sahib."

"Good evening, my friend, come and see me to-morrow. Good bye."

Unajee, taking his receipts, went down to his palkee, while the agent calling for his manager, ordered the bags into the cash-chest.

"This one," said he, giving a kick to the bag in



which I was enclosed, "you may as well place in the carriage, and enter to my private account."

The agent now hastened to leave the office, giving directions that all business of importance was to be sent after him as usual, and was driven in his light open britzka the greater part of the way to Ennore, until the road entered a deep sandy plain, where he was obliged to leave his carriage and enter a palanquin which was in readiness for him. Shortly after seven he arrived at his house at Ennore, where he found several friends awaiting his coming.

"Butler," cried the master of the house. "Sare," was the reply. "Get dinner as soon as possible, we all appear to be ready."

In less than a quarter of an hour every one was dressed and they were called to dinner.

The dining-room was a spacious square room, open to the air on three sides on which it was surrounded by a verandah. At each corner of the room, and between the doors, which were numerous and took the place of windows also, large white pillars, which had all the appearance of marble, but were in reality glosed over with chunam,\* stood out and supported the

\* A white clay.

heavy square teak beams and rafters of the flat ceiling. The pilasters behind and the whole of the walls were coated with the same substance, smooth and glossy, helping to form a noble cool apartment, in which hung two handsome punkahs, with heavy fringe below them, the whole length of the room. The punkahs were pulled by attendants, the doors all stood open, and carrying out the principle of a fresh and cool appearance, the only ornaments on the walls were the gilt stems and branches of the wall shades, the floor was covered solely by the rattan mat, and beyond the table and chairs there was no furniture in the room. The long table under the punkahs down the centre of the room was laid for more guests than were there, so that the eight men at table sat with intervals between them. Opposite to the host at one end of the table was Mr. Ford the partner of Mr. Graby, the others were civilians and military men in the service. These being on an equal footing, and most of them associates of some standing, their conversation was perfectly easy, if pushed at times to the verge of good breeding. Behind the chair of each stood a native man-servant, habited in white muslin or fine calico, who in attending to

his duty of waiting at table, often had the appearance of attending to the conversation that went on there, albeit he preserved a grave and stolid look; yet, as he never thought of helping anyone but his own master, he had time to look about him and think of other things. The most talkative of the party was an Irish gentleman—one of those licensed persons who allow themselves to remark upon every one's affairs, generally with impunity, and who are clever at evading too serious a retort, with a joke.

"Little," said the host to this individual, "take some cool lāl, or madeira."

"Thank you, the first—boy, lāl shirāb." \*

The boy thus addressed was his servant, who was evidently long past his boyhood.

"I often think," said Mr. Little, first swallowing at a gulp his glass of claret, which had just issued from a small tub at his side where saltpetre had made the water cool as ice, "that our predecessors in this hot clime who founded the factories, were stout fellows and devoted to their country's service, to have been able to exist here in the miserable way they must have

\* Red wine, claret.

done, without a decent house, cook, or a cool glass of good liquor. I am told their curries and dishes were fearfully hot, and I'll be bound they brought no claret with them; nothing very likely but the hot sherries and port they were accustomed to in dear old England. I believe claret was brought here by the Frenchmen, who introduced improvements wherever they went, before they turned *sans-culottes*. In this melting month of July there is nothing like claret. Hackle, your health, my boy."

"I think now," said the host, "we are infinitely more indebted to the Portuguese, for bringing the madeira to India."

"Every man to his taste," said Major Brower; "I prefer this amber ale the governor has received in bottle, but as yet it is expensive. Some day I hope it will be in general use; one requires such a strengthening fluid to make up for all that is lost in these dog days."

"Aha! I thought," exclaimed Mr. Little, "that our friend the major was looking better than usual, this accounts for his rosy complexion and rotund appearance,—he has been dining with the governor pretty often, and imbibing his lordship's fatten-

ing ale. Well, well, we shall have to give in to him now, he will sit us all out. Boy, bring me some more *lāl*, I must keep up the stamina if such is the case! I think we paddies must have brought in the term 'boy' for the servants, eh! major?"

"That is an ingenious idea," replied the major, "but I believe it is owing to the word *bhaee*, brother, which the natives call each other."

"Oh! it's you that can help a lame dog over a stile! But, major dear, what did the governor tell you over his ale about the Nawaub. Are we to have the country?"

"I hope so, don't you?"

"Faith, I just do,—for, barring any other reason, a more villanous system of governing than the present one there never was. Only look now,—I suppose no one will deny the corruption and extortion going on under the native princes. Then we step in to confirm it all—requiring to be paid highly for our protection of the prince, and bullying the subject (it's you of the army that do that part of the business) when he rebels, while our interference to prevent injustice is sure to give rise to intrigue and

dissatisfaction. Ah! bah! it is too bad. The claret, boy! Major, your most obedient."

"Little, poor fellow," said a captain near him, "is suffering from a rather severe hungering and thirsting after the loaves and fishes; he expects to have a district if the country is taken, and to be a small nabob himself!"

"And if I do, I shall look sharp after the military, to see that they are close at hand,—I shall not travel much without them, you may depend. Never mind, my boy, they shall have some good mutton and claret to keep them in good humour!"

"Why," said another military man, "we could settle the districts quicker without you."

"That may answer in time of war, my fine fellow," said Mr. Little, "but not at other times. You are too strict and fond of ordering; you would not give sufficient latitude to the poor wretches of ryots who have to make their livelihood out of the soil. Any neglect you would look upon as mutiny, to be punished with death. No, no, I should be sorry to be at the mercy of any of you; a pretty business you'd make of it! I'll always be happy to take a glass of wine with you though, Stewart."

"Munro makes a first rate collector," replied the officer; "we could work at a far cheaper rate than you civilians with such magnificent ideas, and bodyguards of troops to keep up your dignity. Besides the country is as yet too unsettled for regulation government."

"Oh! as for that," said Mr. Little, "we need not be mighty particular at first, but do much of it through the natives. Mysore, for example, for these two years has been managed by Poorneah, the Dewan, and I am much mistaken if the little man does not turn out to be one of the most talented finance ministers of our day."

"What breed is he?" asked one present.

"A Brahmin; he speaks four or five different languages, and is an excellent man of business as they all are; if they were but honest, they would be the best public servants in the world."

"They are good accountants," said another.

"They are," said Little, "as good penmen as you ever meet with, where there is not a classical education. Entering life very young, their education, besides mere reading and writing, owes most of its value to experience, and a sort of traditional know-

ledge amongst them (for they assist each other in the most praiseworthy manner, and always have a large connection in their own caste) aided by a critical acumen in investigation, or a natural shrewdness which we are charitable enough to set down to suspicion."

"Yes, the natives look after each other best," said one of the guests.

"That," said the major, "is the government Little was praising so highly at first, and which he wishes us to abolish, that he may succeed to one of the vacant appointments!"

"Ah! there he goes again," rejoined Little. "No, sir major, *nolo episcopari*—pray spare my modesty, and don't on any account mention my name when you hear of anything of the sort going a-begging. Indeed then, you mistake me, I wouldn't for the world intrude my poor claims, unless particularly desired; in that case perhaps I might be induced to accept a situation bringing in three thousand five hundred rupees a month, with some pickings in addition. Who bets fifty to one in gold mohurs that I am one of the lucky boys? Don't all speak at once. No bidders? Who bets twenty to one,—



ten to one? For shame, gentlemen. Will any friend oblige me with five to one then?"

"Done," answered Stewart, "Major Brower shall hold the stakes."

"Very good," replied Little; "blessings on ye if you win, and the stakeholder shall be liberally rewarded. But I was going to explain that here, with a Mahomedan prince, extravagant in expenditure, slothful in business, surrounded by a court of idle bigots and debauchees, all the good that the Dewan can do is counteracted."

"One source of fraud in the native governments," said Captain Hackle, "is that they never pay the salaries of their officials regularly, so that these men are obliged to live upon the people."

"More ground might be cultivated," said some one, "there is much jungle and waste land."

"The population is scanty," said Little, "and famines produced by war and drought, with the epidemics of small pox and fever, most destructive; the prevailing inattention to cleanliness in their towns must produce diseases, if possible, still more virulent and fatal."

"Pray, Graby," asked an officer from one of the

Company's ships, "what is the object of the canal that is to run into the backwater here?"

"To connect Madras with the great Sooloorpett Lake," he answered.

"It will be very much to Lord Clive's credit; more canals are wanted here, if only to serve as water courses. Have you boating on the backwater, I see it is a fine breadth opposite Ennore?"

"We have more than one good boat here now. I should like you to look at ours if you have time to-morrow."

"Are you sure," asked Captain Hackle, "there will be a sufficiency of water in the canal during the hot season?"

"Never mind, Hackle," said Little, "if there is nothing else to be done to-morrow we'll go and inspect the neighbourhood together; in the mean time come and take a cheroot before we commence the business of the evening."

## CHAPTER VI.

## SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS.

MOST of the guests now donned flannel jackets and caps of some sort, and withdrew to the verandah, where they lighted long segars called cheroots, made at Trichinopoly, and of great repute among smokers.

“Well, major,” said Captain Hackle, as the two took a turn along the verandah, “did you see the chief this afternoon?”

“Yes, we have sent for the battalion from the Mount—to be encamped on the esplanade. This, with the battalion at Vepery, will be enough to meet immediate calls; and an extra company of artillery and the regiment de Meuron will be warned to be

ready for any outbreak. The governor meets the young Nawaub in Colonel McNeil's tent on Monday; the flank companies with the colours are to join the wing to receive the governor, whose carriage will be accompanied by the usual guard of light cavalry. You are to be with his lordship to bring up the troops if necessary."

"Come, gentlemen, be quick with your weeds," said a voice from the dining-room, "you are summoned in to cards."

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Ford saying "finish your cheroots inside," they all followed him into the room, where two card tables were ready placed. Mr. Graby, the major, Mr. Little, and Mr. Ford sat down to whist at one, and a second party was formed at the other.

"Gentlemen," said the host, "the usual stakes—rupee points, and a gold *mohur* on the rubber."

My bag was brought out by the butler, and placed near Mr. Graby. It was soon wanted. The major and Mr. Little happened to be partners, and commenced winning in style, so that the contents of the bag began to be accumulated on their side. This party were steady players, quiet in their doings, and said very little about anything from the time they

sat down to it; game after game was played without their making a move from their chairs, and with but an occasional remark as to the honours and the score.

In the midst of it, the butler came and whispered to Mr. Graby, who, begging that he might be excused for a few minutes, went into the room serving as his private office, where he found a tall portly Englishman waiting to see him. This was Mr. Hide the commander of the good ship "David Clark," consigned to Mr. Graby's house. He came, to say that he had received a letter that evening from Mr. Van Ingen at Ganjam, offering him two hundred tons of sugar. Captain Hide, who was a well meaning man, and very good humoured, but addicted to confusing the v's and w's in his speech, which he slid through his teeth, when not excited by his profession, with a smiling face in a soft gentle way, but with a loud voice, keeping his tongue too prominently employed, said he must sail early to-morrow if he went for it, as four days would elapse in sailing there, and two days in loading while he lay off the bar of the Ganjam river, and he might run the risk of not returning before the fleet sailed if there was any delay.

"Vich," said he, "would be too wentur'some, and if ve vere late werry waxing."

"Well, Hide," said Mr. Graby, after a little reflection, "this is too good a chance to be lost, I am glad you came; of course we must accept it, and you had better go the first thing to morrow. How did you come here,—by palkee? I can furnish you with fresh bearers, you shall have your supper and sleep in the palkee."

"That vill suit me vell," said the captain, "so that I am back at Madras by two or or three in the morning. I can then go on board and sail before sunrise, every vun is on board."

After some further conversation of the like kind, Captain Hide was introduced to the dining-room, where he made a great onslaught upon the good things that were placed before him, after which he tumbled into the palanquin, wrapped himself in his blanket, and was asleep almost before the bearers took him up.

Mr. Graby returned to his game with renewed zest. The second party became tired of their whist after a couple of hours of it, and went to play at billiards in an adjoining room, where oil lamps in front of tin

reflectors, fixed on the inside of a square frame above the table, had been lighted for their use. After playing several rubbers with sides, they joined in games at poole until they were invited to partake of supper.

It was not far from one o'clock when this party went to supper. The dining-table was again laid out, and grills, curries, and mulligatawny soup appeared to be very acceptable to their exhausted appetites; a composition of a tasty liquid called punch was entered upon by one of the party, who appeared to be an adept in the art, to judge from the calls made upon him for a "brew." It was mixed in a large bowl, made potent in strength, the rum being the finest Batavia imported direct by the house of Ford, Graby and Company, and as it was drank off in tumblers, the contents of the bowl required to be renewed more than once. The zealous whist players did not rise from their game, refreshments in the shape of brandy and water, punch, devilled biscuit, and so on, being brought to them. The major and Mr. Ford were now partners and were losing.

One person at the supper-table had proposed a song, I believe it was the sailor, and had struck up

the chorus of some ditty he was partial to, when a more sober member of the party said it was a Sunday morning, and kept him quiet. After this Captain Hackle and the quiet man took to smoking and conversing in the verandah, with their feet up against the balustrade. In this manner they enjoyed a serious and confidential talk about various things and subjects, that they could remember but little of afterwards—until it occurred to them that it was time to retire to their respective bungalows for the night, which they accordingly did. The officer of the Company's marine and a young military man, who were living in the house, kept up a languid game at billiards, combined with smoking, for some time—until, after sitting down rather frequently, and standing up less often, with not a few stumbles, and lurches to port and starboard, in their passages round the table, they agreed that it was deuced stupid work, and that it would be better to go at once to bed.

The whist party continued their game with varied success, until the freshness of the morning was felt, and not long after the day began to dawn. This seemed to shame them into a cessation. The major



declared that he must stop for the present, and take a walk to invigorate him, so he got up, as did the others. I was at that time lying at the elbow of the major, who had been winning when he changed partners and had Mr. Little again.

"Well," said Mr. Graby, "you will give us our revenge this evening?"

"I am sorry I, for one, cannot," said the major, "for I ought to return to Madras, to see Colonel Close. He says he may have something for me to do about this business of the Nawaub's, and I really must at least reach home early this evening."

"What is the latest hour you can start?" said the host.

"I shall have to leave this in palanquin by four o'clock, as I have only one set of bearers."

"Very well then, we'll begin again directly after tiffin, and get a rubber or two out of you before you go."

Upon this the party dispersed; the major swept me and a goodly heap of other rupees into his bag. Mr. Ford and Mr. Graby, after a short consultation, retired to their rooms; Mr. Little and the major set out for a walk together, to refresh their spirits.

"Butler," said Mr. Graby, as he was undressing in his room, "what news is there in the bazaar?"

"All good noose, sare," said that functionary, who was chiefly remarkable above his fellows for an extra black skin, visible through his fine Indian muslin robe, the pattern of which it helped to throw out, for a heavy paunch supported by the cloth wound round his loins, and for black double-sized lower limbs, quite elephantine in fact, partly concealed by white drapery:

"Have any letters come by to-night's tappal?" The butler handed a packet to his master, which the latter looked over.

"Does any one want to see me here?"

"Ees, sare. Shaik Hoosain been here, he want money, sare."

"What for?"

"His mast'r, sare. Kān say I want ten thousand roopees 'rectly."

"For himself?"

"Ees, sare; and fifty thousand for Nabab."

"Where is he?"

"All gone Nabab house. He say I come 'gain ten 'clack."

"Any one else?"

"No, sare; Dubashy Ramsammy come."

"I shall want to see him at half past nine o'clock. Wake me at nine, and have the barber and a bath ready."

"Ees, sare."

So the methodical agent threw himself on the bed, was covered in by the musquito curtains, and slept soundly in a few minutes.

And there, for the present, I propose to leave him, sleeping the sleep that an easy, if not a clear, conscience brought him, and without further prying into his customary Sunday employments, not of an edifying or, in the best sense, profitable nature. It had been too much the error of his native country, when he left it in his youth, not only to neglect but to desecrate the sabbath, and here where the restraint of religion was wanting, transplanted bad habits grew up strong in their new soil, and continued to flourish after they had fallen into decay in England. Gaming, cock-fighting, shooting, billiards, horse-racing had formed the Sunday amusements of the many hitherto in India. Poor human nature, generally a creature of habit, particularly looks for some encouragement

of its good inclinations, and there was now a Governor General, Marquess Wellesley, who professed a regard for religion, and was not afraid to show it. There was also a Colonel Wellesley, who, reducing a conquered Mahomedan kingdom to perfect order, applied shortly after its chief city had been taken by assault, for the services of a chaplain to the garrison,—and who had two years previously directed that his men should hear divine service regularly when on board ship.

With the example of such men, a perfect oblivion of the Sabbath and an outward contempt for morality were no longer likely to be the prevailing practice of the servants of the Company, who, in Bengal particularly, had but looked unceasingly to the gratification of their own ambition and cupidity, while Christian principles and morals were set aside by them as unadapted to that heathen land. After making enormous fortunes these men had become directors in England, and continued to keep everything going in the same groove,—willing to indulge the natives where plunder was not in question, by countenancing their superstitions, and displaying an indifference, or at best some sort of desire for reciprocal forbearance

in the matter of religion. By Lord Wellesley the religion of the state was recognised, and horse-racing and gambling prohibited on the sacred day. Both on the score of religion and as a liberal patron of men of letters, he sanctioned the establishment at Serampore of a noble band of missionaries, from whose press a translation in Bengalee of the New Testament soon issued under the laborious exertions of Carey, Marshman, and Ward,—names which have since attained a world-wide celebrity.

The inestimable advantage of translating the scriptures into the native languages has long been seen. To these earnest men the credit is due of conceiving as well as executing this task. Circumscribed in their means—in many instances making their own type, and thinking themselves most fortunate in obtaining the use of a wooden press, to purchase which they were willing to sell all that they had; they translated the Scriptures into no less than fourteen languages, besides bringing out grammars and other works of utility. In conjunction with others, alike in their devotedness of spirit, such as Henry Martyn,—and, aided by their numerous schools, they thus adopted the most simple and direct means of teaching a reli-

gion, while they did not neglect also, where possible, the humane practice of ministering to the natives in the health of their bodies.

It is but bare justice, I conceive, that some portion of the wealth and the salaries derived by Europeans from their residence in India, should be dedicated to benevolent purposes amongst its people, and to aid in improving their religious education.

## CHAPTER VII.

## SOME AWFUL FUNCTIONARIES.

"WELL, Hackle," said Major Brower, when they met on Monday morning in the fort,\* "how did you get on yesterday after I left you?"

"Oh, very well, major. I won a hundred and thirty pagodas,—old Graby lost this time considerably."

"I suppose so, he did when I was there."

"He would keep it up till very late last night."

"Ah, it begins to tell on me, particularly this hot

\* Characteristically encased in a bomb-proof of the fort, sate this awful functionary (the Adjutant-General) and his deputies, with their coats buttoned up to their chins, and the thermometer at 90°, in all the stiffness of starch, pipe-clay, pomatum, and importance.—(*Twelve Years Military Adventure*).

weather. Besides it takes one away from business, I ought to have returned sooner yesterday. Here are some papers to be copied out ready for council. Graby will soon make up his losses in interest—I understand they charge the Nawaub fifty and sometimes sixty and seventy per cent. on loans to him. He must pay for the honour of playing with us, and I have lost to him many a time.”

“I wonder,” said the captain, “that people who lend money to the Durbar in this way are not sent over the surf for it.”

“They do it chiefly through their native servants. Abbot’s house and Harington’s would not do so. But how do you suppose Graby and his friends are to retire from this country with a plum or two each, while the trade is but partly opened, unless they obtain these enormous profits from usurious loans, or have good English connections like the others? Graby is only making hay while the sun shines, as they say in that dull cold native country of ours. At present the temptation is irresistible; some day when it is less so, he may turn conscientious, and only charge five-and-twenty per cent.”

“It will be long before we military raise the twen-



tieth of a plum. Did you find old England very cold when you were there last?"

"Cruelly so. I recommend every one to revisit it, but to come back and stick to the service as long as they have any strength left. Where is the last file of G. O.'s? There is an error here—'Lieut.-Colonel J. Cross, 2nd Battalion of the 9th Regiment of Native Infantry, is appointed a member of the Military Board.' Add 'from the date of Lieut.-Colonel Chicken's embarkation for Europe.' We shall have old Cross running down from Bunder before he's wanted. Ah! I should have liked that snug appointment myself very well."

And I to have stepped into your shoes, thought Captain Hackle.

"Who is to have Bunder, sir?" said he.

"Pipper or Reddel, I don't know which,—I should think Pipper."

"A bore for the Fort Adjutant there who takes things rather easily. Have you heard what he did when Hansom went there,—no? Sprat thought he would ingratiate himself with the Quarter-Master General; so he asked him to tiffin, this is his own story, and gave him beefsteaks and used a whole tin

of preserved oysters for the sauce. He also invited the engineer there, who is a chymist and clever at cooling wine, to come and superintend that department. Well, the entertainment does not appear to have astonished Hansom, who took it very coolly—did not do what Sprat wanted, which was to add to his comforts in his quarters in some way—and proceeded on his tour, leaving the discomfited Fort Adjutant regretting his own liberality.”

“Ha! ha, capital.”

Here a clerk entered the room and walked up to our deputy, who was now temporarily in the chief place of honour, the Adjutant-General, Colonel Agnew, being in command of the force acting against the Southern Poligars.

“Well, Charles, what is it? Draft of a letter—ah! this is not strong enough. Write also that if Major Smith cannot in the letters he sends in to this office omit blind e’s, cross the t’s, and dot his i’s, a colonel will be sent to command the regiment who can. I observed, too, that his letter was not docketed, or properly folded: point out these irregularities, and request they may not occur again.”

[Exit clerk.]

"One must be particular in everything, and officers are becoming very careless now, and don't mind sufficiently what they send to us. Power that is never exercised loses strength."

"That they are," said the captain, "I have been obliged to send a wiggling to the 2nd of the 13th, where the major commanding has recommended that youth Denton to be confirmed in the Quarter-master-ship (which he was placed to act in through his going direct to the late chief), telling him that Mr. Denton although allowed to act was not to expect that he would be confirmed on any account."

"Most improper that going direct to the chief—it ought to be put down by all means. Unfortunately the chiefs come from England without knowing any one in the army personally, and appoint those recommended by their friends. That is the reason that officers who come out in the same ship with the chief or the governor are sure to have staff appointments. But as I was saying, a proper routine is the only safe way of proceeding. Peter Pannel told me the other day of some officer who made his way to his room without passing his papers through any of the juniors in the office. I requested him to send the next one

who did so to me. By the bye, Hackle, how are you getting on with your siege of Miss Peyton, eh?"

"Oh, very slowly. She is so taken up with young Arlington, a fellow who hasn't been above five or six years in the service, because they came out together, that no one else can make her think of marriage. Look, he is actually only of season '93!"

"Where is Mr. Arlington's regiment, he had better be ordered to join. He plays an unexceptionable game at billiards though, I must allow that."

"He is here on leave for one month preparatory to joining; his regiment is at Arcot."

"Very well, if he gives any trouble just speak to the general, and order him off directly. What is a young lieutenant to do with a wife, a most unexampled case that would be, and a very bad precedent. The best thing that could be done for them both, if they really were smitten with each other, would be to send him away. I wonder how he would like main-guard as a married man, with a few extra tours as a punishment—ha, ha, ha!" said the major vociferously.

"Ha, ha," joined in the captain more mildly, "but

"I shall soon have to go to the colonel—anything else for me to do?"

"No. Tell Colonel Close I have made the arrangements he wished; the inquiries were answered satisfactorily—those alluded to are supposed to be indifferent as to what the result may be."

The major here whispered some remarks about sepoys to the captain.

"In short," he continued aloud, "everything is expected to go right to-day."

The two gentlemen now sat down to their desks. The major, began to write demi-official and other notes, one of which appeared to relate to a loss at play, for he opened the bag he had brought with him and counted out some of the rupees in it. I remained in the bag, the others he sent away with the note. The principal part of the major's business appeared to consist in writing notes containing scraps of news.

Captain Hackle, who was already attired in buckskin breeches and jack-boots, had only to put on his full dress scarlet coat with broad blue facing and stripes of gold lace down the front, and buckle on his sword; ere he departed in his covered gig, or buggy,

a conveyance lately introduced ; for though the juniors of the army had not yet become so effeminate as to use palanquins, or bullock hackeries, and other wheeled carriages to shelter them from the sun, but rode about everywhere,—the custom was becoming general with the staff at the only place in the presidency where there was anything like a smooth road. The captain's charger had been sent on in advance.

Several officers came in later, and entered their names in the report book. The major's intercourse with these was generally limited to a few bows, stares, and commonplace remarks. The dress of each occupied most of his attention, and he found great fault when anything in the uniform appeared to be contrary to regulation, or not put on in the most exact manner, particularly in the proper degree of stiffness in the neckcloth and the collar of the coat ; by long habits of observance, his remarks on some of these points would not have disgraced a scientific London tailor. One or two evident favourites were very graciously received ; at last an officer entered who appeared to have incurred his high displeasure, for he knit his bushy brows when he saw him, and asked

him, with an oath, why he had not left with his returning treasure party, according to the orders he had received.

The little officer thus addressed did not seem disconcerted, but, preserving his coolness said :—

“Major Brower, you have no occasion to be thus peremptory with me; my detachment has marched as I have reported to you, and I received permission from the Commander-in-Chief to remain behind it for three days on my private affairs. I have since heard there is a disturbance in the country I am to pass through, and I came to ask if I shall act against the insurgents, if I can do it with effect.”

“Captain,” said the major, “you have only to comply with your orders strictly, sending in the prescribed reports of your progress. You have received your route from the Quartermaster-General, who will know where you may be communicated with. Have you anything else to report?”

“No, sir; as any instructions could be better issued to me personally, I considered it my duty to wait upon you.”

“Very well, captain; you will be thought of if

there is any want of your services ; you are to recollect that you cannot do so without being called upon by the agent of the government in that quarter. Have you anything else to say ? ”

“ Sir, this agent, or his deputy, in so extensive a district, may be two or three hundred miles off at the time he is wanted.”

“ Very well, Captain Macdougall : good morning.”

The captain, who was a smart little man, and wore the medal given for Seringapatam, now looked as if very little more would make him quite as angry as the major, but he departed without farther ceremony.

The major, at once dismissing this trifle from his mind, then turned to see what news he could find in the pages of a newspaper called the “ Madras Government Gazette,” which made its appearance three times in the week, and besides being the only newspaper then existing in Madras, owed any popularity it possessed to its being the medium through which the government published its official notifications, appointments, the army gazette, and so forth. The trite remarks that this periodical was permitted to publish as editorials, consisted mostly of observations



on the weather, the monsoon, the arrival of ships from Europe and China, the addresses of passengers to the captains of ships requesting them to accept of a piece of plate after a speedy voyage of five or six months from England, the arrivals of wine or goods of a special description at any store in Madras, which enabled up-country readers to secure early supplies from the same by the cooly\* or bandy† load. Liberty of the press was not known at this time in India, and the papers published there were not very instructive or amusing.

Major Brower, after looking over this rather unsatisfactory specimen of a colonial newspaper, and wondering when the next fleet would arrive with English newspapers and letters, was now thinking of departing for Graby's office to tiffin, when he heard a light cavalry sepoy trot up to the door, with his clanking steel scabbard, and presently a chit from the commander of the forces was put into his hand, requiring his presence at his excellency's garden-house, on Choultry-plain. The major hastened to order his palanquin, and set out for army head-quarters, as

\* A porter.

† A cart.

the chief's private residence was considered to be, the governor ruling over the fort where the public offices stood.

When the factory comprised but a small English settlement, and a collection of native huts, flatteringly termed "Black Town," the head of it had been distinguished, in a way to impress the national mind in England, by the rather high-sounding title of "President and Commander-in-Chief of Fort St. George, and of the town and fort of Madrasputnam." A commander of the troops was appointed when the little army grew in strength.

The first so chosen was Major Stringer Laurence, who, with his distinguished captains Clive, Dalton, Kilpatrick, and the small body of English troops and sepoys, gained immortal renown, opposed to the armies of Chunda Sahib and the French, and to large bodies of Mahratta horse. When we read of the dexterity of these horsemen, their repeated charges on the English infantry, their perfect coolness in standing the fire of artillery; how that the English grenadiers charged and overthrew everything opposed to them, and the English sepoys fell upon the French grenadiers with the bayonet,

charging through the fire of artillery and musketry, in the almost daily engagements before Trichinopoly, we are reminded of the stirring tales of Froissart and the passages of arms he describes as occurring near to some beleagured fortress. And, turning to Clive's immortal defence of Arcot, we picture to our imaginations heroic actions, achieved under sickness, want of provisions, and every difficulty, full of admiration at the dangers the English and their faithful Madras sepoys overcame, and the deeds that stern duty and a dauntless resolution could effect. For fifty days Clive defended that extensive fort, in which the enemy had made two large breaches, with only eighty Europeans and one hundred and twenty sepoys effective, at last, to oppose to numerous forces.

During his important conquest of Bengal, at Plassey a host of nearly sixty thousand men and fifty guns opposed Clive's small army of three thousand men (less than one-third of whom were Europeans) and ten light guns. Resolute and brave even to rashness, he drew out his troops in the plain, as a display of confidence, and encouragement to his friends in the Nawaub's camp. He could not avoid,

however, a change of position in the midst of the fight, all honour to the brave 39th, and the Fusiliers of Madras, whose steadiness under fire enabled him to retrieve the success of the day.

Clive, unquestionably great in his sphere, had many of the best qualities of a good general. He was full of enterprise, and, at the same time, of unshaken coolness: he knew how to select his agents and his officers; he was of a most determined will, and kept all placed under him, even older officers than himself, in the strictest subordination. His assembly of a council of war, quoted as an instance of vacillation, did but show his sense of the risk of placing dependance upon the promises of the natives. The chief advocate for the advance being continued was Major Coote, the same brave leader who, succeeding the veteran Laurence after his successful defence of Madras, soon drove the French completely out of the Carnatic.

Glorious actions were afterwards fought by (now Sir Eyre) Coote, General Medows and Lord Cornwallis, against Hyder Ally and his son Tippoo, the crowning victory of Seringapatam being won under a brave and worthy officer. Supported by the near

presence of such a Governor-General as Lord Wellesley, who had given him a fine army and most complete equipment, assisted by good generals, and staff officers like Barry Close and Beatson, he derived from this campaign of a few months duration prize money amounting to 120,000*l.*—being one-eighth of the treasure and jewels taken—a portion of the value of the captured ordnance and military stores, the rank of a baron, and the grand cross of the Bath. Eminent lawyers pronounced this to have been an unequal and uncustomary distribution, the general in command being entitled to but half the sum, (in these days he would have received about a third of it, or four per cent. on the total, a twenty-fifth share), and the other generals having received far more than their proper allotment!

Much of the wrong in this world has been owing to a wild sort of justice men will take if their due is denied them. Each private European soldier, the men upon whom all the hard work fell, and whose determined bravery had captured the city, was presented with barely seven guineas as his share of the spoil, each sepoy with less than five; these knowing that they had not much to expect from a "lion's

partition," made up for it by plundering the place beforehand. 'As this only led to indiscriminate wrong, and ended in a course of hanging and flogging for the plunderers themselves, no one can advocate such a system of proceeding. Many a time has the same story been told of brutal passions let loose upon such occasions. "The property of everyone is gone," said Colonel Wellesley; a fine spectacle truly of a civilised nation thus rewarding its soldiers, by countenancing them as thieves and everything that is bad. Even so recently as at the Kaiserbagh and Lucknow, on the day of the assault, plundering has been considered lawful. In other respects the question has been somewhat better dealt with lately, shares having been more equalised; but, oh! let us reform it altogether. The regular plunderer is a bad man and a bad soldier, and we destroy the morality and discipline of the good by giving way for a moment to these degrading acts.

Contrast with all this greed Lord Wellesley's becoming conduct in declining to receive one hundred thousand pounds repeatedly offered to him by the government in England from the captured military stores, and his classical taste in pointing out to

the army the propriety of keeping intact a fine library of two thousand volumes of Asiatic literature found in the palace, and of presenting it to the East India Company.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## HEAD-QUARTERS CHOULTRY PLAIN.

THE present commander of the forces was a respectable and experienced officer, who had on one occasion defended himself for two days most bravely and vigorously against Tippoo, though on the third it was his misfortune to be entirely defeated by him, to be taken prisoner with his officers, and confined for more than two years at Seringapatam ; and this at a critical time, requiring all the persevering strategy and daring of Sir Eyre Coote, on whom age was then telling, all the energy and means of the government, to carry on the war. He was afterwards more successful when sent to take Pondicherry, with twelve



thousand men and a large battering train. A company's officer, he was only provisionally appointed to the command, and then superseded by a junior officer of His Majesty's service, being made a baronet shortly after to compensate him for any disappointment he might feel in not being thought worthy, in common with all his brother officers, to hold the command of an army he had lived in from his boyhood !

The merchants and factors and other public functionaries of the settlement, had now built themselves villas along the road to St. Thomas's Mount, considerably beyond the town. The general's residence was situated near the bank of the Triplicane River, which ran through a flat sandy plain to the sea. During the monsoon this river contained a body of water ; but, in the dry season it had not a stream ; a little water stood in pools, or was dug up by the dhobeas,\* who frequented the bed of the river daily to wash clothes. Thin rank grass and low trees, with hedges of prickly pear and aloes, gave an appearance of country, and promise of an occasional mouthful of fresh land breeze, or at least of a sort of semi-marine air, with some relief from the glare of the sea.

\* Washermen.

The rooms in the house, which was very similar in outward appearance to an Italian palazzo, were large and lofty, and on the upper floor were equal in size to those of most capitals in Europe, though there was here an almost total absence of ornament and of works of art. The walls were without pictures or decorations of any kind, they presented one chaste, uniformly white and shining appearance, which certainly had a beauty of its own, and reflected the lights in the handsome lustres at night in a surpassing manner. The dark wood of the ceiling, the freshness and colour of which was preserved by the use of wood oil, was regularly squared and cut, and being shown, as in ancient English halls, contrasted effectively with the polished white walls and pillars. At one end of the centre saloon, where a row of pillars standing across the room formed a partial division, sat the general at his writing table, behind a silk screen, where he had all the advantage of the large space and the side which was in shade. The light was admitted by the arch of a window, the lower part of which was darkened by jilmil shutters closed, an unseen hand pulled a punkah, the rope of which passed through the wall into a verandah.

Major Brower was received at the door by a native officer, who ushered him to the head of the stairs, whence an English aide-de-camp in waiting preceded him to the chief's room.

"Major," said the general, "I have been perusing again Colonel Arthur Wellesley's letters upon Seringapatam. Government should forward his views, and not dismantle the fort so soon after taking it. Colonel Wellesley has shown talent and perseverance in investigating those shameful frauds in the store department; his operations against Dhoondiah were admirably managed, and he united great prudence to decision in his arrangements for the expedition to the Red Sea. I want your assistance, major, in answering this despatch from Colonel Agnew. We must continue to comply with his indents for troops and stores. That last battalion brought over from Ceylon, the 2nd of the 6th, has been seriously engaged already, and has, unfortunately, lost its commander, Major Gray—after he had conducted several attacks upon the Poligars with great resolution, and completely routed them. Many of the officers are wounded, and the battalion came over very weak, having lost four hundred men in Ceylon!"

"We are not to withdraw more troops from Mysore?" asked the major.

"Wellesley now offers us the 5th cavalry, five companies and guns, if there is any disturbance. He has also sent off the pioneers to join Agnew. With that most useful corps, and the woodcutters whom the collectors have assembled, the colonel will be able to cut a road through the jungle; but it will be a tedious operation in the face of so enterprising an enemy. The siege of Punjalumcourchy, and the enemy's retreat from it in a solid column, show plainly what a determined race they are; and now they have been joined by twenty thousand men of the Murdoos. In the first attack, that fine brave fellow, James Grant, and his body-guard horsemen, though they broke through the abbatis of pikes by the impetus of their charge, yet in single combat were thrown off the enemy's spears in a manner they little expected; Grant, severely wounded with a pike through the lungs, killed his fourth man after receiving this desperate wound, and less than two months afterwards he has been again foremost in charging the enemy, though much enfeebled by his wound. These Poligars are not easily dis-

couraged; Colonel Agnew reports that after they were driven off at Tripachetty, they attacked the force again that day, and called for the most desperate bravery on the part of the picquets. Dick Parminter, 2nd of the 6th, appears to have fought nobly,—he received five pike wounds in his body, and being at last pinned to the ground through the left shoulder, was attacked by a Poligar armed with musket and bayonet; Parminter made such an effort that he not only cut this assailant across the legs, but at the same instant wrenched the pike out of the ground and rose with part of it fastened through his arm. His men, who had reloaded, now rushed to his rescue, when he killed his brave opponent. The sepoy were bravely led by Captain James Welsh.”

“Colonel Agnew, sir, can commence the road, and we must endeavour to send down another battalion or two. The Meuron flankers are by this time in the colonel’s command, and the garrison of Tranquebar will soon reach him, which ought to enable him to take the capital of the Murdoos, and to advance on Caliacole.”

“Very well,” replied the general. “Our trusty Madras sepoy should be well cared for after such

services, and their brave regimental officers also, who have trained large bodies of men to fight against their own countrymen ! The faithfulness of our sepoys has ever been a source of the greatest satisfaction to me ; the officer who can command their confidence is doing more for his country than he who heads the ever brave English soldier that is ready to rush on without a leader. Some knowledge of the native languages is necessary, but the sepoys always understand and admire an officer who has his heart in the work. Clive, we know, never spoke more than a few words in their language, and he was beloved by the sepoys. Why ? no doubt originally for his daring courage and confidence, and afterwards for his power, his great qualities as a soldier, and his uniform success. He also respected their religious prejudices."

Here Captain Hackle was ushered in.

"Well, captain," said the general, "what news do you bring?"

"The interview with the young Nawaub has taken place," answered the captain, "but the youth refuses to comply with the governor's wishes. He is only eighteen, and guided by the courtiers and the women."

"The same precautions had better be continued

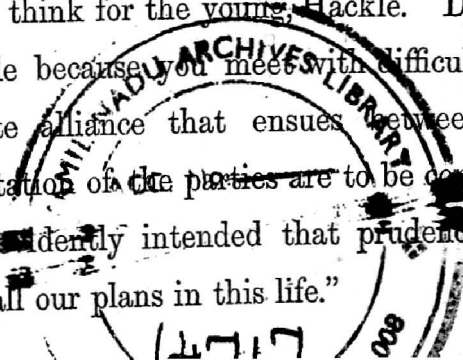
for the present," remarked the general. "It is fortunate that we have not a Mahratta war also on our hands."

The general now looked through papers with the major, signed them, and after a few words of inquiry into details, dismissed the two officers, who walked down together.

"The old chief has been as prosey as usual," said the major to his friend. "Are you going to Baranfield's to-night, Hackle, you may see Miss Peyton there?"

"Yes," he replied, "but I have little chance anywhere; her friends will be looking for a rich civilian for her, or a colonel at least. When shall we cease to make marriage a mere calculation of rupees; I thought this buying and selling was too much in vogue in England, but we certainly go beyond all here."

"Old folks must think for the young, Hackle. Do not be unreasonable because you meet with difficulties; the intimate alliance that ensues between families, and the station of the parties are to be considered. It was evidently intended that prudence should enter into all our plans in this life."



"Crabbed age and youth were never meant to be linked together, however," said the captain. "As for the intimacy of families, it appears to depend in reality upon other circumstances, and not to be always produced by marriage; obligations may be."

"The more reason for deliberation in the choice of a family. The colonel we know is unexceptionable. I will say a good word for you this evening to Davidson, Hackle; but he is an old friend of yours. You are returning to the fort? These letters should go to-night—give me a lift in your gig, and I shall get on the quicker. The clerks say the writing of our department is increasing daily,—how can it be otherwise when officers are so stupid and require so many checks. How many returns have you sent back this month—nearly all? That's right, keep them to the work, my lad; most officers have too much idle time on their hands, but I am contented if we receive nothing more from battalions than the usual returns—I know then that officers are not quarreling, and are generally going on satisfactorily."

They entered the captain's gig, and the beautiful Arab horse harnessed to it, as the captain called out "chor do" (let go) to his horsekeeper, started forward



on his course, with a fire and spirit that required no urging, and which never flagged for a moment. Captain Hackle was a good whip, and a bold horseman, and when his thoughts dwelt upon anything of moment, as they did just now, whether riding or driving he insensibly pushed on his horse to his utmost speed, to the danger as it sometimes seemed of bullock carts and their drivers, who were not particular in keeping to one side of the way, but much preferred jogging along lazily at their own sweet will in the centre or any part of the road, as it suited their dull humour at the time. Through these, however, and the increase of traffic as they approached the fort, the captain threaded his way warily and safely, and cleverly landed his gig at the Adjutant-General's Office, after some close shaves in the narrow gateways of the fort, to the manifest relief of his companion the major.

## CHAPTER IX.

## A BALL AND SUPPER.

THE house of the honourable Mr. Baranfield, member of council, was thrown open that night to all the privileged of Madras. In the public newspaper, the before mentioned Government Gazette, he had requested "the honor of the company of gentlemen of His Majesty's and the honourable Company's services to a ball and supper on Monday, the 20th July, 1801, at 8 p.m."—the ladies each receiving a separate invitation,—and the gates at the entrance of his compound and the drive through it up to the house were now blazing with oil lights in earthen vessels set upon split bamboo poles, while

guests in palanquins, carriages, and on horseback thronged up to the portico. At the doors and in the verandah stood servants receiving the ladies as they alighted, and forwarding them up-stairs to the rooms where the host and hostess were engaged in entertaining their guests. Though the weather in the day was oppressive, the evenings were cool and refreshing; every window and door in the house was thrown open, punkahs were continually pulled in every room, and the guests, when the numbers began to increase, promenaded in the open verandahs where bands were stationed, calling them to lively cotillons, with occasional reels, and frequent country dances, in the rooms prepared for dancing. The party soon became very crowded, for every person in society was there, except the right honourable the governor, with whom, unfortunately for him, it was not etiquette to receive the invitation of anyone, so that his festivities were confined to his own houses and the Banqueting Hall, as the tall, dingy, ugly building erected for the purpose was called, and whose outward design had as little taste in it as if it had been copied from the figure of an elephant's back. There were learned judges and elderly civilians with young

wives; senior and junior merchants, factors, and writers, as they were classified; military men in a variety of colours, uniforms, and services; jaunty and saucy naval bucks from the fleet now lying in the roads; members of the respectable and lucrative maritime service, with a few of the best of those who then formed a sort of middle class amongst the English in India, such as lawyers, agents, and the like, and whose introduction to the best houses had been but recent. Of the three learned professions the divines and physicians were all government servants; of the law the company's advocate was also one, the other members of the bar were not of a superior order,—having only one court to practise in, and being in the country on sufferance, liable to removal at any time if they gave offence to the higher powers, it could not be expected that the best would come there. The Supreme Court of Judicature, to which these birds of prey flocked, was destined, said a clever essayist and historian who visited Madras, to fulfil its mission, by ruining all the natives there!

The civilians wore the court dress of the day, with a cocked-hat under the arm, shorts (buckled knee-

breeches), silk stockings and pumps with buckles of paste diamonds. The dress of the military was undergoing a change; the *senior* officers wore it of that good old rich fashion so celebrated in pictures, little altered except in size from the time of Marlborough; the brilliant scarlet relieved by the blue lappel; the lace lappets of the cravat, shirt frill on the breast, and ruffles to the sleeves; the handsome waistcoat of ample dimensions, the still long wide skirt of the coat, and the becoming close fitting garments on the lower part of the person, being a remnant in some particulars, or a reform of that dress of the times of Louis Quatorze and the English Charles II., which has never been surpassed in elegance and suitableness to manly beauty. One serious defect however, introduced into their costume since those days, must be alluded to; it formed a *tale* of suffering and annoyance to many. The hair was screwed together into a top-knot above, and a pig-tail or queue behind, all plastered flat with thick pomatum powdered over, a curl on each side of the head being the only relief that could be allowed; and, out of doors, on the top of all this was worn a huge three cornered cocked-hat, which had obtained

the *sobriquet* of "Egham, Staines, and Windsor" from being worn by George III., and its ends pointing as the arms of the sign-post do in those three different directions. This mode of dressing the hair was not a little inconvenient to the poor soldiers, who with their heads prepared over-night for a gala day, lay all night like trussed fowls, but on their faces, in expectation of the morning parade. Setting aside the ugliness, the custom was particularly incommodious and expensive in India, as all the hair powder and pomatum came from Europe, and cost an ensign about a sixth part of his then anything but handsome pay and allowances, they being found to be, on half-batta, between 4*l.* and 5*l.* per month below the most moderate expenses incurred by a gentleman in his position. On parade long boots reaching to the knee were worn; these cost each pair ten star pagodas (4*l.*), which at an allowance of at least two pairs in the year formed another heavy item against that fortunate individual.

The coat was *now* worn as tight and close-fitting as Stultz could make it, and buttoned to the very top, only one epaulet allowed to the subalterns, and the cravat was so high and so stiff that lateral

motion of the head was almost the only kind possible. Such, with heavy clumsy firelocks and knapsacks, were some of the trammels it had been thought necessary to impose upon the British soldier, and notwithstanding which he overcame every enemy, and underwent every labour. It was said of one in a high station who partly introduced this rigidity and attention to irrelevant minutiae, that he seldom required more from those serving under him than that they would follow his example; but while it had become a second nature to him this did not make it easier to the army in general, and particularly to the private sentinel. After being worried with such trivialities, which nothing but the most severe discipline could keep up, no wonder that the soldier was outrageous when it was temporarily withdrawn.

The dress of the ladies was not quite of the latest fashion current in Europe, though there were some who from having connections with Pondicherry, or being from that French settlement themselves, were not more than a year or two behind the last Paris fashion. The war prevented much adherence to the fashions of that gay capital in England, and the above named settlement imported dresses of a style

contrasting strongly at times with the old English fashions existing amongst the generality of the society at Madras. Thus, amidst the hoops, cushioned head-dresses, and powder, with high-heeled shoes generally worn, there were now appearing dresses of the short-waisted fashion, with bodies pointed to show a very low neck at the back as well as in front, the skirts gored and scanty with plenty of train tacked on, the natural waist entirely hidden, so that a lady's corset of those days must have been an ingenious instrument to make up such a figure ; the beauty of all which we have since learned to appreciate.

The company enjoyed the exhilarating music and the excitement of the dance even more than they would have done in a colder climate ; besides, these occasions of festivity were not so frequent here ; the usual social meetings being at large and rather warm dinner-parties, which were a little fatiguing, and where the guests repeated the same sort of conversation in a solemn style only tending to make them more languid, unless what was called "shop" was introduced, when ladies and all joined with great spirit in reprobating the conduct of this or that commanding officer, or in condemning magistrates, makers of



roads, paymasters and other obnoxious individuals in office. At the same time they would not neglect to canvass in a lively way any recent appointments to the northern circars, the southern zillahs, and the jagheer, to the lucrative situations of commercial residents, collectors of sea and land customs, down to those of salt and arrack agents, and superintendents of the Company's warehouses. These dinner parties were favourites with many on one account, which was, that the rule of precedence was duly observed there, the wife of the senior senior-merchant present being the senior lady, next to those of members of council, or of judges, and leading the way as such; then came those of the other senior-merchants according to their standing in the service, followed by the ladies of junior-merchants, factors, writers, and so on, the military ranking rather low in this scale of worth, their pretensions to distinction only extending to some hard service in the wars, latterly the taking of Seringapatam, and in short the conquest of most of the country the Company now ruled over.

To return to our ball. The animation of the party was great; the ladies in particular never appeared to tire of the dance, which was fortunate, as their

number in proportion to that of the male sex was small. Thus as soon as one dance was concluded, each lady was claimed for another; then they promenaded, exhibiting their dresses, and accosted their friends.

"Sir Theophilus," said a fair dame, leaning on Major Brower's arm, to a puisné judge as they met him, "I hoped to have had the pleasure of seeing Lady Smith here to-night."

"I am sorry, my dear Lady Sylvester, that she is not able to share in this gay scene—she does not venture out yet in the evening. I need not ask how you are," said the gallant knight.

"I hope your dear baby is getting on well, though this is very trying weather for children. I must come and call, I have not seen the dear little pet for an age."

"My son and heir will be delighted to see you I have no doubt. Pray, Lady Sylvester, who is that pretty lady sitting there, whom I saw you talking to?"

"That is Mrs. Kinton, married to my husband's old friend. She is just arrived from Pondicherry where he married her. Shall I introduce you?"

"Pray do."

"I hope, Mrs. Kinton," said the judge, "that you had a pleasant journey to Madras."

"Nous avons fait un assez bon voyage, monsieur, nous voici enfin arrivés sains et saufs, mais cela n'a pas été sans courir quelques dangers."

"Comment, madame, vous" hesitated the judge, "pardonne, madame, je parle français très peu; but I understand it perfectly."

N'importe, monsieur, c'est égal—parlez moi toujours l'anglais, je le comprend fort bien, moi; me know."

"Madame has had great trouble on the road?"

"Mais oui, monsieur. Les porteurs du palanquin, sont d'une laideur extrême, et ses habillements très négligés, mais ils sont des hommes honnêtes. Au contraire, les paysans sont de sauvages, oh! bon dieu! affreuses, comme de singes—et ils nous regardaient fixement, et se pressaient dans une foule autour du palanquin!"

"They are not accustomed to see Europeans, and ladies in particular must be great curiosities to them."

"Peut-être; c'est ça. Mais nous n'avions pas mangé dans tout le voyage, à moins qu'à Allumparva, et dans l'hôtel du Mademoiselle Isaacks. Ordinaire-

ment les porteurs nous en donnaient un curry—sa cuisine est seulement le curry, c'est tout. C'est une nourriture très saine, et je m'y aurais contentée bien ; mais quand je prenais l'aile d'un poulet, c'était si dure que je ne pouvais manger davantage. Quels barbares ! Je dîne toujours de bon appétit—j'avais grand faim. Et pour boire on me donnaient de l'eau chaude ; je ne pris pas une seule bouchée."

"Dear me, how very unfortunate. Did madame sleep well in the palanquin ?"

"Je n'ai fait que sommeiller—je n'ai jamais pu m'endormir."

"How did Mr. Kinton like it ? This was not the most pleasant way of passing the honeymoon as we term it."

"Il grognait sur tout. J'en avais ri."

"Excellent ; and I fear you had no accommodation whatever as to houses at these places ?"

"Point de maison, ni pas un bungalow même. Nous avons entré dans le chuttrum du village (choultry you say), et nous faisons nos toilettes au coin de petit verandah. Ah ! ma chère et belle Pontichéry !"

"Very uncomfortable, certainly. I hope we may

be able to make some amends for the troubles you have passed through," &c., &c.

Major Brower and the lady with him had, in the meantime, been observing the dancing of an officer with a young lady, who as she moved about the rooms appeared to attract the eyes of all the gentlemen, and consequently of many of the ladies.

"That is Miss Peyton, I presume, with whom your friend, Captain Hackle, is dancing," said Lady Sylvester.

"It is," said the major, "and a handsomer couple it would be difficult to meet with. I hope they may make a match of it. She deserves to have an honest manly fellow like Hackle."

"Kissing goes by favour, major; what reason have you for supposing that she has a fancy for him? He certainly looks excessively fond of her, and I believe Captain Hackle is every way deserving of such good fortune. Is she very amiable as well as pretty?"

"I hear the most satisfactory accounts of her temper and disposition from her fellow-passengers, and, as you know, the every-day observation of a six months voyage is the best criterion one can have."

"She arrived about a fortnight ago, I think. I

have been nowhere, and seen scarcely any one since Sir Robert has been so ill."

"Let me introduce her to you then, as I see the dance is finished."

Lady Sylvester was charmed to make the acquaintance of one she had heard so much of, and the major left them seated together, drawing away with him his friend the captain, who was standing near, impatiently awaiting a pause in the conversation of the ladies.

"Come with me, Hackle, for a moment, and I will tell you an anecdote I picked up at dinner this evening. You know Padre Medows, the precise chaplain—certainly a pattern in his dress and conduct of what a respectable member of his profession should be, though a little open from his formal manners, and eagerness to please, to a quiet bit of quizzing. He is attached to the 1st European regiment, and was told one day by a servant that the child of Lieut. Meggan was dying, and that his attendance was required. Medows posted off to that officer's bungalow, and on entering the compound was unable for some time to find a servant to attend to him. When he did so, his first question was, 'where is the

afflicted father?' 'Sare,' was the reply. 'Where,' again asked the Padre in his mildest tone, 'is Lieut. Meggan, the father of the poor child?' 'Massur gane out shooting, sare,' blurted out blackey. 'Ah!' exclaimed, Mr. Medows, almost starting back, and it was all he could utter for a short time, 'do you mean to say that Lieut. Meggan is on a sporting excursion?' again he asked. 'Ees, sare,' replied the blackey. 'And, and,' hesitated the chaplain, 'how is the poor child?' 'What child, sare?' 'Your master's child, who I am told is very ill.' 'I understand, sare; massur's child was sick, we sent for one donkey and gave him the milk, and him very well now, sare.' Well, the Padre returned to his home, and questioned his servants, but after one had referred him to another, and he again to a third, as they saw he was annoyed, he could obtain no clear account of who had brought the message. Lieut. Meggan on becoming acquainted with the case on his return, wrote a quizzical letter of thanks to the chaplain, and soon let some of his younger brother officers hear of it, who took care to recite it everywhere in their best style."

"Talking of blackey and his doings," said Captain

Mortar, who had joined them, "what a joke that was of Kingsley and his wife feeding the turkey for Christmas-day. Didn't you hear of it? Stay one minute now, Hackle. The Kingsleys who are a young couple with several encumbrances, had been for some time assiduously fattening a turkey for Christmas-day, paying it a visit daily themselves, talking to their children about it, the whole family reckoning upon the good dinner they were to have, and the proper style they were to keep the day in. Accordingly they sat down to table in great good humour on the joyful day, their olive branches present handling their knives and forks and exclaiming for the cover to be taken off, in fact, requiring to be held back in their chairs, so eager were they for the fray. The cover was removed, and there was seen an old half-starved hen in place of the turkey that should have occupied the dish. Consternation reigned in all their faces. 'Butler,' gasped poor Kingsley, 'what is this? where is the turkey?' 'I 'spose that is it, sare.' 'Nonsense,' said Kingsley, 'this is not a turkey, where is it?' Well, the butler knew nothing further, and only said, 'Mast'r better ask cook.' The cook, after



much cross-questioning and prevarication, owned to having sold the fat turkey, but whether for his own benefit or the butler's, did not clearly appear. But where are you off to Hackle in such a hurry?"

"Oh! never mind me. Yes, I thought so, there's that fellow again. I knew you would keep me too long," said the captain as he rushed away. He was too late. Mr. Arlington had secured the young lady, and was now leading her away to the dance.

"I am late this evening," said the young man to his fair partner, "I was obliged to dine at mess in the fort to meet Marshall, whom you recollect in the 'Huntley Castle.' He is to leave to-morrow, so I could not refuse. Have you been dancing much—who has been sighing for the honour of your hand. I saw Captain Hackle with you, has he been making himself very agreeable?"

"He is a very good creature, and I have half a mind to make up a match between him and Julia Macadam, who came out with us."

"Does he incline to obey your injunctions on that head?"

"I cannot tell at present—but time may improve matters. I want him to dance with her now—who can you find to take Captain Hackle to Julia? Do

see about it, but first let me go into that quiet corner, or he will be asking me again.”

Miss Peyton soon had the satisfaction of seeing this done, and was immediately afterwards going through the stately and graceful movements of a minuet with Arlington. This couple attracted universal attention.

Alice Peyton had now been nearly three weeks in Madras, where she landed with all the bloom of youth and beauty after a pleasant sea voyage. Her father was a Lieut.-Colonel in the royal army, stationed up the country, and who had felt himself so lonely in his position in this foreign country, separated from his children, that he had been impatient until his eldest daughter could attain an age which would allow of her leaving England to be with him and take charge of his house. This step had been much resisted by the sister of her mother, to whose care she had been consigned when her mother died, and delayed as long as possible, until Colonel Peyton's wishes were so peremptorily conveyed that she did not dare any longer to detain Alice, while regretting the step the colonel required to be taken. Alice was at length sent off, and had arrived thus far on her journey,

being at present under the care of a good friend of the colonel, until he could himself visit the presidency, and take her with him on the not very long land journey to the station his regiment was now cantoned at.

He had lost his wife at a still early age, and but one year after their arrival in the country, and he had ever since sighed for the society of his children, who were all in England, the youngest having been sent home after the decease of its mother. This long separation from his family had been the cause of considerable anxiety and dejection to the colonel; Alice's heart had yearned to go and comfort her father, and it was only the opposition of her aunt which prevented her doing so much earlier. From the moment she was allowed to set out it had been a joyful time to her, everything had since been full of pleasure and happiness, and as her father was now on his way to meet her, she counted the days which intervened before she could be united again with her only surviving parent.

But I must defer further mention of Alice to another chapter. While the young, or would-be young, thus shared in common in the dance, or looked on at a more solemn exhibition of a minuet

on the part of a few, Major Brower was on his way with the Brigadier of Artillery to the refreshment room, where many of the guests spent a considerable part of the evening, considering it possibly a convenient place for meeting their friends. It was in the next room to this also that card tables were placed, at which several parties of whist were playing, Mr. Graby being here with some old *confrères*. Major Brower and the brigadier having imbibed a glass of cooled champagne together, began talking over the state of the regiment of artillery, in which the brigadier had much to praise, and not without cause, for it was the most efficient arm of the service, there being however one point on which one or two officers not connected with the regiment, such as Major Brower, had begun to entertain treasonable opinions, and that was whether the bullock was a better animal than the horse to draw the guns. Major Brower, and at least one other officer, who had seen service lately, maintaining that the guns were not moved fast enough, and that although the bullock was the best animal for the draught of spare ammunition and all stores and siege guns, a speedier action was required in the presence of an

enemy, when the interval lost by the tardy arrival of guns might be productive of most serious mischief and loss. In short, they thought that to bring them into play more rapidly might double their efficiency. The brigadier, who had seen no other animals than his long-suffering and staunch old bullocks dragging his guns for the last forty years, could not agree in this sentiment, and cited cases where his favourites had tired out all other animals, the best arabs included. The difference in expense he thought would be very considerable, and, as they had done so well hitherto, he was averse to making any change.

As they were discoursing in this way, a lady, whom I found to be Mrs. Davidson, approached them, and Major Brower began a lively conversation with her, speaking in terms of high admiration of her fair guest, Miss Peyton. "She will carry away all hearts with her when she leaves Madras," said he; "that is, if the young men allow her to do so. Were I not married, I should do my utmost to win her, or die in the attempt. And I think, from what I see, that my friend Hackle is of my mind in that respect." The lady laughing, said she should

inform Mrs. Brower of his unfaithfulness, and added that it was of no use for any one to think of her, as she was solely devoted to caring for her father.

"I honour her the more for it," said the major; "but here comes Davidson, and I shall see what he has to say about it."

"Whatever it is, then, come and talk of it over a rubber," said the civilian; "I have been longing for one all the time we have been here. Brigadier, you will join us I hope, and there is Andrew Smith will make the fourth, I dare say, and win all our money, won't you, Andrew, my man?"

"I shall make no objection," said the major, "if Mrs. Davidson will excuse us; but we were about to see what we could offer you, Mrs. Davidson."

"Oh, thank you, I shall only take a cup of tea."

"*Nec teacum vivere possum, nec sine te,*" remarked her facetious husband. "Pray let me have some milk punch as a medium beverage. Andrew, *invito te ad pocula*. '*Nunc est bibendum,*' while the dancers may add—'*nunc pede libero pulsanda tellus.*' But we must not lose time here, our evening is not too long. *Addio, signora*. Come along, my lads." And away they went to the card room.

## CHAPTER X.

A BALL AND SUPPER—*continued.*

MR. GRABY, after the first two or three rubbers, had not been playing with his usual relish, but was looking about him, and appeared glad of the first excuse he could frame to resign his seat to another player. He had been seeking opportunities of conversing with several of the influential people in the party, and soon after this was seen talking to Mr. Baranfield, the host, in a corner of the verandah near the card-room. Their conversation seemed to be on some very interesting topic, but on which they could not agree; and at length Mr. Baranfield walked away, saying, "No, no, I tell you it canr

be; we are not all rogues now, as you may have heard, or known some of our predecessors to be. I must desire you will not again mention the subject to me." And so, after a few more words, they parted.

Mr. Graby, entering the rooms, thought he would put off further discussion of the question he was interested in until after supper, and was now standing near a sofa on which sat two ladies very busy in criticising the appearance of some of the guests.

"How very absurd it is," said Mrs. Colonel Saunders to her friend, Mrs. Captain Cuff, "to see the dresses now worn by Mrs. Kinton and Miss Peyton; it is positively indelicate of them to expose their figures in this way. As for Mrs. Kinton, a Frenchwoman, one cannot be surprised at anything from her, bringing her bad French and outlandish manners and fashions from Pondicherry; but really I cannot imagine where Miss Peyton can have been brought up—at some fifth-rate boarding-school, I suppose, where everything that is bad is learnt in a very short time. How her poor father will bear it I cannot divine; he little knows, I dare say, the



trial awaiting him. If they think that it is fine or fashionable to discontinue their hoops, I can tell them they are miserably deceived. I know, at all events, that my friend Lady Sylvester and the honourable Mrs. Stoney still wear them; and I would rather follow their examples than Mrs. Kinton's."

"How they can wear anything so monstrous," said the other, "as those close-fitting dresses, is more than I can conceive; they ought to be ashamed of themselves; the comfort of the hoop, too, is so great. The taste that some people show is really beyond all belief—Miss Peyton has positively dressed her hair without powder and in ringlets; it makes her thoroughly ugly, though I dare say now she thinks it an improvement. Who is that gentleman with her? Mr. Arlington? Ah! I think I have heard something about them before."

"And so have I. They came out together, and, as I hear, were wishing to be married at the Cape, but the captain of the ship would not let them, and so they were sulky with him all the rest of the voyage. But have you heard, my dear Mrs. Cuff, of Mrs. Garroway's doings on board the 'John Dory'?"

She behaved so badly that I really cannot call upon her. The captain of the ship was not so much in fault as she was—of that I feel quite certain—because he called on me, having brought out a box for me, and I had an opportunity of judging of him. She flirted with most of the officers of the ship; it is all the same to her, whoever pays her attention is sure to meet with a return.”

“ Well, I’m sure, she has little pretensions to beauty, and she is silly enough in all conscience. I never did like her. But only look at Mrs. Dickson and Captain Wooley, it is really too open that flirtation; I hope Mr. Dickson will soon hear of it; but some husbands are so stupid, and never can see these things. I heard something the other day that was quite enough to stamp their intercourse.”

“ Oh, pray, what was it ?”

“ Well, I do not know that I am quite at liberty to tell it; but I am sure that you will consider it as strictly confidential.”

“ Oh, certainly, my dear Mrs. Cuff, you may depend upon me.”

“ Well, it appears that she brought back some books to the library, when Captain Short was reading

the paper in the next room, the door open of course, and he heard her ask very earnestly for some book she called 'Evelina.' There was not such a book in the collection, or it may be one of those novels by Miss Burn—something, that people run after so, as sketches of perlite society; then she wanted another book, whose name I think was 'Cecilia' or 'Camilla,' and so she asked for several books, whose names I dare say are better forgotten, and could not get one of them. When she was gone, Captain Short went into the room, and began to look over the books she had brought back, for the purpose of seeing, I suppose, if there had been any remarks made on the pages—for some people are so foolish as to think they can improve upon authors—when he found a slip of paper, with the names of the books she had been asking for, in the handwriting of Captain Wooley."

"What he can see in such a poor little creature is more than I can divine. I dare say they think the world looks upon such goings on as all very friendly and right. Here is Mr. Dickson. Mr. Dickson, have you seen Captain Wooley lately; he was asking for Mrs. Dickson?"

"No; I believe he is here. Which way did he go?"

"Towards the refreshment room. My dear, don't you hope he may—well, well, we shall see. Captain Brading, what is the latest news with you? Mrs. Cuff and myself are dying to hear how all is going on in the 13th."

"Faith, ladies, we are as dull as so many owls. The colonel and the major are having their ninety-ninth quarrel, about the pace sticks this time; or, stop, no—it is now because the adjutant did not send the morning-report book to the major every day. The rest of the regiment are getting too used to these tiffs to derive much enjoyment from them now. We have been entertaining the ladies of the regiment at mess; it was on Thursday last—and Captain Pope got dr—, I mean tipsy, before the cloth was off the table, and insulted Ensign Wade, desiring him, as his senior officer, not to speak to Mrs. Watkins, and at last ordering him into arrest. Well, there was such a noise and confusion in consequence, that the ladies were obliged to retire much sooner than we wished, and then there was no end of discussion and row until long after tattoo. The end

of it was that two duels were fought the next morning; Ensign Wade called out Captain Pope and shot him in the arm; and Captain Stone called out Lieutenant Foreman, and, in the second round, they were both hit, Foreman badly. The colonel was told that there would be some mischief next day; but, as he had determined on sitting up that night, and having a game of whist after his third bottle, he would not order a parade for the morning. The doors of the mess-room were shut, but the parties concerned slipped out of the windows, and no one took any notice, or thought it at all necessary to spoil the fun."

"What is the reason, Captain Brading, that you always quarrel in the 13th, when you have ladies at the mess. Is Mrs. Watkins still thought so very charming?"

"By the powers, no; she's nothing particular—but the ensign may have a sneaking affection there for all that I know. But I see a move made to the supper-room, let me hand you down Mrs. Saunders, and there is Lieutenant Weedy will take Mrs. Cuff."

The company were now passing to the stairs which led to the lower story, where an abundant supper was

laid out in the hall and other rooms. The band played "the roast beef of old England," while the procession was led by the commander of the forces handing down Mrs. Baranfield, followed by Sir Ralph Farmer, who led down the honourable Mrs. Stoney, the wife of the third member of council, who did duty here for her husband as well; he, being opposed in politics to Mr. Baranfield, had pleaded illness to remain away from the entertainment. Sir Theophilus Smith with the senior civilian's wife, Mr. Duncan Grey and a lady, Major General Seaward with another, the brigadier of artillery with Lady Sylvester, merchants, colonels, factors, majors, writers, captains, or their ladies, all following in the most correct order of precedence.

The seniors were seated opposite each other in the centre of the principal table, while friends of the host took the ends of the tables and presided. The tables were loaded with silver plate, all of massive construction, while a perfect conservatory of flowers was spread about the centre of the tables and through the rooms. A pleasant bustle of the attendants soon began, plates and dishes were handed about, champagne was freely circulated, and a very substantial

supper was soon done full justice to by guests, most of whom were in the habit of dining early. The ladies did not simply dispose, like those of the present day, of their wing of a chicken with a glass or two of champagne, followed by jelly and blancmange, chattering away all the time—though this might have been the case with some of the younger ones—but they generally took more time, and made a heartier meal, including hot soup, curries, and other warm dishes, finishing by partaking of some of the beautiful fruit, delicious mangoes, grapes, melons, pine apples, pomeloes, oranges, &c.

After this had gone on for some time, and when there appeared to be a lull in the feasting, a gentle stir was observed in the centre of the principal room, where the commander of the forces had declared his intention of proposing a toast. In due time his excellency arose, and announced his wish to the company of asking them to drink a health which he knew they all anticipated, and would receive with the greatest enthusiasm. They had experienced, not only to-night, but frequently, the attention and kindness of their hostess and his friend and brother-official, the honourable Mr. Baranfield. He had now

had the happiness of knowing them intimately for many years, and could with sincerity say that there was no one for whom, in the course of a long life, he had been led to entertain a greater regard. But their virtues were well-known and appreciated; the infinite grace and good sense with which Mrs. Baranfield assisted in presiding over the society of the Presidency was only equalled by the good example her husband set to the civil service. Every one was capable of judging for himself of the splendid entertainment they had been invited to that evening; nothing could exceed the richness and profusion of this superb repast; or, he might be allowed to add, the assemblage of beauty and loveliness in the fair guests whom he saw around him. He said, therefore, that their obliging host and hostess had provided all that the most exacting and fastidious mind could picture to itself as delightful and charming on such occasions.

He was truly grieved that circumstances prevented their esteemed governor from sharing in these festivities, his exalted rank had this drawback to it, but he knew well, that his lordship participated with him in his high appreciation of the administrative talents, the zealous public spirit, and amiable social qualities.



of their host, and the graceful and refined elegance of their fair hostess.

He saw around him also many distinguished members both of the civil and military services, with some of whom he was proud to say he had been long connected in his duties. He had spent very many years in the service of the honourable company, had seen this their wonderful empire rising at first by slow degrees, but latterly with rapid strides to the wide dominion it now held. He had witnessed with the respect and admiration they could not but call forth in the most inconsiderate minds, the bold and far-sighted policy, the unerring judgment, the enlarged and enlightened views, together with the inimitable dignity of their governor general the Marquis Wellesley.

His noble friend the governor, too, he was convinced, would always be found worthy of his high position, and of the glorious name he bore, the founder of which had been compared as a warrior, and with but simple justice, to Lucullus and Trajan, and to those early conquerors Alexander, Condé, and Charles XII. The public career of that truly great man, they might be indeed proud to say, began at the city where

they were now assembled, indeed his greatest triumph took place in that Presidency at the early age of twenty-five. But he would not detain them longer, he would now merely call upon the gentlemen present to drink to the health of their host and hostess with all the honours.

The gentlemen rose accordingly, and drank the toast amidst a perfect storm of cheers and shouts which shook the ceiling.

Mr. Baranfield following, found himself totally at a loss to reply in suitable terms to the eloquence of the speech of his gallant friend the commander-in-chief which had ushered in the toast, and the kind manner in which it had been seconded by the company. If Mrs. Baranfield and himself had in any measure deserved such approbation by their humble efforts to please, they had met with a reward far exceeding any merits they could ever hope to possess. Any attempt of his to emulate the glowing eloquence of his honourable friend would be vain, and he would not, therefore, endeavour to eulogize the merits of the heads of the government after they had been dealt with by oratory approaching nearer to their deserts, he would simply state that in no bosom did such

sentiments meet with a readier acceptance than in his. He would now, therefore, after thanking his distinguished friends and the whole company, the ladies in particular, for their kind presence that evening, propose the health of his excellency the commander-in-chief, begging leave to couple with it those of the right honourable the governor and Lady Clive.

This toast having met with the usual boisterous welcome, the commander of the forces returned thanks, after which the ladies rose and retired to the upper rooms again, while the gentlemen being reseated, Mr. Baranfield rose to propose the toast of "the ladies." This being responded to with three times three cheers, the commander of the forces with a few of the leading members of society took their departure,—of the rest a considerable number remained fixed to the tables until an early hour in the morning, but the greater part of the guests returned after a while to the ball-rooms, where they resumed with additional vigour and I fear I must say rather uproarious hilarity, country-dances, which followed each other in rapid succession as long as there remained a few couples not too tired to stand up, or an unfortunate musician that could be called tolerably sober.

A select few went back to the card tables again. Mr. Graby continued at the supper table, doing his best to canvass for his native friends—during which he met with much lively as well as earnest argument, sallies of good humoured wit upon his connection with the Nawaub, and long stories relative to such doings in former times. As I left the scene with my master the major, my account of the evening here closes. And it is but right I should mention, that much of the above, particularly concerning the speeches, has been gathered from the account given in the newspaper aforesaid, which on the second day afterwards contained a brilliant and vivid description of this entertainment in well studied language, from the pen of, as some thought, the secretary to the commander of the forces; or as others, not in the secret, supposed that of the master of the house himself. In stating this fact I only wish, as far as lies in my power, to do justice to others,—*palman qui meruit ferat*.

In favour of the first supposition it was observed, that some very feeling remarks which the worthy old general had introduced into his last speech, expressive of his great regret at leaving active service

and the society of all his old friends were not allowed to appear in print. On this occasion at least there had been nothing to mar the cordiality and good feeling so desirable amongst officers of the same service.

## CHAPTER XI.

THE RUPEE'S NEXT CHANGE BRINGS HIM INTO  
AGREEABLE COMPANY.

It has been observed that there are few writers who have gained any reputation by reciting their own deeds, and ill-disposed persons may incline to class me with the many thousand egotistical journalizers, and a host of writers of memoirs and meditations. But, in the first place, I record the transactions of others rather than of myself, while the reflections are induced by the occurrences related, and cannot therefore be considered as irrelevant or impertinent. And, can any vain-glorious motive be ascribed to one who is not even known to the reader, and the re-

mainder of whose existence is likely to be equally obscure and unnoticed. This narrative, if not brought before the world with all the advantage and support of the name of some great man or exalted character, may contain worthy sentiments, unimpeachable morality; and some importance may be attached even to a private history, when it holds up the broad features of honesty and good faith to imitation, and condemns at all times and under all circumstances, the paltry yet mischievous vices of hypocrisy and subterfuge. And, reader, as we proceed, you will be brought acquainted with some passages in the life of one who was in these our days the foremost man of all the world, and whose heroic deeds and singleness of purpose should call for our most strenuous emulation. He was one too who recorded his own great actions, but he did so in brief and modest strains, at the time they occurred, and in the strict course of his duty. The reflections and comments he left to others.

At a tolerably early hour the next morning, Major Brower was sitting in the verandah of his house in a light morning costume, that is, much in the same dress he had slept in—his naked feet, thrust into slippers of the Turkish fashion, resting on an opposite

chair, while with a long cheroot in his mouth and, on another chair by his side, a sneaker of tea equal in size to several cups of modern date, he was looking over and correcting papers in a meditative way.

He was soon joined by Captain Hackle, who had returned from his morning ride, and came to take his cup of "outside tea" with his friend.

"Hackle, you look somewhat melancholy, who have you been riding with?" said the major, "but I guess—with the fair object of your affections."

"I have been with Miss Peyton, as I met her on the island, I joined her."

"When do you propose to her?"

"Never, I believe, she does not give me any encouragement, and with all her openness of behaviour there is a placid dignity which would seem to deter one from such advances."

"You must not expect young ladies who are worth having to make advances to you, the more reserved they are the better chance you have perhaps."

"Yes, but one can easily understand when attentions are acceptable. Yet, with all her coldness, she is certainly the most graceful, the most strangely fascinating woman I ever met, and so full of noble



feeling! 'By Jove, what a fortunate man her husband will be!"

"I said all I could for you to Davidson. The young lady's father is expected here daily—he obtained leave as you know nearly a fortnight ago. I am sorry to say that Davidson gave me no hopes of your succeeding at present, because her father is so desirous of his daughter living with him. Your only plan will be to get appointed to the centre division, and so see something more of her there."

Captain Hackle on this became still more thoughtful, and replied he only wished he could do so.

"Some day, Hackle," continued the major, "I shall be giving you a step perhaps. What would you say to my entering Graby's house; that is the only way to make money. Or I should have less objection to be one of Bury's house, they are very respectable. Such an event may occur yet, I have a family to provide for, and there is that old house and the estate in Ayrshire that belonged to my grandfather, which I should like to get back again. I am getting rather tired of this constant office work which leads to nothing; when making rupees now the labour would be rather more of a pleasure. I

have had a sort of overture made to me already about it. But I must not forget to pay Davidson what I lost last night, here, boy, Cassim !”

A servant who had been sitting in close proximity, that is just round the corner, where, though out of sight, he could have a convenient hearing of much that his master said—started up, and came forward.

“Carry this chit and fifty-two rupees to Davidson sahib.”

I was then counted out with a number of other rupees, and carried off by the servant to a house at a little distance, where Mr. Davidson lived.

That gentleman was leisurely enjoying his hookah in an open room, leaning back in a very easy chair, with his feet crossed and resting on the table before him, while a moonshee squatted on the floor read out a succession of papers in a foreign tongue, which papers being presented to Mr. Davidson at the termination of the sitting, he duly signed his initials to them without much questioning. He seemed pleased at the sight of us, and sent his acknowledgment; while he repeated to himself with some gusto—‘*crescentem sequitur cura pecuniam, Majorumque fames* ;’ Cassim, before returning to his master’s presence

went to the godowns to see his friend Abdul Khader, one of Mr. Davidson's servants, with whom he smoked a quiet hubble-bubble, and asked the news of the house, and what the sahib lōg talked of at dinner-time yesterday. This intelligence he reciprocated by communicating Major Brower's sayings and doings, and in this way the two endeavoured to discern what was passing that could in any way interest them, and be turned to any profit.

Mr. Davidson, after the not very severe labours of his early cutcherry were concluded, strolled down to the stables to look at his horses. Most of the stud had been groomed by this time, and each gallant arab horse stood in his separate loose stall, unconfined by halter or rope of any kind, without a cloth on him, his coat glossy as satin, the mane long and loose, and silky flowing tail reaching to the ground, forming a picture such as no land but the east can present, the unmistakeable signs of blood predominating in every limb, from the small high-caste head and arched neck to the long springy pasterns, a waving line of beauty throughout. As the sahib entered, each snuffed the air, with head erect, open red nostril, and soft intelligent eye, and approached

the bamboo poles placed across the entrance of the stall to receive the usual allowance of sweet lucerne-grass, carried behind by a groom, but to be given by the master with his own hand, while he looked at them, admiring their proportions, observing that not a speck or stain was on them, and enquiring into their doings that morning when out at exercise. They were as his children, he felt for and was proud of them as such; several of them had carried him in many a rough ride and exciting boar chase, and were his trusty companions; better friends, he thought, can no man have at any time, and in some difficulties we have seen together what friend so ready and so true!

Returning to the house he was met by a peon bringing the letters from the tappal-office, and in looking over these he spent a short time until his bath was reported ready.

When he met Mrs. Davidson and Miss Peyton in the breakfast-room, he found that the latter had some glad tidings to communicate, for she had received a letter from her father, announcing that he hoped, if no delay occurred in his obtaining fresh bearers, to arrive at Madras on that day.

"Oh! Mr. Davidson," said the young lady, "is it not good news? And when do you think he will come?"

"Where does he write from?"

"From Saulpelt, the day before yesterday."

"Laulpett I dare say you mean,—he cannot be here until late in the afternoon, perhaps, as the weather is hot, he will not arrive until late at night."

"Oh! what a long day it will be. How unlucky that I should have arrived in such very warm weather; poor papa, he must feel it very much travelling in those funny palanquins—I am afraid I shall never like them to sleep in. I hope he will rest in the heat of the day."

"That he will do, depend upon it, he is too old a traveller in this country to do otherwise. But come, let us see what Mary has provided for us—uncover Ramsawmy. Alice, my dear, what may I help you to, some of your favourite rice-flour hopper, or will you take some fish? Bring me my soojee, Narainah. Mary, what is to be done to-day?"

"I have nothing to do out-of-doors. Alice will be glad to stay at home, I dare say, and we shall

find ways of amusing ourselves. Mrs. Anderson is to call here about our branch of the Gospel Society, to reconsider our rules before the next meeting."

"I hope you may make something more than an amusement out of it; long time and patience are required to bring the natives into good habits, depend upon it, and it will scarcely be in our age that much good will be done. But—*respice finem*—you are quite right to try, if you are determined on persevering; patient endurance in well doing is an inspired instruction, and I know not a better rule for all classes and pursuits in life; to begin any work without feeling that strongly, and acting upon it, is to do mischief. The best motto for education is "who does not advance, falls." The ladies are likely to do more than the *padrès*, I believe; if the female mind could be educated in India there would be a far better chance of advancement than through the men, who are, I must say, now that the servants are out of hearing, the most depraved, ignorant, and bigoted people I ever heard of. Alice, will you send for your friend Miss Macadam to come and talk over the ball?"

"She offered to come to-day. But I never seem to want anyone when I have my dear Mrs. Davidson."

"Oh! to be sure," said Mr. Davidson, "yet there might be some young gentleman you would like to see, one of the many partners of last night,—Captain Hackle, for example, or Mr. Arlington, or the young cadet who draws so well?"

"No, no," said the young lady in some confusion, "do not quiz me, I am glad that Julia is coming, but I do not wish for any one, it is too great happiness, to know that dear papa will be here so soon."

"Well, then, farewell ladies, here comes my palkee to the door, with its eight strong black horses, and I am off to the Fort. Alice, the evening will soon be here—*'Durum! sed levius fit patientia, quicquid corrigere est nefas.'* You can come with Mary and call for me as usual; we cannot go far to meet the Colonel unfortunately, the roads are so infamous beyond the houses, but we will drive in that direction. Now, boy, my box and topee. Bene vale, bene vale—I beg pardon, good-bye."

The ladies betook themselves to the hall, as it was called, or central sitting-room, the coolest in the house, where they soon fell into their separate employments. Miss Peyton had in hand a water-colour drawing of the view from the house, which she intended to present to her kind friend the master of it, and with this, which was nearly finished, she was occupied when Miss Macadam arrived to spend the day with her, and take her lesson in German, a language which Miss Peyton had commenced to teach her on their voyage from England. With these and like studies and amusements the long voyage, tedious as it seemed to some of the passengers, had been productive of much enjoyment to those on board whom Miss Peyton distinguished with her friendship; they had, in fact, fully and usefully employed the time which was considered by others either as a waste of human life, or a mere animal existence, devoted to taking meals and taking exercise.

It is true that another little circumstance had, in the case of one or two of the party also tended to throw a tinge of enchantment over the voyage, and after what scandal has asserted in the last



chapter, I ought, I suppose, to say something about it.

In this sublunary sphere, as it is the fashion to call it—I presume because we are all so well managed and directed by the great influence her ladyship exercises over us in her frequent revolutions,—where so many persons are guided by self-interest, self-love, party, habits of thinking, the opinion of the world, and other such cherished fancies and hobbies, which they have adopted or been educated in, it is very rare to meet with men or women who can entertain true esteem and respect for their fellow mortals, or allow their feelings or sentiments to weigh sufficiently with them to make them show such opinion openly. But the most of us are ready enough to indulge in one feeling, which may be equally selfish at the beginning, though apt enough if properly treated, to lead to a total abnegation of self,—I need not say that I allude to what is called the softer passion. People are sufficiently alert, where they dare, to show this sort of liking, that is the men are,—but although the women are the first to show respect and esteem, they are not so ready as the men to show love. They make up to themselves for not

letting out this description of secret except in the last resort, by openly declaring every other liking they may have. They dare not tell in the former case, I presume, because they are struck with the intensity and all-pervading nature of their own feelings, and the extent to which they find themselves involved; for being almost wholly ruled by the heart they ascribe all the good qualities they can think of to the man they love, that is turn—it may be said with a Midas touch, for it is though wished for undesigned—everything into gold. Fear as well as pride consequently prevents their showing the full strength of their attachments. But we need not here enter into the maze of a woman's feelings, which would lead us who knows where,—for even to carry them through their plainest duties their great sensibility must be brought into play in no small degree,—and let me now briefly allude to the nature of the sentiments which two of the characters in our story entertained for each other.

From almost the first moment that Mr. Arlington and Miss Peyton had met they felt drawn together, and ere long recognising in each other that community of feeling and sentiment which binds hearts

together, the intimacy went on increasing. Mr. Arlington soon thought that he had found the one person who was fated to influence his future life. The young lady who was early impressed with the merits of the gentleman, yet with her fancy free, was unconscious for some time that her open candour and bearing might lead people to think that she felt a deeper regard for him than she ought to do, or had yet acknowledged to herself. For, when and how she knew not, but some perception of the ardour of his feelings had sprung up within her, though she did not at first see the necessity for modifying her reception of his advances. When she convinced herself that it was better for him that she should do so, she determined to be careful how occasion was given him to betray any such feeling either to herself or before others, and to confine their intercourse as much as possible to such interviews as could take place in the presence of her friend Miss Macadam, and particularly to see that it did not interfere with what might be fairly considered her duty to others. Thenceforward they seemed to tacitly understand each other; Arlington's innate gentlemanly tact avoided all danger to the young lady's character,—they seldom

conversed together alone, and each felt that it was possible even in the company of several to enjoy and profit by the other's society without being pointedly addressed. Arlington's conversation was worthy of general attention, and not by any means of that superficial kind adopted by so many of his countrymen expatriated to India, who can think of nothing deeper than the passing accidents of the day, or who revel in the abuse or praise of India, as if it were a sentient being, responsible for its good or evil climate and other belongings, which they would have it to alter according to the humour of the speaker ere its conduct fell altogether into his bad graces. Mr. Arlington was sensible enough to see, that the effects of climate are owing very much to the more or less exposure to its effects on the part of those who encounter it, and the self-control or want of it shown under the new trials and requirements. He had not, however, escaped free from one of the dangerous fevers human life is subject to in India, but this was caught during his service in an unhealthy part of the country while clearing it of a body of marauding horsemen. This had obliged him to return to Europe for the recovery of his health, and, well-knowing the

little opening he would have for any sort of assistance in his study of the classics and the higher branches of mathematics in India, he did not allow so important an era of his life to be wasted, but returned to Cambridge, where he had been matriculated, but from which he had been taken away too soon by his guardian on an appointment to India being placed at his disposal.

At Cambridge Arlington had recently taken his degree, and on his return to the East, a lucky chance as some might say, but the goodness of Providence as Arlington was disposed to consider it, had brought these two young persons together as passengers in the same vessel bound for Madras. The extent of his feelings I have already alluded to. Arlington had many male friends, some of them distinguished collegians, but this was the first time that he had met with one of either sex who seemed so fully to understand him, and to whom he felt able to open his heart, while she charmed him with her intelligent sympathy and trusting faith.

The aunt by whom Alice Peyton had been so carefully brought up was a woman of great accomplishments as well as talent, who had taught her to

reason on what she saw, and to continually educate herself. To say that in Alice simplicity of manner was united to much refinement of taste, delicacy as well as kindliness of feeling, earnestness of purpose, soundness of judgment, would be but to describe the solid part of her character, which would only have gone towards making her a sort of model young lady. There was also a cheerfulness of temper, a playfulness of fancy and humour which, restrained as it was by goodness of heart, added an indescribable charm to her demeanour. In form she was very perfect, above the middle height, when she moved grace attended all her steps; Arlington could have been contented to live and watch her walk; and it was when beholding the animation and enjoyment this exercise caused her, and sharing in the healthy gaiety of heart it called forth, that he inwardly devoted himself to her. But, indeed, no one could look at those fine features, with their expression of singleness of heart, without being struck with the purity of feeling which reigned there; souls of inferior mould were softened and restrained by it, and with those approaching the same lofty standard the communion it held was sweet and refreshing. Nature had bestowed

her most charming gifts bountifully upon her, and she honoured the God of nature by her right use of them. Few came within the circle of her modest yet attractive orbit without being permanently benefited by their intercourse with her.

The eloquent changes of her countenance I particularly took notice of before I had been long in her company; their charms were aided by a blue, sleepy eye, at times half hidden by its drooping upper lid; but, when animated, open and steady in its gaze; dark eyelashes and ringlets, a full oval face and clear complexion, in which the bloom mantled to the cheek when in exercise or conscious of observation; a mouth where the short upper lip curled prettily, and the lower was neither thin nor too full; a nose nearly approaching to aquiline; a large chin; then her head, with the well-rounded throat, was beautifully set on, with a tendency in its manner of carriage to hauteur; but this was the only sign of such a disposition about her.

Whether, in saying something in description of Alice Peyton, I have followed the most usual course or not, time will not admit of my stopping to inquire just now, the reader will doubtless be able to form

a better judgment of her as my narrative is continued. At about half-past twelve began a succession of callers, gentlemen chiefly, to inquire after their partners of the ball. Captain Hackle was one of these. His fine countenance, on which there was a natural cast of melancholy, lighted up when he spoke to Miss Peyton. He inquired into her pursuits, in which he found that Miss Macadam shared largely. That young lady, a flaxen-haired, fresh-coloured girl, was modest and interesting, leaning and dependent on her friend; she was fortunate enough not to be obliged to anticipate a separation from her very soon, being destined to visit the same station that Colonel Peyton would return to and at which her sister now resided. At present she was staying with a friend of her sister at Madras.

And here I would say, all honour to that good old-fashioned Indian custom, coeval with the first settlement of the English in the country: that of serving one another by housing and entertaining their friends who happened to be passing through the presidency town or other station; so that no hotels, were requisite, no necessity existed for the traveller



taking up his temporary residence in dingy furnished lodgings. Some friend, or friend's friend, was sure to be found, who would receive for any length of time into a comfortable home, and make him welcome as if he had been his tried friend for years. Still more; in this, to them, foreign land, the principal civilian or military man at the up-country station would send daily to the small bare building called a traveller's bungalow, to see if any stranger passer-by had arrived at the dismal resting-place, whom he might help to entertain. All were servants of the same government, as well as fellow-countrymen, very much on the same footing up-country, bound together by natural ties and similar wants and ways. In these offices of kindness the English in India were indeed good Samaritans. May such ancient hospitable rites be ever continued!

## CHAPTER XII.

## MONEY-MAKING THE PARENT OF ANNEXATION.

AT two o'clock the servants announced that tiffin was ready in the dining-room. This pleasant meal, to which Captain Hackle had been invited to stay, seemed to have been devised to assist in breaking the long day which Europeans are obliged, in a climate so different to that of their own native northern latitudes, to pass within the house. It consisted of a dinner in one course. Admitted to share in this social repast, as it were *en famille*, the captain spent another most agreeable hour in conversation with the ladies; in the course of which his experience of life in up-country stations was

narrated for the instruction of the "griffins" present (the young ladies), and he described the interview of the young Nawaub with the governor yesterday.

"There was a private interview also, I think you said," remarked Miss Peyton, when the servants had disappeared.

"There was, on the previous day," said the captain.

"What! Did the governor go upon this business on the Sunday too? No wonder the day is so much neglected here," she said in a lower tone.

"This Sunday work," said Mrs. Davidson, "has but led to disappointment."

"Why," remarked Miss Peyton, "should the country be thus seized upon? Could we not help to manage it without annexing it as our own property?"

"We have tried our hand," answered the captain, "at improving the Nawaubs long enough. They have been found guilty of gross treachery. Their rule has been solely supported by us, conditionally on their having no communication with foreign powers without our consent. Yet in Tippoo's possession were found proposals from them, to establish an union of interests, and to correspond by means of a secret cipher. The Nawaubs, having thus broken

the most important stipulation of the treaties, are to cede the country, on the same principle as their guarantee of a portion of it, if the subsidy was not paid."

"I presume," said Miss Peyton, "that the part you speak of could be legally held by the company only until a fair settlement of their claims was come to. If the treaties are cancelled both parties remain as they were previously situated: analogy can scarcely establish a title for the company."

"The letters of the Nabobs to Tippoo," observed Mrs. Davidson, "may have only contained some of the fantastic expressions used by eastern nations in writing."

"There were other causes of dissatisfaction," said the captain; "they borrowed money on heavy interest from English merchants and servants of the Company; these again became the collectors of the revenues, abused their opportunities, and were frequently associated with the Nawaubs in opposition to the masters under whose protection they lived, and who had strictly forbidden such transactions."

"Yes," answered Miss Peyton, "the steps in this affair are plain, exactions on the part of our govern-

ment, greed on the part of its officers and their countrymen; on the side of the Nabobs, embarrassment, consequent intrigues, want of principle, and appeal to other assistance; thus, disputes on all occasions, utter loss of confidence, and the final ruin of the weaker party."

"In the eyes of the natives," observed Mrs. Davidson, "this must have the appearance of taking away the inheritance of another; punishing him also for the sins of his fathers."

"Under the comparatively few Europeans, the native officials must have much work to do; are they trustworthy and honest?" asked Miss Peyton.

"I fear not," answered the captain; "the Brahmins have the credit of collecting for themselves, by favouring individuals in the valuation of their lands at the annual settlements of the rent."

"Whether is the religion of the Mohammedans or that of the Hindoos the most improving?" she asked.

"In the Indian service we are required to look upon all the religions of our subjects and sepoy as alike entitled to respect. Some precepts of the Koran have been taken from the Jewish law. The

Mohammedan idea of holiness and self-denial is measured by the power of fasting. I was once refused admittance to a tomb and mosque dedicated to one of their holy men, although, as I stated, I had entered the great mosque at Seringapatam, and the tomb of Hyder and Tippoo. 'Observe the difference,' was the reply, 'Tippoo ate food daily, and more than once a day; this holy man fasted for ten days together!' The religion of Brahma, as interpreted by the laws of Menu, is full of idle superstitions, childish formalities, and inconsistent morals. Neither can be admired. The former has no purity, no meekness or forbearance, and encourages proselytism with the sword; the latter enjoins falsehood and perjury,—to save a Brahmin from punishment, a man may practice any deceit; a man may give false witness in his own favour. With the Mohammedans an unbeliever in Allah is a kafir, an infidel, and only fit company for a dog; no benefits conferred can altogether conquer this feeling. To all but a few lettered men their books are sealed; the Koran remains in its original Arabic, and none but the elite of the Brahmins know anything of their religion."

So saying Captain Hackle rose to depart, while the ladies retired to their rooms during the heat of the afternoon, where you may be sure Miss Peyton, who was now beginning to manifest great impatience for the arrival of evening, talked with her friend Julia of the anticipated meeting with her father, recalling all that she recollected of his affectionate kindness in her childhood. It is true that, by some means, when the subject was once introduced, they did not omit also to dwell upon the incidents of the ball, expressing their sentiments in that confidential manner and with an *abandon* which young ladies only indulge in, when quite alone together.

Six o'clock came at last, and Mrs. Davidson with her young friends set out in the carriage to call for Mr. Davidson at his office in the fort. After picking him up, they drove along the road on which the colonel was expected; but, as we have noticed already, the state of the roads at the distance of but a few miles from the fort was really so deplorable, that nothing but a vehicle without springs, such as the country bandy, could live on them. Their progress therefore was very slow, the horses being kept at a walk. Mr. Davidson and the young ladies

alighted, and sauntered along for some time, but the sameness of the prospect, one succession of paddy fields in the wide even plain, without trees, and but a small hill here and there in the distance, together with the loose dry soil and closeness of the atmosphere were unfavourable for such exercise.

They sat down near a few mud huts, and watched the ryots at their different occupations. The men, returned with their bullocks from the fields, were squatting and gazing listlessly about them, stupid and languid after a long day's sunning, or mending the apology for a plough, which had cost about sixpence originally, and was carried to and fro on the owner's shoulder. "Beatus ille," thought Mr. Davidson, "*qui procul negotiis, paterna rura bubus exercet suis.*" The women, habited in a single piece of long cotton cloth, tucked round the waist with an end thrown over one shoulder, were cooking with their *pot au feu* in the open air, or walking about with vigour, carrying heavy water-jars on their heads,—some husking paddy by beating it with the end of a long staff in a stone mortar, others weaving a coarse cloth with long threads stretched between two crossed



sticks,—working at everything like slaves—true hewers of wood and drawers of water.

“How industrious they are,” said Miss Macadam, “and they work without a sign of complaint or weariness ; but they are too quiet at their labour, I should like to hear them singing while about it.”

“The children seem the happiest of the party, and full of life,—what a pretty little darling that one is near the door there,” said Miss Peyton.

“The women do sing sometimes when working together,” remarked Mr. Davidson, “and their ‘sweet voices’ are very loud and animated, and their speeches last much longer than you would care to hear, if they think anyone is imposing upon themselves or their husbands. But they are, as everywhere, the best part of the creation, and the managers too ; the men hardly ever venture to disobey their orders, particularly amongst these of the poorer class. The women are at work from morning till night ; they are employed in spinning long before daylight in the morning. They offer in many respects a fine example to you ladies ! poor women, grievously wounded by their husbands, have been known to say in their behalf before a court of justice, ‘my husband

is the malik (master) of my life.' By the Hindoo law the husband is called the superior of the wife,—which is another very sensible arrangement. What are you thinking of Alice?"

"I hope he will take care not to expose himself, and that he will not feel the heat much; is it very fatiguing travelling in a palanquin so long a distance?"

"Oh! the colonel is an old soldier, and accustomed to rough it."

"Poor papa, I hope he will not run any risks. I shall not let him when once I have him under my wing."

"I should like to see you, my dear, taking care of a Lieutenant-Colonel of His Majesty's army; one who has seen so much service too. But never mind, Alice, he will soon be here, and then I shall not dare to tease you. As it begins to grow dark now we had better return to the carriage. '*Dum loquimur, fugerit invida ætas.*'"

Dinner was scarcely finished, when Alice had the supreme happiness of seeing her dear father arrive safe, though fatigued by the great heat, for he had not been able to refrain from travelling during the greater

part of the last day. How proud she felt at beholding his erect military port, on which years had yet made no impression ; his tall, spare, but well-knit form, surmounted by a handsome face full of open frankness, the result of the constant practice of upright dealing united with decision and self-reliance ; and how grateful she felt, and expressed it on her bended knees that night, to an all-ruling and merciful Providence, which had acceded to her prayers, and fulfilled her desire at the conclusion of her long voyage.

Earnestly she repeated the words of the Psalmist, "Blessed be the Lord because He hath heard the voice of my supplications ; my heart trusted in Him and I am helped."

And her last thought then as ever was, "I will lay me down in peace and take my rest ; for it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety."

## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE FOLLOWERS OF THE PROPHET CONSPIRING.

IF it is thought that the action of this story is as yet proceeding rather slowly, I would remark, that (as in nature) the growth of all productions of any worth and permanency must be gradual at first, and the incidents which crowd upon my memory are so various, that the difficulty lies in choosing which should be chiefly dwelt upon. Mine has this great advantage over the pseudo-histories of other authors, that as in their case it is at first found convenient to create some sort of stage to which the reader's attention may be drawn, and where he may observe and be assured of the position of surrounding objects; it is,

on the contrary, only necessary with me to continue a faithful account of events as they followed each other, without attempting to imitate the authors aforesaid in their dry, and too often exaggerated details, their speculations more or less vague, and *rechauffes* sufficiently vapid and lukewarm.

To proceed then. A few days after the occurrences narrated in the preceding chapter, I was very much surprised one fine morning to find myself pounced upon by the dressing-boy of Mr. Davidson, Abdul Khader, which thoughtful youth appeared to have a key of his own to the almirah, or wardrobe, in which I was kept. But a few other rupees were taken by him at the same time from the heap, so that when Mr. Davidson, who was just then out for his usual morning exercise, returned, that gentleman, on opening the almirah, did not notice any sensible diminution in his stock of money.

Abdul Khader hid me for some time in his kummerbund, and when he went to the godowns to eat his rice, he added me to a long roll of rupees which he unwound from his waist, where they were constantly carried in a compact form round his body. This criminal conduct of Abdul Khader in robbing his

benefactor was a most vexatious proceeding to me, as I was thereby deprived of the society of Miss Peyton and her father, in which I had begun to take great delight. Abdul Khader being a body servant of Mr. Davidson, was not employed in the house during his absence in the day,—and obtaining leave for the evening also, he set out with Cassim, Major Brower's servant, for the bazar, as soon as his master had gone to office.

These two young men, who were, like all Madras servants both old and young, called "boys," were evidently bent on an excursion of pleasure combined with some business, for they talked as they went on towards Triplicane, clattering their thick soled slippers against the heel at each step, of the recent arrival of Hyder Hoossain, an acquaintance of theirs who appeared to have a great influence over them, and who wished to communicate affairs of some importance to them.

The Nawaub, obliged by the wars and the disturbed state of the Carnatic to leave Arcot, had afterwards very willingly remained at Madras, chiefly because they found it convenient for the purpose of having ready access to the leading members of the English

community. Attracted by their court, a large proportion of Mohammedans lived in the suburb of Triplicane; some of them engaged in petty trades or in commerce, for which latter purpose they travelled from Bombay, Lucknow, and various parts of India, even from Caubul, with Cashmere shawls, Delhi scarfs, silks, and brocaded stuffs, embroidery in floss-silk, chintzes, perfumery, and trinkets; others were drawn to it by hopes of employment, and idle and vague thoughts of preying upon the state and society in various ways. Most of them lived to the hour, consulting only their ease and pleasure; their very business did not appear to call for much writing or serious thought, and was transacted *viva voce* in public under the tall toddy trees lining the long bazar, the warm climate inducing an out-of-doors life. Here they congregated,—easily distinguishable by their smart dresses, by an air of arrogance and self-conceit,—or paying visits at the shops of their familiars, sat smoking or chewing paun in the open verandah. There were too many, who having fled from their creditors or being without any fixed occupation, adopted the profession of *fageers* (religious mendicants); idle and debauched in their habits,

and in a state of destitution and want, they were constantly looking for some opening for their talents in plotting and intrigue. Many of these people came from Mysore, where a Mohammedan government had existed two years previously; since it had ceased to rule, they were now adventurers, and men of desperate fortunes thrown on the world, awaiting opportunities for any disturbance in which seditious and turbulent characters like themselves might prosper. Living in public buildings such as makāns, choultries, and talimkhanas they formed a body of unemployed, discontented spirits, who had no difficulty at any time in finding grievances or imaginary wrongs.

Two men were sitting in the verandah of a makān that of Manick Mustan, in this pettah, smoking indolently, when a person came in to perform a ceremony at the tomb in the centre of the yard. Having finished, he approached them, and made them his salaam; this being returned, one of them addressed him, and briefly asked his name and occupation.

"I am a cavalry sepoy of the Nawaub," said he, "named Chand Khan, son of the famous Ghazee Khan, the Pindary Chief to whose care Hyder Ally Khan of Mysore committed his son Tippoo, to be



trained to arms and athletic exercises. Since the fall of our sublime Sultaun, I have entered this service for a bare livelihood, after being brought up from childhood in such illustrious companionship, commanding large bodies of cavalry, and often defeating the very troops I now serve with."

"It is true, sahib," said one of the others, "we are all now poor indeed; I also am of no mean birth, being the son of Nawaub Sufdah Jung, Subadar of Aurungabad, and the grandson of Meer Baba Khan Jagheerdar of Futtighur. I myself held the command of eight thousand horse at Lucknow, with a salary of three thousand rupees a month, under the Nawaub of Oude. I resigned that post in consequence of vile intrigues being encouraged against me in the court, my family jagheer was resumed by him, and I came to the Dukhan. I am now, alas, but a button maker in the bazar here: yet I have visited Mecca, the holy city, and have performed my devotions at the shrine of the Prophet,—on whom be peace!"

"And I am the faqeer Il Mil Yekin Shah," said the third, "who have made my pilgrimage to Mecca; may all infidels be accursed and utterly destroyed."

“It is the Christian infidels who are possessing themselves of the whole country. These inveterate natural enemies of our faith are constantly at work, —our *deen* (religion) is in danger, it is intended to convert us all;” said the fierce son of Ghazee Khan.

“By Allah, I will suffer any sort of degradation but that. It will be better to die by any death at once than live like a Christian dog. But what makes you say so?” replied the grandson of Meer Baba Khan.

“It is their practice everywhere; these people never rest until they have introduced their own religion. They are gradually dressing their sepoys like Europeans, and drilling them by English words of command; they have tried in Seringputtun to get the sepoys to live in barracks, and they will make them eat together as the soldiers do; when once caste is destroyed in this way the English expect to find it easy to persuade them to become Christians. They change our usual dress because their’s is a sort of emblem of their religion. They have a Christian *pàdré*, and assemble every Eitwar\* for their blind worship in the city, so recently one of the principal

\* Sunday.

strongholds of the only true faith. Kafirs that they are ! Ya illah oollah Muhummud russool oollah ! ”

“Shabash ! But Colonel Wellislee takes care of the sepoy, and they put complete trust in him ; he is certainly a brave sirdar, and too watchful for us to begin dunga f<sup>o</sup>ussād \* there.”

“Something might be done here,” said the faqeer, “if we were all united ; the Nawaub’s people would be glad of a rising to prevent the Ingles taking the country away. There is to be a meeting at the palace to-day, to which I am going with a friend ; he will introduce you. We may perhaps hear of something to our advantage.”

To this the others replied “uchha, sahib,”† and “buhoot khoob,”‡—and not long after, this friend, whose name was Hyder Hoossain, arrived with our acquaintances Abdul Khader and Cassim. A few words spoken to him in private by the faqeer caused him to invite Chand Khan and the grandson of Meer Baba Khan to accompany them to the palace.

Hyder Hoossain was possessed of a good address, ceremonious manners, a smooth and flattering tongue,

\* Mutiny.

† Good, sir.

‡ Very good.

adapting its conversation to its hearers. His exact profession and means of livelihood were involved in mystery; he was a man of great intelligence, a bold and discontented character, fully equal to take a lead in civil commotions,—but he generally avoided any open appearance of doing so. He was clever in instructing the Mooselman youth in their religious exercises and ceremonies: as the head of a *gooroo* no one knew better how to train his pupils. He was, in short, possessed of talents far superior to his apparent station in life, and accordingly, for some years past he had applied them to purposes of political intrigue.

Under his guidance the party set out for Chepauk, a village near the sea-beach, and, being joined by some other persons there waiting for them, directed their course to the Nawaub's garden. English troops had taken possession of the entrances to the palace, previous to the decease of the late Nawaub, on the plea of preventing any confusion at his death; but, at the same time, their commanding officer was directed to be particularly vigilant in hindering the removal of treasure, as it was thought that some large sum of money had been accumulated by their

Highnesses the Nawaubs. This proved to be one of those very simple mistakes the English were apt to make on this engrossing subject!

At the inner gate, guarded by a double sentry, at first Hyder Hoossain only of the party entered, until after a short interval, the rest were also conducted to an apartment of the palace, where they found him sitting with a Khan, or nobleman of the court. Their introduction to and reception by the latter were gone through after the most formal practice of the *kudderi-nishust-o-burkhast* (rules for sitting-down and rising-up) of the orientals in their *majlis*, or assembly. Being all seated in a sort of circle, this personage addressed himself to the grandson of Meer Baba Khan, and asked him courteously if he was the Nawaub Salar Khan of whom they had heard lately as residing in this city.

"My Lord," said he, "I am that individual, who, however unfortunate in other respects, am highly favoured in being brought here to kiss your feet. I have lost my patrimony, and am now dependent on the work of my own hands."

"We ought to have known this sooner. You have seen many lands, Nawaub?"

“It is true, *sahib*. My best days were passed in the service of the Nawaub of Oude ; thence I came to Bombay, took my passage in an Arab vessel to Jeddah, and disembarking at that port performed the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. I was occupied for two years in this journey—*Ulhumdoolillah !* thanks be to God for preserving me through such dangers. In returning, the ship landed me at Koureeal Bunder (Mangalore), whence I travelled to this city through the country of Mysore.”

“Did you visit Seringputtun ?” asked the khan.

“I did, about a year after Huzrut Tippoo’s glorious death. His was a noble empire, and a fatal loss to Islamism.”

“Will the people be contented with the new government there ?”

“They will be : Colonel Wellislee is a good sirdar. The family of Sultaun Tippoo have always been well treated ; the great musjeed and the tombs are well preserved at the expense of the Ingles, and prayers said there daily as before. The tombs of Huzruts Hyder and Tippoo and the Begum, in a large garden shaded by cypress trees, occupy a domed building supported by pilasters of polished black granite :

they are each covered with a silk embroidered pall, the centre one of a green colour, the others of crimson; above is a silk canopy, from which large ostrich eggs are suspended over each tomb, and from each corner; the floor is spread with a Persian carpet. Around are the graves of the Sultaun's principal sirdars. I visited the breach,—the arch near it where Huzrut Tippoo resided for the last fortnight of the siege,—and the gateway in the inner rampart where he was found dead with four wounds upon him. The Ingles could not help confessing that there was a stern and dignified composure in his countenance. Alas!" continued Salar Khan, "such was the result of the treachery of Meer Saduck. It being the dry season the enemy had no difficulty in crossing the river, but the breach was steep, and ought to have been retrenched,—and behind that first wall was a broad, deep wet ditch, a lofty cavalier, and a second strong rampart. The Sultaun had himself examined the walls that morning; on the alarm being given he hurried to the breach, followed by men carrying his fusils, with which he fired upon the enemy,—and he did all that a brave warrior could do. Above eight thousand of the Sultaun's troops died with their

prince. At the great mosque the true believers would neither fly nor surrender, and they fell there in vast numbers. *Kāsh* (would to God) that it could be tried over again: *wah ! wah !*” groaned the ex-Nawaub, “we have lost that wide table-land, surrounded by mountains and natural obstacles easily defended ; open to commerce from both coasts, the centre and key to the south of India ; a succession of gentle elevations and declivities forming vallies prepared by nature itself to hold the waters of fertilising tanks, and covered with wet and dry cultivation ; its climate and productions favoured by both east and west monsoon ; a country capable of exporting grain, rice, sugar, tobacco, coffee, oils in abundance, woollens, cottons, silks ; possessing thick widespread teak and sandalwood forests ; where the noble Cauvery, the Palar, Penaur, and other rivers take their rise, uncontrolled by the low country ; containing numberless herds of wild elephants, bison, wild-hog, and deer, with one of the very finest breeds of cattle, sheep, and horses in India ! Seringputtun alone is an immense loss, its extensive fort comprising a city and gardens, tope-khanas (arsenals) supplied with nine hundred guns in addition to three hundred more upon the



walls, a hundred thousand stand of arms, and an enormous quantity of military stores, large magazines and granaries full of provisions. The walls are thick and from twenty to thirty-five feet in height, the outside composed of blocks of granite in long pieces laid across and well cemented; the ditches excavated in places out of solid rock. The great mosque has a spacious and lofty terrace: the walls of its three handsome aisles, covered with the finest chunam, are simply ornamented by extracts from the sacred Koran. The arched roof surmounted by high and noble minarets. Thence the prospect embraces the grounds and the palace of the Laul-Bāgh at the far end of the island, nearer still Shuher Ganjam, and the palace where Colonel Wellislee resides, and beyond the rocky channel of the river, the wooded Carighaut hill, the range of heights in that direction, and the French rocks in the distance."

"It is well-known here," said the khan, "that Meer Saduck, the Sultaun's dewan, asked leave from the English before the campaign began, to come and throw himself under their protection."

"The traitor, Meer Saduck," remarked Hyder Hoossain, "gave information to the Ingleesh that

the Sultaun's additions to the fort had all been made on the north and east, and pointed out the western side as the weakest. There, however, in less than a month, when the monsoon began, the river would have become impassable on foot ; it rose greatly on the night the Sultaun was buried, an unusual event, and a sign of the anger of Allah ! As for Meer Saduck he was sacrificed to our vengeance when he was attempting to escape during the assault. His hated body, which had been well mangled already, was afterwards dug up, and treated with every insult by men, women, and children, until the Ingleesh took it from them by force. His master never suspected him of treason, though all others did. Such was the greediness of the Ingleesh that they searched the private apartments of the Sultaun's family for treasure, and the prize agents actually wished to sell by public auction a quantity of his wearing apparel !”

These last remarks caused great excitement in the assembly, which was now increased by the entrance of another of the khans, and of several courtiers and visitors.

When the noise had subsided, the quondam Nawaub resumed—“ Colonel Wellislee, I have heard, stopped

the sale. He is noble and generous. He objected to the new rajah being located in the palace while the family of the Sultaun was there, and he frequently assured the eunuchs that the ladies and their property should be protected. He has induced the Koompany to pay seven lacs of rupees a-year to the family."

"*Uchha sahib*," cried a moofsee calling himself Mahomed Yaseen, "it is a grand zenana, containing six hundred women in all. The Sultaun placed in it the wives of two hundred Chreestians; their husbands and the padre came to claim them, but the English dare not give them up. As it is meritorious to injure Chreestians, he put to death those taken prisoner during the siege,—ever discussing in the durbar the best means of chastising these infidel Feringhees. *Ullah!* the Sultaun and his father were worthy to be classed with Timour Lung and Nadir Shah; Huzrut Tippoo said he would rather live two days like a tiger than two hundred years like a sheep. Wah! wah! we shall never see such days again!"

"The north of India," exclaimed another of the party, "should have joined the south in a holy war

the empire might have been restored, and these Ungrézee lōg (English people) driven out of our land."

"Their enemies are likely to diminish,—the Inglees have pensioned Tippoo's brother and about thirty of the sirdars," said Salar Khan; "and the families of those killed, and the sick and wounded even, after being cured, were pensioned."

"It is true," replied Hyder Hoossein, "that Colonel Wesley has treated them well. I met the princes on the march to Vellore,—they said the colonel was very anxious to gratify their wishes: he visited and took leave of them. But why are we to yield to foreigners? Has there ever been anything to compare with the glories of our emperors? Who has not heard of the Moghul house of Timour, the conqueror of Persia, one of whom was the learned Baber; of Akbar whose justice is proverbial, and his good deeds recorded in the Akbar-Nameh; of Jehangeer, celebrated by poets, and the husband of the fair Noor Mahāl; of Shah Jehan, constructor of the Delhi canal, who caused a new Delhi, the immortal Taj Mahāl at Agra, exquisite monument of his devotion and love, and other great works to be built: the possessor of the peacock throne, worth six

and a half crores, and resplendent with diamonds; of Aurungzebe the Great, Aulum-geer, conqueror of the world, who died in camp in the ninety-fourth year of his age, after subduing the whole of Central India,—the mightiest of them all! The Ingleesh had a sufficiently high idea in those days of the power, wealth, and grandeur of the ‘Great Mogul,’ as they called him. Alas! that wealth has been drained out of the country, and what have they given us for it? No roads, no public works, no education, no choultries or charitable endowments—all that they do is for their own people. Money! money! the Feringees want only money! They scramble for everything, gather together all they can in as short a time as possible, and run off with it to their *Wilayut* (Europe). They quarrelled amongst themselves about the prize money! Our people are always fighting each other, and the Ingleesh instigating them to it. Zemaun Shah, the defender of Islam, is now protecting himself against his brother; last year the Persians invaded his frontier, and Malcolm sahib made a treaty with them. We must depend upon ourselves, and here we shall soon have no Nawaub!”

Loud murmurs spread through the room, now full of the sons of the prophet, whose angry remarks threatened some serious uproar; sabres and daggers were heard to open and close in the sheath.

"The late Nawaub," said the khan, "severely reprobated the Nizam's joining in the attacks upon the Sultaun, as contrary to our religion."

"Zemaun Shah could have led two hundred thousand men into the field," said Hyder Hoossain.

"Ought we to sit idle," cried Mahomed Yaseen, "when all this grasping is going on? *Assud-oolla ul-Ghalib*, the lion of God is the conqueror. Our venerated Ali will succour us."

"I am ready to become a *Ghazee* (champion of the faith)," exclaimed Chand Khan.

"And I—and I also"—echoed several voices.

"What is this Koompanee that we hear so much of?" inquired one of his neighbour.

"The king of Ingleestan," he was answered, "has many wives, and a large family, but as this is contrary to the Feringhee *kānoon* (laws) he has made twenty-four of his sons great merchants. Whenever the king wishes to provide for any of his favourite generals or sirdars he sends them out to India as

Gujiners, where they each receive two or three lacs every year; hundreds of sirdars come from Ingleestan and receive large durmaye (pay)—no wonder there is no money in the land now."

"*Ullah curreem*, it is our *kismut* (destiny). *Jo hoga so hoga*." \*

"I understand," said Mahomed Yaseen, "that two of our friends here live in the houses of Inglesh sirdars; can they inform us what measures are now contemplated by the Feringhees?"

"*Khoodawund!*" said Abdul Khader, thus appealed to, "my sahib does not say much before us, and when his *beebee* sahib asks any question about sircar business he turns it off with a joke and a laugh, but one day I heard him say that they must *pukalāo* (lay hold of) the Carnatic, as they wanted money badly."

While this rather confused conversation was going on, a duffadar had entered and spoken to the leading khan, who, after exchanging a few words with those about him, thus addressed the assembly.

"My friends, the English sirdars propose to set aside the eldest son of the late Nawaub, because

\* What shall be, shall be.

we have recommended him not to agree to their demands. We shall, therefore, now install Ally Hoossain; thus placing on the musnud one entitled to it both by birth, and his father's will, which gives us authority as Regents during the minority of the prince. I trust we shall meet with your support."

So saying the khan arose, and amid cries of "*Shabash !\* shabash !*" was followed from the room by the whole party.

Preceded by guards and attendants the khans moved slowly along the passages now lined with the Nawaub's troops to the hall of audience. In this hall, also guarded by troops, they found the dewan, the treasurer, deputy-treasurer, and many other official personages assembled; the stout Khan Mahomed Shookur Ally, formerly introduced to the reader, being also in waiting, and accommodated with a seat until the ceremony began. In the centre of the hall was a small carpet with silken cushions on it, over which was placed a gilt canopy supported by painted pillars, and hung round with blue lustres. The khans having stationed themselves near this, the

\* Bravo.



rest of the persons present stood at a respectful distance on the side opposite that from which the young prince would issue from the apartments of the zenana.

Presently, Ally Hoossain appeared with his attendants, and was conducted by the two khans, the regents, to the carpet, where, after the late Nawaub's will had been read out by Hyder Hoossain, the young man took his seat on the cushions, the troops presenting arms, and the true believers fervently ejaculating their *moobaruks*\* and *shookur-goozāree* (thankfulness).

The *fez-buksh* (bestower of plenty) was now to receive his good things in the shape of nuzzurs. The regents were the first to do homage to him, the dewan and treasurer followed, the latter highly favoured official having as usual to furnish a considerably larger present than any of the others. All the courtiers and strangers were presented in turn, throwing themselves nearly flat on their *āth punja* (eight limbs), ingeniously doubling what the Ingles call "all fours" by a lower prostration.

"Ah, sahib!" said an old courtier to Mahomed

\* Congratulations.

Yaseen, "I remember seeing but four years ago in this hall the visit paid by Guvinir Lard Hobart, who came in his state-coach, his chief siccatory bringing in on a silver salver, and in a gold-embroidered purse, a letter from the Koompany, congratulating our Nawaub on his accession. All the Inglees generals, counsellors, and other distinguished personages crowded in and pressed near, while salutes and vollies of musketry announced the glad tidings to the world. Times were indeed better then !"

The newly musnuded Nawaub was now retiring from the hall, and Mahomed Yaseen went from one group to another, inviting friends to a nautch at his house in honour of the occasion.

On that evening, round the principal room of a small house in Triplicane, the verandah of which opened out on a garden enclosed by a high wall, were seated many of the moofsee's friends, drinking sherbut, smoking hookahs, and hubble-bubbles : some taking whiffs of a strong intoxicating drug called bhang ; while in the centre were dancing girls, their ancles hung with small bells and silver rings, their heads and arms with large gold ornaments, their hair plaited and scented with oil of cloves.

cinnamon, and attar of roses, wearing garlands of jessamine, and strongly scented flowers, their white or crimson muslin garments confined at the waist with a jewelled cestus; these, two at a time, were singing their songs of love and jealousy, keeping time with their feet and outstretched arms and hands—occasionally turning round with some quickness, but not otherwise varying the monotony of their motions, the charm of which appeared to lie more in their display of attitude united with a quiet grace or arch languishment, than in any feats of agility or muscular exercise. Our friends Abdul Khader and Cassim were there, enjoying themselves thoroughly, delighted with the evening's amusement,—flattered and gratified at being permitted to enter the company of such superior society, and to share in its elegant pastimes, and joining in the desultory conversation, which consisted chiefly of virulent abuse of the English, who were charged with crimes too numerous to mention; love of wealth, wine, and women being three of the little faults ascribed to them. They were not a little personal too in their remarks on the characters and appearance of English ladies, indulging in some observations on them

which I do not care to repeat. Finally they always expressed a wish to try conclusions with the English, solacing themselves with the consideration that no one was in any way equal to a good Mooselmaun in *murdumee* (bravery, manliness), and *himmut* (courage). This had been going on for some two or three hours, when the fazeer suddenly drew Mahomed Yaseen into the verandah and informed him that some one had come in haste from the palace to say that the Feringbees had taken entire possession of it, had removed the khans and their guards, and were now searching for all who had assisted in the ceremony performed that day.

"Where is Hyder Hoossain?" said the moofsee.

"It seems that that wary character left the house about half an hour ago, and has now sent this message."

While the two were thus deliberating, there was a noise without, and a sound of arms at the door of the house. The fazeer and Mahomed Yaseen moved quickly to a small iron gate in the garden wall. They had opened it and passed through, when they were suddenly surrounded by European soldiers, and an officer said to the fazeer, "Monsieur le Capitaine

Mineur, se rendez vous prisonnier," and to the moofsee "Mahomed Yaseen, ooruf (alias) Khader Hoossain Khan, you are also arrested."

"Serjeant Arnold," continued the officer, "enter the house and bring all you find there to the palace, and particularly look for a person calling himself Hyder Hoossain, *ooruf* Syed Modena, do not let him escape on any account."

## CHAPTER XIV.

## THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

ON the third day following the events recorded in my last chapter, several English gentlemen were assembled in the council chamber of the governor's house in the fort. The governor himself was a nobleman unaccustomed until the last three years to official life; thus, commencing to rule at the age of forty-four, and wanting early experience, he had for some time a natural diffidence of his own powers, which, combined with a kind and unsuspecting disposition, led him to pay considerable deference to the practical knowledge of others. He was mild and moderate, accessible, not only courteous but obliging to every one, gifted with good common sense and not

wanting in talent; a frank, good-natured English gentleman, under whom it was a pleasure to serve because he trusted sincerely to his subordinates, and was of a constant mind. The exigencies of patronage probably did not lead the home government to choose their governors for service in India, or for any knowledge of the country. It may have been expected that highly educated and well-bred gentlemen would be sufficient for the duties and dignity of the office; but, in reality, for much of the time, they remained dependent on their secretaries and other counsellors. It was the more necessary that they should have men possessed of upright and intelligent minds to assist them, such as at this time fortunately Madras rejoiced in.

The governor now ruling was a man of the best intentions, and he had an hereditary claim to the respect of India, for he was the son of Clive, the illustrious conqueror of Bengal.

How many great sons of great men have there been? Not many I fear. Cromwell wanted one sadly. The two Pitts we know of,\* and their great

\* "What grave contains such a father and such a son?"—Lord Wellesley in a private letter.

antagonists, if the 'able, daring, and ambitious'\* Henry Fox, Lord Holland, may be called a great man: he at least educated his son to political subjects, and heard him declaim from his chair placed upon the table. William Pitt and Charles James Fox were second sons; Bacon says that younger brothers are commonly fortunate; and I have noticed that the eldest, though he may not be wanting in energy, has seldom the vigour of body, the calm judgment, and expanse of mind of the second son. This seems due to physical causes; if education is to receive some of the credit it may be said that the instruction of the younger son begins earlier, from association with his elders. The characteristics of "Great Chatham's (eldest) son," the hero of Walcheren, were said to be eating and sleeping. The great statesman, Sir Robert Walpole, while his eldest son proved a spendthrift, had a third son who left a reputation equal, though in another walk, to that of his father; George Selwyn, the witty friend of Horace, was a second son. Younger sons driven to make their own fortunes, albeit animated by bearing an honourable name, have justified in England its law of primogeniture.

\* Macaulay.



Families distinguished in more than one of their scions, the Scipios, Catos, Medici, naturally owe much to the foundation of influence and character laid,—to bias and training. Oftentimes great sons spring from fathers strong in some particular line, such as the son of the shrewd Philip of Macedon; Titus, and Frederick the Great of Prussia had fathers who were great economists, men endowed with considerable military genius, and inflexible characters. Frederick was a third son. The father of the Wellesleys was much distinguished for his musical compositions. Lord Wellesley was a second son, and his brother Arthur a fourth. Many great men have had judicious parents, an advantage not easily estimated. Great effects may spring from the action of a liberal education under proper guidance, if the natural disposition be sound.

The governor was speaking to one of the council near a window.

“Yes,” said he, “the situation of our domestic politics is very precarious; with nearly all Europe conquered by the arms of France, the northern powers envious of our commerce, and urged on by Buonaparte, preparing for a struggle with us, foreign

ports shut against us when corn is most needed, for the last harvest was an indifferent one, every necessary of life at a high price, and intense distress amongst the poor. Mr. Pitt too threatening to resign, and confined by a thorough fit of the gout in one foot."

"This is a crisis indeed!" answered the member of council; "pray, my lord, what is the cause of Mr. Pitt wishing to resign?"

"I am told he sees that peace is now indispensable to the country."

"Mr. Pitt," remarked the member, "has probably at last come to the end of his expedients for raising money for the ways and means."

"This native news of our having won a battle at Alexandria, if true, will have a good effect," said the governor. "Those restless French are everywhere. Some of them, feigning to be botanists, visited Teheran, and stirred up the Shah to support Tippoo, and attack Turkey. We have now found one intriguing here."

"Pray, my lord, how was he discovered?"

"Webbe will tell you. But, let us proceed to business if he is ready."

The governor took his seat in the president's chair, being supported at the council table by the two civil members, while at side tables were in attendance Mr. Webbe, Colonel Close, Mr. Cockburn, Mr. Davidson, the governor's secretary Captain Mark Wilks, several of the principal servants of government, and the deputy adjutant-general of the army, the present commander of the forces not having a seat in council.

On one table lay a few arms, papers, trinkets, and a long roll of rupees, myself amongst the number; but the roll had been sensibly reduced by the nuzzur offered by Abdul Khader, by a contribution to Mahomed Yaseen, and by the fingering of the police.

"Gentlemen," said the governor, "as I stated to you on last council-day, after a preliminary interview with Ally Hoossain, son of the late Nabob, I met him again on the 20th., when, notwithstanding the assurance of acceding he had given, he finally rejected the Company's liberal offers, by the advice of those near him. A regard for this youth induced me to afford him time to consider his interests. The consequences were stated to him in my presence in distinct terms, and I feel that I have discharged what humanity and a sense of his forlorn situation required

of me. I then opened a negotiation with the son of the Ameer, a young man whose figure is manly, and countenance open and expressive; in conversation his language is good, and even elegant, and we had occasion to notice the shrewdness and readiness of his replies, and the elevation of his mind. This prince, the grand-son also of the Nabob Mahomed Ally, has signed a treaty, conforming to our wishes. I propose that a declaration be published, accompanied by copies of the documents discovered at Seringapatam, showing the late nabob's intimate connexion with our implacable enemy, and his unremitted counter-action of our efforts for the equipment and march of the army against Tippoo Sultaun."

"May I hope," said the honourable Mr. Stoney, "that your lordship will have the goodness to embody your sentiments in a Minute, that we may have an opportunity of expressing our opinions more deliberately, than can be conveniently done at present, as well as for the satisfaction of our honourable masters in England."

"Certainly; the council has already seen those recorded on the subject. I will lose no time in circulating a further Minute to my honourable colleagues."

Mr. Webbe, will you now explain the proceedings of the khans since the council last met."

"My lord, and gentlemen," said Mr. Webbe, rising from his seat; "Colonel Close and myself had no sooner made some advances towards an arrangement with the son of the Ameer, than the khans began to watch, and ultimately confined him. They then assembled their friends for the purpose of privately placing Ally Hoossain on the musnud, and went through the forms usually observed. Some hours afterwards an account of this was brought to me, and Colonel Close and myself, under your lordship's orders, lost no time in clearing the palace of all concerned. The Khans withdrew quietly; other conspirators were arrested at a nautch in Triplicane. Amongst them is one of the French officers of Tippoo's army in the disguise of a faqeer,—Captain Mineur. He came from Hyderabad in company with Syed Modena, a notorious intriguer, a man of very plausible and engaging manners, much trusted by Tippoo, and who has visited Caubul, doubtless urging Zemaun Shah to the invasion of India, as his master Tippoo had done for the last ten years of his life."

"Is Syed Modena taken?" asked Mr. Stoney.

"No, he has escaped. Prince Azeem concluded this treaty on Saturday; by it he delivers over to the Company all the powers of government, while he is formally established in the rank of his ancestors with a fifth part of the net revenues, separate maintenance for the family, and our payment of the debts."

The governor now proposed that a brief examination of the prisoners should be held. Mahomed Yaseen, the first called in, was interrogated by Mr. Webbe.

"Prisoner, your proper name is Khader Hoossain Khan: you were a secret agent sent by Tippoo Sultaun to Hyderabad. We have the correspondence which passed between the sultaun and yourself."

"I was a faithful servant of my master," answered the prisoner.

"That correspondence you refer to, Mr. Webbe?" inquired Mr. Stoney.

"Was taken amongst the late sultaun's papers, and has been recently sent to us by the Marquess Wellesley. Prisoner," continued Mr. Webbe, "there was another agent of the sultaun with you, Syed Modena, who now calls himself Hyder Hoossain; can you tell the council where he is?"

"I cannot say."

"You were in company with him however on the evening you were taken."

"I do not know."

"You are now charged with conspiring to subvert the government of the Carnatic, and with imprisonment of the Nawaub's own sacred person. What do you say to these charges?"

"I know nothing about them, and desire to see my accusers brought before my face."

"That will be done in due course. Your best chance of safety lies in confessing where Syed Modena is."

"I do not know where he is."

"Well, prisoner, you will have time to consider this point. We are aware that you both joined the rebel Dhoondiah, who employed yourself last year as an emissary to the court of the Peishwah. That Syed Modena entered Mysore, raised men, and employed dacoits (thieving banditti) in a plot, fortunately discovered in time, to carry off the sons of Tippoo Sultaun, when they were hunting with the honourable Arthur Wellesley, and to murder the colonel and other English gentlemen who hunted

with him. That Syed Modena afterwards placed himself in communication with the Mysore princes at Vellore, whence he forwarded to Dhoondiah their wishes for his success, and returns showing the strength of the garrison of Vellore (with a view to his attacking that place), a number of arms and other articles, all which were found last year in Dhoondiah's camp, when taken by Colonel Wellesley."

The prisoner made no answer.

"Perhaps," continued Mr. Webbe, "you can inform the council where your friend Mahomed Ibrahim is, who was sent by Dhoondiah with letters for France, inviting the co-operation of that nation."

No answer.

"Do you know where the treasure belonging to the Sircar is concealed at the Chepauk palace?"

"It is not known to me, sahib."

"Jemadar," said Mr. Webbe, first looking to the governor for orders, "remove this prisoner and guard him carefully."

"There is a general impression, gentlemen," said Lord Clive when the door was closed, "that treasure to a very large amount, of course the property of the state, is within the precincts of Chepauk. But, we



must bear in mind Lord Wellesley's surprise and concern upon learning that the Zenana at Seringapatam had been searched for treasure, and his desire that if any articles of value had been taken from the women, the commander-in-chief would 'make it his business to vindicate the humanity of the British character by using the most zealous exertions to obtain a full restitution.' These noble sentiments must rule our proceedings, Mr. Webbe. Have you placed a guard on the mint, and taken it over from the Nabob's treasurer?"

"Yes, my lord; but there have been considerable sums paid away during the last week, from what we hear; only one lac and nineteen thousand rupees were found in the treasury—the books are undergoing examination. We have traced money to one European house of business, that of Ford Graby and Company."

"I have heard that house is not very scrupulous," said the governor.

"The treasury will now be removed into the fort, I presume," said Mr. Baranfield. "The sum mentioned is small indeed, and will not pay the salaries of the public servants next month."

“The prisoner Khader Hoossain Khan,” continued Mr. Webbe, “is also suspected of having been the agent of Tippoo in superintending the murder of his English prisoners, during the last siege, when they were inhumanly, and in cold blood, put to death in parties of two or three secretly at night, by having their necks twisted. Have you seen these papers colonel?”

“The wishes of his despotic master must cover this man’s share in the business, however detestable,” answered Colonel Close. “The cruelties of Tippoo to his prisoners are notorious; in the former wars the European officers were laden with irons and thrown into vile dungeons, while of the poor private soldiers numbers disappeared without any trace or record of their fate. His death brought recent cases to light, such as his written instructions for the destruction of five hundred Coorg prisoners, whom he ordered to be thrown in parties of fifty into ten forts, where they were to be dealt with in such manner as would ensure their death in the course of a month or twenty days!”

The faqeer was now brought in.

“Captain Mineur,” said Mr. Webbe, “you are

charged with going about the country, inveighing against the English as robbers and tyrants, and with assisting to fix placards up in the mosques and Hindoo temples, where Europeans do not enter, to excite a general spirit of revolt. You are known to have been the aide-major to Colonel Chapuis in the French battalion of 'Citizen Sultaun Tippoo.' You afterwards in the disguise of a brahmin, joined Dhoondiah Waugh, representing yourself in his camp as appointed vakeel to him from the French nation. You repaired to Hyderabad, in your present disguise, and being joined there by Syed Modena, endeavoured to prevent the ratification of our treaty with the Nizam. You have also lately visited Vellore together. Your life is now forfeited for this last plot."

"Très bien, monsieur," answered the captain, "I have not fear; the first consul will protect me."

"Prisoner, your life will be spared, if you will give full information of the proceedings of this Syed Modena, and any other intelligence that you may be possessed of as to his designs at Vellore, and elsewhere."

"À la bonne heure, monsieur," said the Frenchman, after some little reflection, "I shall endeavour to assist in your discoveries."

“Where is this Syed Modena at present?”

“I am ignorant, he has disappeared, tout-à-coup, ma foi.”

“Where did he lodge at Madras?”

“I not know; he call himself hakeem, médecin; and he meet me in a talim-khana, gymnase. Where he live, I not know, jamais, sur ma parole.”

“What are his designs at Vellore?”

“Ah! mais some day he will make a revolution there; but at present the time is not favorable. He concert more mouvement, agitation, in the opinions and désirs of the natives, and he will make passer à travers in all the hearts that their religion is assaillie, et particulièrement il s'adresse aux rangs inférieurs des Moosulmauns, et il prêche que vous avez l'intention d'écraser leur doctrine, et les faire convertis au Christianisme. D'ailleurs, à présent les fils de Tippoo sont contents et heureux, ils jouissent beaucoup de l'argent, ils maintiennent une grande splendeur, un éclat abondant, et ils aiment bien aussi les Colonels Vesley et Dallas. Le Syed fait attendre jusqu'à ce que de la part de Mysore et dès tous quartiers les visiteurs s'assembleront, les religieux mendiants, durweshan, les désoccupés, seront

“établis dans la ville, et qu'ils auront été subsistés sur la bonté et la libéralité des jeunes princes. Alors, il prendra bien son temps pour pratiquer avec les sipahees, et pour semer la trahison parmi la garnison.”

“What does he propose to do then?”

“He raise the standard of revolt, and place the eldest son of Tippoo at the head of a royaume Mahométan.”

“He has no fancy perhaps for a republic,” said some one.

“Plait-il, monsieur?”

“Did you suggest a république to him, and the setting up the tree of liberty as was done at Seringapatam?”

“Hé bien! je l'ai fait; he say he not comprehend what I wish to say.”

“Has the Syed yet made any arrangements with the princes on this subject?”

“Non; that will arrive when convenable: par exemple, supposerons when they are a leetle tired of their situation as prisonniers in the citadelle of Vellore.”

“Do you know of any encouragement given by the princes to these designs?”

“Non ; but they will join if asked à la fin, or in the case of success. Futteh Hyder and Moyen-u Deen would make *révolte aujourd’hui*.”

“What was the first or principal article of the code you proposed for your *république*, after proclaiming liberty and equality ?”

“Tous les citoyens sont protégés par la loi.”

“Very good ; and the Syed did not understand that ?”

“Non :” a shrug.

“Do you know of any other plans he has formed ?”

“Non, he is not a *personne communicative*.”

“You will now hear from His Excellency the Governor what your fate is to be.”

“Well, Captain Mineur,” said the governor, “you will be sent to England as a prisoner of war.”

“Bon, milord, je pars pour la France.”

“You will be handed over to the admiral, and sail in the fleet about to leave for England ; and if you will give me your *parole d’honneur* that you will never return to India, you shall be included in the first exchange of prisoners after your arrival.”

“Ah ! bon dieu ! des grâces, milord, je rends grâce. Il est plus noble de pardonner que de se venger.

Allons ! courage ! I shall quit this pays detestable, and go to join the grande armée. Ah ! quelle joie !”

“Have you any money, captain ?”

“Non, milord ; since long time je fis dépensé tous mes assignats.”

“Mr. Webbe, let him be supplied with sufficient clothes, and with some pocket money. Bon jour, monsieur, bon voyage.”

“Mille des remerciements, milord ; au revoir, messieurs ;” and he turned to go away, but suddenly stopping said in an undertone, “Mais, prenez garde contre ce Syed, et ses desseins à Vellore ; he shall have no assistance from the side of Hyderabad, or from Caubul : regardez your sipahees, give them occupation and change under officers like the Colonel Vesley, who will gain their confidence ; they are brave, they will think only of trahison when they are idle ; gare, you maintenez not too many, et vous n’offensez pas leur religion. These are the only dangers you shall have to fear. I kiss your hands, milord : adieu.”

The counterfeit faqeer walked out erect, and with a better air than he had entered with.

“That man has got off cheaply,” said Lord Clive, “but Lord Wellesley will be glad to hear that he is

sent out of the country, and we have learned something from him. I think Webbe," continued his lordship, as that gentleman returned from giving directions at the door, "we should write to Colonel Dallas, that he may place some little restraint on the liberty of intercourse these princes appear to enjoy. Vellore ought to be a safe place for them, with common care."

"Very well, my lord; but Colonel Dallas is equal to them, it will not occur in his time."

"I can answer," said Colonel Close, "for Wellesley possessing the esteem of the whole family. He treated the children as if they were his own relatives, and they always went out when and where they pleased. A Mooselmaun's family is a great tie upon him, but of course Syed Modena and his friends will arrange to capture the fort first, by a massacre of the European troops in it."

"Well, colonel," observed Mr. Webbe, "I wish you were not going to Poonah, that you might watch over these desperadoes."

"There is no fear with Dallas there, and Wellesley in Mysore," answered Colonel Close.

"Mr. Webbe," asked the governor, "what other



prisoners have you in your list; any we need examine to-day?"

"There are several thoroughly bigoted Moham-medans, and others whose only motives could have been to plunder the bazars and treasuries. It will not be necessary to examine them before your lordship. There are one or two private servants, one of yours Davidson, named Khader Sahib, or Abdul Khader."

"May I request," said that gentleman, "that your lordship will permit this Abdul Khader to be called in?"

"Certainly," replied the governor; "I think that when the new Nabob has been installed, we may pardon those who have been misled by others, and who have not been guilty of any very serious crime."

The young man now made his appearance.

"He is charged," said Mr. Webbe, looking over his list, "with being present at the palace at a seditious meeting, and with having been aiding and abetting in acts unauthorized by the British Government, of which he is a subject. A roll of rupees was taken from him. His youth and inexperience may be urged as some excuse."

The jemadar brought the roll of rupees to Mr. Davidson.

"Why, Abdul Khader," said he, "how did all these accumulate, I thought you had a father, mother, and three sisters to support. Is this the end of your supposed conversion?"

Abdul Khader only answered "sahib."

"He may be released from this charge," said Mr. Webbe.

"Restore the money to him jemadar. You are discharged from my service. Come this evening for your arrears;" and Abdul Khader, much to his relief, received us rupees, and left the room as Lord Clive said,—

"And now, before we proceed to military matters, is there anything to be attended to in the ships which sail on the 30th? Those from China have the usual rich cargoes to gladden hearts at home."

## CHAPTER XV.

## THE GOVERNOR "AT HOME."

ABDUL KHADER, pausing a moment to hide the roll of rupees in his waistband, passed with some trepidation through the police outside, being accompanied past the European and native sentries at the gate of the fort by a peon, who at parting beyond the glacis managed to extract half a rupee from him. Thence he strode on at a brisker pace, though in a sulky humour enough, to the bazar where he lived, entering his little house to the sudden joy of a poor half-starved girl, the companion of his leisure hours, who cooked his meals for him, and did his bidding, receiving little beyond ill-treatment in return. Early

that evening he quietly took his station at a corner of the verandah of Mr. Davidson's house, so as to make his salam when that gentleman came out after dressing for dinner. Mr. Davidson was what his friend Webbe delighted in, "an undubashed officer," that is, from his perfect knowledge of the native languages, he was competent to deal with the natives himself, and not driven to seek the corrupt medium of a native interpreter or agent, permanently attached to, and always at the elbow of too many other servants of the government. Dubash justice was become a bye-word; all the roguery committed was done by or through these too useful native servants, who pervaded the establishments, civil and military, of British India; an evil arising from the want of a common colloquial knowledge of the native languages on the part of the English, many of them too proud to learn from those, whom they considered as inferior also in comprehension and practical knowledge as they evidently were in courage and morality. This was a disagreeable difficulty, but not a very weighty one, to be overcome in the young days of the foreigner, while he was otherwise intent perhaps on the new and interesting duties, to which in his

enthusiasm, he felt himself as it were heaven-born : but, being neglected at that all-impressive period, remained a clog upon him, and an hinderance to be repented of when he entered upon higher and more momentous offices, requiring a subtle management and investigation. Lord Wellesley was now setting himself earnestly to the task of educating the young civilians, who had hitherto been allowed to acquire by chance, or not at all, the languages and the knowledge necessary to them if they would deal justly by so many of their fellow men. Early in this year he had opened the college of Fort William, as a nursery for these embryo administrators, and the first student, Metcalfe, became a statesman worthy of its training.

Abdul Khader, having been called into Mr. Davidson's private room, obtained from that gentleman his full arrears of pay, and Mrs. Davidson coming in, bestowed upon the young man some pertinent warnings relative to his moral conduct, which he but half understood ; he was then sneaking off in the dark out of the compound, when the butler hearing of his arrival sent privately after him, had him brought back to the godowns, and demanded from him the reason of his mean conduct in taking his pay without

making over to his superior the usual compliment of his "custom."\*

"Yes," said the head maty, who was present, "and I know he owes Mootoo, the colonel's servant, six rupees which he borrowed from him, and which he had better repay before he goes, or I will set all the women on him, besides telling master."

This was not the only claim brought against him, and the youth was obliged to open his store of pilfered wealth. I was parted with to Mootoo, and at last Abdul Khader, whose caste, cringing manners, tell-tale habits, and pretended approach to conversion to the ma'am sahib's creed had all rendered him unpopular in the establishment, was allowed to leave under a shower of groans of "ah! wah! wah! Ram-sammy aiyah! arrah bhaee! peitee!" and other stronger epithets which it is unnecessary here to set down.

"Ah, well!" muttered he, "I shall go to Vellore, and have my revenge for this some day." And as he reached the neighbourhood of his own home he met with some one who confirmed him in this resolution.

\* "Dustoorree"—two pice in a rupee ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the shilling).

Colonel and Miss Peyton dined with the governor that evening. The colonel had done so more than once, having previously paid his respects in the usual manner, by attending his lordship's breakfast table. Delightful peculiarity of India! happy breakfasts, where all meet on easy and friendly terms, at the most exhilarating time, after the healthy morning ride, fresh from the bath, and previous to the business of the day.

About thirty were now assembled in a verandah thrown out above the entrance hall, and only enclosed by blinds between the pillars. Colonel Peyton sat next but one to the governor, who was in the centre of the table, a lady between them. Miss Peyton was nearly opposite, next to Colonel Close and the admiral. Mootoo stood in the ranks of the governor's servants.

"You stay another week I hope, Peyton," said the governor.

"Next week I am obliged to go, my lord: I am to be a member of the court-martial at Seringapatam, and I wish to stay a few days at Arcot and Vellore *en route*."

"You can make use of the residency," said Colonel

Close, "as I believe I am not to return at present. Piele is there to receive you."

"Many thanks, colonel; that will be most convenient and pleasant."

"The garden of the Laul Bāgh is in good order now, and full of fruit, Miss Peyton; the mangoes you will be too late for I fear, a very great pity."

"How do you think you will like up-country life, Miss Peyton?" said the governor,

"Oh! I hope to like it very much; I am sure everything that I have yet seen in this country is charming, so very interesting, and there is much that is quite beautiful."

"I should like to hear what some of your first impressions were."

"Well, I can scarcely say, so many new things crowded one upon the other. I think, after landing, I took great notice of the peculiar earthy smell, and the abundance of roses, myrtle in flower, jessamine, the coriopsis, red blossomed pomegranate, the lovely pink camel flower, white, yellow, and pink azalias growing wild, the powerfully scented tube-rose in the open air, and other sweet flowers requiring here no hot-house aid. I had not expected to see some of



them again so far from our own dear England. No doubt too the scene on arrival was sufficiently striking; the flat coast, a row of white houses, a few trees, standing alone and in the air as it were, no background, no supporters; the ship filled suddenly with half-naked Indians, the boatmen, savages in appearance, chattering like monkeys all the time they rowed and cleverly steered through the high surf, the landing in a large arm chair carried on men's shoulders, the crowd of natives on the beach by whom I was completely closed in, all bowing, salaaming, and staring at me so that I could not avoid smiling; the little *vis-a-vis* carriage, or palanquin upon wheels, Mr. Davidson introduced me to; the distance we had to drive, entertained by the shrill cries of the running footmen at almost every step; the numbers of fine white houses, kept luxuriously cool, surrounded by large gardens and hedgerows; the red soil; the white and yellow butterflies on every bush by day, and fire-flies at night; the great brilliancy of the moon, and the clear star-light nights; these are all, I may say, peculiar and novel."

"For these stuccoed houses the Dutch would be the best tenants, as they use so much paint," said

the governor; "the moon shines with greater brilliancy, but the stars I cannot think appear brighter or larger than in our native hemisphere; but continue Miss Peyton."

"Our old friends Orion, Ursa Major and Minor, the Milky-way, the Pleiades, are to be seen here; then too the band playing by candlelight on the green near the sea, carriages and horsemen near it, lighted up by lamps with pink reflectors, and the large lanterns of the horsekeepers, those running attendants dressed in linen frocks with red sashes and turbans, carrying drooping white horse-hair flappers to drive off the flies. I have only been once in a palanquin: for a short distance it seems a delicious way of traveling, the motion so delightful, and the bearers with their running accompaniment made me laugh all the way. The natives are really amusing: if Mrs. Davidson says to one of the servants 'Don't make a noise matey, baby is asleep'—matey answers 'yes,' by which of course he means 'no.' But I really do not see the wit of European ladies making morning calls in such a hot climate—the distances between the houses being so great: I notice that some go about calling almost every day."

“What sort of passage did you have?” said the Admiral.

“At times a very squally one, indeed hard gales when we were going round the Cape, with the dead-lights in. The ship was too light, the captain would have been glad of more cargo: they were obliged to fill all the empty water-casks with sea-water. The captain was very energetic and kind, and we each subscribed two guineas towards a piece of plate for him.”

“You were a better sailor I dare say than some ladies are.”

“Yes, I liked it very well, and never felt ill. There is always something amusing in a ship: it seems droll to hear close by and above you the horses neighing, cocks crowing, pigs squeaking, and geese cackling. There is too much noise and racket at the beginning of the voyage; and it was cold and bleak, so that we had to wear warm shawls; but in the trade winds, with the awning up, a steady breeze but light and balmy air, all the sails set that the masts can carry, the sea as blue as blue can be, pretty little clouds floating about, the motion smooth, walking on deck not only possible but most enjoyable,

with something always to notice, the ships in company with their white sails spread out far beyond their hulls, dashing the light foam from their bows, perfect pictures against the clear blue-grey sky : the flying-fish following the ship, leaping and darting in and out of the water, gamboling with each other, the sun forming prismatic colours on their wings as the spray fell from them : beautiful creatures they seemed so happy and joyous : the deck and everything about so clean, quiet, and orderly, nothing can be more delightful. Or in calm weather, the clouds stationary and taking the shapes of animals, exercising the fancy in deciphering them, the immense depth of water through which you appear to look, the fishing and catching sea-snakes, perhaps a beautiful meteor in the sky gliding downwards towards the horizon, a waterspout seen forming, or somewhere in the wide expanse of waters a sudden jet shot upwards revealing the presence of 'that leviathan made to take his pastime therein : ' the never to be forgotten glorious sunsets, all the calm beauty, the elegance of form and colour which nature is full of, and which baffles all description, appealing to the feelings as well as intellect, and " (after a pause

added Miss Peyton, sinking her voice) "replete with the inscrutable power and wisdom of the Creator."

"Yes," said the worthy old admiral, "'they that go down to the sea in ships, see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.' In some ships they think only of fancy balls, charades, amateur theatricals, and such like amusements!"

"Oh! we had our quiet little musical soirées, but many of the ladies continued to be ill long after we had left England: one young lady came up on deck one morning, and said to me she thought it was the smell of tar which made her ill; the rough-looking old steersman near us instantly said in a gruff voice, and with such a funny look aside to me, 'if the young lady doesn't like it she'll have plenty of it soon, for we are going to tar the rigging down: I thought as how as most people liked it, and that it was as good as sea breezes to them.' She went down and did not appear again for some time."

"Had you pleasant and amusing passengers?"

"I believe I was fortunate in my fellow-passengers, as they all had reasons for liking a residence in India better than one in England: and we had a particularly nice quiet set of cadets they said. The

noisest specimens in each sex were perhaps, a poor deformed young lady, subject to hysterics, from whom we heard frequently about her dresses, she had twenty-five of them made up and pinned up completely in paper; the gentleman was a captain in the army, going out with a wife, her sister, and several children, as many as four or five; you could not stir without seeing him, you heard his voice in every direction, scolding the children and talking to every one; his cabin was stocked like a house with private stores, with fresh water, sweet biscuits, soda-water, raspberry vinegar, eau-de-cologne, arrow-root, gingerbread; he might be seen carrying basins of soup, gruel, bread and milk from the kitchen along the deck, because, he said, the female servants were sure to upset anything if the ship gave a lurch, and at dinner time he was most active, always had to help some sick person, jumping up half-a-dozen times, the maid-servants nudging him continually, he said, now for salt, now for wine; he took vast interest in the management of the ship, praised her sailing, compared the vessel to a dolphin, said she cut through the water like a yacht, and that no frigate in the fleet could overtake her. He was clever, and had

published some poetry, chiefly in praise of his wife, and sketches of India, for which he found additional subscribers amongst the passengers. A little of this energy was taken out of him in the hot weather; when we certainly had some melting moments, and were glad to put up our parasols night and day, for the moon was then considered dangerous when near the full, and to keep our windows open at night; I noticed that he could not contrive to keep his collars up then, do what he would the starch refused to remain in them; it seemed a source of great uneasiness to him. The cadets were most of them lively youths, nothing came amiss to them; if it was rough 'it's very pleasant, I think,' if it was smooth or cold 'oh! delightful,' if warm 'very nice;' they were always well and always happy. The children too did not seem to care for heat or cold, and they liked a sea-life; they made such a noise; there were two or three dogs on board, and they and the children were for ever chasing each other, in fact, the dogs led them to run nearly overboard at times, so that the mammas did not like this play, and were often set screaming in chorus. The stewards had enough to do in giving the children their meals, and were perpetually clear-

ing them out of the cuddy; but the little darlings were the great resource on board, and we could not have spared them."

"You had some amusing scenes?"

"Oh! yes, plenty of them."

"Any squabbles?"

"One or two."

"Were you glad to land?"

"Oh! you can't conceive our state of excitement on the first view of land not many miles from Madras. The hills there are so beautifully blue, and pretty, they reminded me of Trinidad, which we had sighted. I take an interest in this coast, for an ancestor of mine in command of a squadron engaged a much more numerous fleet near it under Labourdonnais."

"Ah! I thought you belonged to us. There were some sharp actions in those days. The Frenchman was a good seaman, and Peyton a right good officer."

"I have often heard that the commodore was brave as a lion, and would have fought his ship till it sank with colours flying."

"Not a doubt of it, my dear."

"I love his portrait, there is something so honest and good in his countenance."



“Ah! he was a sailor, that says everything for him. John Peyton of the *Defence*, too, at Lord Nelson’s glorious victory of the Nile, most gallantly made two French seventy-fours strike their colours. And would you not like to be returning in the fleet to old England?”

“No, sir. I have come to make India my home for some time.”

“Well, my dear, may you always have the same buoyant spirits, and right-minded way of taking things, and I am sure you will be happy wherever you are.”

The naval forces of His Majesty under the Vice-Admiral were variously employed in watching over the rich China and India trade, in the exhausting climate of the Red Sea, or against Batavia, where in low swampy grounds a fetid mist prevailed, congenial only to Dutchmen. In this latter service, a detachment of the brave 12th, the regiment which stormed the breach of Seringapatam, and insured the success of the assault by crossing the inner ditch, and taking the defenders of the second rampart in flank, had lost half their numbers by a distressing fever.

As a means of preserving health in that hot climate, the admiral almost always slept in the open

air. He fixed his head-quarters at the beautiful island of Penang, (Prince of Wales' island), which, though within six degrees of the equator, enjoys a comparatively low range of temperature on the mountain. The charm and advantage of pleasing scenery had been too much neglected throughout the British possessions, cantonments and stations were planted either at the foot of hills, in confined positions, or, in sandy arid spots, without consideration of shade, verdure, or any variety of landscape. The providential arrangement of hills, particularly of those above fever range, had not yet been appreciated.

"Miss Peyton," said the Governor, "when you go to Bangalore you must find out the spot where Lady Clive was encamped near a tank; a tope has been planted and called after her name. My wife and the girls resided there for ten weeks, and speak of it as a delightful place, possessing a mild and cool climate. They derived much entertainment from their long excursion. Wilks has discovered a fall of the river Cauvery, equal to any of the falls in Europe; it is five hundred yards wide, and two hundred feet and upwards in height. You may meet with Dr. Buchanan, who is noting down for Lord

Wellesley the nature of the agriculture, manufactures and commerce of Mysore; the condition of the people, the breeds of cattle, tenures of the farms, price of labour, in short, all information invaluable for reference to those concerned in the management of the country. I am a bit of a farmer myself, and have occasionally met with something ingenious amongst their few and simple agricultural implements; such as the drill for sowing, consisting of a small wooden cup supported on hollow bamboos, seven or eight of which diverging from the cup convey the seed placed in it to the ground, as the drill is drawn along, in regular lines. The dry crops sown in this way are very remarkable for their uniform appearance, and a great advantage of the regularity is that the cultivators are able to sow dry crops of three kinds of grain by the side of each other, and reap them as they ripen, at different times. This is useful in their small holdings, for most of them are very poor, though it would be considered untidy and absurd in England. Our English farmers would laugh heartily at the Indian plough, which is so light that the ploughman, when he homeward plods his weary way, carries it on his shoulder. Drawn by two bullocks with a yoke on their necks it is sufficient for the purpose, as the natives do not

make very deep furrows, but repeat the ploughing frequently. Their wet crops are ploughed round and round till the ground is like so much wet dough, and the crop well raked to loosen the roots and thin it; a necessary process in this hot climate, which would otherwise bake the earth a little too soon."

"All our revenue," said Captain Wilks, "is derived from the land, and the wet cultivation, much less in extent than the dry, brings in more revenue in proportion. This system of cultivating the earth has existed in India for centuries; the government repairs the tank, which is merely a mound of earth, faced with very large rough stones heaped upon one another in rows, each row receding a little from the front of the one below it, drawn across a valley or hollow, and the water thus retained is sufficient for the annual supply required for the crops behind the tank, and between it and the next tank. These tanks, through many of which small rivers and streams are made to give their waters gradually to the cultivation when the sluices are opened daily for a certain interval, owe their origin to the invariable succession of wet and dry seasons, and might be copied with advantage in other warm climates, the Cape of Good Hope for instance."

“If there had but been regular taxes in India,” remarked Colonel Close, “in addition to those levied on the land, we should now derive a very great revenue from it. The transit duties are pernicious; the taxes on trades and houses are very trifling, horses and conveyances pay no tax, sheep and other animals are not taxed now, the stamp tax is small, fees on civil judicial suits are low, in fact, there is nothing taken out of the monied classes who hoard, or lend on enormous interest. There were, it is true, many native taxes formerly, which no European Government could think of enforcing, such as that significant one in Mysore upon any man known to swing his arms when he walked, an imposition upon too much dignity, I presume! Under the native rulers the monied classes were made to pay only on extraordinary occasions, such as in time of war, when the necessities of the government required it. It is the invariable rule of a native of India (arising from the corruption and uncertainty of the law in former times, their great suspicion of oppression and bribery which we are too few to check sufficiently even in the present day) to conceal from every one the extent of his means, and to represent himself as the poorest of

creatures when he is rolling in wealth. The money is not laid out on the country, or the poorer classes to any amount; there are landed proprietors (a small proportion) whose ancestors had large establishments, and who continue to keep them up; but the merchants, &c., who make so much money, live in small houses in the towns, and from father to son never alter their mode of life—the only exceptions being a few of those at the Presidency capitals. This is partly owing to their caste obligations; custom and tradition have been the chief rules of action here for many centuries.”

“The primitive nature of their institutions,” said Captain Wilks, “may be seen in their village communities, where an allotment of land or its produce is the mainspring, and pays all the twelve village officers. For this they keep the accounts, superintend the cultivation, perform the duties of watchmen and police, hunt up the ryots both to pay their own kists, and to labour at the government lands not rented, for which they receive a moiety,—prevent disorders, and settle disputes. And surely it may be considered a well regulated form of civil life, where the meanest ryot by application to his hereditary

Potail and venerable elders, and without the payment of fees, can have their time-honoured customs expounded, and be judged in public by a punchayet,\* under the shade of the large tree at the gate of the village."

"Certainly, Wilks," said the governor, "that is bringing justice to their doors. But Miss Peyton has not yet said what she thinks of the natives and their homes."

"I have not seen much of them yet; their houses are wretched-looking affairs, mud walls, flat roof, and a door in the centre, with nothing deserving the name of window. But that may be owing to their poverty. Their attention and respect is quite embarrassing; all turn out to see you, and when you meet any of them in the road they stop until you have passed, and seem to think they cannot go far enough, but walk into the ditches, and their carts they turn off the road in the same manner, without any mercy on the poor bullocks. The girls carry themselves very well, and walk beautifully with the chatty on their heads, but I have not seen many really pretty faces amongst

\* A jury of five.

them ; their usual dress of a dark-purple cotton cloth with a coloured border, and, as I am told, some ten yards long, is wound about their persons and over their heads in a very graceful manner. A nosegay of chrysanthemums was presented to me one day as I walked, by a Hindoo ; they appear to possess a spirit of poetry in their love of decorating themselves and their stone deities with wreaths of flowers."

"That," observed Captain Wilks, "and their presents of fruit, may be the instinctive offering of the produce of the earth common to all primitive nations, a strong metrical taste they certainly have, witness those long romances in verse the Mahabharat and Ramayana."

"The brahmin bull," continued Miss Peyton, "which they tell you in England is sacred here, is used in every cart one meets, and is the most useful animal in the country, and their masters pull at them and strike them as if they were insensible ; of course it seems singular to me that we never by any chance see a horse in a cart here."

"The bull Nundy is a deity of high consideration," said Captain Wilks, "and in Mysore you will see his image wherever you go ; the Egyptians also had their



Apis, and the Assyrians and Israelites worshipped golden calves. The Hindoos hold an annual feast, when their bullocks are adorned with flowers, and their horns with a red dye. The bullock is more hardy, more easily fed, and can do more work than the horse in this warm climate."

"In Mysore," added Colonel Close, "there is a breed of bullocks peculiar to that country. They are as different from all other Indian cattle, as the Arab is from the country horse; and as superior to them not merely in their blood and configuration, but their strength and energy, their quick step, power of endurance, and of keeping their condition under great privation. With draught bullocks of this breed Hyder Ally and his son were enabled to make those long and rapid marches, and after every defeat to draw off their guns in face of their enemies."\*

"The form of the head of these white bullocks," said Miss Peyton, "is one of the finest shapes I have seen, but I cannot say so much for that of the common brown buffaloes, who, with their long horns lying flat on their backs, stare at you hard with their

\* Sir Mark Cubbon.

noses high in the air, while trailing their feet along lazily, and raising clouds of dust. And really there are a great many black sheep here, a white one seems quite an exception !”

“Ah! now,” said the governor laughing, as the ladies retired, “that looks like malice, and as if you were inclined to pick a hole in our coats. Peyton,” his lordship afterwards remarked, “your daughter is quick and observant, and a very fine girl; her own high good nature colours every incident, and leads her to take an interest in everything she sees.”

## CHAPTER XVI.

## OUR INDIAN STATESMEN.

DURING the rest of the time the party remained at table, the governor, after some conversation with the admiral on the severe endemic fever his squadron had suffered from at Batavia; and on supplies preparing for despatch to the Red Sea expedition; called Mr. Webbe to sit next to him, that they might confer on business matters. e

Besides that gentleman, two or three men were present who deserve particular notice. Independent of earlier times, which were barbaric and despotic if leaving many worthy traces, an Augustan age in British India may be said to have existed at this

period. Obedience to the laws and security to property were enforced; improvements in agriculture and social comfort cultivated; the arts, the ancient languages and literature of the country beginning to be appreciated at their proper value. Seven years before had died in middle age the great linguist Sir William Jones, Judge of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, after elucidating the religion of the Hindoos, and reviving their literature; Bentley was refuting the fictitious claims to antiquity of the brahminical astronomy; Colebrooke investigating and digesting Hindoo law; Colonel Mackenzie instituting his researches into the ancient remains, and collecting the frail and leafy records of the south of India; Dr. Francis Buchanan doing the same in the north. George Udny, of the Bengal government, was advocating freedom of trade, extension of education, and the abolition of cruel rites amongst the people. The kind-hearted and estimable Jonathan Duncan, now governor of Bombay, continued to use every means to put down the barbarous practice of Hindoo infanticide. The career of Mountstuart Elphinstone was begun; a man, wrote Sir James Mackintosh, of "a very fine understanding, with the greatest

modesty and simplicity of character." Of him and Sir Thomas Munro, Malcolm justly said afterwards "governors more purely public minded never existed." Elphinstone became the historian of Caubul and of India, the Livy of those lands, only a true and exact as well as elegant one.

Lord Wellesley himself was both the Mæcenæ and the Horace of the age, his brother Arthur may be called the Agrippa, the greatest man of his time, eminent both in peace and war. Sir James Mackintosh, recorder of the Supreme Court at Bombay, was the Varro, the most learned and polished writer of the day.

If circumstances make heroes they may be said also to bring forth the latent qualities of statesmen. Each presidency has produced them as the tide of war rolled from one part to the other, or as important interests arose and demanded management.

Mr. Webbe fell a sacrifice to his duty, at the early age of thirty-seven, but three years afterwards, in a district far removed from the English possessions, where his friend Close raised a tomb over his remains and provided a salary for its native guardian. Poorneah's monument to his memory looks from a

rising ground on the old capital of the country he helped to restore to its rightful chief; the civil and military services erected another at Madras.

Colonel (afterwards Sir Barry) Close, "by far the ablest man in the company's army" (said Colonel Wellesley) had been the adjutant-general of the army up to the taking of Seringapatam, when he was appointed resident in Mysore. Assisted by Poorneah, he caused the rajah's government to be brought into a prosperous state, and the country to become a garden. Numberless tanks were repaired, many towns rebuilt, and the inhabitants encouraged by advances of money, or remissions of rent. Lord Wellesley had now selected him to fill the difficult post of political resident at the court of the Peishwah.

Barry Close was the most highly respected officer in the Madras army, through which a feeling of honest pride prevailed that such a man belonged to its ranks. Years afterwards (in 1809) when an alarming state of dissatisfaction existed, and the large Hyderabad force, persuaded by its officers that there was war between the king's and company's troops, was on the point of marching to Madras, for the over

throw of the government, a signal for all others to do the same, Colonel Close was sent to deal with his violent brother officers. By firm and judicious measures, by the love and respect they felt for him, he induced them to return to their duty; and, in the other garrisons this submission to authority being followed as the previous opposition had been, he was the means of saving the greatest havoc and disorder. A distinguished officer had completely failed in a similar mission to another important garrison.

One short anecdote will show the strong party feeling then pervading the army, even at the seat of government. A Captain C—, when these dissensions arose, although a young officer, was, in a very unprecedented manner, appointed to the highest and most responsible office in the army, that of Adjutant-General, with the official rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, being, of course, in the confidence of the governor, and a zealous upholder of his authority. He had previously been on intimate terms with a Captain B—, who, on the other hand, had now adopted the opposite views of his brother officers. Coming at this juncture to call upon his friend Captain B—, and no doubt in expectation of receiving his hearty con-

gratulations on his rapid advancement, he was met in the outer verandah of his house by that gentleman who disregarding the risk he ran in offending this most influential officer, thus addressed him : " Captain B— is not at home to *Lieutenant-Colonel C—*." Having uttered this unmistakeable defiance to his quondam friend's face, Captain B— turned upon his heel, and left Lieutenant-Colonel C— to return from whence he came, without vouchsafing him another word.

The senior officers had some well-founded grievances, which ought to have been referred to the home authorities; the others had none but what they expected to succeed to in their turn. The management of the army was too much in the hands of the governor and civilians, who, without a proper education for it, rarely understand on what the best interests and welfare of an army depend, or upon what nice points a decision on military subjects should turn.

An excellent Persian and Hindoostanee scholar, Colonel Close personally transacted all business with the natives, by whom he was greatly esteemed. With a highly cultivated mind, and transcendent



abilities, he was also the kind, and entertaining English host and gentleman. He was as hardy and active in body as in mind, and even when advanced in life, would ride thirty or forty miles a day, and join in the chase with all the fire and vigour of youth.\* His portrait graces the walls of the London Oriental Club, and an enduring memorial of him in Mysore exists in the village and bridge of Closepett built by the rajah's government.

Colonel Malcolm commenced his career as an ensign of the second battalion 6th Madras regiment. After being private secretary to Lord Wellesley, conducting two successful embassies to Persia, filling various high political appointments, and distinguishing himself in the field, he rose to be governor of Bombay. His voluminous writings on the history of Central India, the life of the great Lord Clive, &c., have become standard works.

After these Captain (subsequently Colonel), Mark Wilks, became the political resident in Mysore. He was a man of great good sense and refinement, an accomplished scholar and gentleman, and filled each situation he held—that of governor of St. Helena

\* Welsh.

latterly, with distinction. As the historian of Southern India, to no one have subsequent writers on India been indebted in a greater degree than to this, the most classical as well as faithful, and laborious in research of any of its authors. His connexion with the country was continued through his nephew General Sir Mark Cubbon, K.C.B., for thirty years the ruler, as commissioner of Mysore and Coorg, of that considerable kingdom, and in him it found one in every way worthy to succeed to the bright career of the statesmen we have named. At first an assistant to his uncle, he then became the Commissary-General at Bangalore, and eventually the efficient head of that department, to the proper training of which General Wellesley devoted so much care in all his campaigns. "Depend upon it," he writes, "that the success of military operations in India depends upon supplies." Sir Mark was subsequently noted as the framer of the able report of General Hawker's committee on the state of Mysore, which led to his being appointed Regent of the kingdom.

Kistna Raj Oodiaver, Rajah of Mysore, placed by the English on the throne at five years of age,

promising as a boy, and precocious in manners, unfortunately did not rise superior to the temptations awaiting him as he grew older. He assumed the reins of power at the age of seventeen, under the most auspicious circumstances,—succeeding to a well organised government, and to a full treasury, accumulated during his minority under the regency of Poorneah. At twenty, however, he gradually relinquished any active and regular attention to the business of the state, and gave himself up to a life of ease and pleasure. The British residents and troops supported his rule for seventeen years longer, when at length the exactions of the public servants became insupportable, and his subjects broke out into rebellion. “The great faults of the rajah’s government,” say the committee, “appear to have been, that it was throughout venal and corrupt; that no efficient control was exercised over the district officers; that the people were vexed and fretted by the unjust and arbitrary acts of those officers, and could obtain no redress; that there was no security for property, and nothing that was fit to be called the administration of justice.”

The Rajah resides in his palaces to this day, receiv-

ing his stipend of one lac of star pagodas per annum, together with one-fifth of the net revenues of the country, left in possession of his ninety lacs of rupees (900,000*l.*) worth of jewels, and having had his private debts to the amount of thirty lacs lately paid off,—but no more entrusted with the governing power. The English received it from him with a heavy public debt, with the establishments unpaid, the country ruined by long anarchy, and a deficit of the revenue, of between three and four lacs of rupees.

Sir Mark Cubbon placed in a position where his great abilities had full scope, in course of time restored Mysore to more than its former prosperity. For the long succeeding interval peace and plenty prevailed there throughout all the changes and embroilments of India. Mysore aided British India with a quarter of a million annually, and a reserve force of four thousand horse,—the interest of the debt was paid, and surplus revenue devoted to paying off the capital,—the inhabitants ruled with combined justice and mercy, a very great reduction of taxes on all articles of general consumption and the necessities of life carried out, a close communion of the

interests of the several districts fostered, and a free intercourse of trade with the surrounding Company's country encouraged. It may therefore be truly said that the English rule has been a blessing to the inhabitants of Mysore, since Sir Mark with his most able assistants Augustus Clarke, Chalmers, Dobbs, Onslow, Macqueen, Gregory Haines, Cunningham, Porter, T. Clerk, Pearse, Elliott, &c., taught them to appreciate lessons of order, freedom, and liberal design, as well as principles and habits of equity, honesty, and good faith which no succeeding native government will ever dare to infringe upon, or alter, much less to abolish.

Such ends are only accomplished by active yet patient intelligence and experience, by rising to work before daylight, by making it a constant study, by moving about amongst the natives, by being the most accessible of public men, by the careful application of European principles and civilisation to native sympathies, by encouraging his assistants to converse with him, as Sir Mark Cubbon ever did, and discuss all business as friends, and by carrying into his public duties the same high minded motives that influenced his private life.

To dwell upon the private worth of such a man, upon his old Indian hospitality and frank courtesy, his manners and bearing polished as those of the *haute noblesse* in the last century, set off by a very handsome head and tall upright spare person, his extreme kindness and cordiality to his family, (as his assistants would have been called in his younger days) and to those who had known him long, his considerate attentions in illness, his steady example of reading and commenting upon the literature of the day, his love of nature and of field sports, and particularly of that noble animal the horse, his munificent liberality and extensive charity, could only be the province of an intimate friend; and from his modest and retiring disposition the latter never have been fully known while his valuable life was preserved to the country in which he had done good service for sixty years!

Alas! we have now to say of him in the past, "This was the noblest Roman of them all." The noble-minded, generous, truthful Cubbon died at Suez, on his passage home to a native land unvisited since his boyhood, and without a word of public acknowledgment from the government he had thus

zealously served. It should not be forgotten, too, that he won over even the good will and confidence of the rajah, who was continually writhing under the loss of his kingdom.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## A CIVILIAN : AND HIS COURTSHIP.

WE have been talking history too long; let us return to our story of 1801. Before Colonel Peyton and his daughter left Madras, one or two incidents of private history occurred which, in later times, would be thought curious. Miss Peyton had not yet finished the first week of her sojourn in India ere an elderly gentleman, after meeting her at dinner, began to call at the house and endeavour to make himself agreeable to her.

This gentleman's name was Vanderputt. He was a civilian, a commercial agent, one of the Honourable Company's senior merchants, employed in the superintendence of the loading of the Honourable Com-



pany's ships, and in bargaining for the Honourable Company's traffic, to ensure the completion of which, or possibly from watching the interests of his masters so narrowly in the process, he was often induced to take up the contracts himself, by means of his native agents. And now being in the direct road to making his fortune, and altogether a thriving individual, he had seriously thought lately of taking unto himself a wife. He was well connected in the service; his father, a person of Dutch extraction, had been for a long time in it; on retiring to England with a large fortune, he had turned a director of the company, made himself noted in the city, and finally had been created a baronet as a reward for certain influential support given by him to the ministry. Having a large family and thinking highly of the service in which he had prospered so abundantly, he presented six of his own sons with appointments to India; two were in the civil service at Madras, and one in the cavalry; one other was in the civil service at Bombay, and one in Bengal, and the last was in the cavalry in Bengal. His daughter having also married early (against his wish) previous to his arrival in England, he had made the best of a bad bargain, and provided

as soon as he could for this couple also by giving the gentleman a writership in Bengal. These were not the only situations in the public service filled by the family. The only brother of this director died, leaving a large family of sons and daughters in comparative poverty. These also—much to the credit of the director—were provided for by him for life; that is, he found writerships and cadetships in the East India Company's service for all his nephews, and for any one who did not object to marry his nieces.

No wonder men with such means at their disposal felt that they were somebodies, and could quarrel with and insult a marquess or a simple baron, albeit the former, independent of his rank and connexions, was one of the most elegant classics of his day, and of distinguished personal merits. They were in truth of the genus Nabob, and thus found ample opportunity to develop the drift of their Indian education.

These 'great folks' and future Nabobs had been money lenders, and to such an extent that a prince like the distant Rajah of Tanjore would keep an expert agent at the presidency to negotiate a loan when he wished to obtain a favour. The Nawaubs again, ever preferring claims upon adjacent countries,

hired the heads of the settlement to support their demands, and, borrowed on enormous interest, as a means of making confederates amongst them. But those good old days of money-making were now fast disappearing. Gross and open practices, at least, of that nature had been interrupted, yet Lord Wellesley did not hold a very good opinion of the generality of the civil servants, and his brother said "that the whole was a system of job and corruption from beginning to end."

This prevailing mean and sordid leaven of character was not confined, however, to the civil service. Something of it might be detected in the division of the prize money at Seringapatam,—Colonel Wellesley did not hesitate to call the prize agents "sharks." On another occasion he thus speaks of an officer of rank : "He has been more concerned in the dirty business of this country, has more Durbar jobs than anybody, and he is a disgrace to the King's army."

Several scandalous cases of peculation and embezzlement had occurred at Seringapatam during the absence of Colonel Wellesley in the field, two officers of long standing sold for their own benefit part of the ordnance and stores captured in the place, and made

up grossly false musters of the people employed in the arsenal, the profits arising from which they shared; another lieutenant-colonel, who had possession of the keys of the saltpetre store, also a public capture, took away large quantities, and sold it at his own house, with the assistance of his lady!

However upright and honourable the services have since become,\* these facts serve as beacons of the deplorable laxity of morals and want of moderation which may at any time predominate, where mercenary motives are the ruling guide. The civil servants of the company, before they shook off their old mercantile character, were the agents of an exclusive concern, trained to anything but the nobility of commerce with all its open honest courses; deprived of a generous rivalry; saving high salaries without a proper stimulus of honours and rewards, political appointments or other means of distinguishing themselves, not being open to them,—their only goal the

\* Numbering in the civil ranks such men as C. M. Lushington, G. E. Russell, David Hill, J. B. Paske, G. W. Saunders, H. Lacon, John Macleod, G. J. Casamajor, T. E. Boileau, Walter Elliott, A. Freese, W. Lavie, W. Morehead, W. U. Arbuthnot and a host of other worthy gentlemen and clever administrators and statesmen.

fortune of a Nabob. All the ability individuals had shown, all the enterprise they had displayed in the acquiring territory and a high position for their masters, was exerted in direct violation of their orders; and the leading instruments in these cases were chiefly military officers.

The gentleman we alluded to, Mr. Senior merchant Benjamin Vanderputt, on first meeting Miss Peyton at a dinner-party, asked for an introduction from the hostess, and had no sooner been introduced than he told the young lady that he had been much struck by her appearance. To pursue the conversation, he inquired how she liked India, and if her voyage had been a pleasant one; on the young lady assenting, he asked whether she had observed the Cape, how beautifully it was situated, and now it held out its white arms to the sea; and as he said this he took the occasion of impressively glancing down at her round alabaster arms. Had she visited Weinberg? Oh! yes, a most charming spot, with an exquisite drive to it, through avenues of fir trees, scenting the air with their delicious odour, then emerging from the woods into the open country covered with masses of heath, of the richest colour, and growing in such

wild luxuriance, doubly appreciated by those who have been prisoners in a vessel for months.

He asked her whether she had been inconvenienced by the dust storms at the Cape, which were really almost dangerous, they blew with such violence, bringing pebbles along with them of no small size; so that it was impossible to face them without the aid of veils? She had remarked that the gentlemen there wore green veils twisted round their hats.

Had she not found the life on board ship most monotonous? She believed it was a general complaint, but she thought the variety of the sea a great study, and that it would take much discomfort and many more disagreeables to cure her of the love of it, besides which their visit to the Cape had broken the length, and given them something to think and talk of before seeing it, and for the remainder of the voyage. She was, however, greatly disappointed not to see, in the large conservatories of the public botanical gardens there, one single plant of heath, the much and justly boasted wild-flower of the country; yet, singular enough, said she, you may see some of our largest conservatories in England filled with the heath plant only, of every variety and colour,

and of the greatest beauty; one naturally enough therefore expects to meet with it in still greater perfection in its native country.

It is a universal saying, added he, that all the squabbles begin the moment you turn the corner of the Cape; was that the case with you? Miss Peyton had heard that remark made, but could not speak of it from her own experience, they had kept pretty clear of them she was glad to say. An unfortunate shopkeeper on board had given the captain some trouble, from his children being so noisy, and the captain had ordered pails of water to be thrown over them, and said that they should all be tied up in a windsail. There were said to be thirteen souls in his cabin!

Mr. Vanderputt ventured to compliment her on having been the good genius of the ship. "Oh! no," replied she, "I am fond of fun and enjoy a good laugh, but we really did not have any downright quarrels, did we Mr. Arlington?" she said to that gentleman who was close by. Mr. Arlington replied gravely that there were no disagreeable people on board to quarrel with.

Mr. Vanderputt stared at the young officer, but

turning away addressed the lady again, "I recollect that we had many quarrels in the ship I came out in, and the captain had to place several young gentlemen in arrest before we had come a quarter of the distance; we were six months on the voyage, and two cadets were confined to their cabins for nearly the whole time. They turned out good officers afterwards."

"They may have done so," rejoined Miss Peyton "but I think it was a very cruel act to confine them so long to such a wretched prison as the cabin of a ship, and on the lower deck, as I presume it was, the imprisonment was positively barbarous."

"Oh! they were allowed to walk about the steerage for an hour in the day time, so that they did not speak to any one out of their cabins, and to come on deck for an hour at night after everyone had gone to bed. They learnt early what discipline was, as young men in the military service require to do. When they landed, they joined the cadet company, did duty as common soldiers until they knew all their duties, and vacancies occurred, when they were sent to join as ensigns the European or native regiments. That was the best way of bring up young men for the



army, depend upon it; they have too much their own way, now."

"But was their education in any way attended to?" inquired Miss Peyton, "for I suppose they were all young."

"Yes, they were taught the native languages, there were moonshees provided for them."

"A very necessary requirement no doubt, but a very small part of the education of a gentleman and an officer, I believe."

"Oh! I dare say they found their first steps stupid work enough, and the restraint not very agreeable; but it was better for them than running about to tiffins and noisy parties. Don't you find a want of something to do yourself, now? what can there be to amuse you ladies in this country? are you not glad when the tiffin time comes?" asked Mr. Vanderputt.

"No, I feel no *ennui*—I can always find work for my hands or my head."

"Such as calling, I suppose, or writing home, or paying a visit to Griffiths' store."

"There are other sources of amusement open to us independent of these. As a new comer I have

enough to learn for example of the old history of this land, and the institutions and usages of a people so widely different from others; in studying the relation in which the English stand here to the natives, tracing the events and causes which led to our being established in this distant country, and the beneficial effects which I hope promise to follow our rule."

"Ah! the less you learn of these people the better, I think; they are too deep for any of us," said he.

Here the old civilian pausing, and seeming to be nearly at the end of his general topics of conversation, Miss Peyton put a few questions to him respecting his own special duties, and how they might be connected with the immediate government of the country, and the welfare of the people; but she did not find him communicative on these subjects, and their discourse becoming in consequence but bald disjointed chat it soon ceased.

After dinner the little gentleman walked up to the hostess, and fell to inquiring all particulars respecting the young lady; remarking frequently how very intelligent and charming he found her, and that as she seemed so discreet he would not wish to look farther in his choice of a wife. The hostess, who was

aware of his views, coincided in his opinion of the young lady, but believed that he must be blind to her charms, as the only information she possessed would disappoint him, Miss Peyton being, she had heard, positively engaged elsewhere. As the lady, however, could not give any very good authority for this, it did not discourage our civilian.

In the short time he had given himself for reflection, to take into account what the young lady's opinions on such an important point might be did not once suggest itself to his mind. To suppose that a young girl would be suddenly smitten by the worn appearance and indifferent manners of one so considerably her senior, without any apparent motive for regard or even respect in his favour, did not occur to him. He had been too much accustomed all his life to hear of young people in the matter of marriage being dependent on the will of their parents; and particularly in India he had seen many young ladies brought out to the country purposely to marry certain rich civilians or elderly officers of rank, without knowing them previously, or on very short acquaintance after their arrival. The Anglo-Indian gentleman's marriage was very much a *mariage de convenance*.

of its own peculiar nature, wherein, when he wanted a wife after collecting a sufficient competency, he was fain to marry the first young lady that presented herself; so that the necessity for his immediate return to England being obviated, he might continue his residence in India until he had *saved*, as the process was called, his five or ten lacs, and had completed his service for a pension. Thus all knowledge of his wife was acquired after he had married her, and of his wife's relations he might personally know nothing until his return to England at some distant period of time. Truly, it was not wise, or the most satisfactory or delicate way of acting in a matter of such moment and deep responsibility as the gaining a partner for life; but that he could not help; it was the only way in which he could obtain at once what had now become the two objects of his life, namely, to make a handsome fortune, and to raise up a family to rejoice over after he had retired to Cheltenham in his native country. There he might calculate on comfortably spending the rest of his days, and on his children or grand-children eventually becoming people of some name and influence in the county. While such may be considered to have been

the general run of unions, there were doubtless not a few made in a proper spirit, and rendered a blessing to the parties concerned; and it is surprising how many of these marriages turned out well and happy, owing chiefly, as I verily believe, to the innate goodness and propriety of feeling of the gentle sex.

Of the latter, who were partakers in these contracts, let us say that, some were the daughters of gentlemen in the services, and to these I am not so much alluding; others were invited out from England by friends; I would speak of all with due respect, and, to but few could be justly ascribed, we may hope, mere mercenary motives. The attractions of position and of an establishment were not without their influence, but, let us trust that, many felt it to be their mission and duty, and that what seemed their destiny, and the encouragement and example of others, led them to visit India, that paradise of ladies, where they were soon half spoiled by the attentions of numerous admirers, and by the consequence they found to be attached to them. *Mais nous avons change tout cela*, that is, all that was objectionable; and the dear creatures who now leave England to honour India with their presence,

may depend upon meeting with equal attentions, a more just appreciation of their merits, and a more general spirit of refinement and gentlemanly bearing.

Of other countrywomen, it may be said that no European gentleman then married the native women of the country, a practice, which, although cases had since occurred, had been prevalent only amongst the earliest of the settlers; and the instances of their marriage with *half-castes*, that is the daughters and descendants of European fathers, whether Portuguese or Dutch (who preceded the English in colonizing) or whatever nation, and the native women, had much diminished in number. From the French settlement of Pondicherry, now under the rule of the English, there came into the marriage market fair, handsome women, many of them importations from Europe, full of gaiety, fond of society, merry and agreeable companions, who might be expected to turn out well "if caught young."

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## THE TACTICS OF A VETERAN.

AS we said above, Mr. Vanderputt now became assiduous in his calls, and presence at the band, or wherever he could expect to see Miss Peyton; so much so, that the alteration in his usual habits, and the places he frequented was quite remarkable, and began to attract the attention of some of his old confrères. The next house they met at was that of Mrs. Welder, the wife of the senior member of the medical board, with whom Mr. V. had been on intimate terms for some time. This lady, who was not of high extraction, was yet exceedingly particular in the matter of ceremony and etiquette, and constantly

found occasion to complain of the great want of it in these degenerate days. She usually wore in the morning a half high dress, short sleeves, bracelets and other valuable ornaments; but the comparative simplicity of this style of costume in cambric or muslin not being much to her taste, she generally sat in a room where there was an immense portrait of herself in a superb full-dress, to which she seldom failed to draw the attention of her visitors. Though languidly stately enough in the house, she was sufficiently energetic on horseback, where the full force of her character was displayed; when, at sun-rise, she was seen to ride, to use a common expression, too common perhaps to be applied to her, like mad; while her poor little daughter, who was always made to accompany her when taking this exercise, did her best to keep up with her, but had suffered several tumbles in consequence. It was said of Mistress Welder by some foolish fellow, that when she walked her horse the thermometer must be surely falling. Her husband, a very good-natured man, was often prevented by his duties from riding with her; when he did so, he followed her as well as he could, *inequis passibus*, just keeping her in sight. Her education



and knowledge of other feminine accomplishments were not profound ; on one occasion she was known when looking at a piece of music on which the word “staccato” was written, to have asked what could be the use of writing stoccătōō.

Of course in the evening Mistress Welder was *en grand tenue*, and her dress on this occasion deserves some notice. Reversing the considerate rule of dressing best, *en compliment*, when the guest of others, and receiving in more simple array,—she liked to be very splendid in her attire in her own house. Her petticoat was of white satin, embroidered round the bottom with silver twist and spangles, over which a rich drapery of tiffany superbly embroidered with festoons of embossed gold leaves, and looped with cords and tassels; the robe was of a golden yellow brocade, and her train of blue velvet trimmed with gold fringe. Her tight stomacher body was adorned with pearls, and a bouquet at the point; her puff sleeves with a light embroidery of silver leaves to match the extremity of the dress; the head-dress was composed of pearls and a plume of yellow feathers, the hair being well powdered and thrown over a cushion; she had patches on the cheek to show

off her complexion, which was also slightly assisted, and in her hand a large fan, incessantly in action.

Mistress Welder's manners were a good deal modelled on her reminiscences of Bath, whose brilliant assemblies it had been her privilege and happiness to attend, during a too short furlough of her husband to England. Her heart had been captivated by those memorable scenes for the display of *haut ton*, once the sphere of the inimitable Beau Nash;\* where a vast company of the nobility and other fashionables resorted to two crowded assemblies in every week, and executed or witnessed the performance of the best dancing, the figures of which they had previously practised in the tea-room before dinner,—so that their manœuvres were conducted with the greatest exactness and skill. The order and uniformity of the dancing, the floor chalked in many squares each adapted for a set, the well-dressed spectators sitting on rows of benches round the sides of the ball-room, the brilliancy of the lights, and the effect of the music in the balcony, all united to render

\* But, "Kind heaven has sent us another professor,  
Who follows the steps of his great predecessor."

(*Bath Guide.*)

these gay and proud doings bewitching to her in the highest degree. Her evenings were spent in party-going, and her mornings in party-hunting; the latter being accomplished by attentions, assiduity, flattery, and such like intrigues in morning rambles and calls, to secure an invitation. It was hinted indeed that her eagerness, and the rather rough under current of her temper, had led her into being the heroine of the following story:—A stout lady, answering to her description, on coming into a concert-room there late, and being unable to find a seat, had sat boldly down in the tempting lap of another lady of much smaller proportions; this one ill able to endure the weight, after several remonstrances, had adopted some sudden and sharp expedient to rid herself of the corpulent invader: for which act, she was on the instant attacked and soundly drubbed by that person,—who, amidst the confusion arising from the struggle, was heard to say, in reply to some observation made by a looker on, “Individual! madam—I scorn the insinuation! I am no more an individual than you are. She has perpetrated my robe, madam, and I shall take what notice I please of her atrociousness.”

Mistress Welder was a warm friend of Mr. Ben-

jamin Vanderputt; not only because he was a senior merchant, but she had received attention<sup>o</sup> from his father when in England, and she was aware that the eldest son of the house of Vanderputt, who had been kept at home to inherit the rank and fortune of his father, was lately dead, and that Benjamin was now the heir to the baronetcy. She adopted his cause, arranged that he should take Miss Peyton in to dinner, and made some gross attempts at recommending him to her (which she had better have left alone), occasionally alluding to his fine house, ample fortune, good connexions, and so forth,—and putting leading questions to enable him to speak of them.

There was something that might have borne the appearance of disinterested zeal in all this, because she had a daughter of her own to marry, and no more eligible life investment would she have sought out for her than as the bride of Mr. Vanderputt. But Mr. V. had never shown any extraordinary liking for Miss Welder; probably because he had seen her from the time that she was a very little girl; and had been hitherto impenetrably proof against the charms of the young lady so openly thrown at his feet. The mamma at length, despairing, it may be, of effecting

this cherished project, seemed now desirous of making herself useful to him in this new *affaire de cœur*.

“We must contrive to keep you at Madras, Miss Peyton,” cried she from the head of the table, “it will never do to let you go up-country into the jungles, where you will scarce find a soul worth speaking to.”

“How so!” replied Miss Peyton, “my father in his letters describes his brother officers as a very superior set of men, and delights in his regiment as in a second home.”

“Ah! yes, that may be with a king’s regiment; the officers of those corps are certainly better in their manners and conjunctions than the Company’s; but consider, that when you leave Madras you seldom or ever see a house that possesses any Europe articles; all objections of virtue and bigotry, too, are left behind.”

“Oh! I shall find plenty of natural objects to take an interest in.”

“But, my dear, you will see no civilians, no people of fashion, and that is not pleasant to congratulate; for, as Lady Teazle says, ‘fashion in everything bears sov’ reign sway.’ You will be condemned to rough it,

and perhaps to marry some man who has never been in civilized society; for the officers of the army generally are very different to the gentlemen of the staff and of the civil service you meet with here, who certainly, and particularly the latter, require no paregoric from me."

This set Miss Peyton into a half-concealed smile; the chance she had of falling into the hands of any such Philistine being she hoped tolerably remote and improbable.

"Well, my dear," said Mrs. Welder, warming up in her description, "I shall leave Mr. Vanderputt to tell you what these up-country stations are, where are wretched abodes without punkahs, prickly heat enough to abstract you, mosquittoes, cock-roaches, white ants, flies and insects of all descriptions, besides snakes and reptiles, to say nothing of tigers, jackals, and dumulgundies." \*

"Your father's regiment has been stationed at Trichinopoly," said Mr. Vanderputt, "and at Masoolipatam, two of the hottest stations in India; I can speak of the latter particularly, because I resided in

\* Hyenas.

the fort and district for years, when a member, and afterwards chief of the old provincial council, before Lord Hobart foolishly abolished us and appointed collectors. The nights are often hotter than the days, when the land winds prevail; the thermometer has been known to stand at  $105^{\circ}$  at midnight, even on board a ship in the roads. This trying climate produces a fever, which in my case lasted four or five years. No one escapes, and there is no effectual remedy for it but removal from the station. The ugly brick fort of Dutch construction in which the troops live is on the edge of a very flat low coast, the water shallow for some distance; there is a sandy swamp on all other sides of the fort—inland beyond that a succession of sand hillocks and plains, not a blade of grass for many miles. In the hot weather the atmosphere is dreadful, being inflamed tenfold by the intense heat of the winds passing over such a dry arid waste. The uninteresting nature of the country around may be conceived; in addition to sand hills with a few weeds on them, there are clumps of toddy trees with huge tall black trunks, and three or four bunches of leaves waving on their tops—nothing more. To walk is almost impossible, through

the sand, loose and blown about by every wind. During the monsoon this is converted into a marsh, and the whole vicinity is liable to be flooded. The monsoon there is very heavy, though pleasant enough for the first month; rain falls occasionally, cooling the air, and producing a rank kind of vegetation, which forms some relief to the sand. But soon the clouds assume a denser appearance, the rain instead of falling every two or three days continues for hours daily, sometimes for successive days, it may be said, for the intervals are too short to admit of exercise. The thunder and lightning are terrific. I have seen houses struck there by lightning and burnt to the ground, although at the time the rain was falling in torrents. The natives think it impossible that a house so struck can be saved. The monsoon lasts for nearly four months. After a short interval of two months the along-shore wind commences to annoy you, and the hot land winds return in May, June, and July; the two latter are hot enough without the wind; and in August there is a lull, which is as oppressive as the heat. The port was useful in the days of the early traders, and is convenient for landing troops and stores."



“Papa never mentioned very disagreeable climates to me; no doubt, that I might not be anxious about him. As the regiment has visited these places there is the less chance of its returning to them; they should be abandoned now as stations for Europeans. Is there no healthy situation near to this Masoolipatam?”

“Beizwarrah on the river Kistnah, forty-six miles off, at first sight seems an eligible spot for a cantonment. There is a range of hills skirting the river—and from their summit a beautiful prospect of hill and dale, wood, and river is obtained. It was a considerable place in the palmy days of the Mahommedans, but a malignant fever occasionally ravages the neighbourhood. Seven miles on the other side of the Kistnah is Mungulgerry, a remarkably pretty place, in a high, open, salubrious situation, and I believe free from fever, which always seems to haunt the foot of hills, partly from the air being confined, and the jungle near them.”

“It must be an interesting country to travel through, if not an altogether healthy one to reside in,” said Miss Peyton.

“Nothing can move you, Miss Peyton,” here rejoined Miss Welder, “you are imperturable to all

illusions. But though there certainly are ladies up-country, they cannot have there the comforts of their sex, which the most capacious may find at the presidency; and as for dresses you must carry everything with you to a ribbon. How many bonnets have you brought out with you, my dear?"

"Thirteen or fourteen, I believe."

"How many dresses?"

"About seventeen made up, and others unmade."

"Well, you have not more than enough for the present, and you will have to send for more. Some native hawkers find their way up-country, but no English shopkeepers."

"But, my dear," Mr. Welder ventured to say in a mild voice, "if you recollect when we were at Arnee—"

"Don't redolent me of that low excoriating hot place where you had the imperiousness to take me once."

"Still, my dear, many enjoy life in this tropical country, by attending to the prophylaxis, or means of counteracting the influence of climate and preserving health; and the hygiene of course includes a consideration of the exuviae or clothes to be worn, a very important matter."

"My dear, be silent, I know what I am saying very well."

"I only wished to suggest—"

"Nonsense, you can know nothing about the matter."

"It is true," Mr. Welder endeavoured to continue, "that—"

"That will do, Mr. Welder, I shall be able to advise Miss Peyton without your assistance, I hope."

So the strong-minded woman after dinner advocated her friend's cause with Miss Peyton, particularly dwelling on his being heir to a baronetcy; but she met with no encouragement, and never had the opportunity of doing so again in her own house, Miss Peyton having at once earnestly begged Mrs. Davidson that they might never enter her doors again. At any other evening parties, and on all occasions Miss Peyton took care to exchange as few words with Mrs. Welder as possible.

Defeated in the manœuvres recommended by his experienced agent, Mr. Vanderputt yet did not despair, but remained watchful to continue his suit in much the same fashion. The little chance he had

we may easily conjecture, but to himself it was not so plain. Why should a young woman have any will of her own, and if she had, what better *partie* was to be expected than he could offer her? But it was necessary to await the arrival of the colonel, before declaring himself in form, according to his notions, and in the mean time he had a long conversation on the subject with Mr. Davidson.

Mr. Davidson was also of the civil service, though of much more recent introduction to it. He was now the secretary in the public department, having left judicial duties in the Circars as soon as he could, and an opening presented itself, for employment under the chief secretary. He had thus, like his friends Webbe and Cockburn, had his latent abilities drawn out, and acquired a largeness of views and character in his public life, and was altogether a good specimen of the superior public servants the Company's service was now capable of forming, through the importance and varied nature of the interests entrusted to their care. He was also a gentleman in the proper sense of the term, that is, raised above others in his education, manners, principles, and habits of action.

Mr. Davidson could only advise Mr. Vanderputt to wait and see as much of the young lady as possible, her stay at Madras being very limited he knew; and if he continued to think the same when the colonel arrived, and he thought that the young lady did not receive his attentions unfavourably, to speak to the colonel as he proposed to do. There were others paying attention to her, he said, but the names mentioned being those of military men of comparatively very low standing, Mr. Vanderputt did not give to their ridiculous pretensions another thought.

To a 'lady's party' which he himself gave, and which the Davidsons accepted, Miss Peyton pleading a bad head-ache did not accompany them. This did not look encouraging, and his interview with the colonel after his arrival was not much more so. He laid before the colonel a full account of his prospects, present wealth, and good position in the service without making any great impression upon that officer, however courteously it was listened to. A formal answer which the colonel offered to convey, after fully ascertaining his daughter's wishes, at once, and positively declined the intended honour, and Mr. Vanderputt was left to the sympathy and consolation

of his friend Mrs. Welder, who, while admitting that Miss Peyton might possibly be looked upon by the men as a perfect scimiter in person, yet could not help being of opinion that she was certainly an unreasonable and froward young creature, who, after all, was only the daughter of a military man, and did not for a moment deserve the consideration of a man of rank and fortune like Mr. Vanderputt. What had come to the young girls of the present day she could not divine, they were far beyond her acquisitiveness; pride and ignorance of the world, a literal education, opinions and principles of a very particular nature, she found, were the ruin of the age for young women, and no daughter of hers, she concluded, was ever likely to be brought up in any such unmaterial a manner.

## CHAPTER XIX.

## THE MADRAS SEPOY ARMY.

THERE were, as has been said, other aspirants to the hand of Miss Peyton. Captain Hackle lost no opportunity of offering her his respectful attentions. He often rode by the side of the carriage on his handsome grey arab, which he reined with grace and a good hand. His conversation was entertaining and full of character; he had seen Indian life at various stations, had served in all the important wars in the south of India during the last eighteen years, was a man of spirit and intelligence, a resolute and skilful soldier, delighting in his profession, admired by his brother officers and the men, whose respect he

commanded both from his manly bearing, and his generosity and *bon-homie* of temper. They had shared many dangers together, and he was ever ready to take by the hand or assist those whom such a fellowship had endeared to him. He was a personable man too, good looking, beyond the common height, possessed of no ordinary muscular strength, active, expert in all athletic exercises, excelling in the confident fortitude proceeding from a robust vigour of body.

Captain Hackle was not the man to love in any particularly measured way; he was deep in his likes, and, if the truth must be told, his dislikes also, though his generous disposition never allowed the latter to be prosecuted to the serious injury of any one. He was well received at most houses at the presidency, and Mr. Davidson took a particular pleasure in his company. They had formerly lived almost daily in each other's society, when Hackle had been on detachment in the district of the Northern Circars of which Mr. Davidson had charge. They had been out hog-hunting together, and had shared in many sports. No other Europeans were near them, and this drew them together; they had every inducement for being



on good terms in such a position, both on public and private grounds, and Hackle had many agreeable qualifications and resources, particularly in out-door amusements, to aid in making time pass pleasantly under such circumstances. He accompanied Mr. Davidson through the district, when the duties of the latter as assistant-collector required him to visit the different villages of his portion of the Zillah. It was in these extensive tours amongst the people, that Mr. Davidson had formed the habit of rather being humbled at the immense responsibility placed upon his shoulders, of caring for and managing the life concerns of a million or more of native inhabitants; than of falling into any over-weening, self-conceit and arrogance,—a tendency to which too many of his brethren of the civil service had contracted. He also thus learned at an early period of his career to take an interest in the ways, village politics, and circumstances of the people, to make himself familiar with the features of the country, its hills and plains, its streams, tanks, roads, woods, its productions and cultivation, its game and wild animals; to think with affection of many scenes and spots he had visited, and to materially connect the associations of his own life

and happiness with this his second home. And rely upon it no principle or feeling of less intensity will enable the official, whether civilian or military man, in any such position, to strive sufficiently for the good of those under him, to do justice to their claims upon him, or to accomplish anything worthy of note. His work must be a labour of love to be worth anything at all.

Mr. Davidson, when brought in from his out-station to do the duty of judge at the principal station of the Circar, where Hackle's regiment was, continued his friendship with him, and learned to know and value his military acquaintances generally, and to associate with them on terms of perfect equality. Thus thrown together and rendered necessary to each other, mutual liking soon discovered worth on both sides. Mr. Davidson found them to be no mere horse-racers and gamblers, neglecting their proper duties, and whose men consequently were a terror to their own friends, and left to do much as they pleased, in the neighbourhood of their quarters. Some few old gentlemen whose promotion had been slow, and who were become Indian in their tastes and habits excepted, the majority were middle-aged and young men, of average

intelligence, zealous and attentive to their duty, full of *esprit de corps*, and at the same time gentlemen by birth and education. There might be a few who were unlettered, like many of their countrymen in England, and whose breeding and culture could not but lead one to wonder how they came there. These latter instances were however, quite as common at this time in the King's army. It is manifest that the army of the company (Hackle belonged to a battalion of Madras sepoys) could but ill afford to have in it officers who did not command the respect and esteem of the sepoys, over whom they had no other personal hold, no common ties of religion and language, no fellowship of family, of birth-place, or country, no joint interest, or such like claim to that ready and willing obedience which forms the best links of the chain of military subordination. To insure confidence in this case, it was necessary that in comparison with the sepoy,—the European officer set over him should be a being of superior order and intelligence, accomplished in mind and body,—in whom the sepoy, brought as he was into daily contact with him, and influenced and instructed by various ways, might gradually learn to trust implicitly. On all occasions,

of difficulty, respectfully applying to this officer, meeting with a courteous and cheering behaviour, some advice, perhaps some little assistance in money, or an occasional indulgence when most needed. In his own amusements receiving encouragement and aid, and often called upon to share in the field sports and games of the European officer. On the march and on active service, they would come to be still more dependent on each other. The carriage of the sepoy's family was to be provided for; two-thirds of the Madras sepoys being either married or having old and young relatives of all kinds, who fastened upon them for maintenance from their pay. The sepoy being in most cases too humble an individual to obtain anything from strangers, might thus need his officer's countenance in securing the comfort of his dearest relatives. On service they would be constantly brought together—danger and fatigue borne together would attach them to each other—and in short, those men and that officer were sure to act together, unless some stronger influence came between them, and even then the good sepoy would ward off the danger from the officer he had thus learnt to appreciate.

The sepoy was open to other influences which might

affect his loyalty,—such as his religion, his own and family interests; and which of these are not dear to all Europeans, and paramount with the uneducated. The sensible officer would see that they were not interfered with. The discipline of the native army, copied from that of the European troops, had always been severe: but while preserving a firm and even rule, habit and management contributed to render it a mild and easy yoke which little galled the good sepoy,—and it only required to be kept, so to speak, fixed and unalterable, and to be made equally just to all. The ignorant are peculiarly suspicious of changes.

The training and the system, then, were the fundamental and responsible agents in forming the sepoy. This principle, applicable to a great extent in the case of other soldiers, was especially so in that of the sepoy,—a sort of wild animal when he joined as a recruit. The most of them were mere junglewalas (quasi denizens of the wood) requiring instruction in everything, profoundly ignorant of all the arts of life; into whom a little English, a little arithmetic, a little morality and good behaviour, a little sharpening of all the perceptive faculties, and a great deal of drill and

setting-up were to be instilled. But thus trained and led, well-handled, and inspired by the noble example of their European comrades, the sepoys had always behaved well. In the campaigns against Hyder Ally, in the midst of hardships and temptations, they had given the most remarkable proofs of their faithfulness to the English, who fought then not for dominion, but for actual possession of the little they had in the country. Nothing could exceed the jealousy of the sepoys for the "splendour of the English name." They had not deteriorated of late years. Engaged in constant successful wars they were chivalrous and loyal to the company, their *ma bap*.\* From father to son they looked only to the same profession, entered the same regiment, made it their home, and recounted to succeeding generations the actions of their fathers and relatives who had served in it.

The men were led to daring and courageous deeds by their confidence in the European officers, who were energetic, brave, and skilful,—and in the native officers who were long tried warriors. The native regiments had originally been commanded by captains, fewer European officers being attached to them; but

\* Parent.

the native officers were then younger men. In a climate like that of India the powers of mind and body are more precocious and sooner exhausted than in Europe; man is there in his prime long before he is forty. Indeed, every one in India, whether European or native, must be at his best at from twenty-eight to thirty, and at the age of thirty-five the European should command. The increase in the number of European officers tended to make the native officer of less consideration—to cause the sepoy to become less satisfied with his advice or decision, and desire to refer his case to the European. The rank of native officer was held out to the good and faithful sepoy as a reward, and albeit numbers of those worthy veterans, who had shared in the dangers of many a hard fought action, were unpolished and ignorant so far as literature was concerned, they were equal to their position in the army constituted as it then was. There were bright examples amongst them of men of education and manners, combined with great tact, who possessed unbounded influence over the men, and exerted it for the good of the service. Such were the class of commandants in the infancy of the army, some who were men of property and family, the

descendants of distinguished noblemen and persons of rank, and a few who deserved to be called accomplished native gentlemen. The inferior sort consisted of old sepoys, who, some by merit but as many by luck and good management, had attained a higher rank; who still resided with the men,—eat, drank, and conversed with them nearly on terms of equality,—had their relations and friends amongst them,—intermarried with them,—had carried a musket with many now under them,—and in a word had no other world to be judged by.

Promotion in the native army had not always been exercised with that sound judgment which is so essential. It was nothing new there, any more than in other parts of the world, to see unfit individuals selected to hold places of trust. Undue partiality, or an ignorance which should not exist, may have very prejudicial effects upon the spirit of an army; a proper pride and willingness to obey may soon disappear under influences of this nature. There had been instances of men having been raised to the rank of subadar at once for bringing two hundred recruits to new regiments; these were eyed with considerable jealousy by the other native officers and by the men,



but as promotion to the higher grades was now almost invariably made from the ranks, it became the more necessary to see that the non-commissioned officers were well selected. Passive good qualities were of no service in their case. They might be attentive and active in their own persons on parade, exemplary in their conduct,—yet not have the intelligence, judgment, and temper necessary for command, and the spirit to make them feared and respected by the men, or to prompt the suppression of any mal-practices. Were their motive, in short, rather the fear of displeasing than a zeal for the service, they would be found ready to support discipline, but not to anticipate orders when left to their own resources.

Of the Mooselmaun's those who were descendants of the men of the service were respectable, and imbibed feelings of honour and faithfulness. The native cavalry, a force which had been lately increased, was composed chiefly of Mooselmauns; they were brave soldiers, and formed a fine body of men. The good caste Hindoo was sober, steady, clean, and attentive. The lower castes however were thought by many to be more fit for the rough part of a soldier's life; they

were invaluable as pioneers, when they were always employed actively and in laborious occupations.

Madras infantry sepoy were good marchers; they could march between twenty and thirty miles a day in full marching order for many successive days. They had been known to march forty miles in little more than twelve hours, after winning a battle, and fifty and sixty miles in the twenty-four hours. The weight of their clumsy arms and accoutrements was great; but the mistaken notion of also clothing them more like Europeans had not yet crept in. Great pains were taken with their military education,—recruits were kept many months at drill before they were allowed to join the ranks of the battalion; and in the gymnasium, they were put through various athletic games—such as sword play, wrestling, leaping, running, climbing, and the use of heavy clubs.

All the Madras troops were ready to serve beyond sea,—the families of those men who died on foreign service being entitled to a pension, for one life, of half the sepoy's pay. This was liberal, but not too much,—for the sepoy seldom saved anything, the little money he ever had being swallowed up in conveying his family from place to place. And it was

of no use to say in their case that a soldier should not be married; no such law had ever existed in the Indian army; besides, these families were the great hold upon the sepoy, they kept him steady and "at home,"—and if he ever thought of going wrong in his fealty to the Company, the women, actively as well as passively, made him think better of it. The married men were the best sepoys. But the most important means of attaching the natives to the service was the institution of "Recruit and Pension boys," which had been established in 1780; thirty of the former, and forty of the latter, each on half a sepoy's pay, formed part of every battalion and regiment of cavalry. The sons of deceased native officers and sepoys were enrolled amongst the boys when vacancies occurred, initiated in drill suitable to their age, and brought into the ranks of the battalion when old enough. They thus became intelligent and warlike, and in this way the families of those who had died in the service were honourably supported.

Colonel Arthur Wellesley had said that the army of Madras was in "very high order," and he ascribed this efficiency to the zeal of the regimental officers. Captain Hackle was one of those who were, what

was called, wedded to the service,—and through whose unfailing spirit and sense of justice to the men, they also became thoroughly attached to it. He had hitherto lived, it may be said, for nothing else but his duty; his ruling principle, amid his amusements even, was the good of the service. Devoted to this cause, motives of self-interest only swayed him in connexion with it; he looked to nothing beyond it. Oh! that the officers of the Indian army may ever have, combined with the highest principles of conduct, a ruling ~~leaven~~ <sup>principle</sup> of this public spirit.

