

[Correspondence of the "London Times."]

## THE BRITISH ARMY IN INDIA.

LUCKNOW, April 5.

It must be confessed that our position here, so far as it relates to the general attitude of the British Army in India, is not, at first sight, very satisfactory. Sir Colin Campbell is thought by some to be guilty of great neglect because he is not covering the country with flying columns, and his conduct is reviving old Indian traditions against him. We are actually, it is said, at this moment in danger of having our communications with Cawnpore interrupted at any time, for the enemy are reported to be at Hurha, within two miles of the road between Bunnee and the Ganges, and we hear that some 14,000 men are assembled at Bitowlie, which is situated on a loop of the Gogra, due east of Buraech. "Why does not Sir Colin go out and thrash these fellows?" is the angry demand of all civilians, and of some soldiers.

Well, it is probable that Sir Colin Campbell thinks that, in the first place, his troops would never be able to inflict such punishment on the enemy as would prevent their assembling in another place, and that the efforts of the chiefs will disperse these people. He may object to exposing his soldiers in useless forays, or he may be devising some grand scheme of general suppression. It is useless to deny that, whatever may be the causes of the delay, and whatever may be even its effects, there is one point of view in which its consequences appear deplorable, and that is to be taken from the financial side of the question. Our transport costs about £10,000 per diem. The possession of India will soon become dear, indeed, if this army with its prodigious stores, and its nomad population, its flocks and herds devastating the country—the paralysis of its presence—is to be maintained in a state of inactivity. And what if, after all, this inactivity should be but the prelude to an inevitable hot-weather campaign? For my own humble part, I am of opinion that no valid consideration connected with our position or movements is neglected or overlooked by the Commander-in-Chief, and that he is now acting, or rather is held inactive, under the pressure of questions with the nature of which we are not acquainted, and which it would be futile to pretend at present to investigate.

In some instances our men have exhibited signs and tokens that the license of sieges and storms has produced its usual effect upon discipline. There has been a suspicious upsetting of two treasure tumbrils under a European guard, in the which some few rupees were missing, and paymasters exhibit a preference for natives in the discharge of the delicate duty of convoy, which can only arise from a perverse habit of arguing from a particular to a universal.

In addition to these influences must be estimated the effect of unexpected riches unequally distributed among the men. There are some companies in different regiments which can boast of privates with thousands of pounds' worth in their ranks. One man I heard of who complacently offered to lend an officer "whatsoever he wanted, if he wished to buy over the captain." Others have remitted large sums to their friends; some have "realized," after great strength of mind and body, in holding out against ready rupees and carrying their treasures about them; others are hoarding up bits of glass which they fondly believe to be valuable gems, and they are looking forward to the time when they can sell them for "twice as much as Jem Brown got for his." Ere this letter reaches England, many a diamond, emerald and delicate pearl will have told its tale, in a very quiet, pleasant way, of the storm and sack of the Kaiserbagh. It is just as well that the fair wearers—though jewelry, after all, has a deadening effect on the sensitiveness of the feminine conscience—saw not how the glittering baubles were won, or the scenes in which the treasure was trove. Indeed, it is only truth to tell that most of these interesting memorials of the siege of Lucknow were bought—bargains very often—by officers on the spot from soldiers hot from plunder. And some of these officers have made, literally, their fortunes. There are fine bracelets clasp brawny wrists, the proceeds of which are already devoted to buggies, and dogs, and horses, to Greenwich, and to the Rag, or to Junior, or to the E. I. U. S. C. in delightful anticipations.

There are certain small caskets in battered uniform cases which contain estates in Scotland and Ireland, and snug fishing and shooting boxes in every game-haunted or salmon-frequented angle of the world. There are single jewels which shall meet the demands of Von Stultus & Co., settle that little transaction at the Corner, pay off the injured Smith, and leave a good balance with the agent besides in young Quercus's favor, and Cuspis returns home, if all accounts be true, with quite sufficient to meet the extravagant propositions of old Mrs. Partlet for settlement ten times over. Pleasant times, but apt to make men find the sun too hot.

It is curious to observe how riches develop disease; how one's liver is affected by loot, and what tremendous ravages in one's family, among the nearest and dearest, can be caused by a few crystals of carbon.

The private carrying his musket, and panting along the arid plain, is tormented with visions of a cool interior after the Dutch school—lots of pipes, and pots and taps—himself in the midst—the proprietor of that glorious "public" in his native village—he can be if he can but get home. The weight of the belt round his waist full of rupees and gold mohurs assures him the vision can be

realized, and it is no wonder if he resents the "Fall in there! fall in!" He has taken castles enough, and our good friend of the 38th or 90th feels just as the legionary soldiers in the days of Horace, or as the fierce Sikh beside him, who is mad to be off to his village, and scarcely can be kept quiet with many promises. Two battas, two shares of prize money, the plunder of two cities, and many "pickings by the way," have made some of our men too rich for easy soldiering. Even the 32d, when they were relieved from Lucknow, managed to carry out a considerable quantity of valuables. But just in proportion to the "luck" of some regiments are the misfortunes and consequent dissatisfaction of others. "We did all the fighting, while you got all the loot." I would not be the foe who have to meet the men with that remark in their mouths. Just think of the Connaught Rangers—the 88th—not only without plunder from Delhi or Lucknow, but actually looted themselves by the Gwalior Contingent, and far away from the pleasant ransacking of the Kaiserbagh. However, they and the other regiments engaged in the minor and collateral operations against Lucknow expect to receive their batta, although not actually present at the siege.

Every day adds to the prize property, and it is estimated that the sales will produce £600,000. At one time a discovery of cash is made, at another, plate, silver and gold are found in some ingenious hiding place, which excite some uneasy forebodings that the army won't "get its due;" then a casket of jewels is revealed, or some soldier is obliged to give up his secret store; the Sikhs—ingenious to such a degree, and versed so far in looting that it is said one of them can appraise the value of articles in a house by walking past the hall door, and that they can "smell" gold, silver, and precious stones—have lately taken to exploit the bottom of the Goomtee, and their labors have been rewarded by the recovery of great quantities of rich arms, swords, pistols, matchlocks, rifles, muskets, and articles of various kinds, and some diving and groping excursions in the tanks have been more or less successful.

The town of Cawnpore is said to be full of the plunder of Lucknow, and if the damage done to public buildings, the destruction of private property, the deterioration in value of houses and land, and the results of depopulation could be estimated, it would be found that the capital of Oude has sustained a loss of five or six millions sterling—a loss which it never can by any possibility recover, even if the efforts of our government were devoted to the resuscitation of the corrupt, vicious, and evil-minded inhabitants.

The principal prize agent, Capt. Carnegie, is a man of extraordinary energy, great knowledge of the country, and of much acuteness and ability. It is chiefly owing to his exertions that those additions of which I spoke have been made to the account of prize. The sales take place every morning, from eight till ten o'clock, in the kotwal's, or mayor's house in the Chandnee Choke, or principal street of the city.

Passing through a narrow floorway, you come to a flight of steps which leads you to the usual courtyard, surrounded by buildings on all sides, to be found in all decent Oriental mansions. The principal range is before you, and you pick your way through heaps of rubbish which would delight the heart of Soho, and Houndsditch, and Leicester square, and the parts which there adjacent lie, to the esplanade in front of the colonnade through which access is gained to the apartments. This rubbish consists of all kinds of furniture more or less shattered, baskets of books and rude—sometimes indelicate—drawings, battered chandeliers, cooking utensils, and the debris of a huge city tied up in old shawls, sheets, curtains—the realization of a lunatic's dream of Wardour street, with reminiscences of the New cut.

On the esplanade are heaps of more valuable stuff—arms, and Cashmere, Delhi and Cawnpore work—arms of Damascus and Afghanistan, inlaid cabinets, ivory boxes, models of temples, mosques, ships, brocades, and gold and silver cloths, horse trappings, photographic apparatus, richly-bound and illuminated copies of the Koran and of Persian poems and stories—among which are moving, far more curious and interesting than the things themselves, a crowd of very oddly and variously attired officers, tossing over and examining the different articles, or engaged in friendly competition for a sword, shawl, or rifle, in the hands of the auctioneer, a quick-eyed, smart-tongued Eurasian, who repeats the offers in English and Hindostanee alternately, the latter language being intended for the outside circle of natives, which forms a kind of frame for the gay picture. "This Damasc tulwar, 50 rupees bid; 70, yes, sir; 85 bid; 100 rupees bid," &c. And down comes the blade, which, on examination, turns out to be an old English regulation blade, or one of "Genova," which once hung by the thigh of some Italian adventurer.

The prices are enormous, and in some instances, particularly in shawls, the "takes in" have been worthy of our worst London houses. Paisley and Manchester have much to answer for, and the facility of imitation possessed by our manufacturers has rendered them rather unpopular among certain unlucky officers.

In boring the artesian well in Stockton, California, the borer struck a red wood stump 350 feet below the surface of the ground, and more than 250 feet below the level of the Pacific Ocean. The earth above and below was of stratified clay and sand, which had apparently not been disturbed since its original deposition.

## Naval and Military Preparations of France.

[From the London Times.]

France is undoubtedly arming on a scale, with a method, a system, and a deliberation, truly formidable to all her neighbors,—whether, like ourselves, they have the good fortune to be sheltered from the impending storm under the umbrageous branches of an *entente cordiale*—whether, like Belgium, Piedmont and Spain, in the consciousness of their inability to resist, they listen with no unreasonable trepidation for the first howl of the coming tempest,—or whether, like Austria, they know not how soon they may be compelled to fight for their dominions against a brave and well-disciplined enemy. France is certainly arming, and arming both by land and sea. Her army, already large, is undergoing considerable increase. She is just on the point of completing a railway which connects all her military stations with the fortifications of Cherbourg, a port constructed at enormous pains and at vast expense, and possessing every facility that skill can devise for the simultaneous embarkation of very large bodies of troops. France is, besides, busily engaged in the construction of a great steam fleet, armed and propelled on the very best and newest principles at present developed by the art of war; she is gathering up her colossal strength, and would appear to be on the eve of some vast enterprise, in the prosecution of which that strength is to be put forth to the utmost. Not only is the military element studiously strengthened and increased, but it is beginning to assert a predominance over civilians which shows itself more and more every day, and naturally makes us anxious about our relations with a country in which the balance is so completely pressed down by the superior weight of the military class.

It is in vain that we seek for anything in the present condition of France, which can account for the remarkable proceedings to which we most unwillingly allude. The finances of the country are in a state that must render any naval or military expenditure not absolutely called for by necessity or honor peculiarly inexpedient.

France has but few colonies, and those of inconsiderable extent. She has no large foreign commerce to protect, no refractory India to re-conquer and re-organize. She has nothing to fear from a descent on her coasts from any foreign power. Why, then, is France arming and augmenting her navy?

We have a right to ask the question, for whatever be the enemy against whom the thunderbolt is forged, there is no doubt that these warlike preparations in a time of profound peace tend to inflict upon us, in common with the rest of our neighbors, many of the calamities and miseries of war. If France will insist on increasing her armies and navies, she forces us, her neighbors and her allies, to do the same. We have too much at stake within this little island of ours to be content to exist by the permission and on the sufferance of any ally, however faithful—or of any foreign prince, however magnanimous. If France is determined to arm, we must either be content to lie at her mercy, or prepare to arm too. If she increases her regular army, we can hardly do less than call out and embody our militia. If she insists upon increasing her navy, she forces us, most unwillingly, from the barest considerations of prudence, to undergo the expense of a Channel Fleet. We would, then, take the liberty respectfully to submit to the Emperor Napoleon that it is the sincere wish of this country to be his good friend and true ally; that to this end we have made many sacrifices, and are prepared to make many more; but he asks too much of us if he expects that he is at once to enjoy whatever power, support, or influence his alliance with England may give him, and at the same time to inflict upon us by his vast military and naval preparations a war expenditure which we are most unwilling to incur, and which casts upon us many of the evils of a state of actual hostilities. In politics many things apparently discordant may be made compatible, but it is impossible that two powerful and neighboring nations can at the same time be arming against each other, and united in close alliance and cordial friendship.

## Departure of the Atlantic Telegraph Expedition.

The telegraph squadron, consisting of the *Niagara*, the *Agamemnon*, the *Valorous*, the *Gorgon*, and the *Porcupine*, started from Plymouth Sound at ten o'clock on the morning of the 10th of June, for mid ocean, where the work of submerging the Atlantic Telegraph Cable will be commenced some time between the 16th and 20th inst. The particular point selected is in lat. 52 deg. 2 min. N., and lon. 33 deg. 18 min. W., where the depth of the ocean is 1,600 fathoms. The ships are to keep in company until they arrive at this locality, to prevent the possibility of any delay when they reach their destination. By a glance at the chart of the telegraph plateau it will be seen that the point selected is fifty miles nearer to the coast of Newfoundland than it is to the coast of Ireland; but as the *Niagara* will be obliged to land the cable at the head of Trinity Bay she will have no advantage. That bay is about sixty miles long, so that the spot chosen will be half way between the points of connection.

The weather is as fine as could be wished, and the expedition started under the most favorable auspices.

Ninety additional miles of cable have been placed on the *Niagara* and *Agamemnon* during the past few days, so that there is now on board both ships 2,970 miles, or a little more

than fifty per cent. on the distance between Ireland and Newfoundland.

Among the scientific men on the *Niagara* is Lieutenant the Baron de Boye, one of the Aids of the Grand Duke Constantine, High Admiral of the Russian Navy.

## MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXPEDITION.

The following are the rules which have been drawn up for the mechanical and electrical departments while on the expedition.

First—In case the cable should break after a definite amount—say 250 miles—had been paid out from each ship, the ends are to be re-united after recovering as much as possible, and the paying out is to be renewed unless circumstances may have arisen to induce the engineer to determine otherwise, especially in the event of a larger proportion of slack having been expended than was reckoned upon.

Second—If signals should fail to be received between the paying-out ships, the engineers will continue paying out for at least six hours, and so much longer as the electricians and engineers may deem necessary and desirable.

Third—In case electrical signals fail as the ships approach the land, without other evidence of breakage, soundings at the time being not deeper than two hundred fathoms, the ships are to go on paying out and land the ends.

Fourth—In case the cable break after more than two hundred and fifty miles have been paid out from each ship, and before it has been possible to reach soundings of two hundred fathoms, the ships are to return to Queens-town for orders.

Fifth—The cables are to be united in lat. 52 deg. 2 min. N., lon. 33 deg. 18 min. W.

Sixth—After the cable has been successfully laid, Mr. Field is authorized to dispose of any surplus cable that may remain, at a rate of not less than £75 (\$375) per statute mile of 1,760 yards.

Seventh—After the cable is laid the machinery on board the United States steam frigate *Niagara* is to be taken on to New York and transhipped from the *Niagara* on board a vessel bound for the United Kingdom.

## A Rich Letter from a Congressman.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* has been furnished with a letter written by the Indiana Congressman whose name is attached to it. This man Foley went for English's bill. The *Gazette* vouches for the letter being a perfect copy of the original.—*Cleveland Herald*.

Washington, April 22 58.

Dear friend:—your kind favor of the 14 inst. is to hand. I was glad to hear from you the indication is the Kansas troubles will be settled to day by the democrat party. Which will be a time of rejoicing the administration has all ready reinstated me in full fellowship—if my friend John L. Robinson will consent I will be permitted to act with the democrat Party again the settlement will be on the Great Principles of noninterventions so you will see we poor devils have held our ground well I see from your letter I will have plenty of competitors in the convention well it is a free country they have a right to be candidates. And the people have a right to select the one that will suit them best and if they want a man that will labor for the interest of the masses they will choose myself so I leave them perfectly free to choose for them self

any favor you can render me will be taken kindly and I feel certain I can carry the District—turn me loose in the district I will bring them up to the poles certain. I will help the hold ticket some hundreds in the district. I will be home by the 10 of June and will have a chance to see my friends before the convention comes off and will write my friends on the subject from the custom and circumstances I think I ought to have a chance of the next race—you will do me a kindness by seeing as many of the friends as convenient and enlist them in my favor I have been quite unwell the last week I feel much better to-day—I hope this will find you and family well

your friend JAS. B. FOLEY.

PRINTING DONE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SHEET.—Mr. Moses S. Beach has made an improvement in Hoe's best printing press, by which the sheet, after being printed on one side in the usual way, is immediately drawn back and printed on the other side, from the second form, which takes the place of the balance-weight on the type drum. By this arrangement the sheet is drawn back without checking or changing the ordinary action on any part of the press, and the amount of work done in the same time is thereby doubled. An "Extra Sun" has been struck off as an "experimental sheet," and certainly its appearance indicates that Mr. Beach's invention will prove a success in every important respect. This will prove of vast benefit to the profession.

THE END OF THE WORLD.—A disciple of the prophet Miller has arrived at the conclusion that the present year is to witness the end of all things earthly. This result is reached by a mathematical process. The square root of the cost of Ezekiel's chariot was 8,563. From this, extract "prophetic value" of "scarlet lady of Babylon," 1,282, and we have 7,281. Take from this the cube ram mentioned by the prophet as "pushing westward," 4,757, and we have for remainder, 2,524. Deduct from this "the number of beasts" mentioned in the Apocalypse, 666, and we get the result, 1858, the year in which the end of the world is to take place.—[*Syracuse Journal*.]