

EDITORIALS.

BRITISH INDIA, THE AMEER AND THE CZAR.

ALTHOUGH England has nominally postponed a reckoning with the bold Ameer of Afghanistan until the spring, preparations for the expected conflict are by no means abandoned or delayed. The difficulty is not comprehended in the immediate cause of the dispute. It would seem to be a small affair for the Government of Great Britain to force a barbarian prince, like Shere Ali, to treat its representatives with due respect. Afghanistan could hold no prolonged resistance against the forces of British India, to say nothing of the home army that might be sent to the field. True, the Ameer has at his command a large body of warlike tribes, who would, for a time, fight with savage fury against the troops of Hindostan. And the hardy mountaineers of Afghanistan would prove, in their natural defenses, a formidable foe for the natives of the softer climate of Bombay and Madras. But the vast power of England would be behind the latter, their numbers would be so much superior, they would have the benefit of all the improved appliances of modern civilized warfare, and in many respects possess immense advantages over the invaded, however fierce and brave. The British met with a terrible repulse in 1842, when an army of 16,000 men was driven out of Cabool clear across the mountains, with immense loss. But times and circumstances are now greatly changed, and when war is declared there is little doubt that it will be prosecuted with energy and success.

But this is not a mere question of chastising an insolent ruler who has treated with indignity a British embassy. It is virtually a stand against Muscovite strategy and Russian advance towards the East. Behind Shere Ali is the shadow of the Czar of all the Russias. And that is what alarms the British Government, and prompts the movement which is causing so much agitation among all the European Powers.

Early in September a grand durbar was held in the Afghanistan capital, at which 42 chiefs who bow to the sway of the Ameer, were received in camp by the monarch and his generals. He informed the assembly that the "Padisha of all the Russias" had sent him an ambassador to draw closer the bonds of friendship between the Russians and Afghans. They received the announcement with enthusiasm. The Mesurdar, or Minister of Justice, then descended upon the power of Russia, the extent of the country and the might of its armies, when the Ameer exclaimed to the chiefs: "Go back to your brethren, file your sabres, sharpen your swords and saddle your horses, so that you may be ready to enter on the campaign well armed, in case you are called on to meet the enemies of your country." A council was then held on the financial and military condition of the country, and the chiefs, six days afterward, returned to their tribes to make warlike preparations. This was just previous to the refusal of the Ameer to receive the British Embassy. The account of the durbar was furnished by a military correspondent of the Vienna *Fremdenblatt* and, is very significant, in view of the attitude of Shere Ali; it is evident that he has for some time been preparing for the issue to come.

Russia has been gradually pushing her line further and further toward the East. Afghanistan is bounded on the north by Turkestan, which has for its northern boundary Russian possessions in Asia. Two of the Khanates in Turkestan—Bokhara and Khiva—are under the influence of Russia, and their fortified cities are said now to contain 55,000 picked Muscovite troops. Here then is aid for the Ameer as soon as necessity requires. But Russia not only counts on the determined resistance of Shere Ali, encouraged by her moral and material support, but on the possible disaffection of other native princes of India, stirred up to rebellion and active hostility by the example of the Afghan chiefs. The Mohammedans of Bengal, who number at least twenty millions,

are known to be in sympathy with their co-religionists in the mountains of Afghanistan. The Sepoys during the great Indian mutiny were hesitating whether or not to join Dost Mohammed. Failure in the onset of the campaign against the Ameer would in all probability set the whole of India in a flame, and Persia, which joins Afghanistan on the west, would not be slow to join in a general uprising, having in view the prospect of driving the British out of Hindostan. All this is perceived by the wily Muscovite, and it fits into Russian designs and Russian Eastern policy.

The British possessions in India are vast and valuable, and every threatened encroachment upon them is, naturally, watched with a jealous eye. We give here a few statistics, for which we are indebted to a report made to General P. H. Sheridan by General G. A. Forsyth:

"British India contains 943,406 square miles, with a population of 193,223,468 souls; and is divided into twelve provinces named and controlled as follows:

1. The province of Bengal, with a population of 66,000,000, governed by a Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council at Calcutta, and under the immediate eye of the Viceroy;

2. The province of Madras, under a Governor, Council, and Legislative Council, with a population of 31,000,000.

3. The Provinces of Bombay and Scinda, under a Governor, Council, and Legislative Council; with a population of 16,350,000.

4. The Northwest Provinces, under a Lieutenant-Governor; with a population of 30,700,000.

5. The Punjab, under a Lieutenant-Governor; with a population of 17,000,000.

Then come the smaller Provinces of Oude, the Central Provinces, British Burmah, Mysore, and Berar, all under Chief Commissioners; and the smaller Provinces of Ajmer and Carg, under the General Government of India.

"In addition to these provinces, there are a number of feudatory states and provinces, in all nearly 400, though some of them are very small, which pay tribute to, and to a certain extent are controlled by, the English government of India.

"A rough calculation shows the native states to cover an area of 610,000 square miles, with an estimated population of 55,000,000, yielding a revenue of \$70,180,000, but paying to the Anglo-Indian government only \$3,288,690."

The feudatories named above acknowledge the supremacy of the Indian government and pay a small tribute, but are each independent States, with their own armies. They might become a source of great annoyance if hostile, during an outbreak, but in the event of the success of British arms, would be easily crushed at once, or rather absorbed into the Indian Government.

The management of affairs by England has been of great benefit to the country, tending to an internal development which would perhaps never have been accomplished under native domination. A system of irrigation has been inaugurated, by which millions of acres have been brought under cultivation. Over 6,000 miles of canals has been constructed, independent of numerous branch ditches, and the small water tax imposed brings in an annual revenue of about \$2,000,000. There are 7,000 miles of railroad in good order and active operation which, though built by private enterprise, was backed by British support, the Government of India guaranteeing four and a half per cent. on the stock. Gen. Forsyth puts the cost of the roads at \$493,650,000 gold. He says:

"The beds of the roads are as solid as it is possible to build them; the culverts, drains, and bridges of cut stone, brick and iron; the depots all built of brick, and flagged with cut stone; and the railway shops constructed in the most solid manner. Some of the railway bridges in this country are marvels of size and strength; and the newly-opened Alexandria bridge, near Wirzabad, is the longest railway bridge in the world, being something over 9,000 feet in length, and supported on ninety-seven brick piers."

The financial resources of India are ample and well managed. The gross revenue for one year amounted to \$243,062,326.76, and the gross

expenditure was \$234,516,474.28. Education has received praise-worthy encouragement. On this point Gen. Forsyth says:

"A small tax is now assessed in certain provinces for maintaining schools; and, in the Province of Bengal, a simple plan of primary instruction has been started in every district. The number of these village schools in 1873 was 10,787, with 258,728 pupils; and the total number of children attending the primary schools in the Province of Bengal is over 853,000. In the Northwest Provinces there are 3,630 village schools and 4,609 unaided native vernacular schools. In the Punjab there are 1,046 Government schools, with an average attendance of 51,000 pupils; and, in the Bombay Presidency, there are 3,595 schools, with an attendance of 182,147 pupils. In addition to these public primary schools, there are not less than ten Government colleges, and over 200 high schools, to say nothing of private academies for boys and girls of European parentage."

The army is well disciplined, admirably drilled and ably commanded. The European division numbers 60,000, and the native, with European officers, from 130,000 to 160,000. The artillery is all British, as it is not considered good policy to train the natives in the use of field guns.

This will give our readers some idea of the Indian situation and Indian resources. The railway system of the country, with its canals and the post roads, which are pronounced the finest in the world, afford splendid facilities for intercommunication, and make the opportunities for the movement of troops and the transportation of supplies far superior to those of 36 years ago, when England met with the Afghanistans reverse, but which even at that time was retrieved by Gen. Pollock, with a smaller force than that which was driven before the foe.

War with the Ameer will be no child's play. It will in all probability involve an Anglo-Russian conflict, which will embroil all Europe and materially affect the greatest portion of the Eastern hemisphere. Lord Beaconsfield holds the power to open the flood-gates which may deluge two continents in blood. But he, as well as every man in high as well as low estate, is in the hands of One who controls the issues of all things. Beaconsfield is himself in as critical a condition as the Eastern question, and his death, which is not improbable, may turn the tide that now threatens the peace of the world.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

A Brooklyn mechanic named S. C. Salisbury, who has been experimenting for 20 years on the production of cheap fuel for generating steam, has at length triumphed, and a recent test made at the Brooklyn Navy Yard has established the success of the production. Following is a description of the new fuel, which is likely to produce a great revolution in the manner of generating steam and in the manufacture of iron, glass and other necessities:

"The fuel is made of the residuum of petroleum and coal-tar, which is mixed to about the consistency of molasses. It is conducted from the barrel to the furnace by means of a small gas pipe. At the end of this pipe as it enters into the door of the furnace is a funnel-shaped apparatus. As the fuel enters this funnel it comes in contact with a current of highly superheated steam, which atomizes the liquid so that as it leaves the machine, it induces the required amount of oxygen to enter and mix at the point of ignition. Thus the atomized fuel shoots, in a fierce but delicate spray, into the blazing furnace. The brick arches of the great furnaces are kept at a white heat, and a pure white flame flashes along the whole length, registering a heat of 5,000 degrees, melting pig iron in ten minutes, and making liquid glass in two hours instead of sixteen. All that there is to maintain this extraordinary heat is the slight spray darting in from the little furnace, which comes just within the door."

The effects of the introduction of the petroleum fuel will be great. The production of this article is immensely in excess of the de-

mand. But this process will utilize the surplus and stimulate the oil trade, which has lately languished and returned little or no profit to many investors. Ocean steamships, by using the petroleum fuel, will save the large space now used for coal and utilize it for freight, thus making a double profit, as the new fuel is cheaper than coal. Another recommendation is, that it makes no cinders, no dust, and emits no impurities.

But the greatest value of its use, connected with the machinery invented by Mr. Salisbury, will be seen in the manufacture of iron. A leading iron merchant says:

"With the mechanism invented by Mr. Salisbury, a blast furnace of 30 tons per day will convert its liquid iron into blooms or ingots of wrought iron or steel at a cost so trifling that it enhances the value of pig-metal 100 per cent."

In this process, sulphur and carbon, which are unconquerable foes of the iron-maker, are entirely eliminated. The carbon is burnt out in from eight to ten minutes, and every particle of sulphur is taken up. Here are some points of contrast between the new method and the old, furnished by a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*:

"1. It has always been impossible to free the iron from carbon and sulphur with the old methods.

2. Ten charges are run off in a day and a night with the present process. The same number will be run off in ten hours with the new. One puddler will turn out in ten hours the amount that four puddlers and helpers now turn out in twenty-four hours.

3. The furnaces will be kept hot for three months continuously, as the fire brick, becoming intensified by the intense heat, will last that long. Under the present method—owing to the action of the sulphur and the necessity of scraping off the fine cinders and ashes, which form clinkers on the brick—the latter must be removed every day, and new hearth made, during which time the earth is allowed to cool.

4. Not only is the quality (adhesiveness) of the iron improved by the new process, but the quantity is increased 100 pounds to the ton of material.

5. One-half the labor in finishing is saved.

6. The heavy labor of handling coal and removing ashes is dispensed with.

7. The cost of fuel is reduced one-half, reckoning coal at only \$3 per ton.

We hope that all this will prove correct in practice, that the success of the test at Brooklyn will be repeated wherever the new fuel and the new system are adopted, and that the inventor will himself reap a rich reward for his indefatigable labors and useful experiments.

A CONTRAST.

THE following is clipped from the New York *Herald*, and is that paper's report of a recent scene in a court room of that "Christian" metropolis:

"Halsey plays the piano whenever he can get an engagement to do so for an evening. He is not much to look at nor are his garments cut in the latest fashion. Still he has well nigh broken the heart of one poor girl and is in a fair way to do the same thing for another. He stood between them in the Jefferson Market Police Court. One was a brunette, attired in black silk *en train*; the other was a faded blonde in cotton garments, shabby, but neat and clean. The brunette was three or four years older than the blonde, who is not more than twenty."

Halsey was called on to explain his relations to the ladies, who had fallen out about him; hence their appearance in court, the brunette as plaintiff and the blonde as defendant.

"I'm bored to death by this girl, Judge," said he, referring to the blonde. "She has followed me about for the last year, and won't go home to her folks. Did I live with her? Yes; that is, I visited her and paid her rent when I could. Do I pay attention to this other lady? Yes, sir; we are very good friends. I don't care for this girl."

"Here the blonde whom he had thus repudiated fell on the floor in-sensible. Poor thing! Her babe

was born in July, died shortly after, and she had not known house, home nor food for the past four nights. Halsey had deserted her for the brunette, who is a flourishing dressmaker.

"Judge Otterbourg gave the forsaken girl some money and sent her home to her friends in New Jersey."

The brute who was the cause of the evil that happened to these two unfortunate girls, suffered no legal penalty for his crimes. He went away uncondemned of the law, while one of his victims was helped back to her home by the hand of charity, and the other went away with him to continue a life of shame.

Now if this Halsey had married these two young women, who both seem to have had an ardent affection for him; if instead of casting one of them off and still living in lust with the other, at liberty to discard her when as tired of her as of the first, he had taken them both into family relationship, with a sacred promise to treat them as part of himself for ever, caring for and educating their offspring and acting a husband and a father's part, he would, when brought into court, have been committed for trial, and on proof of the dual marriage have been cast into prison and branded as a bigamist.

And this is "Christian" consistency. Halsey the seducer of two trusting girls goes scot free to revel in debauchery, without a word of reproach from judge or journal. But if he had been Halsey, the loving, faithful husband of two wives, he would have to suffer the penalties of a malefactor, and every paper and pulpit in New York would have howled for an example to be made of him. This is the "justice" which "Christian" laws, "Christian" priests and "Christian" editors boast of as part of the "higher civilization" of the nineteenth century.

SAW FOR HIMSELF.

PUBLIC opinion concerning the "Mormons" has been greatly modified through the visits of numerous intelligent ladies and gentlemen who do their own thinking, and are able to discern the falsehoods which are industriously circulated concerning an industrious and peaceable community, whose wickedness only consists in having a different creed from that of the old orthodox Christian sects. The following from the Clinton (Pa.) *Republican*, is one of the many tributes that unprejudiced travelers pay to the people of Utah:

"Col. W. H. Moore, of this city, who accompanied the Territorial Committee—under the leadership of Senator Patterson, of South Carolina—on a visit to the far west, returned home last week well pleased with his trip. Among other points of interest visited by the Committee was Salt Lake City, the headquarters of Mormonism. The Colonel assures us that the Mormons are fearfully libelled by the press of the east—that they are a peaceful, happy, contented people, and that the women are satisfied with polygamy. They have one of the finest cities in the United States and are wealthy. The Colonel is highly pleased with California—thinks it the greatest State in the Union. He is looking well, and was no doubt physically benefited by his trip across the continent."

A DAMNING CRIME.

THE following appears as a special to the Chicago *Tribune*, from Detroit, Michigan:

"A lively fluttering has been caused among a certain class of physicians by the vigorous war the authorities have inaugurated against the abortionists. The crimes of the latter have reached an alarming extent of late, and so the grand jury—the first one empaneled here in many years—is investigating them. The first fruit is a true bill against Dr. James W. Hollywood, now awaiting trial on similar charges. Some of the developments made before the grand jury were absolutely horrifying, and have created a great sensation here. A servant employed at the house of a suspected abortionist testified that young women came