

The Indian Empire:

ITS HISTORY AND PEOPLE—THE MOGUL DYNASTY—THE PORTUGUESE—EAST INDIA COMPANY; ITS RISE AND PROGRESS; COMMERCIAL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL POWER—THE INDO-BRITISH ARMY, ITS CONSTITUTION—CAUSES OF REVOLT—THE 'RYOTS'—LAND AND SALT TAX—MODE OF GOVERNING—BISHOP HEBER'S REMARKS, &c.

Lyng between the eighth degree and thirty-fifth degree north latitude, covering an area of 1,230,000 square miles, and jutting out in a triangular-shaped peninsula into the Indian Ocean, lies Hindostan, India, or the East Indies. Here rise, in all their majestic proportions, 25,000 feet above the level of the sea, the snow-capped Himalaya Mountains; and here, too, roll the waters of the 'Sacred Ganges,' into which many a fair victim has plunged to rise no more, amid the applause of a superstitious multitude. One hundred and fifty-five millions of people inhabit this diversified and extensive tract of country, as mixed in manners, language and physiognomy as can be found in any equal portion of the world.

The Hindoos, whose history stretches into the realms of fable, were the original inhabitants. They seem to have been a simple, industrious and ingenious people, scrupulously adhering to their system of castes, and besides morning and evening purification in the Ganges, (a practice worthy of imitation by Christian people in less sacred rivers) appeasing Seeb, the destroyer of all, and looking after 330,000,000 of inferior gods and goddesses, they appear to have cared but little who ruled, provided they were left in peace to pray.

The Hindoos fell an easy prey to the Mahomedan Afghans, a warlike tribe on the northwest of India; and they, in their turn, to the Moguls or Tartars, who, in 1526, established their seat of authority at Delhi. This once magnificent city covered a space of twenty square miles, and the ruins of its ancient splendor excite the wonder of the modern traveler.

The Mogul dynasty was almost subverted by the Persians, and numerous dependent nabobs, taking advantage of the distracted state of the country, set up for themselves, to be, in turn, subdued by more crafty and powerful adventurers.

In 1498, the Portuguese, under Vasco De Gama, was the first to discover the route to India around the Cape of Good Hope, established themselves on the coast of Malabar, and, for a century, maintained the exclusive trade of the whole commerce of the East. Trying to reconcile God and Mammon, they were supplanted by the Dutch, who devoted themselves entirely to the service of the latter; and these were rapidly acquiring riches, power and territory, when, in the year 1600, the East India Company was formed in England. From that time to the present, this great and wealthy corporation has swayed the destinies of India; and, as late events have called attention to this part of the globe, a brief history of its rise and progress will not be uninteresting.

The only object this company had in view at first, was to secure a share in the commerce of the country, and by their craftiness and perseverance they obtained the 'lion's share'—having, step by step, become masters of the entire resources of Hindostan.

They first asked permission to buy the products of India, and to sell those of Europe; then to build factories, which they soon converted into armed garrisons, and in order to carry the blessings of civilization among this benighted people, they fostered native jealousy, set nabob against nabob, and in the end took advantage of both.

They disguised their ulterior views so well that in 1715 we find them granted liberty to purchase thirty-seven townships, in addition to what they held in Calcutta, besides important commercial privileges which they possessed, and had gradually been extended. Thirty-three years after, seeing their position so firm, and finding through the native jealousy, carefully fomented, a favorable opportunity to still further strengthen and extend their dominion, they assumed military and political power.

In this struggle for ascendancy they had a competitor in France; and then commenced, on the part of both these civilized and Christian nations, a series of aggressions, exactions and butcheries that have no parallel in history. It was then, for the first time, that the sepoys were instructed in European tactics, and, as country had no hold on their affections, they fought for whoever paid them best.

Finally the English conquered, and by the sword, bribery, treachery and confiscation, ruled supreme; accused by their own countrymen 'of having sold every monarch, prince and State in India, broken every contract, and ruined every state that trusted them.'

In 1749 the nabob of Tanjore was, on a flimsy pretext, driven out for the purpose of getting some of his territory, and restored on making still further concessions.

They deposed, in 1757, the nabob of Bengal, and stripped him of large and rich provinces, and from that period, down to the presentation of the koh-i-noor to the Queen of England, in 1850, the government of the East India Company has been a continuous scene of spoliation, deception and oppression, squeezing out of one hundred and thirty millions of the unfortunate natives, the enormous annual revenue of over \$100,000,000, and whose enslavement they perpetuate by an army of 302,400 men.

They have reduced the bulk of the population to the condition of Pariahs; the better class and Indo-British they have grossly outraged by their brutal and bullying demeanor, (see Bishop Heber's correspondence) and those of the natives, who compose the 'bone and sinew' of their immense army, they have treated so despotically, that no wonder we see 'the right arm of England,' from time to time paralyzed.

Upon the Indian army depends the possession of British India. It is composed of three distinct armed corps; the army of Bengal, the army of Madras, the army of Bombay; the component parts of which may be seen from the following summary:

Table with 2 columns: Unit and Count. Artillery - 15,782; Native cavalry - 26,094; Native infantry - 234,412; Engineers - 4,575; Queen's troops - 21,934; Total - 302,797.

The cost of maintaining this enormous force amounts annually to over \$50,000,000.

It will be seen from the above that the sepoys, or native Indian troops, compose the bulk of the Indo-British army. They are brave, obstinate and superstitious, clinging, with irremovable tenacity, to their peculiar practices of religion, and resenting any injustice or affront offered to their prejudices with more than ordinary vindictiveness. Their frequent mutinies have left the British-Indian possessions not worth a year's purchase; and from late accounts it may be that before this, they have taken summary vengeance on those they look upon as 'aliens in blood, language and religion,' and whose persecutions towards their ancestors are keenly remembered.

It is not alone the effort made to force the sepoy to bite off the end of 'greased' cartridges, which in itself is insulting to his caste prejudices, the strongest feelings of the native Indian, but the conduct of British officers and the East India Company has been such as to foment a general revolt. That the former have acted dishonorably and with unbecoming hauteur towards the troops, and the latter with undue severity towards the native population, is to be seen from the debates in parliament and the many published statements of travelers; and we may expect a continuation of revolts as long as injustice and tyranny are practised.

Slavery exists to a large extent, and so great is the distress of the natives, they are frequently obliged to sell their offspring to preserve them from starvation. The 'Ryots,' or cultivators of the soil are reduced to the lowest starving point, and between unbearable taxation and official exactions, have scarcely wherewithal to feed and cover their bodies. Here is a picture of one of that class drawn by the author of 'Ancient and Modern India.'

'The Bengal ryot is described in England as "feeding on rice and wearing a light cotton frock," but the fact is he lives upon coarse rice and dall, (vetches) for good vegetables and fish would be luxuries to him. His dress consists of a bit of a rag around his loins, and a slender sheet called chudder. His bed is a coarse mat and pillow; his dwelling a low thatched roof; his only property an uncouth plow and two badly fed bullocks, and one or two waterpots called latabs, with a little seed called beej dhan.

From early morn to noon, and from noon till sunset he toils, and still he is in appearance a haggard, poverty smitten, wretched creature, often fasting for days and nights without food, or having only one miserable meal in twenty-four hours. The East India Company once had the power of preventing much of this misery; but instead of doing so, have only riveted the chains on the ryots." And this is the condition of over 100,000,000 of people, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

No wonder that millions of families in England have been enriched by the slavery of the unfortunate natives, and no wonder that they should try and rid themselves of so inhuman a degradation.

Besides the land tax, which in Hindoo times was fixed at one-sixth, but which under English dominion has been raised to one-half, there is the salt monopoly, which raises the price of this primary necessity to three times its value, thereby forcing the natives to use the most unhealthy substitutes.

The affairs of the East India Company are regulated by twenty-four directors with a chairman and a board of control sitting in London; the English government appointing the governor general, under whose control are the presidencies of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Agia.

The relations which subsist between the company and the tributary and dependent States are thus described:

'The company undertake the defence of the dependent princes' territories against all enemies, domestic or foreign. He is bound, on the other hand, to enter into no alliance with other sovereigns or States without the company's consent, and he pays them a certain annual subsidy out of his revenues for their protection, while he generally keeps up an army at the same time for the maintenance of internal tranquillity.

In some cases, in place of paying a subsidy, the prince cedes a portion of his territories, of which the company draw the entire taxes. The company keep a resident at the prince's court, who is entitled to demand an audience at any time; and by this agent the company do, in fact, interfere pretty regularly in the internal concerns of the State, particularly in settling the succession to the throne.

These dependent princes are mere puppets of the company; they are used as tax gatherers, and pensioned off and dethroned at pleasure.

We shall conclude this sketch with a few remarks from Bishop Heber and others, to show the social character of this extraordinary people:

'This remarkable people have preserved their national character, their religion, manners, customs and habits of life for thousands of years, under the dominion of foreigners. They are a temperate, frugal and hospitable people, generally of a brownish complexion, except the higher classes, who are almost as white as European.

The most extraordinary peculiarity in the Hindoos is their division into castes. There are four castes, and it is strictly enjoined by the Hindoo religion that no transition from one to the other

shall take place; no connection between them by marriage or any other way is allowed, and no individual of the one class can assume the habits or engage in the occupations of another. Even the difference of food is precisely marked out. The three higher classes are prohibited altogether the use of flesh; the fourth is allowed all kinds except beef; all others are outcasts and may eat what they please.'

From this may be inferred the obstinacy of the sepoys, who belong to the higher classes, in not touching 'greased' cartridges. Bishop Heber thus writes of them:

'To say that the Hindoos or Mussulmans are deficient in any essential feature of a civilized people, is an assertion which I can scarcely suppose to be made by any who have lived with them; their manners are at least as pleasing and courteous as those in the corresponding stations of life among ourselves; their houses are larger and full as convenient as ours; their architecture is at least as elegant; nor is it true that in mechanic arts they are inferior to the general run of inferior nations.

Their goldsmiths and weavers produce as beautiful fabrics as our own; they are most successful imitators of our patterns and products, and the ships built by native artists at Bombay are notoriously as good as any which sail from London or Liverpool.'

Another writer says:

'The Mahomedans of India are more intelligent and possess greater strength and courage than the Hindoos; they are also more proud, jealous, revengeful and rapacious, and their fidelity is much less relied on by the British government. In some districts the Mahomedan population is nearly as numerous as that of the Hindoos, and both seem to live in a state of mutual amity.'

Speaking of the arrogance of the British settlers towards the natives, Bishop Heber remarks:—'Of this foolish, surly, national pride, I see but too many instances daily. We are not guilty of injustice or wilful oppression, but we shut out the natives from our society, and a bullying, insolent manner is continually assumed in speaking to them.'—[Herald.]

MORE OF THE ABSURDITIES OF CHOIR SINGING.—A correspondent of the North Western Advocate, Chicago, who urges the necessity of a reform in church music, says:

Our amateur choir singers are too fond of 'executing' difficult pieces, and contending common people with reverberating resonances. The rector of St. Bardolph's takes off this style most laughably, in describing the singing of the following stanzas:

True love is like that precious oil
Which poured on Aaron's head,
Ran down his beard, and o'er his robes
Its costly moisture shed.

In the prodigious effort of this performance, the ear-splitting combination of the several voices hardly bore a resemblance to that oily current poured on Aaron's head, and which
Ran down his beard, and o'er his robes—
Ran down his beard—his robes
And o'er his robes—
Ran down his beard—ran down his
o'er his robes—
His robes, his robes, ran down his beard—
Ran down his—
o'er his robes,
Ran down his beard—
his robes—
Its costly moist—
Ran down his beard—
ure—beard—his—beard—his—shed.
Ran down his beard—his—down—
His robes—its costly moist—his beard
ure shed—his—cost—his—robes—ure shed
Its c-o-s-t-l-y-m-o-i-s-t-u-r-e—shed!

The late Bishop Seabury being asked his opinion of this performance, replied that he had paid no attention to the music, but that his sympathies were so much excited for poor Aaron that he was afraid he would not have a hair left.

INCREASE OF TIPLING IN AMERICAN CITIES.—The Philadelphia Sun says, truly, that indiscriminate drinking among our young men must eventually make its mark upon the population of our cities. We can see it already betraying itself in the rising generation. It is impossible for any man to drink even pure liquor six or seven times a day without suffering severely in constitution. And when he transmits this impaired constitution to his son, who in turn impairs it still further by the same course, it requires little foresight to see that we are preparing a population for our cities that will not in physical frame be much better than the wretched Aztecs.

This love of drink and bar rooms is every day increasing. Every day sees fresh saloons starting up in our midst. Every day sees our youth becoming more and more the victims of this habit, for really we think it more a habit than a provision. It is no love for joviality that tempts them, except in few cases. It is not the exuberance of youth. It is not the evanescent impulse of the gay young fellow who is sowing his wild oats. It is, as has been said, a cold, deliberate, confirmed habit. No atmosphere of recklessness or jolty surrounds the drinking groups, except on occasion; and no pearls of merriment atone for the act by proving that it is at least unalloyed. A grim and melancholy air pervades each countenance. The drinks are poured out, the glasses raised and touched with a leathsome air of custom, and each man swallows his portion with the same impassive countenance he would wear if he were drinking a glass of plain water.

All the concomitants that partially redeem or excuse drinking, as far as it can be redeemed or excused, are wanting in this sad and formal ceremony. The actors drink, not because they love it, and want to be merry, but because they have been

accustomed to it ever since they were boys, and it has now become a habit which is more imperative than if it were a passion.

Sixth Quorum of Seventies

Will meet on the first Saturday in January, 1858, at the house of W. Wordsworth, one door east of Ballo's Hall, 14th Ward, at half-past six p.m. Punctuality expected. GEO. SIMS, clerk of Quorum.

Third Quorum of Seventies.

The third quorum of Seventies are hereby notified that meetings of said quorum will be held at the residence of Wm. S. Godbe, on East Temple street, 13th Ward, on the first and third Sundays of each month, at six o'clock p.m. A punctual attendance is requested. Members residing at a distance are requested to report themselves and forward their genealogies that the record may be complete.—By order of the Council, E. G. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

Seventh Quorum of Seventies

Meet in the north west room of the Council House, G. S. L. City, on the first and third Saturdays of each month, at half-past six o'clock p.m. All members of said quorum, who can make it convenient, are required to attend.

Those who cannot attend will please forward their genealogies immediately, that a proper report of the quorum may be made to the General Clerk.—By order, JOHN G. LYNCH, Clerk.

Married:

At E. T. City, on the 8th Nov., 1857, by President Hezekiah Mitchell, Mr. SAMUEL W. ORME and Miss SARAH CROSS.

In Fort Cedar, Cedar valley, Nov. 29, by Elder John Leishman, JAMES A. LEISHMAN and CATHERINE WHITE THOMAS.

At Jordan Mills branch, on Saturday, Dec. 19th, by Elder J. V. Long, HARMON CUTLER and AGNEE MCGREGOR.

Died:

At South Fort, Cedar valley, on the 3d inst., JOHN MAYBURY.

He was baptized in Nauvoo by the Prophet Joseph and emigrated to this Territory in 1817.

In this city, Nov. 26th, LEWIS NEELY, aged 52 years, 1 month and 25 days.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Take Notice and Save Costs.

ALL Persons indebted to James S. Kimball, late deceased, are requested to call and settle the same without delay with me, as I have the settlement of the same. JOHN B. KIMBALL. 42-4

CANCERS! CANCERS!

ALL Persons afflicted with Cancers can find relief by applying to me at my residence, in the 13th Ward, as I have recently returned from the East with a stock of medicines for the cure of that most fatal disease. (42-3) P. H. YOUNG.

GOT AWAY

FROM Major Snow's command, on Bear river, a Horse COLT, four years old, small size, with snuff colored nose, some small white spots on the back made by the saddle; also, harness marks; no brand visible. Whoever will deliver said colt at A. P. Rockwood's, commissary general; or to me, or give information where I can get him, will be liberally rewarded. 42-3 W. H. N. SAGERS, Tooele City.

Look Here Everybody!

I HAVE Removed my Goods to three doors west of Jennings and Winder's, Meat Market, where I would be pleased to see all who wish to buy goods, and particularly those who have little tickets in the drawer which were to have been paid 'to-narrow,' and have now been due from six to twelve months.

P.S. Those who have forgotten that they are owing me will probably find their names with the amount of their indebtedness in a list at the post office door and in the 'Deseret News,' if not attended to immediately, for I am tired of continually dunning. 42-12 JNO. B. KIMBALL.

"THE MORMON."

AS I have a good deal owing to me throughout the Territory, I take this method of communicating to the Subscribers to "The Mormon" that I should be very much obliged, if it was convenient for them, to make a settlement.

By referring to the published terms of the paper, it will be seen that the price is two dollars in advance. This two dollars was cash and not trade at trade prices, and everywhere, except in Utah, this rule has been complied with. I have consulted with competent authority on this subject, who state that as I had cash in advance from all others, the citizens of Utah ought cheerfully and promptly—after waiting for one, two and three years—to pay in produce. I am also informed that I ought to have two bushels of wheat delivered for each volume.

It may be necessary to state that the paper was continued this present year for near eight months, for which the Subscribers are charged one bushel and a peck of wheat. It is true that all have not as yet arrived, yet this is not my fault as they were printed and mailed by me according to order, and are only kept back by the fraud of Uncle Sam. It will be considered therefore both more just and easy for a number of people to separately bear a small part than for one to bear the entire loss, after having fulfilled all the duties and responsibilities according to order.

I shall feel obliged if subscribers in the city will call at my residence in the city—14th ward—and make settlement.

The Bishops will confer a favor upon me by assisting to arrange these matters.—Very respectfully,

JOHN TAYLOR, El. Mormon. I concur in the above prices and think they are reasonable and just, and request the Bishops to aid in the collection. (42-3) EDWD. HUNTER.

WHEAT AND CLOTHING.

BRING along your substantial Clothing and Exchange on liberal terms for wheat, corn, cattle, pork and other domestic products, at the Deseret Store.

For the purpose of a more equal distribution of clothing throughout the settlements, it has been suggested by the First Presidency that clothing of every description be deposited at the Deseret Store, and those who are in need to bring in their grain, &c., and be prepared to make the exchange for the articles needed.

Let everybody look over their wardrobes, turn out their drawers and boxes, and see what can be collected to supply the present wants of a large portion of this community.

P.S. In consequence of the Annual State Fair being held at the Deseret Store, the premises will be closed on Friday the 25th inst. and re-opened for business Oct. 6th.