

EDITORIALS.

THE BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY.

As early as 1553, in the reign of Edward VI., the English endeavored to open commercial intercourse with India, which previously had been monopolized by the Italians, the Turks, the Portuguese and the Dutch. But the English expeditions, sent overland, failed through lack of knowledge of the country. Futile attempts to reach India were next made north-westerly by sea, and in 1581 the English Turkish Company vainly endeavored to reach there overland. The Pope, as chief of Christendom, had granted to the Portuguese the exclusive right to pass around the Cape of Good Hope. The desire for the wealth of the Indies, the arbitrary closing of the Portuguese markets against the British and the Dutch, and the impossibility of going northward to India, caused the British merchants to disregard the Pope's bull, and to proceed to India by the forbidden route. In 1582 the first Englishman, Captain Stephens, sailed to India by the Cape of Good Hope. Sir Francis Drake and Thomas Cavendish followed round Cape Horn, the latter in 1586, with a small squadron fitted at his own expense. He explored all the Indian Ocean as far as the Philippines, returning in 1588. In 1593 two Portuguese carracks, laden with riches of the Indies, with charts and other important documents, fell into the hands of the English. This facilitated the formation of a company of London merchants in 1599, with a capital of £30,133, and on the last day of the next year the company received a charter for fifteen years, from Queen Elizabeth, under the title of the "Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading with the East Indies." The charter granted the exclusive right of trading to all countries from the Cape of Good Hope eastward to the Straits of Magellan, except those possessed by friendly European powers. Thomas Smythe, Esq., was the first governor, assisted by twenty-four directors named in the charter. They were empowered to elect a governor, directors, and other office-bearers; to make laws for their government; to inflict punishments, corporeal or pecuniary, upon those in their employ, such punishment to be within the laws of Great Britain; to export all goods duty free for four years; to export foreign coins as bullion to the amount of £30,000 a year, £6,000 of the same being previously received in the mint; providing that the company must import within six months from the conclusion of every voyage after the first an amount of specie equal to that before exported. The charter might be cancelled after two years' notice if found to be inimical to the public advantage.

The first expedition sailed from Torbay, in 1601, in command of Captain Lancaster. It consisted of five ships, of from 130 to 600 tons, cargo of bullion, iron, tin, broadcloths, cutlery, glass, etc., and ships and cargo were valued at £69,091. The next year it arrived at Acheen, Sumatra. Lancaster made a treaty with the kings of Acheen and Bantam, and returned to the Downs in 1603, with a cargo of pepper and other produce, also a richly laden Portuguese carrack of 980 tons, which a Dutch vessel helped him to take. Expeditions of similar size and value were ventured for several years. The profits for the first eight years were 171 per cent., but a voyage lasted from two and a half to four years, long credits were given, and six or eight years elapsed from the beginning of a voyage until its accounts were settled.

In 1607 Captain Hawkins was sent to endeavor to establish commercial intercourse with the Great Mogul, but failed, owing to Portuguese intrigue. In 1612 important privileges were obtained by Captain Beale from the court of Delhi, one being to establish a factory at Surat, which city at once became the chief British station in India, until that at Bombay was established. These factories were depots for goods, fortified for the protection of the lives and property of resident representatives of the Company, and invariably proved to be entering wedges for territorial aggrandisement by Europeans.

In 1613 the capital of the company was united, the largest stockholders

assumed the management, and in four years the transactions of the Company became so prosperous that the shares rose in value to 203 per cent., and factories were extended to Java, Sumatra, Borneo, the Banda Islands, Celebes, Malacca, Siam, the Coromandel and Malabar coasts, but chiefly in the dominions of the Great Mogul, whose favor, after many fruitless attempts, the Company succeeded in securing.

In 1616 a new stock subscription was opened, and £1,629,040 was subscribed. From the commencement of the company's trade until July 1620, they had sent seventy-nine ships to India, of which the following is recorded—thirty-four returned richly laden, four worn out in India, twenty lost, two of the last by careening, six at sea, and twelve captured by the Dutch. At the date last mentioned the capital of the company in ships, goods in India, etc., was £400,000; value of exports from England to India £840,376; imports, cost in India, £356,288, and sold in England for £1,914,600; losses by quarrels with the Dutch, their most energetic rivals, £84,088.

Complaints of abuses and bad management by the company were made in 1627, and during the reign of the Stuarts there was much murmuring and complaining against the monopoly. In 1635 Charles I. gave to Sir William Courten and several other persons the right to trade with India. In 1645 the natives gave the Company permission to build Fort St. George at Madras. Cromwell in 1655 attempted in vain to make the East India trade free, and in 1657 he renewed the Company's charter, which Charles II. confirmed in 1661, the latter conferring upon them power to make peace or war with any power not of the Christian religion; to establish fortifications, garrisons, and colonies; to export ammunition and stores to their settlements duty free; to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction in their settlements according to English law; and to seize and send to England all Englishmen found trading on their private account.

The tea trade began in 1667-8, and soon became of vast importance to the Company. Charles II. received the Island of Bombay as part of the marriage portion of the Princess Catherine of Portugal, and he granted it to the Company, though they did not secure possession until after a long struggle between the English and Portuguese residents. A factory was established on the banks of the Hoogly in 1676, which formed the foundation of Calcutta. Other factories were soon after established in Bengal. The Company received a renewal of its charter in 1677, with indemnity for past misuses, and permission to establish a mint at Bombay. By report of the Governor in 1681 the Company had thirty-five ships, of from 100 to 700 tons, trading between India and England or coasting in India, and the exports from England of lead, tin, cloth, stuffs, &c., amounted to from £60,000 to £70,000 a year. About this time the Company were not prosperous. In 1688, numerous interlopers and free traders with India cast doubts upon the validity of the charter, but in 1693, after a heavy struggle, the charter was renewed, though the next year a vote of the House of Commons threw the India trade open to all England.

A new company was formed, and in 1698 received a charter, conferring similar privileges to those enjoyed by old one, for the consideration of a loan of £2,000,000 to the state. The two companies amalgamated in 1702 under the title of "The United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies," and advanced a further loan to the state, the whole amounting to £3,200,000, at three per cent. The charter was extended until three years notice should be given, which could not commence before March 1726, nor until these loans were repaid. In 1708 an act ratifying of this charter was passed, by which the local affairs of the Company were entrusted to the three councils of Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta, the general direction being retained in England.

In 1698 the Company had received a grant of Calcutta and two adjoining villages, with a right of jurisdiction over the inhabitants and leave to erect fortifications, of which immediate advantage was taken. In 1701 an act prohibited the importation into England of manufactured Indian goods.

Liberty for the Company to purchase the lordship of thirty-seven towns contiguous to Calcutta, and to sue and have given up to them all persons in Bengal indebted to them, and leave to pass goods for exportation duty free through that province, were secured from the Emperor Ferokseer in 1715. With much difficulty a renewal of the charter was obtained in 1732, and the Company in 1744 bought its extension to 1780, by a loan of £1,000,000 at 3 per cent.

The political power of the British in India began in 1748. In 1749 the Rajah of Tanjore was expelled, though ultimately protected, a slice of territory being the price of "protection" on each occasion of its exercise. Several large and rich provinces were gained in 1757 by the deposition of Surajah Dowlah, nabob of Bengal. The defeat of the French in 1761 left the English free to pursue their schemes of aggrandizement in India. In 1792 Cornwallis compelled Tippoo Sahib to give up half of his dominions and £3,500,000 in bullion. Seringapatam was taken in 1799, Tippoo was slain, and more territory was annexed. After this followed wars with the Pindarees, Burmese, Nepalese, Afghans, etc., until the British by conquest, annexation, interference and protection, mastered nearly the whole of Hindostan, but, as is usual, swift and great success induced irregularities, excesses and corruption to a great degree, so that the revenues of the Company fell short of the expenses, and in 1772, the Company were obliged to borrow £6,000,000 from the Bank of England and £1,400,000 from the government for current expenses. Reform was called for in 1773, which was only incompletely effected. In 1781 the privileges of the company were extended to 1791, with three years' notice, the dividend on the stock to be 8 per cent., £400,000 annual subsidy and three-fourths of the revenue to be paid to the government.

In 1783 the company was so involved, through wars, as to be unable to pay the subsidy, and the same year a board of control was appointed, proposed by Mr. Pitt, and consisting of certain members of the privy council, chosen by the sovereign of England. In 1793 the charter was prolonged to 1814, and at that date to 1834, and the trade of India was substantially thrown open, though the monopoly of the trade to China did not cease until 1834.

In 1833 a new charter was granted, by which the company ceased to be a trading association, but continued the government of India to 1854, subject to the board of control; the country was thrown open to British independent enterprise; all the property of the company reverted to the crown April 22, 1834, and was held in trust by the company; stockholders were assured an annual dividend of 10 1/2 per cent; £2,000,000 of the £21,103,000 treasure of the company was formed into a sinking fund to buy out the stockholders, at 200 per cent. valuation in or after 1874, £8,423,000 went to pay the company's debts, the balance was appropriated to various improvements in India; the stock could be bought by Parliament at £200 for £100 any time after 1874, with the condition that if at any time after 1854 the company were deprived by parliament of the government of India, stockholders might demand the purchase of their stock after three years' notice.

In 1854 the parliament determined to renew the charter, but not for any given time. In 1858 the act "for the better government of India" was passed, by which the company, though not abolished, were shorn of all their power and importance. The act provided for the appointment of Directors, and also that "all the territories heretofore under the government of the East India Company are vested in the British Queen, and all its powers are to be exercised in her name, one of the principal secretaries of state to have all the powers hitherto exercised by the Company or by the board of control; the military and naval forces of the East India Company are to be decreed the forces of the Queen, and all persons holding any office, employment or commissions in India are transferred to the service of the Crown; all functions and powers of the courts of directors and proprietors are to cease, together with the salaries paid; and the board of control is likewise abolished."

Space would fail to treat even

briefly of the romance and poetry connected with this subject, or of Clive, Hastings, Wellesley, Napier, Clyde, Havelock, Dalhousie, Outram, and the other great names in the history of British India, but we may recur to the statement that the Company will become extinct next year, and thus will pass away one of the most important associations connected with the extension of the British power, dominion and prosperity. We may also further say that the capital stock of the company was fixed by law in 1793 at £6,000,000, though worth more than double that afterward, was transferable, and in later years was owned by three or four thousand persons, men and women, Britons and foreigners. The owner of £1000 of stock, held 12 months, had one vote; of £3000, two votes; of £6000 three votes; of £10,000 or more, four votes. The stockholders met in London quarterly, and those owning £500 or more of stock were entitled to be present. Nine holders of one thousand each could call a meeting at any time. Voting was *viva voce*, though nine stockholders could call for open ballot. The attendance was usually small and the directors generally had things their own way, and thus could sometimes turn the decision upon an appeal from their own action. If directors, who must be British subjects, sold out, they ceased to hold office. Six were elected each year, to serve four years, and were re-eligible after being twelve months out of office. The act of 1853 made the number of directors eighteen, twelve elected by stockholders, and six chosen by the Crown, from men who had served in India, a third of each part to go out each year. The directors choose a chairman and deputy chairman annually, and the board meets once a week. Nine members form a quorum; absentees fined 19s. each, fines divided among the directors. Voting by secret ballot. The votes decided by lot. The board is divided into three committees, with different departments, besides a sworn secret committee, consisting of chairman, deputy chairman, and senior director, who considered confidential and delicate communications. Salary of chairman £1,000; directors, £500. The directors made all appointments. The board of control consisted first of six members, afterwards at the discretion of the sovereign. Salary of president of board, £3,500; two secretaries, members of parliament, £1,500 each. Expenses of the board, £26,000 per annum, paid by the company. Before the abolition of the board in 1858 there was no appeal from its decisions.

THE SUMMER TIME.

OUR usual May rain spell, usual of late years, was badly needed this season, and though long deferred, pluvially it has been a most liberal one since the downfall was fairly inaugurated. Now the soil is thoroughly soaked and trees, grain, grass and all other vegetation are ready, with a little warm weather, to push forward into vigorous life and verdure and beauty. The trees will soon be in full leaf, and in the ensuing month or so, until the clouds of dust begrime the foliage, the far-famed "City of the Saints" will put on its most charming appearance, ready for the admiration of the hundreds of visitors who will give a passing call.

Our late distinguished visitant from the East, composing Mr. Speaker Blaine's party, owing to extreme meteorological unpropitiousness and the uncommon backwardness of the season, did not see the city in its fairest aspect, but Sunday was a splendid day, and it partly recompensed them for their disappointment in the earlier portion of their visit. As they steamed slowly down South Temple street from the vicinity of the Temple Block to the depot, the beautiful green lawn and shrubbery, with the flowing fountain in the centre, in front of the mansion of W. Jennings, Esq., presented a most delightful picture. This is the finest grass plat in the city; it is very neatly kept and all the season is a thing of beauty, worthy of reproduction, with variation according to individual taste, by every resident of means in the city, and in the Territory. In this naturally brown and barren region, nothing is more grateful or refreshing to the eye than a landscape of rich, emerald, velvety grass, and those enterprising citizens who produce such

landscape not only minister to their own pleasure and that of their friends, but they are also public benefactors, for the sight is free and exhilarating to all passers by.

The soil is sufficiently moist now hereabouts, and the farmers and gardeners would be satisfied if the rains were to cease, though the signs are not altogether that way yet. But these copious showers have given promise of an excellent crop of grass, grain, and vegetables, which it is to be hoped will be realized.

LIEUT. WHEELER'S EXPEDITION.

THE *Denver News* of May 21 says George M. Lockwood, agent of the Wheeler Scientific Expedition, arrived in that city the day previous, to complete the necessary preliminary arrangements for Field Party No. 3, which was expected to take the field from that point June 1. The expedition, or series of expeditions, contemplates a thorough and exact survey of the Territory west of the one hundredth meridian. Golden City or Georgetown, Colorado City, Fairplay, Cimarron, Fort Union and Santa Fe, will be connected with the observatory at Salt Lake in the early part of the season, and in the latter part with the observatory to be built at Ogden, which points are to be determined and marked by enduring monuments. The observatory at Ogden will be the principal connecting point in the far-west country. A series of topographical maps, on a scale of one inch to eight miles, has been projected, to be accompanied with descriptive text, devoid of irrelevant or abstruse matter. Special attention will be given to the subject of irrigation, one of the most important of all.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* has the following concerning the Wheeler expeditions—

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Lieut. George M. Wheeler, who is in charge of the expedition for the survey and exploration of Southern Utah, has already commanded three expeditions—surveying in 1869, 1871, and 1872, Utah, Nevada, California, and Arizona. The appropriation for the expedition last year was \$50,000; for this year it will be \$75,000. This increase of \$25,000 is a sufficient proof that his labors and their result have been appreciated. He will be seconded in the explorations of the coming year by Lieuts. Marshall and Horie, assistant and executive officers, also of the Engineer corps; and other members of the party, representing the various sciences. Among these are Mr. Severance, ethnologist; Dr. H. C. Garrow, naturalist; H. Steward Brown, meteorologist; L. H. Clark and Maryatt, chief astronomers; Mr. Klett and Louis Mell, chief topographers; E. K. Gilbert, geologist; and H. W. Henshaw, collector in natural history. Each of these gentlemen has assistants in his particular duties, and with escort, packers, servants, etc., the entire party will number about 175. Among the trophies of his former expeditions which Lieut. Wheeler has retained are specimens of copper, iron, lead and cinnabar; salt in crude masses, just as taken from the mountain sides, some of the specimens clear as crystal, and others snow-white and daintily chiseled, like stalactites depending from the roofs of caves; sulphur in the same state, flaming as the breath of a volcano; natural magnets of extraordinary weight, to which flint and steel needles, tacks, nails, on hand for experiment; specimens of fossil wood, remarkable likewise for its weight, and finely veined as verd antique marble; opal pebbles, showing, when broken open, shifting iridescent hues, needing only to be polished to possess the luster of a jewel, and in which, it is said, are sometimes found imbedded in the body of the stone—genuine opals of great beauty and value; precious stones of various kinds; garnets, red, white and yellow; azurite, malachite, az. lis, chalcodony, opal, sapphire. One imagines, in looking at these wonderful specimens, that Colorado is the veritable diamond valley to which Sinbad was transported in recompense for his trials.

A GREAT ACTRESS.—The Gold Hill News of May 20th, says:

As already announced, Manager Piper has effected a brief engagement with Mrs. D. P. Bowers, the most famous of actresses since the days of Mrs. Siddons. Mrs. Bowers will make her first appearance at the Opera House on Monday evening next. She will be supported by a first-class dramatic company. The San Francisco *Alta* of the 18th instant has the following with reference to this talented lady: "Mrs. Bowers received an ovation last night in the immense attendance at the California Theatre, and in the enthusiasm displayed. Every seat in the house was occupied, and all the moveable chairs were taken in from the vestibule. The proceeds at the matinee exceeded \$1,100, and the returns at night were \$1,000, over \$2,700 in one day."

Mrs. Bowers is beyond question an actress of the first rank in her line. Can't she be seen on the Salt Lake boards?

IN LIMBO.—The *New York Herald* has another enterprising and bold correspondent in limbo in Cuba, and is likely to continue the business as long as it will pay.