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British India and its Dependencies :

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THE ASIATIC JOURNAL

FOR
DECEMBER, 1821.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS,

&c. &c. &c.

ON FURTHER INTERFERENCE WITH THE EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S PRIVILEGES OF EXCLUSIVE TRADE.

(This Article was written previous to the passing of 1 and 2 Geo. IV, chap. 65, which authorizes trade between India and foreign Europe, though without altering the restrictions as to tonnage, licenses, &c., or the traffic with China, or in tea, upon which the writer's arguments are principally founded.)

THE attention of the public, especially of those persons who are concerned, either remotely or immediately, in commercial speculations, being again drawn to the subject of the India trade, owing to various complaints and representations of Merchants and Public Bodies respecting the existing restrictions upon the traffic with the East, and by the supposed intention of the Legislature to modify the law, so as to throw wider the gates of intercourse between that part of the globe and the United Kingdom, it is proposed to consider, briefly and impartially, whether such a measure be reconcilable with justice, expediency, and sound policy.

The objects sought for by those who urge this important subject upon the attention of Government, appear to be: First, the removal of the limitation as to the size of vessels passing the Cape of Good Hope (350 tons being the *minimum* of tonnage prescribed to such vessels, except packets belonging to the East-India Company); of all restrictions confining ships to specified

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ports, and of the practice of requiring licenses for trade within certain limits. Secondly, the permission to trade unrestrictedly between the East-Indies and China, and Europe, without being obliged to touch, as at present, at an English port: an indulgence not granted by law to the Company themselves. Thirdly, the permission to make tea a part of the return cargoes; it being alleged that the supply of the Continent with that article is now chiefly engrossed by the Americans.

The two first concessions it is affirmed to be in the power of the Legislature to grant, without violation of the compact between the public and the East-India Company, by virtue of the 20th section of the act 53d of the late King, chap. 155, which is as follows:

“ Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent the making, during the further term hereby granted to the said Company, such further provisions, by authority of Parliament, as may from time to time

apartments in those garrisons calculated to accommodate or suit a state prisoner of rank, it is supposed that he will be confined in some other citadel in the Western Provinces, probably at Agra.

Our correspondent adds, that as he was to be paraded fettered in irons, in front of the Ex-Peishwa's followers, the example would doubtless tend to impress on the minds of every one present a conviction of the inutility, as well as the impolicy of attempting to interfere or contend with the measures which the Governors of Hindoostan may deem it expedient to adopt for the security of those whom the fortune of war has placed under their controul and disposal. Throughout the whole of this affair, nothing has been elicited to prove, in the most remote degree, either the concurrence of the Ex-Peishwa in the views and designs of the false agent, or the fact of the offender's having really and truly been deputed on the mission, he asserts to have been committed to him, by several leaders in the west. —*Cal. Jour.*, June 2.

HUNTING EXCURSION.

By letters from the Governor General's Camp, down to the 15th Dec., we are made acquainted with the events of the excursion to that date; but the interesting particulars that they contain are rather scanty. The following are extracts:

Camp near Maharajpooor, Dec. 14, 1820.

—“ We have not had much sport considering the number of times we have been out; but the number of elephants with us, amounting to about fifty, and the noise occasioned by so large an assemblage, are rather calculated to scare the game at our approach. During the first few times that we were shooting, the sport was inconsiderable. At Oudenulla, where there is plenty of game, we were more successful, and one morning we divided into two parties, taking different directions, and enjoying very good sport. Her Ladyship always goes out on the shooting parties, so that we cannot stay out very long.

We came this morning from Seerkunda (about six or eight miles), and having heard from the shikarees that there were rhinoceroses on the way, we penetrated through very thick jungles all along, intending to fire at nothing but these animals. Buffaloes, and tigers, deer, hogs, partridges, &c. were started, every now and then, but the objects of our search were not for a long time to be discovered, until at length some of the party saw three or four of the rhinoceroses, and Capt. Brook, of the Commissariat Department, was fortunate in shooting one dead. The bullet (a small leaden one) struck the brute in the neck, opposite the spine, and he fell instantly. Lord Hastings was at the other side of the jungle, and did not get a sight of any of them till this one was

shot. Some others of the party had shot at him, but their bullets only made small indentations in his side, so that it is a fact that leaden bullets will not penetrate there: I do not think, indeed, that brass ones would either, the hide is so enormously thick and tough. The animal was dragged into camp by three large elephants, and that was hardly sufficient.

Here we are pitched certainly in a very romantic place, between two hills, surrounded on all sides with thick jungles, and the tigers have a fair mark, as I dare say there are plenty of them in the neighbourhood. Some of the jungles, most of them, I should rather say, are quite impenetrable, even for elephants. This place is about twelve miles above Rajmahal, where we were two days ago. We start to-morrow morning for Seekry Gully Pass, which is about six miles higher up, and we expect to find plenty of deer, partridges, &c. on our way. We are all well, and spend our time very pleasantly.” —*Hurk.*

SPLENDID FETE GIVEN AT FUTTEH-GURH.

The following is an extract of a letter, dated Futteh-Gurh, May 28, 1821.

The extreme heat of the season, and the usual confinement behind the tatties, have not obstructed the society of this place from enjoying a scene of great conviviality and unusual splendour.

Mirza Mendee Allee Khan, the favourite servant of the late Vizier Saadut Allee Khan, and well known for the great success and skill with which he conducted during many years the administration of several provinces of the reserved dominions, some months ago took up his residence at Futteh-Gurh.

The circumstances which are supposed to have occasioned this change in the situation of Mirza Mendee Allee, excited a considerable degree of interest in his behalf, and, alive to the generousities of hospitality, the European inhabitants paid him every attention which was practicable.

These attentions Mirza Mendee Allee was anxious to acknowledge, and he took the opportunity of a marriage of a relation, to mark his sense by inviting the whole society to two entertainments, at a house purchased from Major Fagan, of which Mirza Mendee had a few days before obtained possession.

On the 22d instant, the day fixed for the Sanchuck, or ceremony of interchanging presents, or rather love pledges between the bridegroom and the bride, a large party met at dinner, the style of which shewed the endeavour and wish of the host that no expense should be spared either in the quantity or quality of the wines and viands. After dinner, jugglers, dancing girls and mimics, &c. &c. afforded entertainment; but no one more than

the walker on stilts, who, raised full seven feet from the ground, seemed to realize the seven league boots which the first lessons of childhood in Europe relate.

On the 24th inst. the ceremony of the *barat*, or the bridegroom demanding the bride from the parents, took place. On this day, the principal entertainment was given. Gentlemen from distant stations had come to *Futteh-Gurh*; some desirous of becoming acquainted with *Mirza Mendee*, and many of proving that old acquaintance should not be forgot. The heat of the day was unusually severe, but still a party of near sixty assembled, including the chief portion of the beauty and fashion of the station. After an excellent dinner, with wines of the best quality, cooled by ice, the ladies attempted the dance. The attempt was successful; but the heat, too oppressive, soon obliged the dancers to desist. The house is admirably adapted to such a fête, and illuminations on an extensive scale, being large with great extent of land round it, but more particularly from its situation on the high bank of the river *Ganges*. The sands afforded fine space for one of the most brilliant displays of fireworks ever seen. The Indian fire, the illuminated houses, and the variety of wheels, were admired; but the discharge of numerous sky-rockets simultaneously, as from a battery, produced an effect of the most imposing kind. The crowd of natives who had collected on the sands was not the least remarkable object of the scene; the ground seemed one living mass for miles; and it is supposed that more than one hundred thousand spectators were assembled between the house and the water of the *Ganges*. On returning to the house, the host presented each lady with a very handsome present of a string of pearls and some shawls, and then led to supper. Conviviality and glee early showed itself in the evening, for every one, satisfied of *Mirza Mendee's* wish to please, came determined to prove that wish successful. The healths of the ladies, of the host, and the queen, inspired mirth and feeling; and after the ladies left the table, the sons of *Bacchus* did justice to the occasion: for the host, who had retired at the same time as the ladies, with a view of paying in another spot proper attention to the native gentlemen, who had attended the ceremonies, summoned long after sun-rise his European friends from the festive board to join in a return procession.

Every one present was struck with the peculiar elegance of *Mirza Mendee's* manners, although the scene must have been in a great measure new to him; he never appeared lost either in his address to the ladies or to gentlemen, strangers to him; ready at reply, he seemed equally with ourselves to understand the humorous remark, and was capable of apt retort. In

fact, those who recollected the elegant deportment and polished manners of the late *Saadut Ally Khan*, recognized great resemblance to him in our host; and as we seldom see native gentlemen reaching a degree of perfection of manners which probably but few noblemen in Europe possess, the mind inquired, but found no satisfactory reply to the question, "why has this able and devoted servant of the father of the King of *Oude*, quitted the Court of his Sovereign?"—*Cal. Jour.*, June 19.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF THE WEATHER, &c. IN LOWER BENGAL,

From the 1st to the 16th May 1821.

The *Weather* has been chiefly cloudy and pleasant, sometimes distinguished by the occurrence of dry and wet north-westers, and in some quarters heavy falls of hail, accompanied with thunder and lightning; the flashes of the latter quite vivid, and the peals of the former terrific, with winds for the most part easterly.

The *Waters of the Ganges and Bhagritty* have risen; the former in a trifling measure, and the entire rise of the latter has been altogether about fifteen inches. The present rise of the *Bhagritty* is chiefly owing to the *Rajamahl* and the South adjoining hill nullahs having risen, in which quarter heavy falls of rain have occurred from the beginning of the month. This rise also enables the passing of the heavier budgerows and middling-sized pimacee up and down the *Bhagritty*, at the latter mentioned period; and by the present appearance of the rivers in Lower Bengal, on the 16th instant, it may now be expected to continue navigable for the present year, which like circumstance has not occurred since 1817. Boats carrying 300 maund burden are also passing between the Great River (the *Ganges*), i. e. above *Sooty* to about *Angerdeen*; and larger boats of burden, carrying about 550 maunds, can now succeed between the latter to *Sook-saugor*.

The *Mulberry (Toot)* plant still continues to thrive.

The *Indigo of Assin and Kartic* plants have again recovered their leaves in many quarters; from the commencement to the 6th of the month the growth has been rapid, owing to the said favourable mild weather; the plant of both has a thriving appearance, and is about three weeks earlier than that of last year.

The *Indigo of Falgoon and Choito* has also been accelerated in its growth from the rain between the 1st and the 16th inst., the growth of the former being from 15 to 17 inches, and the latter from 8 to 10 inches in height. The rains of the month in some cases have been partial towards the south boundaries of *Bangulpore*, south and

S. W. of Maldah, and partly Nattore; also the greater part of Moorshedabad and Kishnagur, in which quarters most of the planters have nearly concluded their sowing for this season, though in other quarters, particularly about Commercolly, several planters have been unfortunate in not having obtained sufficient sowing showers to conclude their annual sowings, but the greater part of Jessore planters have shared more or less of the rains of the month.

The *Indigo Sowings of Bysack and Jet'h* have been prosecuted more or less in most quarters, with every possible expedition, by the ryots and planters; the growth of the former from six to eight leaves, and that of the latter from two to four: the easterly winds greatly assisted the latter sowings, by the atmosphere being cool; also the grain and other seed sowings have commenced since the beginning of the month.

The *Roads* are still in tolerable good order; the chief cause of their remaining good for this length of time is owing to their having undergone a thorough repair in November last, owing to the Marquis of Hastings and suite having taken a tour from the Presidency to Rajamah. — *Hurkaru.*

ARRIVALS AT THE PRESIDENCY.

From England: Mrs. H. Carpenter, Mrs. A. H. Crawford, and Mrs. M. Murray; Misses J. Carpenter, E. Carpenter, M. Carpenter, A. Mackenzie, M. MacLeod, M. Clarke, and M. Baillie; Lieut. Col. Carpenter, Bengal N.I.; J. Crawford, Esq., Surg.; Capt. J. Murray, Bengal N.I., and C. Christie, do.; Messrs. Stewart Paxton, G. W. Bacon, J. G. Deeds, and H. Ricketts, writers; Messrs. C. Chester, H. B. Smith, C. J. E. Oldfield, H. C. Boileau, A. E. MacMind, J. D. Gahan, A. Clarke, J. Mackenzie, T. Beatty, Wm. Palmer, R. MacNair, D. Balderston, John Clark, A. Watt, J. W. Span, and T. P. Ellis, cadets; Messrs. Patrick Robertson, and Peter Campbell, free mariners; Mrs. Chapman, Misses E. Christie, M. A. Taylor, L. Taylor, M. Swinton, E. Paterson, G. Hewitt, Oldham, Capt. Duncan, H. M. 59th regt.; Lieut. W. L. Cary, 17th do.; Lieut. W. Cary, do.; Ensigns A. Hennelly, do.; H. W. Halsted, 87th do.; H. Doyle, do., and W. L. Stafford, do.; Mr. J. C. Patterson, assist. surg.; Messrs. A. Durie, A. Charlton, H. Clayton, Ewd. Caste, W. Baseley, J. O. Oldham, J. Welchman, J. M. L. Maclean, and W. Benson, cadets; Messrs. R. Kent and R. Sansum, free mariners; Master F. Chapman; Mr. W. Parker, cadet of Cavalry; Messrs. A. Pringle and T. Driver, assist. surg.; Mrs. Mack, Miss P. Smith, Mrs. Law, Mrs. Wrench and

two children; Mr. Alex. C. Law; Mr. A. K. Agnew, cadet.

From Madras: Lieut. Arch. Campbell, 59th regt.; Lieut. J. Clunie, 17th regt.; Capt. Berwick, Mr. M'Kenzie, free mariner; Messrs. J. Mouat and J. Gordon, Cadets, and Mr. Richards, merchant.

From Bombay: Sir Roger de Faria, Messrs. R. C. de Norena, and J. de Quadros; Mrs. Beck; Messrs. Haines and Hill, mariners.

From Ceylon: Mrs. Middleton; Lord Bishop of Calcutta, and Rev. Mr. Hawtayne.

From the Cape of Good Hope: Lieut. Chas. Grant, Bengal Cav.; Mr. G. M. Paterson, assist. surg.

From Port Jackson: Mrs. Orman, Capt. B. Orman, Mr. Cliffe, Mr. Keating, and 12 Lascars, of the late brig Haldane.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Arrivals.

May 24. Ship *Lowther Castle*, Mortlock, from London 16th Jan.

Ship *General Kyd*, Nairne, from London 19th Jan.

25. Ship *Atlas*, Mayne, from London 19th Jan.

Ship *Caledonia*, Gillies, from Greenock 1st Jan.

Ship *Glorious*, Paterson, from Bombay 25th April, and Madras 16th May.

June 4. Ship *City of Edinburgh*, Wiseman, from London, 14th Dec.

Ship *Hebe*, Wetherall, from London, Port Jackson, and Madras.

6. Ship *Marchioness of Hastings*, Robinson, from Bombay 14th May.

7. Ship *Thames*, Litson, from London, Cape of Good Hope, and Madras.

9. Ship *Theodosia*, Kidaon, from Liverpool 17th Dec.

15. Ship *Competitor*, Law, from London 22d Dec.

Ship *Eliza*, Woodhead, from the Persian Gulf.

Ship *Syren*, M'Donnell, from Batavia 10th May.

Ship *Stonham*, Kirby, from Madras.

16. Ship *Susan*, Collingwood, from Bombay and Ceylon.

Departures.

May 31. Ship *Alfred*, Mannington, for the Mauritius.

Ship *Argyle*, Cathre, for China.

June 12. Ship *Eclipse*, Gillet, for the Cape of Good Hope.

Ship *Samarang*, M'Carthy, for Bombay.

Ship *Forbes*, Rae, for Rangoon.

14. Ship *Morley*, Brown, for Liverpool.

BIRTHS.

May 6. At Agra, the lady of Capt. J. Taylor, of Engineers, of twin girls, one of whom still-born.