

unaware of the fact that the level falls the whole way to Sectarampore, or that the siding into which the Barrakur train runs ended in a nullah, over which the bridge for the main line passes at a right angle to the siding. When nearing the Sectarampore Station, the breaks were put on as usual, but were not strong enough to stop the train, and the result was that the deadheads at the end of the siding were carried away, and the engine, tender, and one or two coal waggons, went down into the nullah, a depth of about twenty-five feet. Fortunately the engine buried itself deep in the sand at the bottom of the nullah, and afforded a resistance which prevented the remaining carriages of the train from falling over, as there were numerous third-class passengers in the train. The native fireman was killed on the spot, and the European driver and fireman were both seriously injured and scalded, and were taken to Raneengunge for medical treatment in the mail train, which arrived shortly after the accident. It is also reported that there was another accident on the line, on the 7th or 8th, and that Mr. Cleworth, of the East Indian Railway, had a very narrow escape, but we have not as yet heard the particulars.

FRIDAY, 13TH JANUARY.

THE GILBERT COURT MARTIAL.—The *Madras Athenaeum* says:—"The proceedings of this officer's trial, which created much excitement at Madras lately, have been sent by the military authorities to the Commander-in-Chief in India for approval, who will forward the sentence passed by the Court for the confirmation of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief."

AJMERE AND MHAIRWARRA.—According to the *Delhi Gazette*, it has been decided that the control of the districts of Ajmere and Mhairwarra will, from the 1st of April next, be transferred from the Government of the North-Western Provinces to the Foreign Office, the Agent of the Governor-General in Rajpootana being vested with the powers of a Chief Commissioner. The Mhairwarra police battalion is also to be reorganised.

COMPLIMENTS BY TELEGRAPH.—The *Madras Times* states that the following telegram has been received by Lord Napier from the Governor-General of Java in reply to a congratulatory message addressed to the latter by His Excellency:—

"With the most profound gratitude I present to your Excellency my sincere thanks for your congratulations on the telegraphic union of Java with the Netherlands. I hope this important event may initiate a new era of development of the most desired relations between Asia and the other parts of the world. Allow me also to wish you a Happy New Year.—God save your Queen."

THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT IN MADRAS.—The *Madras Times* says:—"The Accountant-General, Madras, will be appointed Financial Secretary to the Government of Madras from the first of the next official year, and it is likely that his salary will be increased in consideration of his long and efficient services. It is rumoured that an officer employed in the Finance Department in Calcutta is likely to succeed the late Colonel Drury as Controller of Military Accounts, Madras. The whole department is in charge of the Government of India, and the report is not likely to be without foundation."

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS.—The *Pioneer* says:—"A number of machines and improved agricultural implements, which were purchased by the Surat Local Fund Committee at the Broach Exhibition, seem to have commended themselves to native approval. The Crosshills clod-crusher, the threshing and dressing machine, the sugar-mill with portable steam-engine, the flour-mill and chaff-cutter, and the atmospheric churns, were all gladly purchased by natives, either by individuals, or, where the machine was costly, by groups for joint use. Some, however, of the machines exhibited, such as the chain and centrifugal pumps, were altogether beyond the means of those for whose adoption they were submitted."

THE 40TH MADRAS N. I. AT SAUGOR.—The *Saugor correspondent* of the *Delhi Gazette*, writing on the 5th of January, says:—"A few days ago several sepoy of the 40th Madras Native Infantry set upon a private of the 19th Europeans in the bazaar, and thrashed him severely. It was as much as the officers could do to prevent the European soldiers from taking revenge. Eight sepoy, including two officers of the higher non-commissioned grades, await their trial by court-martial. The non-commissioned officers have also to answer for giving insolent replies to their superiors when questioned about the affair. There is an old ill-feeling existing between this native regiment and the European soldiers. About two years ago the former beat almost to death two men of the 7th Europeans, but they got off, as it appeared that the soldiers were first in fault. These Madras sepoy attempt to treat the European soldiers with presumptuous and disrespectful familiarity, which the latter cannot bring themselves down to tolerate."

THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY AT BARODA.—The Governor of Bombay left Surat on the 7th instant, and reached Baroda on the same day. The special correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* thus describes his reception:—

"It was about three o'clock when the train (which had made a short halt a few miles off for purposes of toilette) entered the Baroda station. Colonel Barr, Political Resident, and the chief officers and other residents of the station, were on the platform. So also was His Highness Malharao Gawkar, his hands, neck, and head-dress covered with diamonds and other jewels. The Prince was at once introduced to His Excellency by Colonel Barr, and seemed really pleased to meet his distinguished guest. He was next presented to Mr. Wedderburn, the Political Secretary, and Mr. Venayek Wassodew, the Oriental Translator. On being introduced to Captain Filgate and Mr. Maurice Fitzgerald, he embraced them. The principal natives in attendance on His Highness were then presented to the Governor. Led by the Gawkar (whom, for convenience, I designate

as if he had been duly recognised and installed), His Excellency left the station platform, and mounted an enormous elephant, the howdah and trappings of which must have been enormously costly. The Gawkar sat beside him in the howdah, at his right hand, and behind them the Chief Minister (Huriba Dada). Other attendants hung roundabout. It is difficult to describe the strangeness of the scene all along the road—about a couple of miles in length—leading to the Residency, whither the procession went. Triumphant arches, immense crowds of people, elephants and camels, and a 'street' formed by the Gawkar's troops from one end of the road to the other. The mounted troops were placed first of course, and very well they looked. Then came the infantry, and afterwards, in what, as the elephants moved slowly along, seemed an interminable line, the irregulars, many of them armed with curious old firearms that may have been the Henry-Martini of some very remote period. Wild-looking men they were some of them—the Franco-Tirours of the Gawkar's army perhaps, having no regular uniform, and no regulation way of holding their weapons. About as strange as the sights were the sounds. Salutes, the clatter of arms, the roars of the elephants, bands playing "God save the Queen," drummers quite independent of the bands, beating what was clearly intended to be the time of the same National Anthem, tom-toms of all sorts and sizes (and I was astonished at the variety) raising din on all sides. To the native it was a *burra burra twamaska*; to the European who had not grown cynical on these subjects, a very curious and interesting spectacle. There was what decorators on these occasions call a 'hedge,' arched in design, on both sides of the road leading to the Residency, and it, and the triumphal arches, showed signs of a great illumination being in preparation."

SATURDAY, 14TH JANUARY.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF MADRAS.—The *Madras Mail* "is in a position to state that Sir Colley Scotland is so far recovered from his recent indisposition as to be able to resume his seat as Chief Justice of the High Court."

CAPTURE OF A RAIDER.—The *Pioneer* announces that "Kanhai Sing, leader of raids into Manipore, ally of the Lushais in their attacks upon Cachar, who for years has eluded our Police, has at last been captured in Sylhet."

THE ROUTE FROM CACHAR TO CHITTAGONG.—The attempt made by Majors Graham and Macdonald to open up communications between Cachar and Chittagong has failed, after the party had arrived within twenty-one miles of Bepari Bazaar, owing, we understand, to the difficulty of procuring coolies and provisions.

THE FOUNDATION OF NAGA AND MUNIPORE.—The *Pioneer* says:—"The Judge of Chittagong, and formerly Superintendent of Survey, has proceeded to the Naga Hills and Assam as Special Commissioner, to settle, in communication with the authorities of Assam and Manipore, the boundary between the Naga Hills and the Manipore State."

THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.—The *Madras Times* states "that on the 6th of January Lord Napier received a letter from the Secretary of State for India, inviting him to remain another year at his post as Governor of Madras. We learn that it is His Excellency's intention to avail himself of the invitation—which we believe has been in no way solicited—and to remain here until March 1872."

DECORATION OF SIR SALAR JUNG WITH THE STAR OF INDIA.—On the 5th January the Resident of Hyderabad decorated Sir Salar Jung with the well-merited honour of Knight Commander of the Star of India in the Durbar Hall of the Residency. A State dinner, at which nearly thirty of the Deccan Chiefs were present, preceded the ceremony, after which the Resident made a long speech, telling what Sir Salar Jung had done for his country, and for preserving friendly relations with the British Government since he had been the Nizam's Prime Minister. Sir Salar Jung replied with grace and fluency, speaking little, and to the point. After he had received the congratulations of the Resident and the Nawabs Shamsk-ul-Umra and Vikar-ul-Murah, the ceremony concluded.

THE COTTON CROP IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERARS.—Mr. Rivett-Carnac's report on the Cotton Crop in the Central Provinces and the Berars shows that, whilst the area under cotton in the former has decreased, as compared with that of the previous year, by 55,091 acres, that in the Berars has increased by 73,641 acres, leaving a net increase of 18,550 acres. The decrease has unfortunately been chiefly in the Wurdah District of the Central Provinces, where the best cotton is grown, which is attributed to the uncertain prices of cotton at sowing time, the damage done by the heavy rains in July, and the high price of food grains. Of the expected outturn the Commissioner of Nagpore writes:—"The outturn will be better than last year if the season continues to be as favourable as it now promises." The district officers, however, mention that the heavy rains in October caused both the flowers and bolls to fall off, and dirtied the cotton, thus doing considerable injury to the prospects of the early crop. In most of the other districts the crops also suffered from the late rains, in Chuttesgurb the loss being estimated at one-quarter of the expected outturn. From East Berar the Deputy Commissioner of Omrawuttee writes:—

"The rainy season has, on the whole, been very favorable, though an unseasonable fall of rain late in October damaged to a slight extent such cotton as was at the time bursting the pod. The damage done, however, was comparatively trivial, and this year's cotton, as a rule, is of excellent quality. The ryots have quite completed the first picking, but are not sending their cotton to market, as they wait for better prices than are now ruling. As the first instalment of the land revenue will now soon fall due, the ryots will, in a measure, be forced into the market, in order that they may raise money to pay the Government demand."

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