

THE LATE FAMINE

The hardships and difficulties experienced in certain parts of Bengal in the year 1873 are well known to every person. It was in the latter end of this year that Bengal was threatened and visited by a very severe Famine. For want of the usual fall of rain the produce in grain was very poor. The places which seemed to suffer much were Durbhunga, Tirhoot, Behar, and Patna. The price of grain increased daily and to such an extent that the poor were driven almost to starvation.

His Excellency the Viceroy was in Simla at the time, but on receipt of this sad intelligence he lost no time in coming down to Calcutta to render assistance, and with much efforts, succeeded in affording the relief which the all but starved needed.

A general meeting was convened in the Town Hall, where the matter was thoroughly discussed. Two committees were formed in Calcutta, besides others in the Mofussils, to carry out the schemes of relief. The rich Zamindars, merchants, and others, subscribed among themselves a large sum of money for the benefit of the poor. Grain was imported from Rangoon and other distant places, and arrangements were made to convey provisions to places distant from the Railway Stations. A branch Railway line was opened at Bah to convey grain to Durbungah, the River Ganges being crossed by steamers ordered there to be in attendance for the purpose. The author also was one day at Bah with Sir R. Temple.

Several improvements were made in different places

He generously endowed a large sum of money for the Mahomedan Institution at Allygurh.

NAWAB NAZIM OF MOORSHEDABAD'S DEBTS.

One of the many magnanimous and noble acts of our worthy Viceroy was the taking in hand and adjusting the pecuniary difficulties of the Nawab Nazim of Moorshedabad.

A bill was introduced in the Viceregal Council and three Commissioners appointed (one of whom the humble author was nominated) to adjust the multifarious claims that were advanced against the Nawab. The matter was properly settled by the Viceroy and the Nawab and all his dependents will ever sing the song of gratitude to his magnanimity.

MARRIAGES OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING OF OUDH.

His Lordship's next act of munificence was in interesting himself and obtaining sanction from the State of a large sum of money consequent on the celebration of the marriages of the daughters of the King of Oudh, with a liberal promise that on any such happy occasion as much would be done. The king is truly very grateful to him for all his acts and promises, and so are all the subjects of Her most gracious Majesty who have the good fortune to be placed under such excellent administration.

Part III.

The advantages and benefits derived by the subjects of Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen through the medium, or I may say, the administration of Lord Northbrook, during His Lordships tenure in office as the Viceroy and Governor General of India, the first and foremost is the abolition of the Income-Tax, an emergency which in the political state of affairs which Her Majesty's subjects were called upon to meet in time of need and which they very cordially assented to, was thought, by happy auspices and favorable events, by His Lordship to be no longer incumbent on Her Majesty's loyal subjects, and hence its abolition for which both he and the crown had the best of their blessings. Several of the most deserving of the chiefs and officers in authority of the native community who have prominently, by their strenuous exertions and loyalty to the crown, brought themselves to repute and recommendation, have during the administration of this noble Viceroy, been justly and deservedly advanced to rank and position.

EDUCATION.

His Lordship has always been a true lover of the advancement of Education. He laid the foundation stone of the Calcutta University, and in a very encouraging speech in March 1872, stimulated the natives of this country to exertions. He founded several new Institutions in the Province of Bengal and introduced the Arabic and Persian languages in them besides English.

Lordship in language which it will be difficult to give a version of in this language)

This sad event cast a dampness over the geniality of His Lordship's disposition. Judging from appearances he would seem to be of a weak constitution, but his mental abilities as an administrator and representative of the Crown are beyond conception. Thanks be to Her Majesty the Queen and the Secretary of State for Indian affairs who have honored us by sending such an incomparable gem to rule over us. Lord Northbrook did not seem at all anxious, at the onset, to take the burden of the responsible duties of the administration of India on his shoulders, but by the urging persuasion of his friends he accepted to do us justice, and thereby prove himself worthy of his country in the glory of serving it. His intentions were never to hold a bare lofty title but to concentrate the best qualities of his nature, to do justice to the affairs of India with which he was familiar in his old official capacity. It is well known that his coming to India gave ample cause of anxiety to his family and friends, but he considered duty paramount to all the attractions and pleasures of home. His system of administration has made him quite an object of love and regard among the people of India over whom he rules. He appreciates the good acts of his subjects, and favors distinctions on those who deserve them. He looks upon all with an impartial eye, and is always conscious of the high and noble vocation which he has been called by Her Majesty to perform. His administrative reforms has quite won over hearts and his memory shall remain with us ever dear and cherished.

6. Hon'ble Francis Henry, born on the 22nd July 1850.

Thomas George Baring, Baron Northbrook, was born on the 22nd July 1826 and was educated at the Christ College, Oxford, where he gained the highest academic degrees. He then received a good political education and commenced his active life in the Board of Trade in the year 1848. He was subsequently appointed Private Secretary to Sir George Grey and was afterwards with Lord Halifax for some time. He was taken as a Member of Parliament for Penrhyn and Falmouth in 1857. In 1859 he was appointed Under Secretary for India under the Palmerston Ministry. In 1861 he was attached to the war office as an Under Secretary and in 1869 was created privy councillor. His eloquent speech in the House of Lords in introducing the Army Bill produced a great sensation. He was then appointed the Viceroy and the Governor General of India. He married on the 6th September 1848 third daughter of Henry C. Sturt Esq. Critchill Dorset, and by her who died on the 3rd June 1867, he has the following issue.

The Hon'ble Francis George Baring, a Captain in the Rifle Brigade, born 8th December 1850.

2. Hon'ble Jane Emma Baring, born on the 24th April 1853.

3. Hon'ble Arther Napier Thomas Baring, R. N. born on the 3rd June 1855 and lost at Sea on board H. M. S *Captain* on the 8th September 1870.

(The author here depicts the melancholy so natural to the loss of so amiable a wife and partner to His

THE BARING NAMA.

Part I.

Lord Mayo was assassinated at Port Blair on the 8th February 1872 by the hands of a hard hearted villain named Shere Ali. His remains were brought to Calcutta in the Steamer Daphney with solemn ceremonies. The vehement outburst of grief of the people of India at the sight of the coffin of their late Viceroy is beyond description. Men of all nations and creeds were seen present at the landing, and with depicted sorrow joined the slow and solemn procession. He was laid in State in Government House. The silent mourning was kept up for two days. His remains were sent to England on the 21st.

Here the author expresses his sorrow in some very excellent verses which run as follows —

Persian verses romanized.

“ Ah ! Sad Ah ! azan Sadma-i-gam !

“ Haif ! Sad Haif ! azan dast-i-Sitam !”

Translation.

Grief upon grief from this sad calamity.

Injustice upon injustice from the cruel hands of the murderer.

Another Verse.

“ Ein na khoon-i-aish-o-amn o-adl tanha ra khti,

“ Abroo-i-mardumi ham bimahaba raikhti !

Translation.

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- Part I.** Contains an account of the Earl of Mayo's tragical ending in the Andaman Islands in the bloom of life. This is in continuation from Ameer Namah of His Excellency's career.
- Part II:** Contains a sketch of Lord Northbrook's family and an account of His Excellency's career in England before His accession to the Viceregal throne.
- Part III.** Describes the important events in the administration of India during the Viceroyalty of Lord Northbrook :—abolition of the Income-Tax—Education.—The Nawab Nazims' debts and his daughters marriage.—The marriages of the daughters of the King of Oudh.—The late Famine—The mission to Yarkand.
- Part IV.** Contains an account of Baroda.
- Part V.** Describes the visit to India of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.
- Part VI.** Continuation from Ameer Namah of the notes of the author including the distinctions which have been conferred on him by Government to date of the compiling of this work.
- Part VII.** Contains a short sketch of the life of the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I.,
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his earnest endeavours for the good of my country. This work is, with all its defects, written in the 66th year of my age. In as much as the major portion of this work contains a biography of His Lordship and an account of His Lordship's family I have, therefore, styled it "*Baring namah.*"

AMEER ALIE.

and the great who have been before us, are faithfully mirrored, is most congenial to my mind. The few treatises which I have hitherto written were actuated by this particular liking."

The "*Ameer namah*" which was my first production, contains a short sketch of my life and my family, the British administration in India down to the time of the late Earl of Mayo, a dedicatory chapter to Her Majesty the Queen with an account of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to India, and the general progress in the country under the English administration in comparison to that under the Moguls. The Earl of Mayo very kindly forwarded a copy of this work for the gracious acceptance of Her Majesty who was pleased to honor me by Her kind acceptance of it and thanked me through the Secretary of State for India, *vide*, letter to the Governor General in Council, No. 79 of the 10th August 1871.

The "*Vazcer namah*" my next production, a history of the Royal Family of Oudh, the agreeable companion of my leisure hours for the last four or five years, when about to be finished and sent to the press, my anxiety as to what should next occupy my spare moments (usually whiled away in historical researches,) deeply engrossed my mind. The happy thought of attempting a biography of Lord Northbrook, with an account of the noble family to which he belongs (to show to the people of India the self sacrifice with which the great men of England have devoted themselves to the welfare of these climes) occurred to me, and I now trust that His Excellency will be graciously pleased to accept this humble tribute to his nobleness of character and

PREFACE.

To those who are ignorant of the Persian language, in which this work is written, I most respectfully append a Summary of its contents in the English language and solicit their kind indulgence in all its shortcomings. To render a literal translation from a language so full of oriental happy thoughts and imageries, it would be vain and vapid in me to attempt, and in the mother language I would solicit some indulgence at the hands of my critics.

The work opens with an exordium in praise of the Deity and eulogium in honor of the Prophet and his family, followed by the passage "Be it known to men of wisdom, that I, Ameer Ali, a Shia native of Barh in Patna, and resident of Calcutta, and a faithful and devoted subject of the British Crown, since arriving at the age of discretion have always sought for knowledge, the society of the good, and the advancement of useful objects. Knowledge is an inestimable treasure which, unlike and above all other treasures of this world, advances the more it is pursued; it needs no safeguard to protect it, is always in the keeping of its possessor, and among other advantages gains him honor and respect from all. Of all branches of knowledge or learning, History, in which the past and the lives of the good



THE
BARING NAMAH

A
PERSIAN WORK

COMPILED BY

NAWAB SAJJAD KHAN BAHADOOR

AUTHOR OF

THE AMEER NAMAH, *THE WAZIR KHAN SAJJAD* &c

WITH

A SUMMARY OF THE CONTENTS
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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