the Admiralty had fortunately sent seven or eight gunboats to China in search of pirates, and Sir CHARLES talks of eleven gunboats, sent, we presume, especially to assist Lord ELGIN'S negotiations. But, as Sir CHARLES also observes, truly enough, that steam-vessels are much more liable to get out of repair than sailing vessels, and that to secure a given amount of efficiency at a given point it is necessary to have more of the former than of the latter, and as China is a voyage of fifteen thousand miles from our Dockyards and ironworks, we think his own calculation might have suggested a greater total number of gunboats than eighteen or nineteen, which is the most that we can make out from his statement.

Whatever office our large ships might have to perform in this affair, as convoys, as depôts, or as rallying points, it is evident that the brunt must be borne by those very gunboats of which we did at last get enough by the end of the late war. We all remember with what despatch they were finished at last, even only for a review, and what complaints arose from some quarters at the cost of a mere spectacle. We all remember, too, the curious question which arose as to the disposal of the flotilla in the long peace that was to follow. Something was even said about the Caledonian Canal being available for the purpose. But of the hundred new boats, with all sorts of interesting names, a score is the very outside that has been sent, where they are evidently wanted and waited for. The last eleven sent to China have to run the risks of a voyage through two oceans round half the world, risks of wind, wave, and steam; and we shall be agreeably surprised to hear that six of them arrive in good time and in condition for work. If the prospect is better than we suppose, if there really is a fair hope of a serviceable flotilla of the only serviceable craft numerous enough to operate on three thousand miles of coast, at half-a-dozen different points, upon as many cities, islands, and rivers, then Sir CHARLES WOOD would have supplied to his Naval Estimates the interest they lack, by giving us this useful information. In fact, that is the very thing we miss in his statement. We miss its application to the present year. It is a remainder not only from the last abortive Session, but altogether from the recess of 1856. Excepting just the mention of these eleven gunboats, and the increased expenditure for the conveyance and lodging of troops, Sir CHARLES gives us no account of an expedition as important as any that ever sailed from and the mutiny was crushed by the strong arm of military power.

We trust and believe that no such terrible severity will be necessary in the present day; for, though the Hindoo may not have much changed, the power of the British Government has been consolidated and secured, so that mercy may be shown without imprudence. When the Burmese were powerful enemies, the Mahratta Chieftains not yet finally suppressed; when the protected States still gave themselves airs of independence, and on the north-west the kingdom of RUNJEET SINGH was formidable, there might be some fear that the mutiny of even a single regiment would seriously and permanently embarrass the Government. But now that the whole of India has been thoroughly subdued, and that from Affghanistan to the borders of Siam there is no Power which even aspires to oppose us, we may be humane while we are politic, and be content to punish disobedience by loss of pay and pension, without a resort to artillery or a charge of the bayonet. It is reassuring, moreover, that the Mussulman, the Sikh, the Ghoorka, has no share in the prejudices of the Hindoo. The Government may always count on the votaries of Islam for support in any tumult arising from the teaching of an idolatrous creed.

Still we could wish to see a larger number of European troops at hand on such an occasion. Our Indian Empire is not what it was, and yet the number of white regiments remains pretty nearly stationary. Within the last 15 years we have annexed Scinde and the Punjab and Pegu, not to speak of Oude and half-a-dozen protected or tributary districts. The cares and duties of the army are therefore largely increased. Although the European force is costly and sickly—although every man sent out is said to cost 100*l.*, and many are only sent out to be laid, before long, in the barrack cemetery, yet we must not shrink from the duties which our situation necessitates. We have conquered India by British hands, and by them it must be retained. Nothing will render the improvement of the country so difficult, nothing will so unsettle the minds of a people easy to be impressed, and likely to find evil advisers to impress them, as the suspicion that there is any weakness in us. The belief that on any point, whether 10 miles or 1,000 miles away, the authority of England can be overthrown for a day by Asiatics of any race or creed will go far to nullify all our character of

pedition as important as any that ever sailed from this country; as important, possibly, in its results as that with which COLUMBUS chased the setting sun, and not without its share of difficulties and dangers. Nothing could have been easier than to inform the House what force, and what vessels of all kinds, have been sent to China. That is that precise thing which we all want to know; and, were the force evidently unequal to any substantial results, Parliament would have had the opportunity, and certainly the will, to sanction a larger and more effective armament.

Events which are now taking place in India carry us back to the days of CORNWALLIS and WELLESLEY. At a time when the electric telegraph has been extended over the whole breadth of the land—when the railway train is rushing through the jungle, rousing the tiger from his lair, and scaring the vulture into flight—when a postage cheaper than that of England is disseminating intelligence from the Punjab to Ceylon, we learn the startling news that a regiment has been disbanded, hardly without bloodshed, through the action of a superstition which was described and derided in days that we call antiquity. Why, indeed, should Hindostan or Hindoos change in accordance with what is considered the march of mind? Surely we have enough of paradox, enough of mingled science and superstition, strength and dotage, in the world nearer home. If the King of NAPLES receives by electric telegraph the news of the melting of ST. JANUARIUS' blood, why should not these enrolled Asiatic villagers revolt because the cartridge of the last invented rifle offends their creed of many thousand years? The world will rest on the elephant, and the elephant on the tortoise, during several generations longer for these poor men and their fellows. It remains, therefore, that we, the rulers of the country, should take precautions against the recurrence of these outbreaks of fanaticism. Such a danger as the revolt of 5,000 armed men in a district where only a single European regiment was quartered is a sufficient warning to the most secure Government, a sufficient reminder of mortality to the most triumphant power.

On the 31st of March the 19th Native Infantry was disbanded at Barrackpore. The prompt measures which the Government thought necessary to adopt will be found described in another column. The 19th Regiment was in open mutiny, the 34th was in league with it, the 2d Grenadiers were sympathetic. Not less than 5,000 will go far to nullify all our character of superiority and all the authority of civilization. Economy will be in the end its own enemy, for a Power which, like our own, depends on reputation has to make threefold display after any appearance of being worsted. Suppose a station with only one or two companies of Europeans in presence of several thousand maddened Hindoos,—suppose a slaughter of British officers, the destruction of a barrack, the dispersion of several native regiments to their own homes, outrages committed far and wide, and the news flying in the usual Asiatic manner across provinces and kingdoms to the heart of Tartary and China; how long a time, how great an outlay, and how many brilliant achievements might it not take to efface the impression made on all those millions of men! British power can never afford to be suspected, and least of all in India.

A Bill just introduced by the Marquis of BLANDFORD, "to provide for the mode of securing the "Incomes of Ecclesiastical Corporations, Aggregate "and Sole," is apparently founded upon the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons which sat upon this subject last year. The Bill is a compromise, as, indeed, all our legislation on this subject for the last quarter of a century has been. Our Church Reformers have for the last quarter of a century been pushing the principle of fixed episcopal incomes, and this principle has been so far accepted by the Legislature that an Act of 20 years back—viz., 6 and 7 WILLIAM IV., cap. 77, actually names certain incomes as attached to certain sees, so that all the world was under the idea that the law of the land had actually fixed the incomes of our Bishops thenceforward. The Durham *exposé* dissipated this delusion, and it then appeared that the phrase "annual income" had in the Act been diluted into the phrase "*average* annual in-"come"—a loose expression which, of course, defeated accuracy, and left room for an arrangement by which the Bishop of any see might retain all the estates of the see, paying to the Ecclesiastical Commission annually such a sum as, in the opinion of the Commissioners, would leave him, upon an average of years, about the annual income named in the Act. This was a very odd form of "annual income" and a very roundabout way of executing the prominent design of the Act. It led, in fact, to the total frustration of the professed design of the Act. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners could not possibly tell what might be made out of the episcopal estate thus left in the hands of the Bishop, and it turned

...; the 84th was in league with it, the 2d Grenadiers were sympathetic. Not less than 5,000 men were in a state of obstinate fanaticism, which any incident might change to fury. Calcutta itself might not be safe from the attack or the example of the mutineers. In these circumstances a strong force of English troops and well-affected natives were despatched to the scene of disorder. The two QUEEN'S regiments with the cavalry and artillery occupied one side, the native regiments the other, and the 19th Native Infantry, the mutinous corps, were in the midst. A proclamation was read, and they were told they must lay down their arms. They were disposed to resist, but the preparations and firmness of Major-General HEARSEY, the officer in command, and himself a native of India, thoroughly cowed them. They yielded, piled their arms, and were marched off. After a certain time they were allowed to disperse to their homes. Officers and men lose all claim to the usual pension for military service, and, in a worldly point of view, the unhappy men have dearly expiated their obstinacy and folly. But so deeply rooted are these superstitions of centuries, so widespread is the fear that the supremacy of the Company means danger to the hereditary faith, that the mutinous spirit has spread beyond the limits of the garrison. It is thought that the 34th must be disbanded, and a native regiment at Dinapore is only held in check by the presence of English troops.

Should it prove that the worst is over, and that tranquillity has been restored without bloodshed, we may well be satisfied with the result. The mutiny at Vellore half a century ago shook the power of the Madras Government, and was only put down by a great sacrifice of life. But at this very station of Barrackpore there is one instance in more recent times of a terrible commotion quelled only by a most lamentable slaughter. The cause was much less serious than in the present case, for now religious passions are roused; then the only question was one of discipline, the sepoys having refused to march when ordered. A great part of three regiments declared their determination not to obey. Things grew serious, the Commander-in-Chief was sent for, and appeared with two European regiments and a strong force of artillery. The mutineers were ordered to lay down their arms. They answered that they had sworn not to yield. The measures of the authorities were prompt. Two signal guns were fired, and the artillery instantly opened on the rebellious troops. A number were shot or drowned in the attempt to cross the river; some others were taken and executed, thus left in the hands of the Bishop, and it turned out that the income of the late Bishop of Durham had exceeded by some thousands a-year the sum named in the Act as the income of his bishopric. This was a scandalous result, but it is only fair to say that the dishonesty attached to the system rather than to the man. The legislation was dishonest, because it pretended to do one thing and it did another. It paraded fixed incomes in large letters before the eyes of the public, while the actual arrangement which it instituted left the episcopal income a fluctuating one, as before, depending upon rents, fines, &c.; and the dishonesty of the legislation was the result of the compromise upon which it was founded—a compromise which it was impossible to carry out without these dishonest results, though there was no pecuniary dishonesty in the design of the compromise itself. The Reformers wanted fixed incomes, *i.e.*,—for their plan came necessarily to this—annual *stipends*. The Church did not like the idea of stipends. She wanted the estates to be retained in the Bishops' hands, as a matter of ecclesiastical dignity as well as greater apparent security. The result was an agreement that the episcopal incomes should be as fixed as was possible compatibly with the maintenance of the system of episcopal landlords and the territorial dignity of the Bench; in accordance with which the Ecclesiastical Commission made as low a guess as they could with respect to the annual value of an episcopal estate, and, according as in their estimate it exceeded or fell short of the appointed income of the see, received a certain annual sum from the Bishop, or paid one to him.

The Bill before us keeps up this compromise, putting it into another shape, which does not much improve upon the old one. The sees are all to give up their present estates to the Ecclesiastical Commission, and to receive fresh ones from the Commission in return. It will be an anxious moment indeed for each see—the moment of dispossession—when, having just handed over all its old property to the Commission, it waits for repayment. The short interval of vacuum will be a nervous one, and the vessel will sit uneasily on the sand, as it waits for the return of the tide. The ebb and flow of landed property is an anxious process, because that dignified and solid material is hardly made for this sort of game, any more than Pelion and Ossa were for the game of battledore and shuttlecock between the ancient giants. However, the State is honest, and, if it promises restoration, will no doubt be as good as its word.

Events which are now taking place in India.
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