

the Union has been openly threatened. The representatives of the North declare, however, they will not permit it, and will try whether eight millions of men embarrassed by four millions of slaves, can contend in the field with eighteen millions of freemen. The agitation, formidable as it sounds, will probably end in talk. Trade at home is flourishing beyond all precedent, the export of cotton goods to India having in particular increased 3 millions in the first eleven months of 1859. It is calculated that the profits of the year have amounted to some fifty millions, of which twenty-five have been invested in one way or another in Indian securities, and a considerable sum expended on measures of defence. The trade of Great Britain now reaches 300 millions, and it must be remembered that the profit on the trade of many of her dependencies, though never reckoned among her assets, passes into British hands, and ultimately enriches the islands.

THE HISTORY OF THE MILITARY POLICE.

—The Military Police of the North West Provinces, which in May 1857 had no existence, now numbers 27,000 men. That force would in England be considered a formidable addition to the Army. It would even on the continent be a strong division. In Ireland it would more than double the constabulary. Yet it has grown up in India without any action of the Legislature, without any formal permission, without any consultation with the Military authorities. In all India there are probably not ten men, officials included, who could state accurately the disposition, work, and history of the force.

The idea originated with Mr. Colvin in June 1857, and the Agra police battalion commanded by Major G. W. Williams, was the first of the new Police Corps; the second was formed at Mozuffurnugger, and the third at Meerut, where Goorkhas and other hill men were for the first time enlisted. In July the idea was expanded by the introduction of 200 Sikhs as mounted Police, organized not in regiments but in single troops never exceeding 100 men. It was not however till October that the new organization was adopted as part of the regular machinery of the executive. By that time, it had been found that the old Police was everywhere either hostile or powerless, and a new scheme based on the necessity of maintaining or restoring order by actual force was finally adopted. It was resolved that a body of police—numbers not fixed—should be attached to each division as it was regained by the Army, and keep down the outrages which broke out as soon as the Army had passed on. The Meerut, Bolundshuhur, Allyghur, Muttra and Mynpoorie districts were brought into order; then the entire divisions of Benares and Allahabad were covered by the battalions, and finally Rohilkhund, Jubulpore and Jhansie were included in the Inspector's jurisdiction. The total force then amounted to 39 district battalions, each consisting of one troop of mounted Police, (100 men) and four companies of foot police, the whole supported by a dépôt of double those numbers at the head quarters of the Division. The Regiments were organized on the old irregular plan, with a Commandant, Second in Command, Adjutant, and a few Sergeants, and great care was exercised to prevent the preponderance of any single caste or race in the battalions. Large numbers of low caste men were

at first admitted, but it was found that they were as insubordinate as their superiors, and not half so "soldierly." The footmen were armed with muskets, the troopers with sword and lance, and every effort was made to render them not only effective but well "set up" soldiers. Indeed it appears from the first to have been the desire of the officers, though not of Government, to render them equal to crack Irregular Corps. They were of course under no law, but the laws had almost ceased to exist, and every Commandant did in his own regiment what was right in his own eyes. The consequence was a very satisfactory strictness of discipline, and an almost total absence of complaint. Every man was free to go if he chose, and any approach to tyranny on the part of the commanding officer was liable to that single but most effectual check. Almost all writers who deprecate severe discipline in the native Army find it convenient to ignore this fact. The Indian soldier is the only soldier on earth who is really free. He enters the service at his own discretion, neither coerced by a conscription, nor enticed when half intoxicated. He is free to demand his discharge except under very exceptional circumstances, and he avails himself of his privilege. Only the other day 100 Sikhs in one regiment claimed and received their discharge at once, because they objected either to oppose their comrades or to volunteer for China.

Throughout 1858 the Military Police Corps did good service as Irregulars. The men of the Agra Division for example captured a field work in Bah Panahut, helped to clear Etawah, dispersed formidable bodies of rebels on the Chumbul, defeated Feroze Shah in his mad rush out of Oude, and aided in one of the most brilliant skirmishes in the pursuit of Tantia Topee. The Allahabad Police Corps took the forts of Madho Sing and Chutturput Singh, and prevented the flight of the Oudh rebels into Allahabad. Whether they have been equally efficient for civil purposes, whether in fact the police is not a little too strong for the population, is a question which remains to be decided. It is however certain that they have performed all the work formerly demanded of the native Army, have furnished guards, and supplied treasure escorts, have acted as garrisons in all minor places, and above all have enabled the civil officers everywhere to resume and maintain their authority. As a rule they have been quiet and amenable to orders, and if oppressive have at least contrived to avoid formal complaints of their excesses.

For a time of transition the force was perhaps as efficient as could have been devised. Whether it should be maintained is a different question, and one which will probably be settled by a compromise. The Corps must do more of the ordinary Police work, as the Irish constabulary do, if they are to be kept up. We cannot have one set of armed burkundazes doing Police duty, and another set of armed Military Police protecting the burkundazes. They must do all work save the purely detective, if they are to be maintained at all. It is probable that with their numbers considerably reduced—not by battalions but the quota of each battalion—and their duties extended, they may be found a most valuable force. The present idea of their officers, however, to make them purely and solely protective, that is in fact soldiers without pensions, ought to be peremptorily discouraged. As soldiers with esprit de corps, severe drill, and no daily work, they are just as dangerous as a native army.

For ourselves, in spite of the prejudice now existing, we persist in the belief that fire-arms are unnecessary to these corps. The sabre for the trooper, the bayonet for the footman are amply sufficient weapons against disarmed rioters. With the advantage of good horses, discipline, and consequent reliance on each other they must, without fire arms, be more than a match for any bodies of dacoits. On the few occasions on which greater obstacles are expected, the aid of half a company of European riflemen would supply all deficiencies. We cannot perhaps absolutely disarm Hindostan, but we can extinguish the manufacture, sale, keeping, and use of fire arms. We can reduce the peasant in Etah to the condition of the peasant in Suffolk, a man who knows a musket only by sight. It is however of little use to forbid the sale of fire arms, while we train a hundred thousand natives to their habitual use.

THE FRACAS IN JAPAN.—Mr. Alcock, the Consul General in Japan, is declared by the unanimous verdict of his countrymen the ablest Consular officer in the Eastern seas. It is necessary to recall that fact in order to find excuses for the blunder he has recently committed. The trade of Japan has been stopped, and Mr. Alcock in a letter of immense length assigns the conduct of his countrymen as the cause, accuses them of violence, rapacity, injustice, and general bad manners. His letter which as a private or municipal rebuke would have been most excellent, will be transmitted to Europe, translated into all languages, and quoted for years as irrefragable evidence of the conduct of Englishmen in the East. All this while there is no proof that the Consuls themselves are not the persons chiefly responsible for all the evils denounced, the bad manners only excepted.

The facts as stated by Mr. Alcock are of two kinds. The English sailors he alleges are violent, and disorderly, get drunk, resist Japanese authority, and generally conduct themselves in an outrageous fashion. We think that statement extremely probable. Jack ashore is always one of the most obstreperous of human beings. But Jack ashore half drunk, amid Japanese men looking like figures on the willow pattern plate, and Japanese ladies "tubbing" in the Eden-like simplicity described by Captain Osborne, are very likely unbearable. But whose fault is all this? Surely not that of the resident traders of Kanagawa, who have no conceivable means of controlling Jack. Lall Bazar without laws, or Garden Reach without Police would be a much worse Pandemonium than any described as existing in Japan. The fault rests with the Captains who, against the treaty, give the sailors leave to land without officers, and the Consuls who do not execute the laws. They have plenty of power. By the Queen's proclamation as well as by the Treaty they have power to fine, imprison, and deport. The officers of H. M.'s ships in harbour would support their just authority to the full. The Japanese make no complaint of actual want of power to enforce the regulations, nor is it likely that in a city full of armed men, native authority could be set openly at defiance. One or two severe sentences on the sailors, one sentence of deportation carried out on an offender of a better class, would soon reduce the foreign population of Kanagawa to order. The Europeans can be governed abroad by their own Consuls as readily as by their own Magistrates at home. Indeed if the Japanese