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Berar, Mysore, Coorg, Rewa, Straits, Pegu, Tenasserim, Oude, Central India, and Nagpore, 8 lakhs. It is recommended that these sums should be spent in completing works already in progress, since the fund is meant to aid works for which Imperial assignments have been made. The distribution is to be made according to the proportions contributed by revenue divisions rather than collectorates. The good ensured to every district by the concentrated expenditure of a considerable sum on the completion of main lines of communication, through the division to which the district belongs, will be far greater than that resulting from the diffusion of expenditure in beginning many works in separate collectorates. A further surplus of 8,37,000 rs. is assigned as follows:—To the Central Provinces, 2,50,000 rs.; to Oude, 2,25,000 rs.; to Pegu (including Tenasserim), 1,50,000 rs.; to Hyderabad (Berar), 1,00,000 rs.; to the reserve at the disposal of this department, 1,12,000 rs. Mysore and the Straits Settlements receive no share of the 1 per cent. as the people do not pay income-tax. The arrangements thus made are unexceptionable.

THE OUDE NOTE CASE.—It would appear (says the *Englishman*) that we are not yet at the end of the Lucknow note case. The subject has been again revived by Mr. Forsyth, who, feeling himself aggrieved at the censure passed upon his conduct by the Governor-General in Council, petitioned, as we noted at the time, to have the censure withdrawn. This request the Viceroy has declined to comply with; nor, in the face of his recommendation to the Secretary of State that Major Carnegie's name be struck off the strength of the army, do we well see how his lordship could comply with Mr. Forsyth's petition. In one thing Lord Canning is ever consistent, when he has once formed an unfavourable opinion there is no relenting. Mr. Forsyth has now learnt this, as others before him have done. He would have done better to have delayed making his petition till Lord Canning had taken his departure from India.

THE CASH BALANCES.—The *Hurkaru* states that "the cash balances have attained a higher figure at this moment than at any previous period, amounting, as it is said they do, to something like eighteen millions sterling."

THE NATIVES AND THE PAPER CURRENCY.—A very uneasy feeling is said to prevail amongst the native community with regard to the introduction of the paper currency. They believe that it is a scheme to obtain their rupees in exchange for worthless material, and that Government, disappointed in the yield of taxation has adopted this more efficacious method of making up the deficiency.

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THE AGRA FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE.—The Famine Relief Committee at Agra held a meeting on the 13th January. The amount to be returned to Government was found to be 1,99,994 rs. The balance of the fund, after making this transfer, was 2,86,270 rs. Several missionaries reported on the orphan children they had received under their charge. Mr. Barton stated that the institution at Secundra, which contained at the commencement of last year 32 orphans, had received 569 during the famine, of whom 137 had died. Father Lewis of Agra had 165 orphans under his care. Dr. Butler, of the American mission at Bareilly, had 159; Mr. Scott, of Futehghur, 38; Mr. Campbell, of Saharanpore, 80; and Mr. Burrell, of Cawnpore, 20 or 30.

The committee have resolved to apply the funds in hand to the establishment of one general orphan institution for the North West Provinces at Secundra near Agra, for which purpose the sum of 2½ lakhs is to be invested in Government securities, and the Church Missionary Society in England communicated with in order to arrange an amalgamation between the old Secundra Orphanage and Press and the new Institution. Though it is not considered desirable to fritter away the funds in grants to small institutions several missionaries and others have incurred great expense in connection with their charge, and the sums of 6,000 rs. is accordingly given to the Agra Roman Catholic Mission, 5,000 rs. to Dr. Butler, at Bareilly, 3,000 rs. to Mr. Scott, at Futehghur, and 5,000 rs. to Mr. Campbell, at Saharanpore. The balance of 17,270 rs., together with the unremitted balances of some local committees which will remain after all this has been done, will be retained to meet any possible contingencies connected with the winding up of the operations.

CONDOLENCE MEETING AT LUCKNOW.—In the *Oude Gazette* of the 25th Jan. is a lengthy account of a meeting held at Lucknow to pass a vote of condolence to the Queen. Nearly all the inhabitants of Lucknow and its environs, Native and European, attended to express their sympathy with her Majesty, and to place that sympathy on record. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Campbell, the Judicial Commissioner, who, with the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, spoke at length, and with much feeling, of the loss sustained by her Majesty, and the many good qualities and good deeds of the deceased Prince in his capacity as Prince, husband, father, and subject. Several addresses were also presented by various native gentlemen, the tone of which goes far to show how much greater is the happiness of Oude and its people under the rule of our gracious Queen than it was under its native rulers. As the Mirza Aga Khan said, "the people feel as much happiness and ease as a child feels in its mother's lap." Thankful, for these blessings, the people of Oude have come forward eagerly, and almost universally, to express condolence and sympathy; and in so doing they have displayed a graceful gratitude for benefits received, from which others would do well to take a lesson.

DEATH OF MR. A. FIELDING.—We learn from the Bengal papers the death on the 31st Jan., of Mr. Alexander Fielding, agent in Calcutta of the Commercial Bank of India, after an illness of but a few days' duration. Mr. Fielding was first connected with the Commercial Bank at Bombay, and was afterwards transferred to Calcutta. He was quite a young man, being only 29 years old at his death.

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AFGHANISTAN.—A Cabool letter in the *Delhi Gazette* states that the Russians are building a cantonment at Tashkund, much to the annoyance of the King of Kokan. Tashkund is about 600 miles as the crow flies from our frontier. Dissensions in the Ameer's family still continue.

PERSIA.—We have received intelligence from Persia with regard to the doing of the Persian army of Khorassan under their able leader, Prince Hoosam-ooos Sultana. Authentic intelligence had been received by the Persian Government from Khorassan that the Prince had organized his army and put it in efficient order with the view to pay a "visit of revenge" to the fort of Simas, and meet the refractory Turcomans, who were lately very troublesome and making great havoc in those provinces. While the Prince and his army had their camps pitched outside the "mashad" making arrangements to march upon their enemies, it was reported to him by the pickets on guard that a body of 1,000 Turcomans of Mero Shahjehan made an incursion into the interior of the country and made away with their booty after pillaging the poor inhabitants. On hearing this, the Prince selected a detachment of sixty-five parasung in quick marches, arrived beyond the boundaries of Bakuzur, where they overtook their enemy, carrying away their booty and poor victims who had fallen prisoners in their hands. The Prince, however, surrounded the enemy, killing many and taking others as prisoners except a few who escaped alive. The Prince has organized a formidable army of different tribes and of various countries, and is determined upon giving a severe chastisement to these depredatory Turcomans who have become so troublesome.