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Mr. Chaplin and was with him when he was wounded. I assisted to carry him under cover and I bound up his arm with a tourniquet I had in my pocket. When Chaplin was shot down in trying to plant the colour it was taken up by, I think, two officers of the 67th Regiment, one of whom was, I believe, Mr. Morgan, and they finally planted it on the cavalier.

MADRAS.

(From July 21st to July 28th.)

H.M.'s 1ST DRAGOON GUARDS.—It was stated that the King's Dragoon Guards at Bangalore had received orders to embark for England. It was supposed that the regiment would leave the presidency in September.

Bengal.

Our advices from Calcutta by the present mail are to the 22nd of July.

THE FAMINE.—The first symptoms of any mitigation in the severity of the famine had appeared in Meerut. The relief committee, reporting on the operations during the month, believe "that the destitution in the district is greatly ameliorated. They are led to the conclusion by the personal appearance of the applicants for admission in the poor-house, who, although their numbers steadily increase, do not display that emaciated appearance which was so painfully evident before." There had been a great decrease in the mortality. Almost all the agriculturists found occupation in the fields after the first fall of rain. Those still in the poor-house were chiefly artisans and their families. The people who deserted their villages had begun to return in great numbers. "The large sum so generously contributed by England will now (says the *Friend of India*) be found probably too small to relieve the hopeless poverty in which the people who have been rescued from starvation find themselves. At least a million of families, or four millions of people, chiefly agriculturists, have to be enabled to begin life again, to find seed, ploughs, cattle, even a roof under which to shelter themselves." The Agra Famine Committee had given a grant of 2,500 rs. to the Agra Orphan Institution, under the care of the Church Mission, for the support of 200 orphans thrown on the missionaries since 1st March last. The monthly cost of supporting them is from 600 rs. to 700 rs. Of the whole 110 were boys, who were housed in the old buildings at Secundra which had been prepared for their reception.—On one of the works undertaken for the relief of the starving poor in the North-West, there had been an accident, the full extent of which the *Delhi Gazette* is unable to determine. The work in question is a road between Roorkee and Dera. "The water, or 'row' as it is called, came down with a rush some nights ago, and washed away a great part of the new road and a number of coolies. Some accounts say as many as 300 were washed away and as many as forty lives lost. Others give the casualties at a lower figure. Several travellers who were passing the spot at the time had a narrow escape." In other parts of the North-West, and in the Punjab, the unusually heavy rains have done considerable damage to crops and buildings, some places having been completely submerged. In Lucknow the rain had been heavy and continuous. The river had overflowed, and several hundred buildings had tumbled down, in many instances causing the loss of the lives of several persons. Such a heavy fall of rain had not been experienced by its inhabitants for a long time. At Peshawur a great deal of rain had fallen. The houses of eighteen officers had been destroyed, besides other damage to the city and Sudder.

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MR. G. DRUMMOND.—The *Englishman* hears that chiefly through the instrumentality of Mr. A. Money, who was magistrate of Arrah in the mutinies, and Mr. Fergusson, commissioner of Patna, Government had rewarded the zealous services of Mr. G. Drummond, of Nonsongur factory, in Shahabad, with the grant in perpetuity of two villages, which, after payment of the revenue assessment, will yield him a very fair profit. The mutineers from Dinapore, assisted by several of Mr. Drummond's own ryots, then in his debt for advances to enable them to pay their rents, hunted Mr. Drummond from house and home, he barely escaping with his life; but he afterwards joined in turning the tide upon them; and, in retaliating his own injuries, and aiding the Government in the re-establishment of its authority, rendered the valuable services for which he has now received the just reward.

OFFICERS' TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES.—The Secretary of State having observed that certain officers had regularly drawn stated sums as travelling allowances, had ruled that no travelling allowances shall be drawn at a regular and permanent amount, but must be really travelling allowances regulated by the duties to which they are called upon.

A MAN SHOT BY MISTAKE FOR A TIGER.—A Rawul Pindee letter relates a melancholy incident, which occurred at Murree. Mr. Farly, connected with the firm of Meers. Gibbon and Co., beheld what he conceived was a tiger asleep in that part of the station called "Sunny Bank." He immediately brought the nearest native guard to the spot. On their arrival, the supposed tiger was found in the same place and attitude, and the guard fired a volley. Upon this the animal was found to have risen from its crouching form, and to stand on its hind legs. A second volley followed, but this time with fatal effect, as the object of their terror dropped. When Mr. Farly arrived at the spot he discovered to his horror and astonishment that it was not a tiger, but a man, who was killed. It appears that the unfortunate fellow was a coolie, carrying some gentleman's baggage up from the plains, that he had lain down to sleep, covered with a spotted blanket which resembled a tiger's skin. This, aided by the darkness of the evening, completed the deception. Hence the mistake, and the fatal incident to which it led.

A VALUABLE IDOL.—The Cawnpore correspondent of a Bombay journal states, that a poor labourer while digging in a trench, situated near a building, which once belonged to the Nana, discovered a small golden idol. He forthwith took it to his hut and concealed it in the ground. At night he withdrew it from its place of concealment, and by the light of a *chirag*, began to ply the hammer upon it vigorously, with the intention of disposing it in bits, and thus prevent suspicion. The iconoclast believed that he was alone. He was mistaken. The sound of the hammer attracted the notice of a chowkedar whose hut was not far from the spot. He drew near the place, peeped through a crevice in the door and beheld the golden image. The chowkedar departs to a Mahajan, and on a promise of being taken into his service, tells him what he had seen. In a few minutes the door of the hut is broke open by a number of Burkandazes, accompanied by the Mahajan and chowkedar, and they pounce upon the gold declaring it to be Government property, and walk off with it, to divide the spoil between them. The idol was worth more than a thousand rupees in value.

MURDER AT SHAHJAHANPORE.—The following is from Shahjehanpore, dated 6th July:—"We had a dreadful case of deliberate murder here three nights back. A serjeant Cohill of the 82nd regiment, attached to the commissariat at this station, shot his wife dead in a fit of jealousy. I believe he had great provocation, as his wife drank hard, and was supposed to be anything but faithful to him. She left her house at noon, and as the day was rainy, she did not return till dark. He left orders with a coolie to tell him when she came back, and that he would be in the 88th serjeant's mess. The coolie came to the mess at 7.30, and called him out. Whatever the coolie told him induced him to hasten home, and immediately after the report of a gun was heard by the captain of the 88th regiment, who lived near to him. The captain went into the verandah and found Mrs. Cohill dying, and the serjeant (Cohill) in the act of reloading the gun. Serjeant Cohill put down the gun when ordered by the captain, and surrendered at once. He was a respectable non-commissioned officer, and got into the commissariat, as a reward for his high character."

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CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY IN THE HIMALAYAS.—Lieut. J. F. Pogson, in a letter to the Agricultural Society of India, gives much new information regarding the cultivation of the poppy by the Himalayan tribes. He asserts that the hillmen would grow it for Government without advances, and with advances for a smaller sum than is now paid to the ryots of Bengal. He recommends the improvement of the Bengal cultivation by introducing fresh poppy seed from the hills from plants which have not been tapped for opium. The Sikhs in the hills always begin the day with a cup of poppy-head tea and sherbet, and the Thibetan coolies use a dry steamed bread stuffed with pounded poppy seed highly seasoned. It is also rubbed down into a paste and eaten with barley cakes. Mr. Pogson recommends Government to foster the cultivation between Simla and the snowy range, as the Chinese will always buy the opium and pay for it in gold, silver, and gold dust. By holding out an article like opium, which the Russians cannot supply, as a bait to the Chinese, he believes the whole of Central Asia will gradually be induced to deal with us for other commodities.