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EXTENSIVE FORGERY IN CALCUTTA ON MESSRS. GLYNN AND CO.—An extensive forgery, says the *Hurkaru*, committed in Calcutta upon Messrs. Glynn and Co., of London, and amounting to 10,000*l.*, under marginal credits, was brought to light by a special telegram by the Bombay steamer; too late, however, to catch the perpetrator of this serious fraud, who took his passage from this by the steamer of the 22nd May, but whose career of crime was cut short by death on board the steamer before leaving the river Hooghly. "It may appear strange that in a commercial circle like Calcutta, where each member of the mercantile body is known to his neighbour, and where, moreover, the opportunities of fraud under such circumstances are scarcely possible, how such an extensive transaction could have taken place. This is explained when it is made known that the delinquent was originally a partner in an opulent Madras firm. On retiring from the firm in question he went to London, and there failed. On the strength of his previous connections his advent recently in Calcutta, possessed of those apparently genuine credits, was accepted as a matter of course, and they were negotiated against shipments in the usual course of business; so that when the whole circumstances are fairly reviewed, it cannot be said that those who are now made to suffer extensively by these transactions displayed any want of caution, or that the serious fraud now before the public militates against the system of credits so much in vogue in this city. We learn that nearly 50 per cent. may be expected to be recovered from the realization of the margins."

PUBLIC WORKS IN THE N. W. PROVINCES.—Returns forwarded by the public works department of the North-Western Provinces show the following numbers of the destitute people to have been employed during the month of May on the unmentioned works:—Average number employed daily on the Roorkee and Dehra road, 15,690; on the Gurhmuktesur and Delhi road, 1,155; on the Budaon and Bareilly road, 234; on the Futtoghur branch of the Ganges canal, 8,369.

THE NEW STAR OF INDIA.—The *Englishman* had had the sight of a sketch of the badge or Star of the Order of the Star of India, "which certainly conveys the idea of a very sumptuous and costly decoration, and, in the latter attribute, will bear out the augury, as the price of it will not be under 900*l.* sterling. These stars will be the property of the Crown, and will be resumed on the death of each Knight of the Order. They will be worn with a broad ribbon, crossing the breast from the right shoulder to the left hip, where the star will rest. There will be a smaller facsimile of the star, to be worn round the neck with a collar ribbon. There are also to be robes of the order, very magnificent; but of these we have not seen a pattern, though we believe there is at least one in this country. As will be seen, his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is amongst the first knights; and we understand that his investiture is to take place here with great display and pomp, previous to his leaving Calcutta for his cold weather tour of inspection. Everything has been done in England, and will continue to be done, to raise the decoration of this order to the highest pitch of consideration and dignity; and we have heard that it is to take rank and place after that of the Garter. Prince Albert has taken great interest in the institution of the new Order; and the decoration has been decided upon by him, in conjunction with Sir James Outram."

SIR JUNG BAHADOOR.—A Nepal letter says:—"On the 11th July the Maharajah Sir Jung Bahadoor attained his 44th year, and there was a general holiday through the country. He fed a thousand Brahmins, and invoked the protection of the gods. In former times, on the anniversary of the King's birth-day, he presented his weight in gold, silver, copper, and wheat to the Gooroo, but the Maharajah has curtailed the first as superfluous. Sir Jung is obliged to keep a tight hand on the vagaries of his Malick, as he calls him, otherwise the country would be ruined by a fool who would gladly pay a lakh of rupees for a large monkey, and 50,000 rs. for a pair of India-rubber goloshes, and who, on one occasion, had all the crown diamonds—to the value of three lakhs of rupees—broken to pieces, declaring they were false. All the members of this family display an eccentricity that would be amusing were they not tainted with inhumanity so brutal as to make us shudder at the bare thought of it. Before Sir Jung got the power which he uses to such a good end as the welfare of his country, the ranees for their own private amusement frequently caused their delinquent maid-servants to mount a tree beneath which fagots were piled, and the poor victims roasted to death, while these modern Jezebels rejoiced in witnessing their agonies. And the King, not to be excelled, has, I am told, often committed such brutalities as it is impossible to write of. But happily for the people, those days are past, and the King lives in honourable surveillance, being permitted to take an airing twice a week in an open carriage guarded by one of the generals. I met him one evening with Sir Jung, who introduced me to him. I made him a salaam, but was greeted with a grin; I repeated the operation with the same success; when Jung, turning round, asked me why I did not salaam the King. I told him I had done so, and it seemed to amuse him. I shall never forget what followed. Jung asked his Malick why he did not return my salaam, and ordered him to do so immediately; and the poor imbecile, making a virtue of necessity, complied with as good a grace as he could."

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CONSPIRACY IN THE LUCKNOW GAOL.—The *Oude Gazette* relates that the prisoners in the gaol of Lucknow formed a conspiracy to overpower the guard and make their escape. Their plan was betrayed to the deputy commissioner, who sent thirty sowars and fifty constables to the prison; and this force prevented any rising. This is said to be the third attempt within a fortnight on the part of these prisoners to break gaol.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.—The changes in the marine department had been completed, and confirmed by an order of the Governor-General in Council, published on the 12th July, in conformity with the resolution of the 15th May, published in the *Gazette*. The office of superintendent of marine is abolished, and Captain Rennie becomes the controller of marine affairs and secretary to the Government of India in the marine department; Captain Reddie officiating during his absence in Europe. The dockyards and inland fleets are transferred to the Government of India; the master attendant's office, the pilot establishment, and all purely local establishments remaining under the Government of Bengal, with which the head of those establishments is placed in direct communication. Under this arrangement all Bombay and Bengal marine affairs, the control of all matters relating to Indian ports under the various local governments, the employment of Government vessels, engagement of transports for troops, river navigation, and other matters requiring reference to the Indian Government, will go through the new secretary of the marine department, instead of through the home or military departments.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN EXPEDITION.—The Governor-General had selected the following officers for the projected Central Asian Expedition:—Capt. Smyth, Bengal army, to command; Mr. Meddicot, geological department; Dr. Boustead, Bombay army, for the botanical and natural history department, and medical charge; Lieut. Jackson, engineers, draughtsman. A Mussoorie correspondent of the *Times of India* says that the expedition will start from Simla about the close of the ensuing cold season. "The course chalked out is up the valley of the Sutlej, thence turning off at the junction of the Spite river, following its course, crossing by the Parang Pass into the valley of the river of that name, thence by the Lanak Pass to Haule in the valley of the Indus. Some are of opinion that beyond the snowy range north of the Spite valley the expedition will have to contend with many and formidable difficulties. It is well known that the Chinese Tartars do not like the idea of Europeans visiting their districts. Mr. Wilson, the famous Himalaya sportsman, has frequently told me that it is very unsafe to venture beyond the boundary of Spite or Ladak. In 1853 I visited the Spite valley and was encamped at Damku, the highest village north of the river. During the few days I stopped here I was negotiating with the Lafa (the head man in the village) for permission to pursue the route by the Taree Pass to Wangpo in Tartary; and with the view of inducing him to a compliance, which, notwithstanding all he had said, I still thought he might be empowered to grant, I sent a present, first of some coarse shawls. In return I received a couple of sheep: afterwards at different times grapes, sugar, and tobacco were sent, and were politely acknowledged by a present of ghee and flour. But he assured me that his order against the intrusion of foreigners could not be infringed, and that no lucrative inducement, however great, would have any effect upon his resolution. The early enterprising travellers—Gerard, Stratchey, and Moorcroft—were never able to penetrate into Chinese Tartary, although the attempt was often made. I hear that Capt. Basevi, of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, and Mr. Meddicot, of the Geological Survey, are to accompany the projected expedition to Tartary. The British Government is evidently looking forward to the opening out before long of the interior of China to Europeans. When this event shall have taken place, there will, indeed, be a fine new field for research spread out before us." It was also believed that the Indian Government had now under consideration the "project of forming an exploring party to assemble in Assam, ascend that portion of the Himalaya range which bounds that province on the north and east, and, if possible, find a passage through the passes into the Province of Yunan, in the south-west of the Chinese empire."

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MURDEROUS ASSAULT ON A LADY AT SETAPORE.—The *Oude Gazette* gives the following particulars respecting a murderous assault committed on a lady by a native at Setapore, on the 14th July:—"Some time ago Captain MacGregor, the cantonment magistrate at that station, had occasion to punish the man by imprisonment. Shortly after this he removed from the house he then occupied, and Colonel Taylor went into it. It seems, however, that