

FEROZE SHAH—A private letter from Cabool contains the following:—"Inquiries from India have been made of Dost Mahomed for information regarding **Feroze** Shah, one of the sons of the King of Dehm, who, it is said, had sought refuge in the Cabool territories. The Dost replied that a fakir had passed through Candahar claiming to be a prince of the house of Delhi, but he was not believed, and he had been expelled from the city. Herat is daily becoming more friendly with Persia."

THE CAPTURE OF THE EX-KING OF DELHI.—A letter from Delhi mentions that Mirza Elihee Bux, the father-in-law of the late heir apparent, Mirza Fukroo Deen, who died suddenly some months before the mutiny, had been granted one lakh of rupees "bonus," and a handsome allowance per month, for the part he took in assisting the late Major Hodson in capturing the ex-King of Delhi. Our correspondent adds—"This man has played his cards well. It would be a good plan if the authorities of Delhi were to ask him, as he is deemed worthy of such a handsome reward, what has become of his stepson, **Feroze** **Shah**, it is highly probable that he might feel disposed to furnish further proof of his desire to serve the Government, in return for such liberality. It would be very interesting to the Indian as well as the English public, to know the real story of the manner in which the ex-King and family of Delhi were captured. I do not mean the late Major Hodson's account, but the proceedings preliminary to the march to Nizam-ood-deen's tomb, which led to the promise of the ex-King's life. If I mistake not, Mirza Elihee Bux could throw considerable light upon this subject; and if he thought it inimical to his interests to do so, I think I could point out more than one other native who would be found fully acquainted with the particulars of this very mysterious business."

PROPOSED READING-ROOM IN POONA CAMP.—At a meeting held at Poona it was unanimously agreed to adopt measures for the establishment of a reading-room in camp, and a committee consisting of the undermentioned gentlemen was appointed to draw up the details of the plan by which it should be established:—Major Candy, Captain Eveyard, Professor McDougal, Mr. Puddomjee Pestonjee, Mr. Motabhoj Hormusjee, and Mr. H. Coke.

DISBANDMENT OF THE CUTCH LEVY.—The *Bombay Gazette* states that an order had been issued for the immediate disbandment of the Cutch Levy, and, it was also rumoured, of the Coolee and one of the two Bheel Corps.

THE 16TH N. I.—A correspondent at Surat writes:—"A rumour is abroad that the 16th Regiment stationed here will shortly proceed to Rajkote, and the 12th Regiment will come down here."

ACCIDENT TO AN OFFICER AT HYDRABAD.—We regret to hear (says the *Sindian* of August 29th) that an accident of a very melancholy nature occurred yesterday to a young officer from Hyderabad. We are not in full possession of the sad particulars, but learn that on a projected picnic one or two of the party were riding postilion; one of the riders lost his seat, and before he could regain his feet the van ran over his body. Up to the time of our going to press we had not any further intelligence, but fear the worst, his injuries being of the most serious nature.

DEATH OF LIEUT. E. L. BENNETT.—Lieut. E. L. Bennett, of the 9th Bombay N. I., died at Mhow on the 29th August. The deceased fell a victim to jungle fever contracted on field service in the Satpooa hills. He was buried the same evening with military honours.

Bengal.

Our advices from Calcutta by the present mail are to the 31st of August.

THE INDIGO COMMISSION.—"The report of the Indigo Commission," says the *Englishman*, "was given to his Honour the Lieut.-Governor on Monday, August 27, previous to his departure for Serajunge, and we are informed it will be made public as soon as it can be printed. We regret to understand that the commissioners are not unanimous; that Mr. Seton Karr, the Rev. Mr. Sale, and Baboo Chunder Mohun, consider that things should be allowed to drift on, after the usual fashion of governing in this country, and think that the civil courts as now constituted are quite good enough for the planters. Mr. Temple and Mr. Fergusson, on the other hand, are of opinion that prompt measures should be taken by Government to dissipate the delusions of the ryots as to indigo, and rent, and that a summary procedure should be available to both planter and ryot in the case of bona-fide contracts."

GRATUITIES TO PUBLIC SERVANTS.—The Governor-General had authorized the local Governments to grant gratuities to deserving public servants who are not entitled to pensions on retiring from the service of the State. The rate sanctioned is three months' pay for an officer who has served from five to ten years, and so on upwards. Each case is, however, to be reported to the Government of India.

ABDUCTION CASE.—A case of the abduction of a girl from the Convent had been exciting some interest in Calcutta. Miss Crossman is twelve years of age. Her mother brought her out to India some time ago, and her father, who was a captain in the army, lost sight of her. Under a writ of habeas corpus, the mother produced her, and it was ultimately arranged by both parents that she should be placed under the care of the Superioress of the Loretto Convent. The Supreme Court sanctioned this. But, without the consent of either the superioress or the father, a Mr. Maxted, captain of the *Saladin*, removed her from the Convent to Chandernagore, and so was guilty of abduction in the eye of the law. The case was investigated in the Police-court and sent up to the Sessions. The jury found a true bill against Maxted, and Sir Barnes Peacock, though he acquitted him of improper motives, fined him 500 rs.

THE LICENCE BILL.—The name of the Licence Bill had been changed to the Certificate Bill, and none will be affected by it but those who are not subject to the income-tax.

FAMINE IN AGRA.—The *Delhi Gazette* gives a sad account of the ravages famine was making among the poorer inhabitants of Agra. It severely censures the local authorities for allowing the native bunnahs to take what advantage they please of the scarcity, when from neighbouring districts, where there is plenty of corn, food might be brought in abundance into the Agra market, and supplied to the famishing people at low prices.

THE PRESIDENCY COLLEGE.—On the appointment of Major D. L. Richardson to the post of Professor of English Literature in the Presidency College, Calcutta, and of Mr. W. S. Atkinson to the important office of director of public instruction, seventeen of the inspectors, principals and professors in the educational department, memorialized the government of India. They have received a reply which is valuable for asserting as a principle of educational policy "the encouragement and improvement of independent institutions," with the view of making them adequate to supply the educational wants of the country, and hastening the time when the state itself shall cease to be a schoolmaster. Lord Canning will not interfere with Mr. Grant's dispensation of his patronage.

THE CALCUTTA CRIMINAL SESSIONS.—The fifth criminal sessions of 1860 commenced in the Calcutta Supreme Court, on the 27th August. Sir Barnes Peacock addressed the grand jury on the cases. He said the calendar was a heavy one; many of the cases involved serious charges, but the actual crimes would, after investigation, prove to be less aggravated than was at first sight supposed. The principal cases were, one of poisoning with intent to murder, two of manslaughter, two of cutting and wounding, one of forgery. The chief cases of larceny were, one in which a chowkeedar was supposed to have secreted for his own use a portion of recovered stolen property, and that of *Lethbridge v. Buxton*, in which Mrs. Buxton was accused of theft on evidence which the grand jury subsequently threw out.

THE MAHARAJAH DHULEEP SINGH.—We (*Friend of India*) believe the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh will pay a visit to India in the cold season, returning to Europe in April next.

PEROZE SHAH.—A private letter from Cabool contains the following:—"Inquiries from India have been made of Dost Mahomed for information regarding Feroze Shah, one of the sons of the King of Delhi, who, it is said, had sought refuge in the Cabool territories. The Dost replied that a fakir had passed through Candahar claiming to be a prince of the house of Delhi, but he was not believed, and he had been expelled from the city. Herat is daily becoming more friendly with Persia."

THE CAPTURE OF THE EX-KING OF DELHI.—A letter from Delhi mentions that Mirza Elihee Bux, the father-in-law of the late heir apparent, Mirza Fukroo Deen, who died suddenly some months before the mutiny, had been granted one lakh of rupees "bonus," and a handsome allowance per month, for the part he took in assisting the late Major Hodson in capturing the ex-King of Delhi. Our correspondent adds—"This man has played his cards well. It would be a good plan if the authorities of Delhi were to ask him, as he is deemed worthy of such a handsome reward, what has become of his stepson, Feroze Shah; it is highly probable that he might feel disposed to furnish further proof of his desire to serve the Government, in return for such liberality. It would be very interesting to the Indian as well as the English public, to know the real story of the manner in which the ex-King and family of Delhi were captured. I do not mean the late Major Hodson's account, but the proceedings preliminary to the march to Nizam-ood-deen's tomb, which led to the promise of the ex-King's life. If I mistake not, Mirza Elihee Bux could throw considerable light upon this subject; and if he thought it inimical to his interests to do so, I think I could point out more than one other native who would be found fully acquainted with the particulars of this very mysterious business."

POSTMASTER-GENERAL FOR THE PUNJAB.—The appointment of a new Postmaster-General for the Punjab, having been sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council, the Director-General of Post-offices had recommended to his Excellency a military officer at present holding the office of the Postmaster at Lahore for the post.

RUMOURED DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN THE PUNJAB.—The *Bombay Gazette* says:—"The *Delhi Gazette* has good news at last—too good, we fear, to be true. A correspondent of that journal declares that gold has been discovered in the Punjab. This, we have no doubt, is a 'special interposition' of Providence to prevent the imposition of the paper currency on India. The 'gold' has since been discovered to be glittering dross."

NEW JOURNALS AT SIMLA.—A Simla letter, of the 28th August, says:—"Paying a visit yesterday to one of our printing offices, I had the pleasure of looking over the first number of a new journal. *The Shirmisher, or Rifle Brigade Gazette.* It is got up by the officers of the two battalions serving in this presidency, for brigade circulation only, I believe, as there is no price named. The idea is an excellent one, as will be seen by the opening address. 'To those people asking what the *Shirmisher* is to be, and who are to contribute to its learned pages, we may answer that it is to contain original articles on all subjects, comic or serious, written by lady, officer, non-commissioned officer, or private of the battalion. We will receive all contributions; but it must be understood by all, that it will be left to the discretion of the editors whether such or such an article be inserted or thrown into the waste paper basket. Contributions as above, matches at cricket, quoits, boxing, or single stick; races, hunting, shooting, fighting, challenges, matches to come, recipes and reviews will all be inserted. Advertisements will be charged four annas for two lines and under, and one anna for every line extra. Thus combining utility with amusement, we hope for many readers, whom we may gratify and instruct, and for many interesting contributions from our friends, so that we may show the world, *The Shirmisher* is as serviceable in the field of literature as he has always proved himself in that of war.' The paper is a single sheet a little less in size than a sheet of the *Delhi Gazette*, with four columns to a page; it contains a charade, a leading article on the paper and its heading, three other articles, the commencement of a tale, the station news, regimental news, cricket matches, a short epitome of military news, and two columns of advertisements; the articles are good, and I gleaned from the paper that the battalion and subathoo is now 1,061 strong, exclusive of its officers, and 108 men in hospital. A very promising magazine is also in hand at the same press; it is entitled *The Bengal Magazine*, and is got up by the officers of the 7th Hussars; but whether it is to be a monthly or quarterly the publisher does not know."

THE AFFGHANS OF ISRAELITISH ORIGIN.—Dr. Bellew, who accompanied Col. Lumsden's mission to Kandahar, gives an account of the Affghans, compiled from seven of their own histories, written from 70 to 250 years ago. They call themselves "Bani-Israel," or children of Israel, and claim direct descent from Sarul or Saul the King. His two sons Barakhia and Iramia were chief men under Daood his successor. Their son Assaf and *Affghana* filled high offices under Sulciman. Affghana and his forty sons built the temple. During the Captivity their descendants, because they adhered to the religion of their forefathers, were banished from Palestine by Bluka-u-asr (Nebuchadnezzar), and took refuge in the mountains of Ghor. Thence they gradually extended their power towards the Kohistan-i-Cabul and Ghuzni. Till Mohammed appeared they read the Pentateuch and observed the Mosaic Law. They then adopted the Koran, and their leader, Kais Mohammed, was called *Pahtan*, meaning in Syrian a rudder, as he was to guide the people in the new faith like a skilful pilot. Hence the Affghans have adopted the term "Pathan" as their national appellation, and by that name the Hindoos have always known them. From this Kais, who first embraced Mohammedanism, the tribes trace their descent through his three sons, their direct offshoots being Durranis, Ghilzais, and Kakars. Apart from these traditions, evidently the fruit of Mohammedanism, Dr. Bellew considers there are good grounds for considering them as of Israelitish origin. Their physiognomy, ceremonies, social and religious, and traditions, are all Jewish. They still keep up the custom of casting the "pur" or lot mentioned in the Book of Esther.