



fully exerted for Frank Stanley, who still remained in *statu quo*, with the expectation that his regiment would be ordered to England; dreading which, George, who was now the father of three children, had exchanged into the 65th at Bombay, and accompanied that corps to the Isle of Rodriguez, and thence to the Mauritius, which General Abercrombie captured with little loss, as well as to the island of Bourbon, which was ably reduced by Colonel Keating. Upon his return to Bombay, he served on the expedition to the Persian Gulf and in Guzerat, where, by the accidental rencounter with Robert Gordon, faithfully recorded at the opening of these sketches, he discovered the aspect of hope smiling in the distance. The adjutant who had succeeded Charles's friend, was also disposed to serve him, and the commanding officer perceiving that an answer from the Court of Directors was scarcely to be expected, permitted himself to be prevailed upon to recommend Thoughtless to Sir George Nugent for an ensigncy, which he might resign, and thus free himself from the army; but Sir George, upon enquiry, finding that Charles was doing well, and that he had conducted himself quietly in Calcutta, authorized his discharge, which was accordingly sent to him with due formality. He of course thought he had done with the army for ever, and laid his shoulder to the oar with all his strength. He had acquired some little celebrity as a man of letters, written some pro-



logues and fugitive pieces in the Vakeel and the papers of the day; but having formed an acquaintance with Tom Paine, Esq., proprietor of the Grecian circus, who pressed him much to tread the stage as an amateur, he felt desirous of exhibiting his dramatic talents; yet, as his partner was of opinion that it might not tend to the reputation of the school, he relinquished his intention. His astonishment was however considerable, at finding, some time afterwards, that Mr. Philomath was determined to perform at the new theatre, of which he had become a proprietor. Charles attended on that night, chiefly for the purpose of seeing my Lord Westmorland; but Philomath happening to make some very uncourtly advances towards the throne of his sovereign, and to appear as if he were star-gazing, received a volley of suppressed disapprobation, which so completely confounded him, that he bade adieu to the Chouringhee company for ever. It must be owned, however, that Prince Henry was at home, and that Falstaff could not be in better hands.

Mr. Paine, of the Grecian circus, was a great curiosity, being an admirer of Utopian felicity, and the innocence of human nature. His affairs were very unprosperous; and the theatre, which he had erected at much expence, was a losing concern. He was in debt; and every effort he made to extricate himself only involved him the more. Charles felt a strong inclination to serve him.



"Paine," said he, one day, soon after Philomath had appeared as a nobleman, "I am now at liberty to take a part. Get up an easy comedy, or two farces; let the characters be well cast, permit no one to choose his own part, and I will answer for it you will please the audience, and draw public attention to your theatre." To this he agreed. But Dr. Talib at that time was possessed with the notion that nature had formed him for the part of Hamlet, and he persuaded Paine to attempt that most difficult undertaking. Ophelia was performed by a dark lifeless half-cast, whose face had to receive such a coat of white-wash that all expression was destroyed. But the Doctor, in contemplating his own success, forgot all necessary combination; fully confident that he should electrify the house, and turn observation to himself alone. To ensure this, he stamped and stared, acted the very madman, clenched his fist in the face of the quiet Ophelia, and groaned so tremendously, that when he came to give the instructions to the players, and talked of o'erstepping the modesty of nature, an ironical peal of applause continued for an hour, with loud fits of unrestrained laughter; but he went on and finished the part, attributing the disapprobation to the rancour of his enemies, rather than to his own misconception of the character. In short, he insisted on re-acting it; and an audience was obtained by a gratuitous distribution of tickets. Charles acted the part of Horatio, and obtained



much applause in the critiques written on the occasion : but the consequences were disastrous to him ; for his partner and he could never agree afterwards, and at last came to such an open rupture, that the former placed the note for 1700 rupees in the hands of an attorney, that Charles might be immediately arrested. Mr. Squeezhim had the politeness to apprise Thoughtless, that unless the cash was instantly paid, a writ would issue forthwith. He was greatly puzzled ; but having heard of the princely conduct of John Palmer, Esq., one of the most noble-minded merchants that ever breathed, he wrote him a short note, simply stating the circumstance, and adding one or two observations on the singular mode of vengeance to which his partner had resorted. This note was accompanied by a copy of the school accounts, shewing that Charles had a balance of outstanding debts due to him, to the amount of 3000 rupees. Mr. Palmer said in reply, that he had not looked at the accounts, for he thought no man who could write such a simple note would attempt to deceive him, and that he had seen a check for the sum claimed to Mr. Squeezhim's office. Philomath, being thus foiled, would not receive the money, so the check was returned to the generous Mr. Palmer, and an indelible impression of gratitude was made on the heart of Charles Thoughtless. In consequence of the above affair, he sold his share of the academy, and cleared



10,000 rupees, besides freeing himself from all incumbrances; but he was restricted from exercising the profession of a schoolmaster, for five years, in or near the city of Calcutta.

Having now some money for the first time in his life, Charles thought of his promise to Frank Stanley: he wrote to his uncle, making enquiries about his father, with an offer of assistance, and his heart warmed at the idea of sending a pair of shawls to his grandmother. But being out of employment, he made an effort to return to the army, and waited on Sir William Grant Keir, with whom he was slightly acquainted, who received him with all his wonted benevolence. He recollected the circumstance of Charles's name having been left on his list, for he was adjutant-general, and gave him a note of introduction to the military secretary, couched in very handsome terms. Charles having delivered it, waited nearly a month for an answer: his impatience then became extreme, and he wrote in on the subject, but received a reply that filled him with despair; for it was, that they never made promises in the commander-in-chief's office; upon which Charles took a bold and decisive step. He wrote a short memorial to the Marquis of Hastings, simply stating his services and recommendations, with an observation, expressing his confidence that his Lordship could penetrate his feelings, and would attribute his seeming boldness to the proper cause. The noble Marquis instantly



directed him to be gazetted, and the assistant military secretary, pleased with the steps he had taken, and the papers he produced, most kindly gave him the choice of any regiment in which ensigncies were then vacant, so that he got into the same corps with his friend Mr. True.



CHAP. XVI.

"Come ye, who shun the folly of the East,
Nor court pale midnight at her gorgeous feast :
Who run from tom toms rattling at the gate,
And view no *poojahs* crowding by in state ;
Who shun the great *mohorum's* annual show,
And seldom to the grandest *nautches* go,
With me depart, though I have little wealth,
To humble competence and joyous health.
Within a narrow circle are confined
Man's real wants, when wisdom curbs the mind."

THE great Indian drums called tom toms are of a demi-globular form, and of prodigious size, covered with the skins of buffaloes, stretched on their strong frame-work to a great degree of tension ; upon these, men rattle away with clubs, as if struggling between life and death. It is not easy to conceive the mighty noise which these drums produce, and their constant thundering in the temples is increased by sounding long brass horns, trumpets, and gongs, while bells and cymbals are heard at intervals, with the shrill piercing tones of wind instruments like small clarionets. In the processions the tom toms of largest size are borne on carriages purposely made, and others are carried about on camels and elephants, with several men beating them, as if the world depended for safety on their exertions. These annual ceremonies in Calcutta

are called Poojahs, and during their celebration the idols are drawn about in splendid artificial pagodas, made of bamboo frame-work, similar to the great carriage of Juggernaut. During the continuation of the Doorga poojah, which occupies several days, the rich natives of Calcutta vie with each other in giving splendid nautches for three nights, to which Europeans are invited by printed cards couched in the most polite terms. Temporary buildings are erected for this display of eastern profusion, in which vast sums are annually spent ; and at some of the nautches I have seen two hundred persons sit down to a sumptuous supper, where champagne circulated like water, and the richest ices were melted in the most costly liquors. These grand supper-rooms were lighted with a profusion of chandeliers and wax-tapers under Indian table shades, while the brilliancy was reflected by countless mirrors, and the atmosphere cooled by punkoes, tatties, and jets d'eau ; artificial wildernesses breathed forth perfumes, and endless varieties of flowers called to recollection the scenes of Arabian story. Of these suppers the Hindoos will not of course partake ; but they enter the apartment, congratulate the guests, and see that the European tavern-keepers employed to prepare them provide every thing on a liberal scale. Previous to the time at which these supper-rooms are suddenly thrown open, as if by enchantment, the crowds of company are entertained in a great amphitheatre by dancing girls,



bands of music, both European and native, tumblers, jugglers, actors, and pantomimes, forming an assemblage which, from the costume of so many different nations, is like a great fancy ball. Perfumes and flowers are distributed, and sweetmeats handed about. Some sit and look at the dances, while others promenade round the virandas, to view the household gods, hundreds of whom are placed in conspicuous situations, some half elephant and man, others with numerous heads and arms, here quite naked, there sumptuously arrayed. The apartments of the Hindoo ladies look down upon this great amphitheatre, and from a gallery these recluses may be seen peeping through lattice-work on the *tomasha* below. European ladies, on the evenings of the Doorga poojah, are asked to visit the female part of the family, whom they have always found apparently happy and full of curiosity. Many of them sing very sweetly, and play well on instruments, something like guitars. A native band of music consists of these instruments, and others like clarionets, with cymbals and kettle-drums, which produce very wild, pleasing, and melancholy harmony; but most of the favourite airs of the higher class are Persian. The dancing girls are gorgeously dressed, and covered with ornaments. Their dances consist of sudden transitions; the movement is sometimes so slow that one would think they were falling asleep, then, by a change of the music, it is all life, and exhibits the most rapid



succession of violent action. Now they take up their robe and fold it into various shapes — then they let it go ; so that while they turn round like a top, this garment forms a circle resembling a peacock's tail, and this circulation is continued so long, that it excites the wonder of every beholder.

In Calcutta, the great Hindoo annual festival is held in October, and it is soon followed by the Mahomedan mohorum, a ceremony that takes place in commemoration of the death and sufferings of Hossen and Hassen, the sons of Ally. You are aware perhaps, gentle reader, that the Moslems are divided into two great sects, called Sheeas and Soonnees ; the former are the followers of Ally, and consider Abboo Becker, Omar, and Othman usurpers ; the latter are disciples of Abboo Becker, and do not reverence the memory of Hossen and Hassen ; but there are not many of that sect in India. After the death of Ally, who succeeded Othman, Moveeyah, the governor of Syria, mounted the throne, and Hassen was poisoned by the treachery of his wife ; but in the reign of Yezeed, the son of the usurper, Hossen endeavoured to recover his birthright, when he was killed in the plain of Kirbullaw. The mohorum is instituted to celebrate this tragedy ; and the Sheeahs go into mourning on the occasion, and form processions with the bodies of Hossen and Hassen, in which war-horses, covered with wounds, a mock fight, wonderful lamentations, howling, beating of the breast,



and uproar, are the leading ceremonies. The bodies having been waked in artificial mosques, called Imambarahs and Tabooses, made of frame-work covered with tinsel, are on the day of the funeral procession thrown into a tank with great ceremony. But indeed these scenes have been so often the theme of description, that I shall hasten to matter of more originality.

Calcutta had been a pleasant place on the whole to Charles Thoughtless, and he could not think of leaving it without regret. Although his duties were laborious, his pleasures were commensurate; for in vacation he had most agreeable trips up the Ganges, and cheerful excursions into the interior, where he contemplated with rapture the peace and plenty that smiled upon the happy peasantry of Bengal; for although sunk in idolatry and ignorance, their blooming habitations were pictures of rural felicity. Besides, he had formed several interesting friendships and acquaintances, all which were so many links in the chain of enjoyment that must be broken. When about to bid adieu, he remembered with a sigh the dances and parties, the hospitality and gaiety of Bengal; but as his health had suffered severely, he had in reality no real cause for serious sorrow.

Meanwhile, George True had determined on sailing for his native land, and he was not unmindful of the poetical Robert Gordon, whose discharge he had interest to procure; and to avoid the delay



of waiting for a passage, he came round to Calcutta, and was rejoiced to find Charles a brother-officer in the same corps. Little Edward and Emma, who had looked upon each other in infancy, now became attached friends in childhood. But to hasten over immaterial topics, a passage was obtained, Mrs. True and family, with Gordon as their attendant, went down the river in the ship, and George remained till the next tide, to settle his last Indian affairs, then, accompanied by Thoughtless, he proceeded to Champaul Ghaut; and the conversation there, and on the way, suggested the lines prefixed to these chapters, on the plan of the third satire of Juvenal.

The monsoon was now about to commence in Calcutta; but such was the anxiety of Ensign Thoughtless to join his regiment, that he seized the first opportunity to engage a passage for himself and family to Bombay; but a few days before he sailed, the following letter reached him from Frank Stanley.

“ MY DEAREST FRIEND,

“ I have been shewn your letter to the commanding officer in my behalf. I shall only say, that never in my whole life did I feel more pleasure than at the moment I read your offer of purchasing me a commission. In this you have acted in a manner worthy of yourself; and let me imitate the example, by saying, as Euryalus did to Nisus,



‘This soul contemns mere rank.’ What would be my reflections, were I to assume an epaulette by taking the little store that may transport you, with your wife and three darlings, in declining health, to the restoring zephyrs and green fields of your native soil? Friendship forbid it! Since it has been my happy lot to meet one whom neither time, fortune, nor place can change, may God give me gratitude to act so as to merit the inestimable blessing. Believe me, I am contented with my condition. I feel that I am respected in the regiment, and I trust that time will raise me to that situation which certain circumstances make very desirable.

“There is nothing new in the regiment or elsewhere, that I know of, worth communicating; and, confusion to me, but it is an old song to subscribe myself

“Your constant friend till death,

“FRANK STANLEY.”

The Pembroke, a country ship, commanded by Captain Ross, scudded away before the N. E. monsoon, which carried her through the Indian ocean southward of Dei Gracia, at the rate of twelve knots an hour. Having gained the latitude of Bombay, the course was due east, and the sea soon began to assume a greenish muddy tint. Several large snakes were now seen alongside, and a hard sandy cast was got in forty-eight fathoms, from which the bank shoaled gradually, till lofty mountains ap-



peared in the horizon. Night intervening, a lighthouse rose to view like the evening-star; and, at dawn next morning, the green smiling point on which it stands was neared: the captain then guided the ship on well-known objects till a pilot came on board. The island of Colabah was soon cleared, and the fortress and town opened on the view. Caranjar was now a-starboard, Elephanta right a-head, the anchor dropped, and the Pembroke attracted the gaze of crowds from the ramparts of Bombay. Ensign Charles Thoughtless, his wife, and three children, were soon on shore, and palankeens conveyed them to Cameron's hotel. Having reported at the brigade major's office, Charles was carried over the rocks to Old Woman's Island, and up Colabah, to the quarters of Colonel Milnes, his commanding officer, by whom he was received with brief sincerity and kindness. "Orderly," said the Colonel, "tell the adjutant to step hither."—"Mr. Ward," added he, when that gentleman arrived, "Mr. Thoughtless has a family; try what you can do to get a bungalow for him. I fear there is not one unoccupied on the island." On leaving the Colonel, Ward most kindly offered Charles part of his quarters; but they met Lieutenants Barnes and Ottley of the corps, who, understanding that the stranger had a family, offered to vacate the bungalow they occupied, saying, "Do not refuse it, Mr. Thoughtless; the rains are now nearly over, and we prefer being in our tents."



His family were soon accommodated ; and, after introduction to the officers, his attention was directed to the standing orders ; and from the adjutant's office was derived the following information, which shews how well the 65th merited the reputation of a *crack* regiment.

Memoirs. — It was one of those corps raised during the seven years' war, and first embodied in 1759. Obscurity has cast a veil over its services for three years after formation ; but, in 1762 it was stationed on the island of Guadaloupe, during the attack and conquest of the Havannah, and formed a part of the force under the Earl of Albemarle, who commanded on the expedition. During the American war it was employed in that country, and suffered severely at the battle of Bunker's Hill. In 1778 it was in camp at Coxheath ; and detachments from it served on board Lord Howe's fleet at the relief of Gibraltar in 1782. Two years afterwards it was stationed in Dublin, and acquired great reputation for discipline, being the first regiment which, under the superintendence of Sir David Dundas, ever practised and carried to perfection the system of field exercises compiled by that officer, and since laid down as a general regulation for the whole army. In 1785 it landed at Quebec, marched to Fort Niagara, and furnished detachments to Oswega and Fort Schlosser. Detroit saw its manœuvres in the summer of 1788, and thence it supplied detachments to Michilim,



Mackinac, and Fort Erie. Next year it retraced its steps to Lower Canada, till, on its arrival at la Prairie, it marched to St. John's near the mouth of Lake Champlain, sending detachments to Isle aux Noix, Point au Fer, and Fort Chamblée. In 1791 it was stationed at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and proceeded to Frederickston, leaving detachments at Fort Howe and Cumberland, and dispatching others to Presque Isle and the Grand Falls.

The revolutionary war having broken out in Europe, this regiment was destined to form a part of the force under the command of Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis, intended to reduce the enemy's possessions in the West Indies, and it embarked at Halifax for Barbadoes. Thence it proceeded to the islands of St. Vincent and Grenada, and in the division of Major-general Thomas Dundas took Fort Trinity on the island of Martinique, and proceeded across the country through Gros Morne to attack a post called la Reduite, about three miles from St. Pierre, which was taken by storm with considerable loss. In the operations attending the capture of the islands of St. Lucie and Guadaloupe, particularly at Fort Fleur d'Epée, part of the regiment suffered severely. It was in the unfortunate force that bravely attempted soon afterwards to defend Guadaloupe against the attack of the French General Victor Hughes. Here a series of unsuccessful operations, chiefly rendered so by the dreadful



mortality among the troops, ended in that emergency which obliged the force that remained to surrender at Berville camp. The regiment was now reduced to a skeleton, and commanded by a subaltern.

On its return home, it was recruited and served for some years in Scotland, after which it was sent out to the Cape of Good Hope, and proceeded some time after to Bombay, where it arrived upwards of a thousand strong, about the time when Lord Lake's army was on route to reduce Bhurtpore. It was sent to join the division of the army forming in Guzerat to co-operate with the force under his Lordship, and it marched from Broach in the month of June, when the hot winds carried death in every blast. In a few days 800 men and several officers expired, twenty men sometimes falling dead in a day. The remainder shared in three unsuccessful attempts to storm Bhurtpore, and fell by sections before the discharges of grape. A remarkable instance of courage and attachment was here displayed by a grenadier. Serjeant-major Goodger was seen fighting like a lion half-way up the impracticable breach. He had received several wounds on the face and body, and his right eye was scooped out by the push of a spear. He fell to the bottom, and the retreat was sounded. After the soldiers had gained a place of cover from the murderous fire of the fort, one of the grenadiers recollected the situation of the brave serjeant-major; he flew to the spot, removed him.

other, under sanction of the commanding officer. Prisoners for petty offences are tried by a court consisting of a corporal, who sits as president, and of four privates, as members ; and it may be easily conceived how important this institution is in prevention of crimes ; for the soldiers are censors on the conduct of one another, and feel bound as jurors to uphold the discipline and honour of their regiment.

The corps owes its present efficiency of organization chiefly to Colonel Lionel Smith, who now commands the Poonah subsidiary force. Some of his orders display great energy and vigour of mind, with an elegance and force of diction truly eloquent ; while others are playfully written, as if to amuse the soldiers, by whom he is feared and loved with the utmost enthusiasm. His common name among them is *Long Tom*. The following observation, made by him in declining the resignation of an officer, will convey an idea of his energetic style : “ Whoever embarks in the profession of a soldier, whether as a private or an officer of high rank, must not suppose he can demand his release when he chooses : he has given himself to his country, and can only be spared from her service when circumstances permit.” The gaiety of his disposition may be conceived from the order he issued on the transfer of Fort George barracks to the King’s regiments : — “ Fort George barracks now belong to the King ; thank God for it. The



regiment will take possession of them to-morrow morning," &c.

Those regulations, compiled by various colonels and commanding officers, for the guidance of all ranks, and styled the standing orders of the regiment, are written in a noble spirit, of which a short extract or two will convey a sufficient notion. — "Officers must endeavour to gain the esteem and confidence of their men, by a constant attention to their interests and to their wants; be careful of their health, and spare no pains in procuring them every comfort and advantage in their power; they must, on no account, be provoked to give them ill language, or to treat them in a manner which may degrade them in their own opinion or that of others; they must, on the other hand, steadily maintain the authority which is entrusted to them, by exacting from the non-commissioned officers and soldiers the greatest respect, not suffering them to answer when reprimanded, or at any time omitting the smallest compliment due to them; anxious to promote the good order and discipline of the regiment, they must convince all under their command that they are perfectly acquainted with every part of their duty; and that, as they strictly adhere to it themselves, they will not suffer the smallest failure or deviation of the performance of it in others." — "Non-commissioned officers, distinguished by their talents and good conduct, may and should look forward to the highest ranks in their profession; and



may be assured, that whenever occasion offers, they shall not want the interest and support of those at the head of the regiment, in attaining a superior station, to which their merit gives them the most honourable title."

In short, to bring this subject briefly to a conclusion, soon after Charles had made himself acquainted with the interior economy of the regiment, differing from that of his old corps in many points, some in his opinion for the better, and others for the worse, a review took place, after which the General rode to the centre, and addressed Colonel Milnes thus: "I am much gratified with the appearance of the 65th regiment: its efficiency reflects great credit on you and your officers; and I shall have the pleasure of representing it to the Commander-in-chief as fit for any service."



CHAP. XVII.

" There are who stay to advance thy solid fame,
O Albion, and perpetuate thy name,
Whose souls despise the tempting lure of spoil,
And seek but glory in the path of toil ;
While many are by other motives sway'd,
To cut a dash—in tandem to parade ;
In glittering curricule through crowds to force,
Or whirl in buggy gay along the course."

THAT the civil and military servants in India are as high-minded and honourable men as any other bodies in the world, may be fairly assumed. Indeed they are placed above temptation by their munificent masters the Company, who enable them, by a course of integrity, to gain with certainty that glorious independence, which is the legitimate aim and end of all human exertion. But numerous are the instances in which the weakness of our common nature has led to a deviation from the path pronounced by sound sense as the wisest for man. Indeed it would seem, from the records of the courts of justice in India, that some individuals have gone out with that lesson on their minds, which a Roman nobleman is said to have given to his son, when sending him into the provinces of Asia: " My boy, make a fortune if you can by honourable means, but make a fortune." Without



entering into the history of such men as have distinguished themselves in India, either by disinterestedness or misconduct, it is intimated with deference, that the extravagant scale of living in Bengal plunges young men on their first arrival into such difficulties that those who fall into them become tools in the hands of artful natives. But not to dwell further on a common topic, a more interesting subject is resumed.

Soon after the review noticed at the end of the last chapter, the 65th regiment received orders to join the army forming in Guzerat for the supposed purpose of compelling Scindea to take a subsidiary force. The ladies and families of the corps were left behind, and Charles with a heavy heart embarked on board the Paraty Pursad, a paddimar, commanded by Tyndal Nayla, for Broach. Some of these boats were large enough to carry a whole company, and had a comfortable half-deck and awning to screen the men from the sun. The one in which he embarked was of a small description and open, except a small part near the stern, screened in with mats for the officers. This little fleet soon cleared Malabar point. The officers enjoyed the sea-breeze, their brandy pawny, books, flutes, and segars, beneath their comparatively comfortable shed, now admiring the majestic ghauts on their right, with the beautiful diversity of scenery along the shore, then casting a look on the dark blue expanse of water that closed the



horizon on the left; and now roused to other feelings by the songs or stories, the laughs or jests of the merry thoughtless soldiers, who passed their time in loud mirth beneath the burning sun, amused with forfeits, the button and the tailor, and shewing how easily the human mind conforms to circumstances, and creates happiness wherever there is hope, by laughing away reflection. Seven days the paddimars kept their course along the shore, favoured by alternate breezes from the sea and land. Having passed Domas, and saluted the commodore's cruizer, they entered the Nerbuddah, the fertile banks of which fine river appeared covered with flocks of cattle, and verdant with the various productions of bountiful nature, presenting to the view a level country, with numerous topes, through which villages met the eye. The bed of the Nerbuddah, near Broach, is narrow and dangerous, from several small islands and banks that are covered at high water. On these some of the paddimars got aground, reeling over on the side when the water left them; but in the course of a tide or two, all the troops were safely landed, and encamped near the fort on the road to Baroda.

This river is considered the southern boundary of one of the three great divisions into which the hand of nature seems to have formed Hindostan. After a course of about 750 miles nearly from the head of the Bay of Bengal, it falls into the Gulf of Cambay, not far from Broach, and all that tract



between it and the Hemaleah range is called Hindostan Proper ; thence the territory extending southward to the river Kisthna, which rises not far from Poonah in the western ghauts, and courses eastward into the Bay of Bengal, is called the Deckan ; and all the rest of the continent of Asia, to the island of Ceylon, is termed the Peninsula. In the Nerbuddah are found those types of Shiva, called Solgrammas, which are sacred pebbles, held in great estimation all over India ; and about ten miles from Broach there is an island, in which stands that wonderful banyan-tree, so large as to shade 7000 men under its branches. It is called the Kuveer Bur, and it is believed to have sprung up from the spot where a saint of that name interred himself alive, according to a custom in this province. The natives say it was larger 3000 years ago than at present, part of it having been swept away by the river along with some of the island. Charles made one of a party to see this huge banyan-tree, and the cornelian beds not far from it. The tree has 350 large trunks, of the full size of oaks 100 years old, and 3000 smaller ones, formed by branches, which take root when they touch the ground. It is upwards of 2000 feet in circumference, and forms such a shade that the rays of the sun cannot penetrate, so that the mind can conceive nothing more refreshing than the cool zephyr playing through these long vistas upon the cheek of an European during a burning day. The



cornelians and agates are found in clay, at some depth from the surface, and round spits like wells are formed by those who search for them, Guzerat, like Bengal, in this part has a rich black soil, which is free from stones.

The fort of Broach is large and irregular, surrounding a populous town. Its walls are high and thick, with towers and bastions. It was taken last in 1803 from Dowlat Row Scindeah, by Colonel Waddington, and with the district around now belongs to the Company. From one of its high towers, Charles obtained a pleasing view of the country, which is a plain of wonderful beauty, at this season (November) yellow with grain almost ripe for the sickle. Here his eye traced the magnificent windings of the Nerbuddah, the waters of which he saw conducted by human industry to its right and left, for purposes of irrigation; there he beheld fine plantations of tobacco, cotton, juwarree, sugar-cane, grain, wheat, and many other productions. He then wandered along the mouldering parapet, and pausing at the breach by which it was stormed under General Wedderburne in 1772, he sighed as he contemplated the graves of that brave officer and his numerous fellow-soldiers at the bottom of it. Descending from the walls, he traversed the town, and visited the mosques and pagodas, conforming to the wishes of the Mussulmen and Hindoos by taking off his boots, that he might not profane those sanctuaries. Then he inspected the wheels and looms

of the numerous cotton-manufacturers, and admired the simplicity of the former, consisting of a small reel for receiving the yarn, which a woman, seated on the ground, turns with her right hand, while with her left she forms the thread. The loom consists of a reed and geers, with a small beam, upon which the warp is rolled: it is prepared in the open air, and fixed in the reed and geers, which are suspended to the roof of the *ghur*; and a hole being made in the floor, across which the beam rests, the weaver with his little shuttle sits on the other side, and draws the web, as he works it, round another small beam; thus with most simple means are fabricated the tissues which for their curiosity of texture surprise even those who employ the intricate machinery of European looms.

He afterwards visited the extensive *petah*, situated outside the walls, and saw the women of the lower orders at their domestic pursuits, grinding and pounding rice, spinning and weaving, or drawing water from the wells. The mill used is composed of two round stones, one of which is turned by the hand, and the grinding is performed by two women, according to the ancient practice alluded to in the Scriptures. For pounding, a wooden mortar and pestle are used. Among the females were several pretty figures; many of them had large ivory rings on the arms, wrists, and ancles. The teeth and eye-lashes of some are painted black, and a yellow or white streak on the forehead and



between the eyes proclaims the cast. The dress most common here is a silk or cotton spencer, that embraces the body and breasts closely, with a *sauree* rolled round the waist, one end of it being brought over the shoulders and head, as in Bengal.

As the force remained several days at Broach, he sometimes met the Hindoo ladies in hackeries, drawn by bullocks, ornamented with bells and rich gaudy trappings, closely covered with silk, or cotton, to screen them from the gaze of the vulgar. Those of a lower order he also met, covered from head to foot with a muslin veil, mounted cross-legged, on Mahratta horses, led by gora wallahs.

In the cool of each evening he rambled over the fields, and rode through the adjacent villages, admiring the beautiful yellow flowers of the cotton plant, and opening the bulbs from which they blow, containing balls of cotton, about the size of a pigeon's egg, which surprise the beholder by the quantity of cotton they contain. He was struck with the mode in which the farmers irrigate their fields. Deep wells are sunk at a distance from the river, which supply vast quantities of water; a wheel is fixed to a beam on the top, over which a rope passes, tied to a very large leather bag, which is so constructed that it fills and empties itself; to this rope two bullocks are tackled on an inclined plane. The bag being thrown into the well, is filled with water, and the bullocks, feeling its sinking

weight, move off down the slope, till their load reaches the surface, and empties itself into a channel, that carries it off through the fields ; then the well-taught animals march backwards up the declivity, till the full bag again tells them to move down it ; and thus will a pair of good bullocks, often without a driver, go on for nearly a whole day, alternately moving forwards and backwards, and keeping up by their labour a small stream, which, in its course, produces fertility. He often conversed with the farmers, most of whom could speak Hindostanee. One of them, a man of large stature, short beard, and intelligent countenance, Charles addressed on the state of the tenantry. He carried a sling in his hand, with a bag full of clay balls on his shoulder, which he whizzed with great noise, to keep birds away from his ripening corn. The field, which resembled many others in its vicinity, contained several acres in a square, surrounded by a broad green walk, planted with tamarind, mangoe, lime, and jack trees, and enclosed by an excellent hedge of prickly pear. A few of his answers were in substance as follows : — “ In fact, every thing belongs to the Company. I pay three rupees a *big-gah* for the land, which is nearly as much as I can make of it ; and I do what I please with it. If I fail to pay my rent, the farm is distrained or sold.” He extolled the fertility of the country towards Baroda, comparing it to a garden ; acknowledged that the inhabitants considered themselves more flourishing



and happy under the Company than they had been under the Mahratta princes, and seemed contented with his situation, though he testified a natural predilection for his former rulers, more by the shakes of his beard and the changes of his aspect than by the expressions of his cautious tongue. Charles told him of other parts of India. He did not seem inquisitive, but was familiar and politely attentive in removing thorns out of the way.

The province of Guzerat is very large, and is bounded on three sides by the Arabian sea, the gulfs of Cambay and Kutch. That part of it between the two gulfs, forming nearly an island, is called Kattywar. The whole is about 380 miles in length, and 180 in breadth. Its productions are very various, comprising nearly all those of the east, with many of the vegetables of the west. Poultry is very scarce, owing to prejudice on the part of the inhabitants; for here, as in some parts of Malabar, they are not domesticated. The coconut and plantain-trees are scarcely to be seen in the interior. Its climate is delightful in winter; but in summer the heat is dreadful. To notice all its curiosities I have not space: let it suffice to mention the city of Ahmedabad, and its rocking minarets. The forests offer to naturalists the rhinoceros, tiger, and lion, and snakes of great size. Its fields present to the sportsman a variety of game; and the sacred peacock, the chattering monkey, and the parrot, are to be seen on almost



every tree. In the northern parts this province is very thinly inhabited, having been nearly desolated by the famine of 1802; but the southern districts are very populous, that of Broach alone containing 262 villages, which, together with the fort and petah, have been estimated at 100,000 souls: nevertheless, in the whole, there are only about ten millions of people, one-tenth of whom are Mahomedans, and a considerable number Parsees, there being 3000 of that very industrious race at Broach. There are several distinct races of men in Guzerat. The Bheels, who are thieves by profession, live in the forests, and eat the gum that exudes from the barbal-tree; but they are not so blood-thirsty as the Coolees, the most expert rogues in the world, who go quite naked, and oil their bodies, so that, if detected, it is almost impossible to hold them, being as slippery as eels. In travelling through the country, it is only by chaining every thing to the tent-pole that property can be secured; and no house is safe, for they make holes under ground, like rats. The best security is to fee the Bhauts or Charons, who are held sacred, and make a livelihood by guaranteeing safety of person and property to travellers, while passing within their jurisdiction; for they take an oath to commit suicide in the event of injury or loss; and such is the superstitious veneration of the thieves for them, or rather there exists such an understanding between them, that persons under their protection are hardly ever molested.



Charons are an inferior cast of Brahmins, and most of them belong to the clerical order; but Bhauts live in many places by tillage, and near Keira there are several villages of them. In ancient times they were the bards of India; and in all the noble families of Guzerat there are some of them domesticated, who sing the exploits of heroes. Being held sacred by the Hindoos, it is thought a horrible sin to cause their blood to be shed, or their life to be endangered; and such is the obstinacy of their nature, that they put themselves to death on very small provocation, and murder their wives and children if they meet with disappointment in their undertakings. Another curious class is the Puggies, who earn a subsistence by detecting thieves, in which calling they are particularly dexterous, and seldom fail to trace the plunder into the village to which it has been carried, and where the tribe called Grassias make a livelihood by receiving stolen goods from the Bheels and Coolees. There is besides an infamous tribe called Dheeras, who live on carrion, and perform all the vile offices of humanity; their touch is considered contamination by every man of cast. It is supposed there are 50,000 thieves in Guzerat; yet there is a desperate cast called Ungruas, who will engage for a small reward to carry money all over the country, and such is their character for intrepidity, that they are hardly ever attacked. In short, men of nearly all the casts in India are found in Guzerat. The Mahrattas



over-ran this province soon after the foundation of their empire by Sevagee; but when it began to decline, a chief named Pillagee Guichwar invaded it, and in 1726 established his family at Baroda, being confirmed in his conquest some years afterwards by the Sattara Rajah. But the division of territory in the Mahratta states is so extraordinary, that no one can say, this province belongs to any particular chief; for the Peishwa and Scindea have parts of it as well as the Guichwar, and sometimes one town is governed by this trio, and divided among them. The Jains are numerous here, and may be seen feeding flies with sugar and honey, and fanning the air with peacocks' feathers, lest they should unconsciously kill any living creature.

Some of the customs are curious, but only one or two can be instanced. The people are extremely afraid of witches, and consider ugly old women as having power to injure them by their looks; and to deprive them of this fascination, they cut off the noses of these hapless objects of their antipathy. It is customary for devotees, when tired of life from age, or absorbed in spiritual contemplation, to dig a pit in which they may be suffocated. When great misfortune assails them, and hope is lost, a yellow dress is put on, or powder of that colour is sprinkled over the person, to indicate despair, and if not relieved the person assuming it commits suicide. The Hindoo merchants, upon being unsuccessful in business, light a lamp during the day, which an-



nounces the state of their affairs to all creditors, and during the examination of books and inventories of stock they do not appear, nor will they return to their houses till permission is granted by those to whom they are indebted. If the merchant proclaims himself a bankrupt in time, and acts honourably, he is generally set up again with applause, and looked upon as a man of great integrity. But of all their customs female infanticide is the most extraordinary. In modern times this abominable practice was confined to the Jerajah tribe; but anciently it was far more extensive: it is now nearly abolished, thanks to British influence. Its origin cannot be traced; but tradition says that a certain great rajah had an only daughter, so exquisitely beautiful and accomplished, that she appeared not to be a form of earth. Her father searched over the whole world in vain for a prince worthy to enjoy such an angel: he at length, by the advice of a Brahmin, put her to death, as the only expedient to prevent his blood from being debased by marriage with a common person. This gratification of his pride the Brahmins turned to their own advantage, by flattering him with the assurance that he would become immortal, in aiding them to propagate a report that the young lady was ordered by Brahma to be sacrificed, to prevent her from being defiled by a mortal. Her father's descendants following his example, put their female progeny to death, saying that such was the decree of Brahma,

and that no mortal was worthy of being husband to their daughters. They therefore bought female children from other tribes, and had them educated in conformity to their own customs.

Charles was recalled from one of his evening rambles by the bugles of the regiment sounding the warning for parade, and on reaching his tent the corporal handed him the orders : — “ The line will march to-morrow morning at five o’clock.” — A hollow square was formed on the parade, and three of the soldiers were brought to a drum-head court-martial for being absent from their lines, and for behaving in an unsoldier-like manner in a neighbouring village, to the disgrace of the European character. The court sentenced each to receive 300 lashes, but one-half was remitted by the humane commanding officer, who addressed the regiment on the enormity of armed guardians of the laws spreading terror among the peaceful peasants of the country. To some it may appear cruel to flog men on the eve of marching ; but if such offences were not visited with immediate vengeance, our fine army would soon be little better than a rabble. During the performance of this melancholy duty, the regiment was surrounded by half the population of Broach and the neighbouring villages. Such a crowd conveyed an idea of the vast mass of men in India, and revived the question so often discussed, “ How can so many brook to be governed by so few ? ”



Broach and its district yield a revenue to the Company of about £200,000 per annum. All its imports and exports are taxed for the support of the pinjrapole or hospital for animals, in which, however, there are now very few patients or pensioners, besides a few fine cows, the milk of which pays amply for their keeping. There are about twenty-five societies here of the Banyan cast, all employed in trade, for the manufacture of cotton is very extensive, the water of the Nerbuddah at this place being famed for giving a delicate whiteness to the *baftas*. Great numbers of *Borahs* also repair hither for goods. They are spread all over India; and, although Mahomedans, they have the features and characteristics of complete Jews.

The line marched on the high road to Baroda, through the finest plain that can be imagined, cultivated like a garden; they encamped at Sitpaun, a village of about 200 ghurs, composed of mud and covered with tiles, and inhabited chiefly by Moslems, who have two small mosques. There is no Hindoo temple, but each has in his own house a place dedicated to the particular god of the family. After breakfast, Charles was seated at his desk writing the notes of his journal — “Road good — not many inclosures — tank and well water in abundance near the village.”

“Saheeb,” said Ballo, for Mr. True had transferred his favourite servant to Thoughtless, and Moote had remained with Frank Stanley, “one



man village from, sell to master want, one fine little boy."

"Good God!" said Thoughtless, "is it his own son, Ballo?" — "*Aw, saheeb,*" answered Ballo, "this country such custom is."

Charles went out, and, alas! found that Ballo's tale was true. A poor aged naked man held his little half-starved looking boy in his hand anxious about selling him. Thoughtless cast an earnest look upon him. He was gazing at his child, drawing him closer, and a tear stood in his eye. "Ballo," said Charles, "give him some rupees, and tell him not to sell his son." The poor man fell on his face and kissed the ground; he then rose and embraced his child. Thoughtless felt that riches have charms when we employ them to make our fellow-creatures happy.

The next march was to Ekeer, a village larger than the last, inhabited by rigid Hindoos, who closed their doors for fear of contamination when the line was passing.

"Saheeb," said Ballo, in the course of the day, "one soldier artillery cut belly in very much by *Bheel* with arrow bow from."

"How has that happened, Ballo?" asked Charles. But not to plague you, gentle reader, with the Hindostannee idiom, it occurred thus:—It is usual for the soldiers to sleep after a march. There were some small ravines in front of the men's tents, up which two *Bheels* crept; one entered a



routy, holding in his breath, and began to load himself with canteens. A man who was wide awake let him approach near him, and though well oiled, seized him by the leg and gave the alarm ; but the other Bheel had his bow bent and lodged an arrow in the matross's breast, so that his comrade escaped in the confusion caused by this circumstance. To prevent further accidents, the commanding officer placed the camp under the protection of the Charons belonging to the pagoda in the village. But the pursuit of the thieves down the ravines discovered another proof of the disgusting manners of this region ; four decapitated bodies were lying in a ditch near the village, supposed to be travellers murdered by the Coolees. The sight was shocking, as vultures and Pariah dogs had half eaten them, and picked the eyes out of the heads, not far distant from their trunks.

Itoola was the next stage, and from Ekeer to it the road runs along a deep ravine nearly all the way. The country, though apparently a beautiful plain, is very much broken by torrents, that have washed away the soft earth to a great depth, in their course during the monsoon ; but being quite dry at present, one of them is a good gun road for several miles. Another illustration of manners occurred here.

"Saheeb," said Ballo, waiting till Charles had done writing, "one bobberchee of artillery killed."
—"How, Ballo?" asked Thoughtless. — "One



soldier call cook boy, and tell — ‘Quick go, bring me one nice girl.’ Bobberchee no like that business, say, ‘Won’t go;’—soldier give kick—cook-boy run into sepoy tent—one sepoy think him thief, and wound bayonet with—doctor come, no good, bobberchee die.”

The next halt was at Gamboa, a village on the river Dadar, where there are the ruins of an ancient bridge. Next day the force reached Baroda, forty miles distant from Broach, and the 65th regiment occupied part of the cantonments a mile beyond the city, near the village of Gorwa, situated in a fine plain as level as a bowling green, on which an army of 300,000 men might encamp and manœuvre. This grand parade is skirted by fine plantations of mangoe trees. The cantonments are built in the form of an encampment; and in the officers’ lines there are many pretty bungalows, with gardens round them like English cottages.

Soon after the arrival of the regiment, the following orders were issued:—“The slaughter of cows, bullocks, peacocks, monkeys, or any other animal or bird, that may be contrary to the customs of this country, is positively forbidden. Neither the officers nor others are to visit the amdreew or the dewan, or have any intercourse with them or any of the Guickwar’s officers, without the express permission of the resident. No officer is to travel through the country without a passport. All officers are positively forbid going within the



wall that surrounds the palace without permission."

The next day Thoughtless and several of his brother-officers mounted their horses for the purpose of visiting Baroda and the Guickwar's gardens. That city is a square surrounded by a high wall, whose side is about half a mile in length. It has four great gates exactly opposite each other, the streets leading from which are broad and well paved, and at their intersection a small square is formed, which is covered with a roof merely supported by pillars, as a sort of exchange and market. The houses and pagodas, both inside the walls and in the large petah or suburbs, are well constructed and worthy of observation. Many of them are painted on the outside, and display extraordinary figures of gods, monsters, beasts, and fishes; but the external appearance of Hindoo dwellings conveys to an European a very gloomy idea of comfort, having but a few small windows or peep-holes. The interior, however, is far better suited to a climate, where at certain seasons health and comfort can only be enjoyed by excluding the hot air. Although when seen from without the houses look like prisons, yet many of them have a little open square inside, with a tank, garden, or jet d'eau, which cools the apartments round it, while from each story a fine open viranda, in which the inmates amuse themselves during the cool of the day, gives a much more pleasing idea of real comfort in a hot climate than



the Grecian structures introduced by the Europeans, not one of which, unless built on a very large scale, is cool in summer; hence the family has to fly for refuge in the heat of the day to the ground floor, or to a close room remote from the glare. The streets were crowded with people, and the shops exhibited great wealth. Many of the women were beautiful, and appeared gorgeously ornamented, being in attendance on a *shaddee* between two respectable families. They were escorting the happy pair through the streets in rich open palankeens, and scattering flowers and perfumes in their way, with tom toms beating, and music playing, while men and women in fantastic dresses were dancing and singing before them. The bride was a little girl about six years old, with her teeth and eyelashes painted jet black, and the centre of her forehead deep yellow. She was dressed in silk embroidered with gold, and her arms, fingers, ankles, and toes were covered with rings, while her ears and nose were concealed by clusters of pearls and diamonds; and round her neck she wore triple chains of gold and precious stones. The bridegroom was about ten years old, and also very richly dressed. Attracted by this grand cavalcade, Thoughtless and his friends followed till the infant couple, the objects of such general interest, stopped at a temporary square edifice glittering with tinsel decorations, erected in the middle of one of the great streets; two of its sides were supported on pillars wreathed



with flowers, while the floor was covered with shawl carpets. Here the bride's party entered, and distributed presents, perfumes, and sweetmeats among their guests. But the outside of this temple of Hymen gave a disgusting idea of public morals and taste, for it was ornamented with the most indecent Chinese pictures, with which both men and women appeared highly delighted, and gazed upon them with expressions of sensual joy. From the city Charles and his brother-officers found their way to the gardens, which are not worth description. There are two royal cenotaphs; one of which, supported by sixteen marble pillars with exceedingly small shafts, is a curiosity. The Guickwar's palaces are large gloomy buildings.

Soon afterwards the force was formed into two brigades, with a due proportion of artillery, cavalry, and pioneers, and encamped regularly in the plain, where the troops had a grand field-day, and the cavalry a sham-fight, in honour of his Highness Futteh Singh. The line was formed at daylight, but the prince did not appear till eight o'clock, when he was seen approaching on a lofty elephant, glittering with gold and scarlet trappings, accompanied by the resident, Mr. Carnack, and all the great native officers, mounted in like manner on elephants, preceded by a native band. Futteh Singh's numerous guards rode Mahratta horses. They were armed with pistols, swords, shields, and spears. Some of them were shewing off on the



flanks in great style, managing their chargers with surprising dexterity, and wielding their lances. The Mahratta bit is very sharp; the reins, which are of cotton or silk, and as small as a bell cord, are generally fastened to the bow of the saddle, for the warrior prides himself on governing his steed without the aid of the bridle. The animal is in such dread of the sharp bit, so well broken in, and accustomed to the signals of his rider's knee and voice, that he will spring from one side to the other, leap forwards and backwards, throw himself on his haunches, and form circles by wheeling round on his hind legs with such celerity as to surprise an European; meanwhile the horseman is flourishing his spear, and changing it from hand to hand so quickly, that thought can hardly follow his movements. Some of the cavalry wear armour, but generally speaking, the dress is cotton trowsers, and a sort of gown with long sleeves, stuffed with cotton and quilted; and their heads are protected by a thick turban, while their backs are screened by their shields.

Besides his numerous escort of cavalry, Futteh Singh had a corps of Gosains in his retinue. They were entirely naked as to clothing, having only their swords, belts, and bucklers on their bodies, which were frightfully painted; some of them were armed with matchlocks, and certainly a wilder looking body of enthusiasts never before met the eye of Charles Thoughtless. Nearly the whole male population



of Baroda also accompanied their warlike prince, who, on his near approach to the British line, alighted from his elephant, and mounted an Arabian charger. His officers also mounted their horses, and leaving their guards and the crowd at a proper distance, were received with military honours, and seemed to view with deep interest and wonder the regular and combined movements of the brigades while changing positions, and firing from new and unexpected lines; then forming squares by battalions, and rapidly shewing their original fronts, by the filing of grand divisions in double quick time. Meantime, the 17th dragoons, under Major Seale, dashed across the plain, and skirmished so as to astonish the wondering crowd of Mahrattas, who saw their gallopers in a cloud of dust, rushing to a new point, and, a moment after, heard their blazing fire-arms vomiting forth thunder in peals, of which the quick succession seemed the effect of magic rather than human skill. The force was commanded by Colonel Holmes, of the Company's service, who demonstrated a proper technical knowledge of his profession on the occasion. But nothing in cavalry tactics could exceed the science displayed by Major Seale, and those under his command; for the 17th dragoons, who are styled the "death or glory boys," are in such a fine state of discipline, that they sit their horses with inimitable grace, and perform every movement with the precision of clock-work, and the rapidity of lightning.

His Highness Futteh Singh was of the middle age, rather corpulent, but, on the whole, a good-looking man, with a penetrating eye, whose quick glances followed every thing. His dress was superb, and reminded one of the description given by Quintius Curtius, lib. ix. cap. 1. of a Hindoo Rajah : — “ Vestis erat auro purpurâque distincta, quæ etiam crura velabat : aureis solis inseruerat gemmas : lacerti quoque et brachia margaritis ornata erant. Pendebunt ex auribus insignes candore et magnitudine lapilli.”



CHAP. XVIII.

"The stately palankeen will some invite,
With spreading *chattah*, bells and battons bright ;
The *hookah*'s bubbling perfumed costly breath,
From golden tube with carpet spread beneath ;
Rich *abdar*'d claret, sparkling cool champaign,
And devils spiced, 'till pleasure turns to pain,
Will others lure in exile to remain."

THE ease and splendour in which Europeans live in India attach many of them to the country ; and for a long time after an old Indian returns home, he secretly sighs on remembering the past. His comfortable palankeen, into which he used carelessly to throw himself, and loll at ease with a book, while paying visits or attending business, a silken *chattah* or umbrella, shading him from the glare, and tinkling bells and silver sticks running before to proclaim his consequence, often recur to his mind ; and the perfume of his *hookah*, or Hindoo machine for smoking, is not forgotten. The *hookah* consists of a glass or silver bottom, filled with water, to the mouth of which is fixed a sort of grand pipe, filled with a composition of tobacco and spices, richly perfumed, the tube of which passes through the water, comes out at the side of the bottom, and is then called a snake, on account of its great



length, and the many fanciful windings it forms before the end called the mouth-piece, either of silver or gold, reaches the smoker. This instrument has a very magnificent appearance, and is generally introduced after dinner, being placed by the hookahburdar, or servant, for that express purpose, on a rich carpet, a considerable way from the table, behind his master. The fumes of this scented tobacco are considered, even by ladies, as very agreeable, so that it is quite fashionable in India to smoke the hookah; and it may be easily conceived how alluringly pleasant the cool vapour is, after circulating through such a length of tube to the palate, heated with the luxuries of the East. Allusion has been before made to the delicacies of the table; and in no country in the world can wines be made more delightfully cool than in India, by a process of refrigeration with saltpetre, at which the native servants, called abdars, or water-coolers, are very expert. Servants of all work might be hired in Bengal either from the Pariahs or converted Christians; but there is a prejudice against the latter, and the former are great drunkards. The Mahomedan servants attend to cast almost like the Hindoos, although there are no such distinctions among them. A boy who does not hesitate to brush his master's coat, would not for the world touch a knife or fork, or attend at table; and a maid that walks out with children may not be disposed to wash or dress them. A civilian with a



family, will have perhaps 200 servants; while a magistrate here will not have ten. All the natives board themselves: their wages are very low, for living costs them little. A man will do well with five shillings a month, and such as use rice alone could purchase as much of it for two shillings as they would use in that time; the wages, therefore, given to servants may be said to rise in a sort of scale from ten to one hundred shillings a month. The reader will easily conceive how such an establishment of servants must keep back an individual, and prevent him from realizing independence. Nothing in India so much retards the progress of an adventurer towards the wished-for goal. A lieutenant there in the field has about thirty-five pounds sterling every month, and yet his establishment is so great, and his expences so heavy, that he can save nothing. But pursuing this dry subject no further, I return to the journal of Charles Thoughtless.

He very soon found the difficulty of keeping two establishments, and foresaw that the little fund he had in Calcutta would soon be exhausted. In short his mind began to assume a gloomy aspect, and he endeavoured to divert his melancholy by imitating part of the first satire of the first book of Horace. After pursuing this occupation for some time, he was interrupted by the announcement of a visitor.



“Saheeb,” said Ballo, “Colonel Milnes, compliments sends, speak to you want.”

“Mr. Thoughtless,” said the Colonel, “the staff situation now vacant is at your service. You have a large family.” In this manner, gentle reader, the tone of his spirits was raised in a moment to something considerably above concert pitch, for his allowances were doubled; and after an ineffectual endeavour to express what he felt, he danced off to his tent, wrote to Mary, and entered in his journal, “What pleasure is afforded to the heart of man by imparting his joys or sorrows to a sympathising and beloved wife !”

The city of Baroda is situated on a branch of the river Myhe, over which there is a tolerably good bridge; the country around is in the very highest state of cultivation, studded with numerous villages, and the vicinity of the capital is ornamented with several very handsome pagodas and costly tanks. Pillagee, as has been mentioned before, was the founder of the Guickwar family in this province. The exact amount of the government revenue is not known, but several districts have been ceded to the Company, for the support of a subsidiary force, which yield the annual sum of 1,070,000 rupees, and are now in a progressive state of improvement. It may be said of the Guickwar, as of all the other subsidized princes, that he has no external political power, all his foreign affairs being transacted by the British resident, who is in fact placed at his court



as the guardian of the Company's interest. There are no hills to be seen from Baroda, except Powan Ghur, which is a very great curiosity, at no great distance. It is a rock rising out of the plain, to the height of 600 yards, and nearly everywhere perpendicular, so as to be inaccessible, except on the north side, and this part is fortified with five walls. On the top stands a famous pagoda, to which there are 240 steps; and there is an inexhaustible supply of water, with accommodations for a considerable garrison; nevertheless such is the effect of mortar batteries, and the spirit of British perseverance, that it was stormed in 1803, and taken without much loss from Dowlat Row Scindea.

Upon leaving Baroda, on the 18th January 1815, the force marched towards Powan Ghur, and on the second day having passed through a very fine tract of country, encamped near Gerode, distant about sixteen miles from the city. The hill fort above described stands near it, and looked formidable from the British camp. Colonel Stanhope, with the head-quarters of the 17th dragoons, joined the force at Gerode from Keira; some time afterwards the whole crossed the river Myhe, at the pass of Wankaneer, a very romantic village situated in a deep ravine on the south bank, and after a few marches halted for some time near Ballisanore, having passed Omreit, a large walled town in a very flourishing condition. Mr. Williams, the assistant resident at Baroda, accompanied by a considerable



division of the Guickwar's cavalry, had also taken the field with Colonel Holmes, and they encamped near the British lines, in a circle round their commander. Ballisanore is remarkable for stupendous rocks and extensive jungles, in which the numbers of monkeys, pea fowl, and hares are prodigious; the men killed many of the latter running through the ranks, and the line of march.

It would be tedious to accompany the field force, during this bloodless campaign of several months, along the banks of the Myhe. Its object was not perfectly understood. At this time the Nepaul war was going on, and the Pindaries, supposed to be encouraged in their irruptions by Scindeah and Holkar, were ready to carry fire and sword into all our provinces, therefore armies of observation were stationed every where upon the frontiers. No country in the world can be finer than Guzerat, along the banks of the Myhe. The inhabitants live in villages, and the ghurs in many places are a sort of basket-work, covered with thatched roofs. During the evenings and mornings, the climate is delightful, but early in March the heat of the day becomes exceedingly oppressive, and hot winds prevail more or less from that time till the monsoon commences in the beginning of July. All the villages along the north bank of the Myhe appeared in a very flourishing condition, with a numerous rising generation, as timid as hares, and seemingly frightened at the very appearance of Europeans. The



inhabitants are of the Grassia tribe, and seem to enjoy perfect security in their persons and property. Their fields are beautified with fruit trees, and many of them well fenced with milk hedge. The country, except in the vicinity of Konnee, is level; near that interesting place is an extensive plain, skirted by low hills, which give a pleasing variety to the scene. Every village has a sort of patriarchal government within itself, and such is the aspect of comfort in all of them, that squalid poverty seems to be quite a stranger. Several of them belong to the Peishwa. Thoughtless was delighted in his rides for eight or nine miles in all directions round the camp, to find these smiling villages in profusion. The children were playing at hobby, or formed a noisy circle round the schoolmaster, while their parents were employed in husbandry or conversation. "In travelling over this curious globe," said Charles to himself, "men are found wherever nature furnishes means for their sustenance. Often unconnected by any tie with each other, and like the vegetable substances on which they live, they seem born only to produce their like, and return to the earth whence they sprung." Game is exceedingly beautiful and plentiful here; the partridges light in coveys on the trees, hares swarm in the brushwood, deer start from every copse, foxes abound, the wild hog infests each jungle, and the tiger is as large as in Bengal. Captain Keith killed one measuring fourteen feet from the tip of his tail to the



nose. The air swarms with birds of beautiful plumage. Peacocks are seen in the distance sailing along in full pride and expansion, and the alligator basks in the sun near the river, which produces several species of fish, while the elephant, camel, buffalo, and large ox, are seen grazing near the camp, and bands of girls carrying water from the wells, in some places from 200 to 300 feet deep. Numerous flocks of monkeys occupy every tree, and seem to view Europeans with full as much wonder as the inhabitants of the villages, of whom they are no way afraid. But their chatter, and extraordinary leaps from branch to branch, with their young ones hanging from the breast, when the line was passing, truly surprised every beholder.

In the plain of Konnee on the 27th of March, Captain Hutton of the 65th was buried. He possessed many good and amiable qualities. His liberality and hospitality verged on extravagance. Honourable, brave, and benevolent, he was a zealous friend, and an officer well instructed in the duties of his profession. Soon afterwards Colonel Holmes left the force under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzsimon, of the 65th regiment; but Major General Lawrence, a venerable looking officer in the Company's service, arrived in the latter end of April, and assumed charge of it. However, on the 3d of May the campaign closed. Some of the native corps marched under Colonel Barclay for Kattywar; the 17th dragoons and two sepoy battalions



returned to Keira, while the 65th and two other corps crossed the Myhe at Kunpore, and reached Baroda on the 15th of that month.

Nature has been exceeding bountiful to that part of Guzerat which the force traversed. It is equally as much entitled to the character of a garden as any part of Bengal. No country on earth looks more beautiful when harvest is approaching. Only one crop is reaped, where artificial watering is not used, but in most places two are forced. Cotton is the great article of husbandry, and nothing can be more charming to the eye than a field of it in full blow, with stripes of roses, tulips, and various flowers of which dyes are composed. In other places were fine fields of jewarry or Indian corn, with plantations of sugar cane, flax, and hemp, grain on which the horses are fed in India, tobacco, and the castor-oil plant, whose broad deep green leaves are most grateful to the eye, intermixed with so many other lively tints of all colours and shades. — The mills worked by bullocks, for expressing the juices of different plants, are of the most simple construction; that for sugar cane being merely a large pestle and mortar, the former being attached to a lever moved by oxen, which go round as in a bark mill. A great noise is made in working this, for the cane has to be ground and pounded till it is quite dry, when it is expelled on one side of the mortar, while the juice flows into pans on the other to be boiled and refined. Indeed all the implements



of husbandry are extremely simple, and capable of vast improvement. The plough consists of a long beam and two pieces of wood nearly at right angles, which serve as the body and ploughshare; to the former a small pole is fixed for a handle. A yoke, something like three steps of a ladder, is passed over the bullocks' heads, and rests on their necks; to the centre of it the beam is fixed, and one man guides the whole, holding the small handle of the plough with one hand, while with the other he manages the bullocks by screwing and twisting their tails. But a stroke or scrape of this ill-contrived plough hardly enters an inch deep in the hardened surface; and the persevering farmer has to retrace the furrow several times before he procures mould enough for his seed, which is covered in with the raking of a bush; or, if much caked, a harrow something like a short ladder is drawn over it, upon which the driver stands to break the clods with his own weight. All the offices of the spade and shovel are performed by a clumsy hoe, to work with which it is necessary for the labourer to sit on his hunkers, or almost stoop to the ground. The sickle is a short crooked knife, and the scythe is not known. They have no carts, and the hackery, or common car, is in many places very ill constructed. Barns are not used in India, where the weather can be depended upon with certainty; grain is, therefore, never stacked, but trampled out by oxen in the fields, and the straw left



there in heaps ; the bullocks being fed on oil-cake, and the milk buffaloes in Guzerat having abundance of green food during the whole year. Near the villages are granaries made of clay, which is baked into the shape of large barrels, with crowns like bee-hives, and the corn is secured in them, after they are smeared over with cow-dung, which keeps the white ants away. In the Carnatic, Mysore, and Malabar, where rice is the principal crop, and the fields are inundated annually, except for hill pulses, manure is very little used ; but in Guzerat and Bengal it is not burned, but goes, as in other countries, to enrich the soil. The prevailing system of husbandry, however, is very defective. The peasantry have no knowledge of the benefit of succession crops, profitable fallows, old lays, and modern improvements, but go on from father to son in the regular unambitious course of humble imitation, without making an effort at innovation, for the purpose of reducing labour, saving time, or avoiding expense. Land is at different prices in Guzerat : on the sea-coast it is hardly worth three rupees an acre, but in other places twelve are given ; and it may be said that the scale of rent in India is from six to thirty shillings an acre, except in the vicinity of large cities, where high prices are given for gardens. The rent-roll is the great source of revenue to the government, for it all comes into the coffers of the state, except about one-tenth for collection, the prince being considered in general



sole lord of the soil. Nevertheless, a vast deal of land in every province is private property, either granted to individuals as *jaghires*, or to pagodas as free gifts; and it is now understood that the system of revenue introduced by Lord Cornwallis into the Company's territories, has established the zemindars as lords of the soil so long as they fulfil their contracts, and the farmers as tenants for ever, if they perform their agreements. The potatoe thrives extremely well in Guzerat and Bengal, and is now produced extensively about Surat, for the supply of Bombay, where it appears at table with as laughing a countenance as in many parts of Ireland. Sweet potatoes and yams are very plentiful every where in India; and in Guzerat, cabbages, carrots, turnips, and nearly all common vegetables, grow freely. Grapes are very rare either there or in Bengal; and the vine requires great care to make it produce at all, as it suffers greatly from the destructive effects of the hot winds. The great elevation of the Deckan and Mysore, and their freedom from hot winds, render them far more temperate and healthy than Guzerat or Bengal, notwithstanding their proximity to the tropic of Cancer.

The 65th regiment encamped, on its return to Barona, near the cantonments, and it being expected that the corps would remain here during the monsoon, the soldiers were permitted to send for their families to Bombay; some of the officers



did the same ; but Thoughtless, having heard so much of this dangerous climate, and being frightened at the number of graves in the European cemetery of the station, thought it best for Mary and his children to remain at the presidency. In fact, the hospital began to fill in the latter end of May, and on the 4th of June Lieutenant Barnes and thirty soldiers were struck with *coups de soleil* ; six of them died of electric fevers, and several women and children also fell beneath the pestilence of the atmosphere. A shoemaker, named Foster, married to a pretty interesting little Yorkshire woman, was struck next day and instantly expired. His poor wife, while attending his funeral in the evening, fainted from the closeness of the atmosphere, and was laid alongside her husband next morning, — a happy exchange if she joined him in heaven, for Thoughtless had never beheld despair more legibly written on a human face. In short, after a few days, there were only 250 men left fit for duty. But a sudden order having arrived, the force at Baroda marched for Kattywar on the 11th of June, under Colonel East, with six field pieces and three howitzers, Lieutenant Wilson being left in charge of the sick belonging to the 65th at the cantonments. Most fortunately a heavy fall of rain took place as the precursor of the monsoon, and all nature put on the livery of green.

While at Baroda, the thieves were very troublesome. Notwithstanding every precaution, they



eluded the sentries, entered the lines, and carried off property out of the tents while the officers were asleep, by cutting their way through the walls of canvas. Only a short time before the return of the regiment, a fine young officer, Lieutenant Nixon, of the Company's service, residing in a bungalow, saw one of them in the dead of night in his bed-chamber ; the light of the moon through the venetians enabled him clearly to observe the motions of the Bheel, but how he had entered was unaccountable. Nixon knew the danger of giving an alarm, and pretended to be sound asleep, in the hope that the thief would approach so near that he might seize him without danger of missing his hold. But the fellow being quite naked, with his head close shaved, had his skin so completely covered with some slippery substance, that poor Nixon made a dash at him in vain, and received so dreadful a cut on his right arm that it hung dangling by his side, while the Bheel leaped like harlequin over the side wall of the bungalow, through a small entrance he had made in the thatch. The wounded arm had to be amputated at the elbow joint.

The 65th regiment and 2d battalion of the 8th native infantry, with the artillery and pioneers, crossed the river Myhe, near Wausad, where it was much swollen by the late rain, and very nearly unfordable, though the bed at this place is broad and sandy. This river, a small stream in summer, rushes during the rains with foaming fury towards the



gulf of Cambay, and has formed a deep passage, the banks being very high and craggy, and broken into ravines. It appears from the banks of the Nerbuddah, as well as from those of the Myhe, that Guzerat in this part is a black rich soil to the depth of thirty or forty feet, resting on fine hard sand. Two marches brought them to the town of Petland, which is held in equal shares by the Peishwa and Guickwar; it is a populous and important place; the country around is extremely fine, and at present highly interesting, the farmers being busy manuring their fields and ploughing. Soon after the arrival of the force, a crowd of Hindoos assembled round the place where our men were slaughtering cattle, and bewailed their fate in loud lamentations. Two days afterwards the force crossed the Sabramutty, just below the junctions of the Menderi and Serri, at the village of Pallah, and encamped on its right bank near Wenta. This being one of the sacred streams, several pagodas are erected near it, and the number of devotees here from different parts of India at this time was great. Their appearance indicated uncommon self-denial; covered with ashes and the mud of the river, they were sitting in groups on the banks in the sun's glare, having placed themselves in one posture, which they were not to change till evening. It being contrary to the rules of their order to cut the hair, it is matted and reaches very nearly to the ground. One of them whom, Charles ex-



amined, had lost the use of the fingers of his right hand, from having kept them long closed over the thumb, and he expected that the nails would soon make their appearance at the back of his hand. The next march was to Dolka, an extensive Moorish town, exhibiting the ruins of former splendour. This district now belongs to the Company, and is under the collector of Keira. Its grand mosques and tanks are now sinking under the mouldering hand of Time, and the town does not contain one-third of its former inhabitants. Their complexion is almost fair; among the women, who wear trousers and a loose gown, some appeared to be beautiful; most of them wore veils with holes made for their mouth and eyes, which gave them a very curious appearance. The vicinity of Dolka is like that of an English town, having fine broad roads, with hedge rows and gardens. After passing the desert space between the gulfs of Kutch and Cambay already described, they reached Limree, which is a large walled town with high towers, reminding the traveller of the descriptions in the history of Alexander the Great. Crowds of people covered the walls to see the force pass just under them. This town was ceded to the Company, but it is governed by its own rajah, under a sort of zemindary tenure. Charles asked a respectable looking man whether the place belonged to the Peishwa or Guickwar. "Ah, sir," said he, "all here is yours;" but in such a tone that Thought-



less looked at him attentively. His face was a meek and resigned one, nor did his answer appear to be dictated either by flattery or servility, but uttered rather in a tone of despondency, with a sigh for his country; and Charles could not help viewing his white beard and manly deportment with respectful regard. Two marches more brought Colonel East to Raunpore, where Colonel Barclay was encamped, with several guns and some European artillery, a detachment of the 17th dragoons, and the Bombay native cavalry, the flank companies of the Bombay European regiment, with the first of the 5th, 7th, and 8th native infantry, pioneers, and a battering train.

While the 17th dragoons were on route to Raunpore from Keira, an interesting circumstance occurred. In crossing the Run, the Bheels having been found very troublesome, one of the Bhauts was engaged as security for the camp; yet several thefts were committed next night, and in the morning, upon hearing that such was the fact, the Bhaut mangled himself so dreadfully with his own hand that he died in a few days.

Raunpore stands on the Bauhadre river. It presents a melancholy picture of former greatness now in ruins, and its old castle is a military post for a serjeant's party from Keira, who have charge of stores. All the towns within sight are walled, and the country presents a very warlike aspect. After leaving Powan Ghur not a hill had been



seen ; but two marches north of Raunpore the hills of Kattywar began to diversify the scene, and the country presented the countenance of misery, all the villages being nearly in ruins, and fine plains, bearing traces of former cultivation, reduced to a barren waste. Three days more brought the force to Wankineer, in ancient times the capital of Kattywar, situated on a fine clear river called the Mutsvee. This town is romantically situated on an island, with a chain of hills rising one over another just behind it ; but the interior has nothing to engage admiration, for the streets are narrow and many parts of it are in ruins, particularly the mosques. Guzerat was long under the Moslems, having been invaded by Mahmud of Guzni, and the northern parts of it colonized at an early period ; but at present it is all subject to the Guickwar and the Peishwa, though nearly every place in it is the private property of some petty chief, and its misery has been greatly increased by the frequent quarrels and rebellions that have taken place. The object of Colonel East's force was to reduce the fort of Juria, situated on the gulf of Kutch, the chief of which had refused to pay his tribute ; and on this service the colonel marched with all practicable dispatch, notwithstanding the very frequent heavy falls of rain, which would have retarded the progress of a less vigorous commander. On the 17th July the force was on the right bank of the Adji, but the river was unfordable from a great fall of



rain the night before ; but as the flood subsided considerably during the day, the colonel in the evening gave orders for passing it, which was effected with very great difficulty, the bed of the river being dangerously rocky, and the stream so rapid, that the men were in several instances carried away. No lives, however, were lost ; and on the following day he approached Juria, having been joined by Captain Ballyntine, the political agent, and a large body of the Guickwar's cavalry. Several days were spent in negotiations, at some distance from the fort ; but on the 8th of August the force encamped before it, and prepared to erect batteries. Juria is a place of considerable strength, but not a shot was fired, for the chief submitted immediately ; and three days afterwards Colonel East removed his camp four miles from it to the banks of the Ooude, a fine clear stream.

On visiting the fort, Thoughtless found it a square, each of whose sides, about half a mile in extent, was defended by three towers ; but the citadel, or rajah's house, was strongly fortified, and there were in all twenty-five guns mounted on the works. The walls round Juria are about twelve feet high and nine thick, surmounted by a parapet about six feet high and two thick, with loop holes, breast high, for musketry ; so that the entire wall outside appears full eighteen feet in height. It is composed of soft granite, and the garrison had placed immense quantities of the same materials along the top, to throw



down upon their enemies. Parallel to this wall, and at about thirty paces distant outside, a rampart of earth, with a ditch, adds considerably to the strength of the place, which is capable of making a good defence. It has only two gates, and they are strongly flanked. The streets of the town are narrow, and the houses of a poor description. It is said that Suckeram, the father of the present chief, rose in the service of the Jam of Noa Nuggur to the possession of the forts of Juria and Balamba, with the territory thereunto belonging. But to enter into the history of these petty chiefs forms no part of the author's plan.



CHAP. XIX.

And kind Mnemosyne must not forget
That little syren *cheechee*, a brunette,
Like Venus from the sea, from Gunga's foam
She rose, and Loves and Graces round her roam.
She rouges sometimes with each tint from night,
In ivory sable to a roseless white ;
A jet-black Cupid flaps his wing apace,
To drive mosquitoes from her amorous face.
Malicious rogue ! he often points his dart,
And leaves it quivering in a Briton's heart :
Enchanted he remains, with nerveless arm,
Till pale disease extracts the barbed charm.

THE half-cast ladies in Bengal are called *Cheechees*, which is a Hindostanne word, much used by them in Calcutta, equivalent to *fie ! fie !* Some of these captivating fair ones are really pretty girls, in the very softest sense of that expression, and so irresistible, that many a young man sacrifices his future prospects at the altar of Hymen ; for there is hardly an instance of one of these matches turning out well, the children being of a different tint of complexion from that of the father, and the mother so much attached to India as her native climate, that she can never be reconciled to the frozen latitudes of the north, to which her husband looks for his happiness in declining life. Many of



the half-cast ladies are most amiable companions, possess affectionate hearts, and perform all the duties of good wives with tenderness and alacrity, but very few of them can enjoy European society ; for a consciousness of being so different in appearance impresses them with a feeling of inferiority, under which they are ill at ease with our fair countrywomen ; hence they shun their acquaintance, and, it is said, envy them. Their real happiness would consist in being connected by marriage with persons of the same cast ; but it is a strange truth, that these girls look upon the young men of their own colour as beneath them ; and at all the schools in Calcutta, where these charming nymphs are exhibited, their admirers are generally youthful Europeans. It has been before observed, that their number is very great, and some idea may be formed of it from the seminaries and asylums in Calcutta, where upwards of five hundred half-cast girls, illegitimate daughters by native mothers of the higher ranks, are genteelly educated. The Bengal officers have an asylum, called the Kidderpore School, supported by subscription, for the express purpose of educating orphans of that description, who, when married with consent of the governors to tradesmen or others of respectable character, receive portions from the institution. There is another, on a very large scale, supported by the government, for soldiers' children, who are apprenticed, provided for as servants, and portioned



upon their marriage, suitably to their prospects in life. But to expatiate on this subject would be tedious; recourse is therefore had to the journal.

Colonel East did not remain long on the banks of the Ooude: he moved westerly to Dherole, on a fine clear stream where forage was plenty. The country immediately round it is highly cultivated, and the fields are well inclosed with hedges of prickly pear, while the prospect is enlivened by plantations of babaul and tamarind trees. Dherole, like all the other towns, has been half depopulated by the great famine. At this place, in the beginning of September, a violent fever broke out, and in a few days 140 men were in hospital out of 436, the total present of the 65th regiment. In three days Major Hutchings and twelve men of that corps fell victims to it, besides Lieutenant Hutchinson and Assistant-surgeon Keith, of the Bombay artillery, with a great many brave fellows belonging to the 17th dragoons and to the Bombay European regiment. Officers seldom die in camp of disease in India, being sent off to the coast or to Europe for recovery; but the progress of this fever was so rapid, that in thirty-eight hours its victims were lifeless. The burning brain drank the blood which seemed to flow towards it with the impetuosity of a torrent, and the head became so hot that to touch it was painful. In short, such was the consternation in camp, that Colonel East made several marches, in the hope of escaping from this dreadful

epidemic ; and at length encamped on high ground near the village of Ballachoova, with the cool ocean just in front of the line, where the fever was arrested, after having made such havoc as induced Thoughtless to write thus in his journal : " I have long endeavoured to contemplate death as the inevitable doom of man, and to be prepared to meet it in any shape with fortitude ; but to terminate life this way is horrible, for all that die are torn out of their graves by jackals. O God ! thou hast heretofore protected me, continue thy goodness."

Major Hutchings was sincerely esteemed by his friends : he possessed the finest qualities of person and mind, with manners so elegant that his company diffused happiness. Mild, gentleman-like, and unassuming, his urbanity created general cheerfulness, while the solidity of his understanding, and the extent of his general information, commanded the highest respect, and improved his young brother officers, by whom he was greatly beloved ; but much as he was regretted, the regiment about this time experienced another loss, which was attended with melancholy circumstances of so affecting a nature, that the major was for a time forgotten.

The very day before the 65th embarked for Guzerat, the senior lieutenant had arrived from England, where he had been employed on the recruiting service for some time, having been severely wounded at the storm of Bhurtpore, and rendered unfit for a hot climate. Henry Taylor was in person



all that the imagination of woman can form of loveliness in man, and during his residence in a country town in England he captivated the affections of a charming girl, possessed of such rank and fortune, that her father absolutely set his face against the marriage. She was all generosity, however, and considering wealth unnecessary where her treasure was love, she became his bride, and her father disinherited her. They were happy for some time at home, but he was ordered out, and being in daily expectation of his company, he joined his regiment; and Colonel Milnes most kindly left him with the *dépôt*, for the purpose of reconciling Mrs. Taylor, who was then in a very delicate state, to the climate. He resided on the island of Colabah, and close to his bungalow there was a *peré's* tomb, near which Mrs. Taylor one day saw a snake gliding among the grass, and her husband drew his sword to kill it. "Sir," said his servant, "do not hurt that snake; it is the spirit of the *peré*."—"Nonsense," said he; and with a blow he cut it in two.—"I wish no misfortune may happen to master," said the boy, in a melancholy tone. That very evening he was taken ill, and three days after he was a corpse. All the natives, of course, attributed his death to the resentment of the *peré*; and this unhappy circumstance confirmed them in their idle superstition. His poor wife went distracted, and her infant died. She remained in a state of derangement for several months, and was at length sent to England by the



officers of the regiment to her father, who beheld the fatal effects of thwarting the affections of his only child.

At Ballachoova the sick recovered fast, but the force did not remain long there, for a sudden order arrived to march, and Colonel East moved on the 18th September, passed Juria, and on the 29th encamped near Wadwan, having passed through a country recovering from desolation. At this place the recruits that had lately arrived from England joined the regiment from Bombay, by way of Gogo, under Captain Keith, whose fate it was to find a grave in Kattywar. Wadwan belongs to the Peishwa, and among its inhabitants the Jains are very numerous. They have a temple here, with nearly one hundred figures represented in white marble. These images of holy men are exactly of the same form, and all seated in the same posture, but they are of different sizes. The dark recess in which this grand pantheon is displayed being profusely illuminated, the images, having bright sparkling eyes, produce such an effect on the observer at the distance where he is kept, that really the scene is awfully grand. Wadwan is a large town, and the inhabitants are a people of polished manners. Not far from hence, on the 24th of October, Serjeant Donn was buried, whose death was the eighth among the recruits lately arrived. His case was very affecting. Having brought with him his wife, a very interesting young



woman, she unfortunately took the fever, and he became affected almost at the same time. It was a most melancholy sight to see this fine young couple in two doolies, near the hospital tents, quite delirious, with their little son, who was too young to be sensible of the loss he was going to sustain. The wife died in the morning, and her husband became sensible towards evening. His first question was about her; but on turning his head he saw her borne to the grave, and clasping his hands in agony, he sank down with a broken heart, and expired during the night.

In November the force was considerably increased. Colonel Johnson had charge of the quarter-master-general's department, with Lieutenant Reymon as assistant engineer: the artillery, upwards of 200 strong in Europeans, were under Major Hesmau and Major Sealy, with a fine park and battering train. Lieutenant Grindley had charge of the commissariat, Captain Stannus of the adjutant-general's office, Lieutenant Crozier of the pioneers, Colonel Stanhope of the cavalry, and Colonels Milnes and Osborne of the brigades, consisting of the 65th Bombay European regiment, 1st battalion of the 7th N. I., and a flank corps formed from light companies, 1st of the 5th, 1st of the 8th, and 2d of the 8th, N. I.—in all about 7,100 men; and the object of the expedition was understood to be a visit to the Row of Booge, which diffused much pleasure throughout the



camp. Thoughtless was again pleased with the appearance of his regiment on parade, for many of those left sick at Baroda had joined, and the arrivals from England replaced the brave fellows whose bodies had enriched the soil of Guzerat, so that six hundred rank and file now formed a respectable line.

On the 6th of December the force arrived at the ancient city of Halwad, now almost a heap of ruins, and encamped near the cemetery, which is justly considered a great curiosity. The country from Wadwan seemed to be recovering from the dreadful effects of famine, but every where presented a melancholy aspect, being half depopulated, and the fine fertile plains quite a waste, covered with wolves, jackals, wild asses, hogs, and antelopes, with wild duck, partridge, quail, hare, cyrus bird, snipe, and bustard in very great abundance. The Jalliah tribe, as well as some other divisions of the Rajpoot cast which inhabit this part of Guzerat, bury the urns containing the ashes of their deceased, and raise monuments in honour of distinguished persons. Every whereover Kattywar stones are set up with inscriptions, and warriors represented on them; and wherever suttee has been performed, a woman's arm is sculptured, with the hand held up in the manner of those prisoners in our courts who plead not guilty. Many of the mausoleums in the cemetery of Halwad are costly temples composed of hewn stone, with statues of



gods and heroes in marble. Several of these are lingums, and the Brahmins that attend them are quite naked. The walls of the town, like its palaces, are mouldering to decay. Along one face of it there is a very extensive tank, now covered with weeds, affording a fine retreat for shoals of bald coots; along its banks are the tombs of many a Moslem warrior. But the palace, the walls of which once resounded with the voices of ambitious courtiers, is now tenantless; and the durbar, supported by massy pillars, which was once crowded with multitudes influenced by hopes and fears, is now an asylum for the owl and bat. Halwad stands on a bed of fine granite, a substance which more or less appears throughout Kattywar, so that the external appearance of its surface is not unlike that of Ireland in many parts. It is watered by numerous streams as clear as crystal, and such is the luxuriance of its vegetation, that the grass in many places was a yard long.

From this town the force proceeded for Kutch, and made two marches to the river Puddar—first to Wantwadder, a village pleasantly situated on a stream called Bansana—and next, nearly to the Run, between Kutch and Guzerat. During this day's march they passed the ruins of a large village, called Gentilly, which was a picture of wretchedness. It is situated on an eminence commanding a view of a dreary barren waste: the earth is parched, and gaping in cracks, without vegetation;



on every side houses are deserted and in ruins—here and there a miserable being is seen peeping from among them. There may be twenty or thirty families remaining in this place, which appears to have once been the habitation of many thousands.

Here they found Captain M'Murdo, the political agent of the Bombay government, having with him a division of the Guickwar's cavalry to co-operate with the force, which now consisted of the 17th dragoons, 65th regiment, part of the honourable company's Bombay European regiment, a proportion of artillery, and several native battalions, altogether amounting to about seven thousand effective men. Reckoning in an eastern camp seven followers for each fighting man, (an estimate rather below than above the mark,) the camp exhibited to the eye a mass of fifty thousand men.

For several days the camp had been a scene of Asiatic pageant in the celebration of the mohorum. Here were seen men with their bodies painted and their faces disfigured, dancing and capering in the most grotesque attitudes, and flourishing weapons with wonderful dexterity—there girls gaudily dressed, and decorated with garlands of coloured and tinselled paper, singing and jumping—and every where groups of enthusiasts and buffoons, disguised in the skins of deer, sheep, goats, tigers, and buffaloes, with tinsel temples glittering like gold. But the display ended here: all the Mahomedan sepoy marched in procession to a great



tank in the vicinity, and fired three rounds over the sinking remains of Hossen and Hassen.

Flamingoes, floricans, and wild asses are here very plentiful. The wild ass appears at a distance a very beautiful sprightly animal of a slate colour, and as swift as an antelope, escaping from observation in a moment.

From this encampment all the heavy baggage and useless stores, together with the native families and some of the sick, were sent to Murree under the escort of an officer and 100 sepoys. It is inconceivable what numbers of children were produced in this force during this and part of the preceding year; each sepoy was the father of two or three. On the back of every loaded bullock might be seen a couple of little squalling, naked creatures, tied there for preservation by their mothers during each march, and hundreds of native women running along with their little ones in baskets carried on their heads. After freeing the camp from every thing not indispensably necessary, they moved to a little ruined village called Venassa, situated near the Run. From this place to the coast of Kutch the distance is about ten miles. During the monsoon, when the wind blows violently up the gulf, it presents a body of deep water; for the flow of the great tides which so much astonished the soldiers of Alexander covers the whole of it, and together with the deluge of waters down the Puddar, the bed of which is near the middle, ren-



ders it quite unfordable; but at present there was not any water on its surface, and within our observation it was as hard and level as a board. This sandy bed is almost wholly incrustated with fine salt, which in some places is so thick that it might be dug up and carted off. I can suggest no hypothesis as to the real cause of this large deposit of saline concretions. The great evaporation in hot climates enables the natives to make abundance of salt on the sea shore, by letting the water into pans made in the sand. But either the sea must be unusually impregnated with salt in the gulf of Kutch, or vast quantities of it are washed from the mountains by rivers. This incrustation of salt produces, on the space it covers, a most beautiful mirage. It appears to the eye like a placid lake of great extent, studded with islands, and the shining surface gives to every little object of a different colour a seeming magnitude, which the eye converts into ten thousand familiar shapes.

They found no difficulty in crossing the Run, which very nearly corresponds with the above description. In some parts, however, the guns sunk very deep in mud and quicksands, wherefore it became necessary often to change the direction, and carefully to examine the ground. Great quantities of dead fishes, quite hard and dry, were seen all over it. To an observer who galloped out to a proper distance there could not be a finer sight than the field force as it appeared on



this grand parade, actually in order to receive an enemy, and in momentary expectation of being engaged. The officers and men were in the highest spirits, the air was delightfully cool, and an infinity of objects attracted the attention of every one. "O! look at that ship in full sail," said one. — "Now for a dash at the Wagurs," said another. — "See! there they are! look what a shoal of cavalry blackens the horizon." — "What city is that?" asked a third: — "Surely those are castles, towers, parks, and groves." — "O! what a beautiful island," said a fourth. "See the cataract in yonder mountain; look at the buildings — why, there are trees — don't laugh, my dear fellow, I see them as clearly as I do your nose." — All this was deception.

When they reached the other side no enemy appeared. Having marched on for four miles in a westerly direction, they encamped near a poor little village called Rhatra, where they found a tank of good water, which was a great relief to them, as all near the Run was brackish. The distant country appeared hilly, and the coast is just like that on the other side; many of the villages are in ruins. Charles, from his situation, had to precede the force, with the quarter-master-general's department. The inhabitants did not run away, but he never saw people more alarmed. The small village near the camp was surrounded by a hedge of prickly pear, and had a little temple. It contained a great number of inhabitants for its size. On their ap-

proach, they saw them over the hedge, running from one house to another. Curiosity induced Charles and some others to enter it, and they were met by a very respectable looking aged man, with a long grey beard, seemingly deputed for that purpose. He invited them to dismount and rest on some low cots brought out, and entreated protection, begging that a guard might be placed over the village. In answer to their questions, he said, their arrival would relieve them from great misery, if they could destroy the robbers. "Sirs," said he, "we sow our land in the hope of reaping; but when our fields are ripe, they come, cut our harvest, carry it away, and leave us to starve." The women and children at first only peeped from their doors and windows, but at last they came out and salammmed. It may be worthy of remark, that in the vicinity of the Run, the evenings and mornings were remarkably mild and pleasant; while at a distance, both on the approach and the departure, they proved bitterly cold. It is probable, that the heat absorbed by the sandy Run during the day, and given out at night, may produce this local temperature. It ought also to be noticed, that even at this little village suttees have been performed; for several stones are set up near it with the hieroglyphics before described, and others have men represented on them with infants in their arms, a symbol which apparently refers to the custom of infanticide. These are rude sculptures; and the



figure of the idol in their temple, which is worshipped in many parts of India under the name of Hunnemaun, is equally so, for it is a monstrous monkey with a sword and buckler, in an erect posture and a threatening attitude, having a tail so long that it curls up round his head.

Before the force marched into the interior, it was necessary to have possession of some place of strength near the sea, and the fort of Anjar was considered most proper. They proceeded therefore without delay, keeping parallel to the Run, but considerably inland for forage and water, and marched in a westerly direction towards the place intended. The first halt was at Kattaria, the ruins of a large town, having moved to it through an open and pleasing country, presenting, however, few traces of culture or population. In Kattaria there are about one hundred inhabited ghurs or huts, which are surrounded with a dry stone rampart and parapet with small towers; the ruins extend a mile from it in all directions. Well-built stone houses of three stories are seen roofless and deserted, while beneath their walls, in little thatched mud hovels, the inhabitants are now sheltered. This part of Kutch has been for a long time the theatre of contests between the rajahs of Murvee and Mallia and the Row of Booge Booge. In common with Kattywar, it has felt the desolating effects of famine. The climate is agreeable, and at this season may be called temperate. The inha-



bitants are robust, healthy, and have a bold commanding appearance. Their women are fine—even the common *riottees*, or labourers' wives, have interesting, plump, blooming, light-brown complexions, with an intelligent physiognomy, and their children are very pretty.

On proceeding, the force passed a pretty little village, near a large tank planted round with trees, from which the inhabitants had fled on hearing of their approach. They encamped at another much larger called Omrallah, where the people appeared in great consternation, the principal men having carried off their effects upon hearing that the force was going to halt there. Though the utmost care is taken to protect the defenceless inhabitants of an invaded country, still the approach of an enemy is dreadful, for the followers will plunder, if possible, at the risk of being hanged upon the trees by the provost-marshal during a march. The roads were good, the country fine, in some places jungly, or covered with thorns, which bear a delicious berry called by the natives bore, something like haws, but rounder and more acid; in other parts there were fine fields of cotton and jewarry. Every where the grass was long and luxuriant. In all the cemeteries women are represented on stones, performing suttee with their dead husbands in their arms, and others carrying infants for sacrifice. It is said that in former times not only wives were burnt with their husbands in this part, but that some of their



children, servants and concubines, were also consumed with them in the same pile. Several shots were fired at the picquets, and some camels and bullocks were carried away from the foraging grounds, but no enemy openly opposed the march.

After passing a strong little fort called Chadwarrah, which the commander had deserted, the next halt was at Whound, a large town with a dry ditch, mud wall, and stone towers. This place is situated between two ranges of hills, and the valley is clothed with a fine crop of young wheat, having a beard like barley.

Their next march was to the village and tank of Punkaseer, during which they passed a strong hill fort called Budzou, and the large village of Seckra, whose mud wall was crowded with people. The inhabitants of the smaller places had deserted them on their approach, and repaired hither for greater security. Fine fields of wheat smiled around this place, and numerous stones were set up near it, with the figures of warriors sculptured rudely on them, in the attitudes of throwing the spear and wielding the sword, mounted on camels, horses, and elephants. The camp at Punkaseer was pitched on a beautiful spot, a wood of baubel on one side, a large tank and pretty village on another, and elsewhere fine rich fields of wheat.

In the morning they continued their march by the left; and the Guickwar's auxiliaries, keeping a parallel line on the right flank, looked well. Their



golden standards, streamers, tom-toms, arms, and accoutrements were all strikingly different from the British line. The Mahratta saddles are made of cloth, and the horsemen use very small stirrups, into which they put only their toes. On reaching their ground of encampment, near a respectable town called Cheekansir, they learned that the enemy's cavalry had been there, and poisoned all the tanks and wells with wheat, impregnated with arsenic, which it was supposed would prevent the mineral from sinking and losing its deadly properties. The water in the wells was found to be highly poisonous, and orders were issued to draw none from them. Some of the followers, however, suffered before this was known; but the body of fluid in the tanks was too great to be affected by the quantity of arsenic thrown in, and carrying a supply with them, they encamped next day before Anjar without molestation, except from a few guns fired from the walls, to keep those off who approached to reconnoitre. The town appeared to be large, and it was surrounded by a high stone wall and towers.

During the night a lodgment was made, within a proper distance of the fort, among some stone pagodas that served to protect the covering party, who were not even fired upon, and by the next morning a battery, consisting of five eighteen-pounders, was erected at 450 yards distance from the S. W. face, with one for two mortars at the same distance behind. It was most singular, that



Hussenmeah, who commanded here, and had a garrison of Arabs, did not open a gun on the party till the battery was nearly ready to destroy his defences. Numbers had gone down from camp to see the operations, and they were straggling about in heedless security, supposing that not a shot would be fired, when a smart cannonade commenced from the fort. Lieutenant Delaney of the 17th dragoons had his right arm shot off, and in a moment several of the lookers-on were killed. Though the batteries were not quite ready, the fire was briskly returned by their six-pounders, and two five-and-a-half inch howitzers, from the position occupied by the covering party, and at ten o'clock both the batteries opened on this unhappy place. It was a melancholy sight on Christmas-day to see the blaze of destruction that burst over a large town, crowded with inhabitants. The shrieks of women and children, after the explosion of each shell, were dismal, and the confusion thus occasioned was seen and heard from the camp. The shells burst over the place with the greatest precision; at two o'clock it was in a blaze in several places, and about an hour after a breach was reported to be practicable. The enemy kept firing as long as they had a defence, but their towers not being calculated to stand against eighteen-pound shot, fell in crashes before every round directed at them, and long before the place was surrendered, the fire from it was completely silenced. Soon



after three o'clock it was unconditionally given up, the garrison escaped, and Colonel Burr with a proper force took possession of Anjar. Seventy-four shells and 1800 eighteen-pound shot were fired against the town, besides the play of three six-pounders and two howitzers, and yet very little damage was done to the buldings, and a few only of the people were hurt.

In the evening Thoughtless and some others went to see the town, and entered it through the breach, which was quite practicable. It appeared about two miles in circumference, and in a very flourishing condition, with a wall round it about twelve feet high and six thick, on which there was a parapet two feet thick and six in height. In going through its defences, they counted thirty-eight pieces of cannon of different kinds. The population was very great, and the inhabitants salammmed with great respect. Some of the women were beautiful, and indeed almost fair: they touched their heads gracefully with their hands, crying "Bullee ayah," a term of compliment, which means "welcome." The houses are well-built stone buildings, tiled and white-washed, and the streets are wide and regular. There are two fine pagodas, one of which belongs to the Jains, and contains the assembly of holy images round that of the saint Pursenaut, placed on a higher throne, and twice the size of the others, which are all alike, having prodigiously large ears, being quite



naked, and seated with the legs crossed under them, something like tailors, only that the feet cross exactly in the centre, and on the soles rest the hands, one in the palm of the other. These idols, as well as the altar on which they sit, are made of white marble; and one would suppose, from the cast of countenance and shape of the breast, that they were designed to represent women. They are placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, or in that remote quarter over which the flag is spread. On going into this, the party had to take off their shoes. The place is constantly lighted up with brass lamps, and some of the ornaments in it are of gold. The priests seemed pleased with Charles for sketching the figures, and explained their names, which would be uninteresting to the reader. The other temple belongs to the followers of Brahma, and is dedicated to the mother of the gods, whose image is richly dressed and covered with jewels. In the gardens and groves that surround the town, there are numerous temples and monuments well worthy of observation, besides a Mussulmaun cemetery, and several neat mosques. This place communicates with the gulf of Kutch, by means of Toonia Bunder, or a wharf at a short distance, to which the gulf is navigable, and where there is a strong little fort. The possession of this place has opened the communication with Juria, Murvee, and Bombay.



Having left a garrison of 150 men at Toonia Bunder, and 220 at Anjar, the breach in which was built up, they marched for Booge Booge, in a north-west direction, through a country pretty well inhabited and cultivated, and encamped at a mountainous village called Ratnaur, about eleven miles from Anjar. Immediately after the fall of that fort, several of the chiefs of other places sent in their submission, and a vakeel arrived in camp from the Row. Soon after they had pitched their camp, some chunam or chalk-pits were discovered near it, extending under ground to a vast extent, being lighted and aired by shafts like mines. The poor inhabitants had concealed their valuable property and implements of husbandry, all which the followers plundered and destroyed before they could be stopped. Some of the followers having been killed, and their cattle taken from them by the country people, two small villages were destroyed by order of the commanding officer, to warn them of the danger they incurred by resorting to hostilities against those who were inclined, as much as possible, to protect them.

Next morning the direction being changed to the eastward, the force entered the mountains, and encamped near a village called Warra, situated on a fine stream, winding through a well-cultivated little valley, surrounded by wild high cliffs. The inhabitants all fled, and left their property to be



plundered by the brutal and merciless followers, who unroofed the houses, and burnt the very ploughs and harrows. It was supposed that the force marched hither merely for water, there being hardly any at the last ground, and that negotiations were on the point of being closed, which would render it unnecessary to proceed further. Negotiations were certainly pending, but they were suddenly broken off, for in the morning the troops retraced their steps, and turning northward encamped within five miles of the capital, at a place called Sackhoud. The mountainous range through which they marched, and dragged the battering train with great difficulty, is wild, and so very strong by nature, that a brave handful of men, determined to conquer or die, might here make a noble defence. But no opposition was made. On arriving at a deserted village called Vuddar, a fine prospect opened on their view, namely, an extensive valley bordered with picturesque hills, interspersed with beautiful little villages of nicely white-washed houses, and robed with green fields of wheat and cotton. To the right appeared a very high mount with religious temples on its summit, and to the left was Booge Booge, the towers of which, on a high hill, reflected the meridian rays of the sun. All the villages around were deserted, many of the houses unroofed, and the effects carried off. In short, Thoughtless made this note in his journal:—
“Miserable cottagers!—you feel the effects of



ambition and war;— you quit your homes, your temples, with your wives and infants, and fly from plunderers.”

The fort of Booge Booge had a formidable appearance, being a high hill, strongly fortified with walls and towers, standing in a plain, without a single command near it. If resolutely defended, there could hardly exist any hope of taking it by breach or escalade. In this encampment they remained for several days, receiving orders and counter-orders respecting the approach to invest the city and fort, while negotiations were proceeding between the political agent and the row. During this time, several of them clambered to the top of a remarkable hill in rear of the camp. They calculated its height at 400 yards above the level of the plain. The ascent to it is extremely difficult, and from its top the towers of Anjar could be seen, and the Run that separates Kutch from Scinde distinctly traced. There is a little fort on its summit, which, it is said, a robber with his gang defended till he was starved to death. This consists of a large basin for the retention of rain-water, and several little dwellings now in ruins, the whole surrounded by a strong stone wall, which runs along frightful precipices.

In a few days the Row acceded to the terms proposed to him. Some of these were, that Toonia, Bunder, and Anjar, should remain in the company's hands; that he should pay the expences of the campaign, make a recompence for the destruction



caused by plunder, and suppress the pirates in the gulf of Kutch. This treaty was announced by the discharge of a royal salute, and the delivery of extra batta to the troops. Complimentary visits were then exchanged between the Row and Colonel East. The monarch approached the camp about four o'clock in the afternoon, the whole line having been under arms from ten in the morning to receive him. Seventeen guns from the centre announced his arrival, and he was preceded by a considerable number of horse and foot, elephants, camels, tom-toms, tooterics, flags, standards, and streamers. In the crowd appeared a remarkable personage on stilts eight feet high, wielding an enormous sword, which he managed in his exalted situation with great dexterity, flourishing it round his head, and proclaiming the titles and dignities of the Row of Kutch Booge. The king himself was seated in a rich howdah upon a large elephant, having one of his great officers of state near him, who fanned his majesty. The Row was accompanied by perhaps 2000 Arabs, and nearly all the population of Booge Booge, so that the whole plain appeared one moving multitude; which when Charles surveyed, and turned his eyes upon the handful of men who brought this mass to bow the neck, excited strange thoughts in his mind. Colonel East, it is said, received his majesty with all proper ceremony, and made him and his officers rich presents in the name of the honourable company,