

Cingalese are principally of the Bhuddist creed—a superstition the most innocent of any that have endured so long and extended so widely. Its literature, of venerable antiquity, is known to philologists as the Pali, and has attracted nearly as much attention from them as the more celebrated Sanscrit. Deeply attached to their religion, which is principally moral and doctrinal, the Cingalese and Candians have exhibited no special inaptitude for enjoying the pleasures, and performing the duties of men living in a community subject to British rule. But their religion was treated with studied indignity, and even Lord Torrington complains of his instructions upon that point. Their interests were attacked by a taxation, of which Lord Grey transmitted his approval while Lord Torrington's despatch, announcing it must be abandoned as impracticable, was on its way to Downing Street. The same authority admits that the new imposts had their share in producing the discontent which showed itself in the riots we have described. This has been denied by the advocates of Lord Grey in the debate, though it is to be found in the printed despatches. For the severe measures against the rioters, the only defence alleged by Mr. Hawes and Lord John Russell, is an eulogy by Sir Herbert Maddocks upon the ability displayed by the Governor. Of the encomiast we will speak briefly. He is, it seems, a gentleman from continental India, who travels to seek health as Anacharsis sought wisdom. We hope Sir Herbert will find both.

At the meeting at Colombo, which was numerously attended by Sir Herbert and twenty-eight other persons, for the purpose of applauding a peer and a local sovereign, the itinerant statesman averred that in no part of the whole continent of India under the rule of the Company, was land half so lightly taxed as in Ceylon. In point of fact, the taxation per head in Bengal and some other districts amounts to three shillings and three-pence, while in the more fortunate island the pence are the same but the shillings double. We see no reason to conclude that a stranger in Ceylon should be more competent to form an opinion on the nature and extent of political disaffection, and consequently of the value of the measures adopted to repress it, than on the obvious point of statistical information which we have shown he had neglected to learn though he had volunteered to teach.

With respect to outrages upon property committed by the soldiery, we have the indignant denial of the Under Secretary that any such took place. To this denial the news from the island by the last mail, namely, that claims are still in the course of being made for compensation, induces us to give little

credit. These claims are the only form in which such wrongs can now come to the knowledge of the public. A bill of indemnity for all acts done during the continuance of martial law contained a clause by which a certificate from the Governor exempts wrong-doers from prosecution and inquiry. The mode in which this bill was carried is valuable as an illustration of a system advocated by the Colonial Office. Eight officials in Council carried the day against seven unofficial members. Lord Torrington's own vote secured this advantage for himself and his satellites. Sir Emmerson Tennent in shame and disgust withdrew at the division.

The illegal confiscation of men's lands and goods under a proclamation, which handed all the natives over to the tender mercies of Government Inquisitors, who professed themselves dissatisfied with the cause assigned for absence from home during the prevalence of martial law, has reduced already some of the wealthiest families to ruin and despair. But it possesses one quality which distinguishes it from the other wrongs done. Its redress, though difficult, is still possible. That this should take place immediately is of the utmost consequence. Man is man in every quarter of the world. And, as we expected, we have learned from advices of the 15th of January that this spoliation has excited formidable and increasing discontent. The Tudor tyrant, who slew and plundered priests with impunity to enrich his minions, was too wise to rouse the slumbering Nemesis by infringing upon the general rights of property.

As we introduced the subject of Ceylon with the panegyric of the Under Secretary upon its governor, we will conclude it by noticing the praise bestowed upon his rule by Lord John Russell. The speech of that noble lord might dispose the hearer to infer, that, though a great deal might be said against Lord Torrington, one merit was incontestibly established, that in short, taking the most unfavourable view, it might be said,

"He left a statesman's name to other times,
Linked to one virtue and a thousand crime;"

and that virtue was economy. It was gravely stated that he had reduced the expenditure. Now what are the facts? A large portion of the military charge is transferred to the English instead of the Colonial debit. Another large sum which used to figure in the Colonial budget on account of the roads and bridges, is now raised by means of the *corvèe* we have before mentioned. In substance the sums are transferred, as in our reductions at home, from one account to another, and so far from having reduced the expenditure, the outlay has been

steadily increasing from the moment that Lord Torrington set foot in Ceylon. The whole thing, in short, is mere thimble-rig and imposture. Never did Lord John Russell more fully maintain the character for nerve and audacity, which the genius of Sidney Smith has made historical, than in the daring attempt by which he endeavoured to parallel the omission by Mr. Baillie, to mention the tricky despatches, in which this financial hocus pocus is skilfully confused, with the garbling of the celebrated Jamaica document by Earl Grey in the preceding session. In the former case, it is hardly necessary to remark, that the papers attesting the virtues of Lord Torrington, were in the hands of every member of the House: in the latter, Lord Grey, believing that none but himself was acquainted with the tenor of an unpublished despatch, deliberately attempted to impose upon the House of Lords a false and unfounded statement, and when dragged before the public, and exposed by the acuteness and perseverance of the late Lord George Bentinck, the excuse he offered induced the more liberal and charitable portion of the community to discuss, whether the character of a member of the legislature and minister of the Crown could be considered altogether untarnished when he is discovered to have perpetrated a fraud, at which even the meanest pettifogger in the Palace Court would have hesitated.

We shall now bid farewell to Ceylon for the present. Our best wishes for it would suggest that the advice of Sir W. Molesworth should be adopted. A representative system, more or less nearly approaching our own Anglo-Saxon institutions, would probably be found difficult to contrive for that latitude, difficult to put and continue in action, and if its activity could be maintained, not unlikely to fall very short in its results of its prototype in the mother country. Local Government, however, (and perhaps the best of the kind we can find instanced in history), may be derived from the superintendence of the matured and careful organization which successfully and creditably bears sway over the Indian portion of the neighbouring continent. Under the rule of the East India Company, Ceylon may not afford an annuity of seven thousand pounds to the cousin of a Prime Minister, or of two thousand to the brother-in-law of an Under Secretary, but it may enjoy those ordinary blessings of peace and justice to which we fondly boast all the dominions of the British Crown are entitled; and it may cease to have its poverty insulted by the waste of its resources upon the most incapable individuals in the service of the Crown.

The grievances of Guiana, to which Mr. Baillie adverted, lie within a narrower compass than those we have hitherto discussed.

The acts of tyranny which, in the previous case, from their gravity and their bearing upon the general interests of humanity, become a more popular subject of excitement and indignation, do not prevent us in this case from concentrating our observations upon the system of patronage and speculation which has for the last five-and-twenty years been the growing evil of the colonies, and the increasing delight of Downing-street. In the time of Adam Smith the whole of the North American colonies were governed at the very moderate expense of fifty-five thousand pounds. The little colony of Guiana, in the present year, is administered at a cost of no less than two hundred and seventy-three thousand. Allowing for the difficulty of England governing, with a Dutch constitution, a population of merchants, planters, and negroes—the first class being discontented, the second ruined, and the third thoroughly demoralized and disorganized by the sudden accession of unexpected liberty and undeserved wealth—it certainly does seem rather an extravagant sum. As the taxation had been organized upon the foolish obsolete system, that those who had property should bear the principal burden of expenditure, a change might have been necessary to make the economical arrangements of the colony tally with the newly-invented financial theory of Earl Grey. Fortunately, the transfer of the floating capital from the employer to the labourer, effected by the alteration of the sugar-duties and the other recent changes of our commercial policy, had virtually accomplished the philanthropic object of the sage in Downing-street, and left the ostensible man of property to endure the wholesome stimulus of taxation, while the real man of substance might jingle his dollars securely under the very nose of the tax-collector.

Notwithstanding, however, this happy and healthy state of Guiana, as in Mauritius, Ceylon, and all other places subject to Earl Grey, there were some mischievous, discontented people who sacrificed their own time and trouble for the ungrateful and unpatriotic purpose of annoying their benefactor at the Office in the mother country. They growled savagely for some time—but not, as Mr. Carlyle would phrase it, altogether inarticulately. On the contrary, it is to the distinctness with which their groans were made heard, that we have learnt to envy the Governor of Guiana in the most inveterate and unchristian sort. The gentleman who, in consideration of the supposed unhealthiness of the climate, was originally engaged to represent the Queen in this district, upon the respectable salary of something like 4000*l.* per annum, so well fulfilled his duty, that he lived ten years there, and displayed so much vital energy and dexterity, that he contrived some years since to add another thousand to his remuneration.

We will parenthetically remark that he had no difficulty in so doing, as far as regarded the Colonial Office. That excellent institution administered a sub-sarcastic snub to Lord Harris when he some time since, in foolish pity for the distresses of Trinidad, suggested that the Government officials should be put on short allowance, and his own salary undergo the largest proportion of reduction. With Guiana the case was very different. We can imagine the smile that curled round Mr. Mother-country's lips, when he wrote to his congenial Governor, "Take thy bill quickly, and write down five thousand." In a despatch to Ceylon, to which we are indebted to Mr. Disraeli for directing our attention, Earl Grey expresses his opinion with charming frankness. Retrenchment is difficult and disagreeable. It is easier to find new revenue. Many legitimate sources of taxation remain untouched; others may be extended judiciously. The inference is plain; the doctrine will no doubt be powerfully exemplified in all our possessions beyond sea, and the Emigration Commissioners will, doubtless, be equally surprised to find their place a sinecure, for who will care to leave his native land if Downing-street shall hound its tax-gatherers upon him, though he fly to the uttermost ends of the earth.

We have already said that we envy the Governor. His salary is comfortable enough, and the other £19,000 paid to his subalterns no doubt ensure him the society of gentlemanly and agreeable men at the seat of Empire. Besides this, he has the disposal of places, amounting to the yearly value of £37,000, and these are exclusive of all that supply so low and beggarly a remuneration as £250 each. As this account was taken from the official papers, and denied in the House of Commons by Ministers, it is difficult to ascertain which is the correct statement. We will assume that there is no great discrepancy between the oral and written evidence, as the extreme scepticism of the Spanish Ambassador, who wrote to his Court that some said Cromwell was dead, and some, that he was not; but for his own part, he (the Envoy) believed neither one nor the other, is too perplexing for ordinary men who do not aspire to describe the ens and predicaments of a statesman.

We repeat again, we envy the life of the Governor of Guiana, and when he dies (which we trust will be at a very distant period), we hope we shall have it in our power to envy his death and obsequies. We hope that his last bed may be carefully made by a grateful sexton of George Town, to whom his bounty shall have secured a salary of £1567. He must, however, find his own tools, say the official papers.

With respect to the distinct point at issue between Earl Grey

and the Colonists, and which occasioned the refusal of the Civil List, we are happy, as it was but little developed in the debate, to be able to lay the case before our readers. Some years since, some officers in the Colony appointed by the Government, judiciously conceived the notion, that if they drew their salary in England, while their functions were performed by deputies, the interests of the Colony would not materially suffer, and their own convenience be materially increased. The arrangement was clearly a sensible one. The progress of events, however, put an end to it. It was thought a permanent settlement would be better effected if the deputies became principals, and the latter pensioners. The Office made no difficulty, and the gentlemen originally appointed retired upon allowances suitable to the respective interests they could command. We imagine, however, that there was some hateful hitch somewhere. The gentlemen thought it prudent to impound some 30,000*l.* which had been voted for the *relief of Guiana*, and not a sixpence of that money reached the intended objects of the donation. It was, in fact, better employed in securing the fulfilment of the obligations of the Colony. However, the money came to an end at last; and, as ill luck would have it, the gentlemen in question were obliged to apply for some two thousand a-year to the treasury of Guiana, at the very moment when those ill-starred economical crotchets were in the ascendant. Earl Grey resists. The Civil List is refused. But as a large sum for the promotion of immigration is in the hands of Government, it is made available for the payment of the faithful servants of the Crown, and Mr. Mother-country smiles again at the idea of Colonists demanding redress of grievances before voting the supplies.

We now bid adieu to the debate upon Ceylon and Guiana, and await with no inconsiderable interest the appointment and the labours of the committee of inquiry. Whether new illustrations will be brought of the system we believe to prevail in the Colonial Office, and measures devised to mitigate or remove such iniquities as appear to have been hitherto perpetrated, or whether explanations will be given which will have the effect of calming men's minds upon the subject, by showing that nothing has been done but from the purest motives, and with the most careful deliberation, and happiest results, is a question upon which at present we cannot venture to hazard a prophecy. But one thing is clear enough. If the peroration of Mr. Baillie's speech be not found, after a careful investigation, to be fully borne out by facts, her Majesty's Government will owe it not less to the character of themselves than to the consideration due to the House of Commons, to propose a resolution to that House

conveying the heaviest censure that opinion can inflict upon unfounded calumny and unwarrantable invective. If the contrary should prove to be the case, it will, however painful the sacrifice may be, become no less the duty of Lord John Russell's Government to decline the co-operation of Earl Grey during the further career of their administration.

REVIEW.

The Emigrant Family, 3 vols., 8vo. Smith and Elder, London.

Few tasks are more difficult than to review a novel without taking off the zest of the public for reading it; the sketches of scenery, character, or events, are generally so intimately woven in with the plot, that either the extracts are injured by being separated from the body of the book, or the plot revealed, and the interest diminished. The tact of the writer of this novel of Australian life, aided by the peculiarities and novelties of his subject, enables us to exhibit his good qualities in separate sketches, without in the slightest degree uncovering the net-work of his story. The following sketches will interest every one connected with Australia:—

A BUSHMAN'S ACCOUTREMENTS AND A HALT.

“A mounted bushman's accoutrements are his horse's hobbles, or else a long tether rope, which is coiled round the animal's neck when travelling; a good blanket, or a cloak made of opossum's skin, sewn together to the size of about eight or nine feet by seven, and capable, when sound and doubled, of turning off a night's rain; a tin quart pot, and sundry bags, containing tea, sugar, “damper,” and beef. The quart pot is generally strapped to the saddle in front, or one-side; the hobbles on the other; the ration bag hanging across; and the blanket or opossum cloak carefully formed into a long bed roll, and fastened sometimes before, sometimes behind, is bent over the horse's back. The tinder-box, or its modern substitute, the lucifer match box is invariably stowed in the most dry and secure place the owner can find for it upon his own person.

“Willoughby was already bushman enough to recollect his portion of the duties when he saw his companion busy in kindling a fire and gathering the fuel, and by the time the sticks were blazing, the two quart pots were filled, ready to be placed in front of the fire, on the windward side. In ten minutes more

might be seen the Australian sitting tailor-fashion in front of the fire, watching intently for the full bubble of the water, and directly it showed itself, dropping carefully into the pot a capacious handful of tea. The click of the opening pocket-knives followed, and the meal was begun; the dogs standing round imploring as earnestly and appealingly as they can, by silence and steadfast gazing, their share of their master's provision.

"For a couple of hours the bushmen rested and refreshed themselves; the hearty meal, the pipe, and a yarn soon while away so much time beneath a shady tree of a hot day. Revived by their rest and feed, men and horses and dogs now went on at a lively pace for the range. By sundown it was upwards of twelve miles further on, the whole accomplished, and the most safely paddocked for the night."

HIRING SERVANTS.

"The servants required were an overseer, a carpenter, a bullock-driver, and three or four labouring hands. These it was decided to secure in the capital, and send on to the farm with the dray; any additional adventurers were always procurable on the spot. The labouring population of Australia is almost wholly migratory individuals, rarely attaching themselves to one locality, but at the termination of the periods for which they hire, wander away to some distant district, or to some neighbouring settler's farm, either on a plea of discontent or from a desire of change, and as they say 'to see the country.'—'Why, I thought,' observed the Lieutenant, 'that labouring men were so scarce here.'—'Not in Sydney,' said Beck. 'There's always most here who have come down the country to spend their money, and when it is gone they must be off. There's only one turnpike gate for the interior; just walk out and stop there a couple of hours, and you'll have the pick of a score every day, shepherds, tradesmen, and men that never were men yet, good men and crawlers. I never want to look at a man twice to know what he is.'

"'And do you think, Martin,' asked Lieut. Breton, 'that out of such a crew as that you can get good men—such men as I want?'

"'Working hands are working hands up the country or down,' replied the black. 'The only difference I can see is that everywhere there are some who are emigrants and some who are freedmen. The emigrants are flats, the others are sharps. Of the two I think the sharps are a great deal best worth their wages; they want good looking after, but there's something to be got out of them. The emigrants they send over here always

seem more dead than alive till they've been five or six years in the country, then they begin to be like the rest of the people.'

"'I don't want' said the lieutenant, rather peremptorily, 'to make a station for a den of thieves.' 'There's no need for that, captain,' said Beck, with a slight discomposure. 'The convicts, after they get free, are generally honest enough. In fact there is nothing for them to steal unless they break into a settler's stores; and that is not worth their while for what they would get. Nine out of ten of the freedmen, or more than that, have set it down that honesty is the easiest game.' p. 48.

"Almost invariably the part of the population that have been convicts seem only to earn that they may spend their money again in thoughtless extravagance. Many, no doubt, would do otherwise, if the sale of small parcels of land was customary; for those who through the considerate benevolence of some old master, have the opportunity of running a few head of cattle on his land, are often found making that investment of their wages. The generality, however, having no such facility for turning their earnings into property, and unable to resist the extraordinary temptation to dissipation from a large amount of ready cash in their pockets, soon make away with the proceeds of their labour. The capital, and its amusing scenes, is naturally chosen for the 'spreed,' in preference to the solitary bush public house; and hence the daily file of penniless stragglers, capable of furnishing as many good men as were required. Every labouring man proceeding to the interior passes out of the city by the turnpike; and nine out of every ten go out with empty pockets, or, at the best, with no more than sufficient to carry them so far on the road as where the more hospitable habits of the interior commence." p. 55.

STOCKMEN AND STOCKYARDS.

"These stockmen are, almost without exception, unprincipled characters; for if not such when invested with the office, its unavoidable license and temptation soon effect a change for the worse. They continually meet with cattle in bush without owners; some never branded, others which have strayed so far that no one about the part knows whose brand it is they bear. These of course there is every temptation to appropriate and sell; and from selling such chance prizes as these, it is but a step to leaving some of their own master's cattle unbranded and selling them in due time; or even fixing a brand of their own upon them, and reserving them till they have gathered a little herd. But as these stockmen are continually traversing each other's runs, and becoming acquainted with all the other herds in the vicinity, it is almost inevitable that they should detect

each other's malversations: consequently, to secure themselves from mutual betrayal, they act upon a system of mutual complicity—it is understood among stockmen that nothing need be concealed from each other. The novices, however, are always tried carefully before they are trusted; but generally it may be said that whenever cattle stealing is going on, the whole of the stockmen are hand and glove in it.

“Stockmen always ride with short stirrups, partly to save their feet in going over logs, partly for the power it gives of swaying the body to and fro to escape the limbs of trees, and also for ease; as they are often in the saddle for twelve hours a day for many days together.

“The stockyards are enclosures varying in extent and height according to the numbers and strength of the cattle; sometimes there is merely the single yard; but where all the operations connected with very large herds are to be provided for, a very considerable area is enclosed, which is again subdivided into compartments communicating with each other. Very wild herds, or such as contain very powerful animals, require great height and strength of fence: but in general a fence of five good rails, each about 8 or 10 inches wide, by 2 or 3 thick with posts about every 9 feet apart, and let into the ground from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet, afford sufficient resistance to the rush of a herd. The height of such a fence is about 5 feet 6 inches, and is sufficient to prevent the common cattle from leaping out. ‘Russians,’ however, as they are called, will often go over at a bound: and with lowered head and erected tail, and darting at everything in the shape of man or beast that they encounter, make good their retreat into the mountains. When such cattle are to be dealt with, a 6 rail fence with a round top rail over all is sometimes necessary, and all the timber of strength proportionably greater. The ingress and egress of the herd is betwixt two massive posts a foot or 18 inches in diameter, placed at about 10 or 12 feet asunder, and furnished with strong round or flat rails that can be slipped in and out as required. The force of a heavy herd rushing out is notwithstanding such as often to carry away the posts.”