

THE
ASIATIC JOURNAL

AND

MONTHLY REGISTER

FOR

British India and its Dependencies :

CONTAINING

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| Original Communications. | Missionary and Home Intelligence, Births, |
| Memoirs of Eminent Persons. | Marriages, Deaths, &c. |
| History, Antiquities, Poetry. | Commercial Intelligence. |
| Natural History, Geography. | Shipping Intelligence, Ship Letter-Mails, |
| Review of New Publications. | &c. |
| Debates at the East-India House. | Lists of Passengers to and from India. |
| Proceedings of the Colleges of Haileybury | State of the London and India Markets. |
| and Fort William, and the Military | Notices of Sales at the East-India House. |
| Seminary at Addiscombe. | Times appointed for the East-India Com- |
| India Civil and Military Intelligence, Ap- | pany's Ships for the Season. |
| pointments, Promotions, Births, Mar- | Prices Current of East-India Produce. |
| riages, &c. &c. | India Exchanges and Company's Secu- |
| Literary, and Philosophical Intelligence. | rities. |
| | Daily Prices of Stocks, &c. &c. &c. |

VOL. IV.

FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 1817.

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1817.

boats, ten of them, one morning, were variously disposed of by Lieut. Hay; some were shot, and others were drowned. The conduct of Capt. Maxwell, in his general management of affairs, as well as means of defence, is spoken of in high admiration by his officers—it displayed coolness and powerful reflection, under a sudden pressure of difficulties and a combination of dangers, more than sufficient to have overwhelmed an ordinary mind.—At Batavia, the *Cæsar* was taken up to bring home his excellency and suite, with the officers and men of the *Alceste*; she touched at the Cape, St. Helena, and Ascension, on her way to England.

At Grand Leucheu, the chief of the Licou Kicon islands, the ships refitted, among a race of people as extraordinary for their diminutive size as for their general character. They pretend to be of great antiquity and considerable civilization—possess much of the rigid, natural jealousy and reserve of their neighbours, the Japanese and Chinese. On further acquaintance, they were found an interesting people, in the highest degree kind and hospitable; and after a stay of six weeks, both parties separated with evident proofs of mutual regret. We are informed, from good authority, that Capt. Basil Hall (of the *Lyra*) is preparing an account of this island and people; as also a general history of scientific objects connected with the voyage, which will be enriched with charts and engravings. From his superior intelligence on hydrographical and scientific subjects in general, a work from his hands cannot fail of being highly interesting.

On Wednesday, Aug. 27, a Court of Directors was held at the East-India House, when the following ships were timed as below;—

George Canning, Two Ships building by Mr. S. Majoribanks, Earl Balcarras, Marquis of Huntly, and Buckinghamshire, for Bombay and China, to be afloat on the 26th of October, to sail to Gravesend on the 10th of November, stay there forty days, and to be in the Downs on the 27th of December.

A Ship building by Captain Hamilton, Castle Huntly, for Bengal and China, to be afloat on the 8th of December, to sail to Gravesend on the 28th of December, stay there forty days, and to be in the Downs on the 8th February, 1818.

London, and Princess Amelia, for Madras and China, to be afloat on the 8th of December, to sail to Gravesend on the 28th of December, stay there forty days, and to be in the Downs on the 8th of February, 1818.

A Ship building by Messrs. Isacke and Leach, Lady Melville, and Cabalya, for

China, to be afloat on the 28th of Feb. 1818, to sail to Gravesend on the 6th of March, stay there thirty days, and to be in the Downs on the 11th of April.

A Court-Martial was held on Saturday, 23d August, at Portsmouth, on board the *Queen Charlotte*, to try Captain Murray Maxwell, and the officers and crew of his Majesty's late frigate *Alceste*, for the loss of that ship in the Straits of Gaspar, on the 18th of February last, when returning from China, with Lord Amherst and suite on board. The sentence of the court was a full and entire acquittal of Captain Maxwell, his officers, and crew. The opinion of the court was most handsomely expressed, that Captain Maxwell had, before the loss of the ship, conducted himself in the most zealous and officer-like manner; and that, after the striking of the ship his coolness, self-collection, and exertions were highly conspicuous, and that every thing was done by him, his officers, and ship's company, within the power of men to execute, to preserve the ship and her stores; and that to such conduct alone is to be attributed the saving of all their lives. Capt. Maxwell's narrative was an affecting detail of the exertions and sufferings of himself, officers, and crew, and recorded his warmest thanks to his officers and crew, who had looked up to him in the hour of distress with the most submissive confidence. A most peculiar good look-out was kept up when the accident happened; and but for the circumstance that the sea was, at the moment of her striking, covered with fish-spawn, the rock would doubtless have been seen. The ship had no more sail on her than enabled her to withstand an unfavorably strong current: and the very track she was pursuing was laid down for the ship by Lieutenant Ross, of the *Bombay Marine*, who had been ten years surveying the Chinese Seas. At the moment of their deliverance from the wreck they were surrounded by sixty-two prows, manned with 600 Malays. Their whole stock of ammunition consisted of only 72 ball cartridges, and a few carronade cartridges, which were drawn from the quarter-deck guns on leaving the ship: from these the gunner made up sixteen hundred rounds, and balls were made from the marines' buttons, and whatever other lead or pewter could be cut from off the wreck. A few boarding pikes were saved; the rest of the men were armed with dirks stuck on sticks, and sticks with the points tempered by fire. An abattis of wood-work was formed by the carpenter, and a diagonal trench cut from the hill, on which they fixed their abode to the only landing place, which enabled them to bid

defiance to the ferocious savages who surrounded them, and who several times attempted to cut off their boats.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

July, 30.—*The Nabob of the Carnatic—Raithby and others v. Balfour.*

The Lord Chancellor—"This was a motion made by Mr. Wingfield, that the defendant should be ordered to pay 2,500 pagodas into the Bank of England, in the name of the Accountant-General, with the interest from the year 1797, at the rate of 12 per cent., and that it should be laid out in the 3 per cent. annuities. The circumstances were these:—The late Nabob of the Carnatic owed a Mr. Peter Davison the sum of 5,000 pagodas, for which he gave him a bond to pay him the principal, and also 12 per cent. interest. This bond he transferred to a person of the name of Cassell, who afterwards transferred it to a person of the name of Massey, who gave his bond for 2,500 pagodas, to a Mr. Lancey, who was leaving Madras to return to this country. The defendant promised that the money should be remitted to England at the same rate of interest as the Nabob of Carnatic had agreed to pay in the first instance. The question is a very simple one: It is neither more nor less, whether he shall or shall not be obliged to stand by his agreement. The defendant says he is willing to pay 3 per cent. on the gross sum, as a court of equity will never oblige him to pay 12 per cent., which was above the legal interest of the country; for he had nothing to do with the transactions which took place between the East India Company and the Nabob and his creditors, by which it was agreed that the Nabob should cede his territories, and commissioners were appointed, with the power of paying off the debts, and fixing the quantum of the interest each debt should bear. It was denied by the defendant, in his answer, that he had received 12 per cent. I must, however, in justice say, that no allegation in an answer, however strong, can alter the meaning of a written agreement properly executed. The defendant has complained of the trouble and expense he has been put to; but that cannot take away the sense of his agreement. It did not follow, that if the Nabob only paid 3 per cent. that it should be a criterion that the defendant should not pay more. If the Nabob had been sued in a court below, and had only paid 2,500 pagodas, yet as Davison had given the bond with the full rate of interest, I am therefore of opinion, that the principal and the 12 per cent. should be paid into the court. Let the defendant, however, have the bond assigned to him which he asks."

Mr. Wingfield then moved for the costs.

The Lord Chancellor—"I think I have granted enough without giving costs." Motion granted without costs.

It is with much satisfaction we have authority to state, that the report of the death of Lieut. Henry Peach Keighly, (nephew and godson of Samuel Peach, Esq. of Portland-place), in January last, on his way from Hyderabad to Bombay, is unfounded—accounts having been received at the India House, that he had arrived in safety at Bombay, and on the 7th of February, obtained leave from the Governor to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope, for the benefit of his health.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS, HOME LIST.

BIRTH.

July 17. Lady of Mr. W. Johns, of Birmingham, late Acting Surgeon at Serampore, Bengal, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

July 30. At St. George's, Hanover-square, Fred. Wm. Wallarton, Esq. of Shenston Hall, Leicestershire, to Lucy, only daughter of the late, and sister to the present Sir H. Strachey, Bart. of Sutton Court, Somerset.

Aug. 19. At Marylebone Church, Capt. W. Patterson, Hon. Company's service, to Sarah, eldest daughter of the late T. Bolton, Esq. of the Temple, and of Westhumble, Dorset.

16. At Sulham, Berks, W. Blackwood, Esq. to Charlotte, youngest daughter of the late H. H. Wilder, D. D. of Purley Hall, Berks.

23. At St. Bride's Church, William Thompson Turtle, Esq. Surgeon, of Buntingford, Herts, to Frances, youngest daughter of Mr. Bonner, of Fleet-street.

DEATHS.

Aug. 1. At his house on Dilton Common, Surry, Samuel Johnson, Esq. in the 70th year of his age, and in the 53d of the service of the Hon. East-India Company, thirty-three of which he filled the office of Examiner of Indian Correspondence with ability and integrity, equaled only by his industry.

At Dorking, Surry, after a long illness, in the 48th year of her age, Catharine, wife of the Rev. Samuel Hoole, Minister of Poplar Chapel, and Chaplain to the Hon. East-India Company.

Aug. 15. In Upper Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, Mrs. Hogg, wife of Capt. Hogg, of the East-India Company's Military Establishment at Bombay.

LONDON MARKETS.

Tuesday, Aug. 26, 1817.

Cotton.—The India sale on Friday, 2,294 bales went off with much briskness; the Bengals at the advance of nearly 1d. per lb. on the previous sale prices; chiefly taken we believe on speculation.

Sugar.—Yesterday and this forenoon the demand considerably revived; the prices are fully 1s. higher than last week, with the prospect of an improving market. The orders for the winter supply of the Continent are coming to hand freely, and since the arrival of the Foreign mails of yesterday, very extensive sales have been effected.—In Foreign Sugars there was little business done; purchases might be made a shade lower. At the India House 3,035 bags sold freely at 55s. and 55s. 6d. for good white with some grain; damp at 52s.; middling white Benares 56s. 2 7/8; 4. 60-