

THE VICEROY'S VISIT TO THE GULF.

Arrival at Shargah

Karachi, 24th November.

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THE R. I. M. S. *Hardinge*, accompanied by the East India Squadron, left Muscat waters on the 20th November and rounding Cape Mussendom with its precipitous headland and picturesque fiords entered the Persian Gulf and bore southwards for the pirate coast of Shargah, the rendezvous appointed for the Chiefs of the littoral, which was reached early on the 21st, but the shallowness of the water prevented the Squadron from approaching the shore, and the low-lying coast fringed with date palms and a line of substantial yellow buildings was all that could be descried from the place of anchorage. The Chiefs and followers in charge of Colonel Kemball, Resident in the Persian Gulf, and Mr. Gaskin, the Assistant Political Officer at Bahrein, had been collected on board the Indo-European Telegraph Steamer *Patrick Stewart* and were transferred by boats and launches to the *Argonaut*, where a Durbar was held, not without difficulty, however, on account of a stiff swell from the North-west. The Viceroy and his staff on their way from the *Hardinge* and the officers from the other ships were exposed to similar inconvenience which occasioned a few wet uniforms, not to mention unusual displays of agility. A number of leading inhabitants of Shargah were also brought off to the *Argonaut* in a steam launch.

Darbar for the Chiefs.

The arrangement of the Durbar was the same as at Muscat, except that the seats on the dais were occupied by Colonel Kemball, Resident in the Persian Gulf, and Rear Admiral Atkinson Willes, placed on His Excellency's right and left respectively. The Chief of Abu Dthabi with his two sons, the Chiefs of Shargah and Debai with one son each, the Chief of Ajman and the eldest son of the aged, bedridden Chief of Un-ul-Kuwein were presented to the Viceroy. The Chiefs were all middle aged or elderly men, and their dignified and independent air together with the manly appearance of their followers was generally remarked, and presented a strong contrast to the bearing of the more civilised and less characteristically Arab people of Muscat. The majority of those present appeared in the traditional head-dress of the Bedouin. The meeting between these Chiefs and the Ruler of India could not fail to arouse weighty reflections. It was hard to believe that these men of dignified presence and mild demeanour with their followers represented the wild sea robbers whose piracies less than a century ago extended to the very coast of Bombay, and their spontaneous presence on a British warship recalled, by its striking contrast, the vanished period of history in which their ancestors attacked and put to the sword the crews of British vessels. An even greater contrast was that between the obedience offered to the Viceroy and the fanatical allegiance once rendered by their forefathers to the Wahabis of Central Arabia.—those champions of disorder and fierce opponents of Christian influence and civilisation, whether on land or sea. Almost equally wonderful must the meeting have appeared from the point of view of the Arabs. Here they sat at last face to face with the living head and director of that Indian system which, from a mere cloud on their horizon, had grown till it overshadowed the whole extent of their political firmament; of that power which having originally coerced them and then restrained them by influence, now guided them by the exercise of little more than friendly offices and advice. Marvellous, too, in the eyes of these converts with the history of the past, was

Coasts this state of affairs must not continue. British flotillas appeared in these waters, British forces occupied the ports and towns on the coast that we see from this deck, the struggle was severe while it lasted, but it was not long sustained. In 1820 the first general treaty was signed between the British Government and the Chiefs, and of these or similar agreements there have been in all no fewer than eight. In 1830 the maritime truce was concluded and was renewed from time to time until the year 1853 when it was succeeded by the treaty of perpetual peace that has lasted ever since. Under that treaty it was provided that there should be a complete cessation of hostilities at sea between the subjects of the signatory Chiefs, and a perfect maritime truce (to use the words that were employed) for evermore. That in the event of aggressions on anyone by sea the injured parties should not retaliate but should refer the matter to the British Resident in the Persian Gulf, and that the British Government should watch over the peace of the Gulf and ensure at all times the observance of the treaty. Chiefs, that treaty has not of course prevented occasional trouble and conflict. It has sometimes been neglected or infringed, but on the whole it has well deserved its name, and under it has grown up a condition of affairs so peaceful and secure that the oldest among you can only remember as a dim story the events of the past, while the younger have never seen warfare or bloodshed on the sea. It is now eleven years since that last disturbance of the peace occurred. Chiefs, out of the relations that were thus created, and which by your own consent constituted the British Government the guardian of inter-tribal peace, there grew up political ties between the Government of India and yourselves whereby the British Government became your overlords and protectors, and you have relations with no other Power. Everyone of the States, known as the Trucial States, has bound itself, as you know, not to enter into any agreement or correspondence with any other Power, not to admit the agent of any other Government, and not to part with any portion of its territories. These engagements are binding on everyone of you, and you have faithfully adhered to them. They are also binding in their reciprocal effect upon the British Government, and as long as they are faithfully observed by the Chiefs there is no fear that anyone else will be allowed to tamper with your rights or liberties. Sometimes I think that the record of the past is in danger of being forgotten, and there are persons who ask why should Great Britain continue to exercise these powers? The history of your States and of your families, and the present condition of the Gulf are the answer. We were here before any other Power in modern times had shown its face in these waters. We found strife and we have created order. It was our commerce as well as your security that was threatened and called for protection. At every port along these coasts the subjects of the King of England still reside and trade. The great Empire of India which it is our duty to defend lies almost at your gates. We saved you from extinction at the hands of your neighbours. We opened these seas to the ships of all nations and enabled their flags to fly in peace. We have not seized or held your territory, we have not destroyed your independence but have preserved it. We are not now going to throw away in this century this costly and triumphant enterprise. We shall not wipe out the most unselfish page in history. The peace of these waters must still be maintained, your independence will continue to be upheld, and the influence of the British Government must remain supreme. There is one respect in which the Chiefs themselves can avert any renewal of trouble in the future. The British Government have no desire to interfere and have never interfered in your internal affairs, provided that the Chiefs con-

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Presents to Chiefs.

An Arabic translation of the speech having been read by the Assistant Political Officer of Bahrain, handsome gifts were distributed. Each Chief present in person received a sword from His Excellency's hands besides which there was for every Chief a gold watch and chain and a sporting rifle, and for every Chief's son a rifle. The *Darbar* began at 3-30 P. M. and lasted for about an hour. In the evening the Squadron with the Viceroy left for *Bunder Abbas*.

Commerce, with its Spreading Wings, has traversed the globe many times, and blinds nations together with the strong lustre of self interest. Through its influence London has become the metropolis of the world, and her merchants have amassed wealth sufficient to make them the envy of princes. Holloway's Pills and Ointment have now become essential articles of commerce with all parts of the world. They have effected cures which have seemed miraculous, and given relief in complaints when all hope had been lost. In all known diseases their success has at all times been marvellous.

pearance of their followers was generally remarked, and presented a strong contrast to the bearing of the more civilised and less characteristically Arab people of Muscat. The majority of those present appeared in the traditional head-dress of the *Bedouin*. The meeting between these Chiefs and the Ruler of India could not fail to arouse weighty reflections. It was hard to believe that these men of dignified presence and mild demeanour with their followers represented the wild sea robbers whose piracies less than a century ago extended to the very coast of Bombay, and their spontaneous presence on a British warship recalled, by its striking contrast, the vanished period of history in which their ancestors attacked and put to the sword the crews of British vessels. An even greater contrast was that between the obedience offered to the Viceroy and the fanatical allegiance once rendered by their forefathers to the *Wahabis* of Central Arabia,—those champions of disorder and fierce opponents of Christian influence and civilisation, whether on land or sea. Almost equally wonderful must the meeting have appeared from the point of view of the Arabs. Here they sat at last face to face with the living head and director of that Indian system which, from a mere cloud on their horizon, had grown till it overshadowed the whole extent of their political firmament; of that power which having originally coerced them and then restrained them by influence, now guided them by the exercise of little more than friendly offices and advice. Marvellous, too, in the eyes of those conversant with the history of the past, was the peaceful assemblage in the presence of the Representative of the protecting Power and under the white ensign which has for a century or more kept the maritime peace in these seas of great chief and small chief, of sworn foes and treacherous allies, of predatory *Jowasim* and peaceful *Banyas*. No part of the world's surface probably boasts of a record more sanguinary or including more naval blockades of ports, more sieges and sacks of towns, more inter-tribal wars, more dynastic and private feuds, or more frequent murders of relatives and rivals for chiefship.

The Viceroy's Speech.

After the Chiefs had been formally presented to the Viceroy, His Excellency delivered in English an interesting and significant speech which was an epitome of the History of the Gulf for the past hundred years:—

Chiefs of the Arab Coast who are in Treaty relations with the British Government.—I have come here as the Representative in the Great Empire of India of the British authority which you and your fathers and forefathers have known and dealt with for more than a hundred years, and my object is to show you that though you live at some distance from the shores of India you are not forgotten by the Government, but that they adhere to the policy of guardianship and protection which has given you peace, and guaranteed your rights for the best part of a century. and that the first Viceroy of India who has ever visited these waters does not quit them without seeking the opportunity of meeting you in person and of renewing the assurances and engagements by which we have been so long united. Chiefs, your fathers and grandfathers before you have doubtless told you of the history of the past. You know that a hundred years ago there was constant trouble and fighting in the Gulf. Almost every man was a marauder or a pirate, kidnapping and slave-trading flourished, fighting and bloodshed went on without stint or respite, no ship could put out to sea without fear of attack, the pearl fishery was a scene of annual conflict, and security of trade or peace, there was none. Then it was that the British Government intervened and said that in the interests of its own subjects and traders under its legitimate influence in the seas that wash the Indian

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# The Simsburi Bulletin

## BULLETIN

PUBLISHED AT KARACHI EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY  
No. 187.] KARACHI :—WEDNESDAY, 25th November, 1903

[VOL. XXI.]

### FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

[Through Reuters's Agency.]

#### MEETING OF THE IRISH PARTY.

LONDON, November 24.  
A meeting was held of the Irish party in Dublin, Mr. John Redmond presiding, when it was unanimously resolved to ask Mr. O'Brien to withdraw his resignation of his seat in Parliament, and expressing confidence in Mr. Redmond.

#### DEBATE IN THE FRENCH CHAMBER.

MOROCCO.

During the Foreign Office debate in the French Chamber, M. Delcasse said it was important for France that Morocco be tranquil and independent.

SIAM.

Relative to Siam, he said France had been obliged to re-open negotiations, as the Siamese Government had not shown itself sufficiently independent.

### THE VICEREGAL VISIT TO THE GULF.

At Bander Abbas.

Karachi, 24 Nov. (Evening)  
Upon arrival at Bander Abbas His Excellency the Viceroy was welcomed on behalf of the Persian Government by the Governor of the Gulf Ports, the Salar Manzam, who had been specially deputed by His Majesty the Shah to convey his greetings to His Excellency at the first place at which he touched Persian soil. The Governor had arrived beforehand in the *Persepolis* and in the harbour were also lying the *Sphinx* and Sir A. Hardinge, British Minister at Teheran, and the *Lawrence*, with Colonel Kemball, Resident in the Persian Gulf. The Governor, having sent to enquire after the health of the Viceroy and to learn at what hour it would be convenient that he should be received, followed a little later himself and was received on the main deck of the *Itardinge*, where the message of the Shah was officially delivered to the Viceroy and acknowledged by him. The Governor's visit was subsequently returned by Sir A. Hardinge and Mr. Dane, the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of the Viceroy, who did not himself go ashore. The landing stage and the Governor's residence at Bander Abbas were gaily decorated in honour of His Excellency's visit, and the harbour presented a striking appearance with the flotilla of large vessels lying at anchor and the landscape of

communities that are to be found upon these shores, has smoothed the path of every ship that navigates these waters, and has won for us the friendship and gratitude of the principal Governments, such as that of His Majesty the Shah, with whom we have been brought in contact. The ascendancy of which I have spoken is demonstrated by the fact that out of a total value of trade in the Gulf, including under that designation the ports on the Arab as well as on the Persian coast, and embracing Mohamra in the latter but not including Basra, amounting to nearly 6½ millions sterling in the last recorded year 1901, close upon 5 millions of which was external trade, that is, trade with ports outside the Gulf. The British percentage of this external trade was 77 and the corresponding percentage of British steamers leaving and entering the Gulf ports was 97. If we restrict our observations to the Persian ports alone, we find that the total volume of trade in 1901 was close upon 4½ millions sterling of which £4,232,000 was external, and that of the latter the British proportion was 66 per cent, and of the shipping by which it was carried 97 per cent. These figures show that even in the much more acute competition that now prevails, the commercial superiority so long enjoyed by Great Britain in these seas still exists, if not unchallenged, at least unimpaired. On the other hand, there are circumstances in the trade and position of Bander Abbas which show that the keenest efforts will be

Rawalpindi. Winds at Diamond Island, though they have decreased, are still strong in velocity this morning, being 20 miles per hour. Fine weather is likely to continue for the next 24 hours over the whole Indian region.

#### WARNER'S TEAM IN AUSTRALIA.

#### SCORE AGAINST NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney, Nov. 21.  
Warner's team are doing well against New South Wales. Having got the Colonists out for 108 runs, Rhodes and Arnold taking six and four wickets respectively, they ran up 319. New South Wales then went in again and made 87 for the loss of two wickets. The scores of Warner's team were as follows:—Warner 45, Hayward 13, Tyldesley 80, Foster 35, Braund 36, First 66, Bonanquist 8, Lilley 8, Arnold 14, Kelf 12, Rhodes not out 0, Extras 6, total 319.—*Times of India Special*

#### TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

Karachi.—Bank Dtd.....1/4½.....3 m/s Bills.....1/4½