

1841, married, in 1846, the Lady Constance Henrietta Paget, daughter of the second Marquis of Anglesey, by whom he has a youthful family, consisting of four daughters and one son. By his second marriage the late Earl had no issue; but by his third and last wife he leaves one daughter and three sons, of whom the youngest was born so recently as the year 1856. In the late Earl of Winchilsea the extreme portion of the "Protestant and Protectionist" party have lost, if not a leader, at all events a champion whom they will not find it easy to replace.

In person, Lord Winchilsea was tall and stout; his face was round and animated, with a pleasant and dignified expression; his complexion was dark, his hair black, and his features small and regular.

The family of the Earl of Winchilsea claim descent from one Vincent Finch, who held a manor in the neighbourhood of the now decayed town from which the title is derived so far back as the reign of Henry IV. He was the lineal ancestor and progenitor of Sir Thomas Finch, who was made one of the Knights of the Carpet in Westminster-hall, on the day after the coronation of Queen Mary, by the hands of the Earl of Arundel, who was commissioned by her Majesty to perform that act. His son and successor, Sir Moyle Finch, married an heiress of the Berkeley family, and became the father of three sons, the youngest of whom, Sir Heneage Finch, was successively Recorder of London and Speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of Charles I. His son also, Sir Heneage Finch, rose to the highest honours of the law, being constituted successively Attorney-General and Keeper of the Great Seal, and eventually Lord High Chancellor of England; being also elevated to the peerage as Lord Finch of Daventry, and Earl of Nottingham. His son Daniel, the second Earl of Nottingham, eventually succeeded also to the earldom of Winchilsea, which had been conferred in 1628 on the widow of the above-mentioned Sir Moyle Finch, together with the Viscounty of Maidstone, with remainder of both honours to the issue male of her body in succession. This earl, who served for many years after the accession of King William III. as Principal Secretary of State, and died in 1730, having enjoyed the highest confidence of Queen Anne and the first of the four Georges, was the great-grandfather of the nobleman whose death we now record.

It is not a little singular that there is also a third earldom still in possession of the family of Finch. We allude to the title enjoyed by the Earl of Aylesford, who

derives his paternal descent from the Hon. Heneage Finch, a younger son of the first Earl of Nottingham.

#### JOHN COLVIN, ESQ.

Sept. 9. At Agra, John Colvin, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

He was the second son of James Colvin, of the well-known mercantile house of Colvin and Co., of London and Calcutta, and was born at Calcutta in May, 1807. He was educated till near the age of fifteen at St. Andrew's, in Fifeshire, and after a short time passed with a private tutor, he went to the East India College at Haileybury. Here he obtained, from the first, the highest place among his contemporaries, and held it throughout. Although young men who wasted their time at Haileybury sometimes exhibited superior qualities in after life, those who were distinguished in the collegiate competition scarcely ever failed to prove themselves able public servants. The college itself has now ceased to exist, and there is reason to fear that some advantages have, for the moment, been lost with it which are essential to the success of our Indian administration. The students were taken at the critical period of life, after they had finished their school-education, and before they had struck root in this country, or tried their powers with the young men of their own age from other seminaries. There was, therefore, the usual proportion of men of superior ability among them; and from the earliest years of opening manhood their thoughts and feelings became identified with their Indian prospects. They then received the best instruction that could be provided for them in the principles of law and political economy, in the elements of the Indian languages, and in other subjects which had a special reference to their professional duties. Now the age of admission is put so high that a sifting has already taken place, and those who have proved their strength have paired off for an English career, which must always have the highest attraction for the first class of our English youth. Another consequence of raising the age to twenty-three is, that the professional instruction and probation which those who have had practical experience of India know to be necessary, have been given up, and the transplantation takes place under circumstances every way calculated to aggravate the growing evil which has been remarked of late years—that our Indian officers do not give themselves up to their work with all their heart, as they used to do—that their thoughts and aspirations are directed to

England, and that whatever concerns the natives is performed in a cold and perfunctory manner, which neither can command nor deserves success.

Colvin went to India in 1826, passed the College of Fort William with credit, and entered at once on the serious business of life as assistant to the Register of the Sudder Court, Mr. Macnaghten, afterwards so well known to fame as Sir William Macnaghten. The remembrance of much pleasant intercourse at this period enables me to say that, although John Colvin "lived laborious days," he did not scorn those delights which belonged to his age and character; and he then gained the affections of a lady (Harriet, daughter of Major Sneyd), who became a faithful and helpful companion to him for the rest of his life. His next appointment was assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad, Mr. William Byam Martin, who still survives in the enjoyment of the cultivated literary tastes for which he was remarkable even during the most active period of his Indian career. In 1832 Lord William Bentinck created the office of Assistant-Secretary in each of the Government Departments at Calcutta, on the model of the English Under-Secretaryships, and Colvin was selected to be Assistant-Secretary in the Revenue and Judicial Department, and was promoted in 1836 to be Secretary to the Board of Revenue in the Lower Provinces. Lord Auckland took his seat as Governor-General on the 4th of March, 1836, and what he did to discover the best man to be his private secretary is worthy of the attention of all who require able assistance for the discharge of important duties. He asked those who were in a position to form a correct judgment, to furnish him with lists of the persons whom they considered fit in the order of qualification. Lord Auckland's honest anxiety received a rich reward. Of the few enjoyments of office, one of the highest is that of being well served; and how ably and zealously Lord Auckland was served by John Colvin will be apparent from the following grateful record:—

"Mr. Colvin has worked, I may say, rather with me than under me, during six years. He has had, and he has deserved, my entire confidence. He brought to his duties an extensive and accurate knowledge of the interests of India, in its history and in the details of its administration.

"This knowledge has been greatly increased, particularly in regard to our political relations; and if the merit of having brought forward, from time to time, subjects of difficulty with clearness and regularity before the Council should ever be

ascribed to me, it could not be so in justice, unless acknowledgment were also made, as I am ready to make it, of the industry, the research, the correctness of judgment, the accuracy of information, and the readiness in composition, with which Mr. Colvin has often assisted me.

"I may add, that in the secondary but important duty of forming a judgment on the character of public officers, and in the distribution of patronage, I have with equal satisfaction to speak of the faithful and efficient aid which I have found; and though it could not be but that offence and dissent in this branch of duty should occasionally have been excited, yet I cannot but feel that it is due to the tact and discrimination with which Mr. Colvin has performed his part in this branch of the administration, that so little of discontent has been exhibited upon it, and that its fairness has been pretty generally admitted."

Mr. Colvin returned with Lord Auckland to England, and both mind and body were refreshed by a three years' furlough. After the recommencement of his Indian career, he held for a short time the appointment of Resident in Nepal, and was then transferred to the Commissionership of the Tenasserim Provinces, where his administration gave much satisfaction both to the Government and the public. His measures regarding the timber-trade were held to be particularly useful, and he did much good by framing an uniform code of procedure for the native judges. He was next promoted to the Sudder Court, where he became *facile princeps*; so much so, that it was commonly said that the pleaders had sometimes to be reminded that they ought to address the Court, and not Mr. Colvin. As he had not had a regular judicial training, and his knowledge of law was chiefly derived from the vigour with which he applied to the study of it at the time, this was justly considered as a remarkable proof of his intellectual superiority. When, therefore, he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, on the death of Mr. Thomason, in 1853, there was certainly no man in the service whose name stood higher for activity, ability, and force of character: and he had been already marked out as a fit man for Council.

As Lieutenant-Governor, he exhibited an industry and mastery of detail which were quite astonishing. He had not the practical professional knowledge of Thomason, who had been a magistrate and collector, and had made settlements; or of John Lawrence, who had served in every department, from top to bottom; but for this

he made up by the most laborious inquiry. He could not do things offhand, like his predecessor, from his own knowledge; he had to ascertain before deciding: he was perpetually asking questions, gathering opinions, collating facts,—and he carried this to an extent that has been rarely equalled. The reports he called for were innumerable, and he digested his information with exemplary patience and impartiality. A general efficiency in all branches was fully maintained. There was no great attempt to introduce new measures, but rather thoroughly to work out old ones. Everything that had been previously commenced was taken up and carried on towards perfection. The earnest adoption of everything that was good in Thomason's plans shews how thoroughly Colvin had the public interest at heart, and furnishes an honourable contrast to the usual disposition of public men to depreciate their predecessors, and to connect their own names with new measures, of which they alone would have the credit. Mr. Colvin was also laudably desirous of testing the qualifications of his officers. He would sometimes invite conferences of officers, and make each state his opinion. He was sincerely anxious to prefer merit to seniority, and to get the right man in the right place. He made many bold appointments out of routine, the judiciousness of some of which was, of course, questioned. In all respects he was desirous to discover improved methods of doing things, and was most ready to listen to suggestions. He took an especial interest in the detection and suppression of crime, and by more than usual supervision kept the whole machinery of the police on the alert. Every great crime that became known, Mr. Colvin would order to be reported on for his information. A magistrate would receive a letter to say that the Lieutenant-Governor anxiously awaited the news of the capture of such and such a Dacoit or murderer. Anything like organized crime received constant attention from the Lieutenant-Governor himself. In the Department of Civil Justice much was expected of Mr. Colvin, as being himself an eminent judge; but nothing short of a decided legislative enactment will ever enable a Governor of a Regulation Province to reform the present cumbrous and unsuitable system. In the Revenue Department Mr. Colvin did much for the settlement of the Sangor and Nerbudda territories, then recently attached to his government, introducing those improvements, the advantage of which had been established by the experience of the Punjab; and he was arranging for the re-

newal and revision of the settlement in the North-Western Provinces, which was about to expire. He was strongly impressed with the importance of moderate and fixed assessments of the land revenue, as the foundation of all improvement. In the Public Works Department, the new system resulting from the abolition of the Military Board at Calcutta, and the placing of all works, civil and military, under the local governments, came into operation under Mr. Colvin. He scrutinized that monster department with his usual energy and minuteness, and in no part of India did it work better than with him. The Ganges Canal, the offspring of Thomason and Cautley, was prosecuted to completion by Colvin, and the canal itself was opened by him. Road-making was advanced everywhere, and the questionable English expedient of toll-bars was introduced on the Grand Trunk Road. In education Colvin followed up vigorously the good beginning made by Thomason, and he afterwards inaugurated, with much ability, the more comprehensive and important system, applicable to the whole of India, which was ordered from home. The machinery for popular vernacular education, which had previously existed in eight experimental districts, was then extended to all. In all miscellaneous improvements Mr. Colvin was most zealous and public-spirited, as was to be expected from his turn of mind, which readily grappled with anything and everything that presented itself. In his conduct towards the press he was always liberal and successful. Lord Auckland had the cordial support of the Calcutta press during the period of alarm and depression caused by the disasters of the Afghan war, and the spirit of Mr. Colvin's proceedings on this subject, when he afterwards acted on his own responsibility, will be seen from the following extract from his general report on the administration of the North-Western Provinces for the year 1855-6:—

"It is the custom of this Government to print for official circulation, in addition to the published reports and orders on the administration of civil and criminal justice, and of the general revenue affairs of the year, as well as the published annual prison discipline and educational reports, the remarks and instructions which are recorded in detail on the separate divisional reports on police, revenue, road, and ferry funds, and local funds and improvements. A common sympathy and emulation are thus, it is believed, excited throughout the provinces, and the experience of success or defects in one district becomes known for the benefit of all."

As Judge of the Sudder Court at Calcutta, and Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, Colvin laboured under the disadvantage of not having had a practical training in the revenue, police, and judicial departments, which form the basis of our Indian administration. To a great extent, he overcame this by extraordinary industry and sagacity, but this entailed a serious waste of effort. It was a common saying, that Mr. Colvin "over-governed." The business of the Government greatly increased, so that the Secretaries could hardly keep pace with it. The number of letters nearly doubled in two years. Our best Anglo-Indian statesmen have always struggled against the tendency to fill the offices at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, with persons who have not had practical experience of the details of administration.

From these works of peace and improvement, and from the apparently certain prospect of finishing his course with honour and joy, Colvin was suddenly called to face the stern realities of the military insurrection. With a higher official position, he had less real command over events than his neighbour in the Punjab. John Lawrence ruled a people who had for generations cherished a religious and political feud with the people of Hindostan proper, and Delhi was, in Sikh estimation, the accursed city drunk with the blood of saints and martyrs. John Colvin's government was itself the focus of the insurrection. Lawrence may be said to have been his own commander-in-chief; and after an European force had been detached to Delhi immediately on the outbreak, he still had at his disposal seven European regiments, (including the one sent from Bombay to Mooltan,) besides European artillery, and a local Sikh force of about 20,000 first-rate Irregulars of all arms. Colvin was merely the civil governor of the North-Western Provinces; and, as the posts were stopped, he could not even communicate with the Commander-in-Chief, with whom the entire disposal of the military force rested. Lawrence had three days' exclusive knowledge by telegraph\* of what had taken place at Meerut and Delhi, during which interval he made his arrangements for disarming the Sepoy regiments stationed in the Punjab. Colvin had no warning; and the military insurrection had actually broken out within his government, and the mutineers were in possession of Delhi, before he could begin to act.

But he promptly and vigorously did what was in his power. On the 17th of May the Governor-General telegraphed to Mr. Colvin, "I thank you sincerely for all you have so admirably done, and for your stout heart." He held a parade of the troops at Agra, and spoke plainly and fully to the native regiments on the subject of the gross delusions which prevailed among them regarding the supposed intentions of the Government to interfere with their religion and caste; he made arrangements to strengthen the fort, and place in it a considerable amount of supplies; he raised a body of volunteer horse, who afterwards did good service on several occasions; and he called upon the neighbouring native States to send their "contingents," to assist in keeping open the roads and preserving the peace of the country districts. He also had the good sense and spirit to deprecate any premature abandonment of our position:—

"It is a vitally useful lesson to be learnt from the experience of present events, that not one step should be yielded in retreat, on an outbreak in India, which can be avoided with any safety. Plunder and general license immediately commence, and all useful tenure of the country is annihilated. It is not by shutting ourselves in forts in India that our power can be upheld, and I will decidedly oppose myself to any proposal for throwing the European force into the fort, except in the very last extremity." [Mr. Colvin to the Governor-General, May 22, 1857.]

As early as the 15th of May, Mr. Colvin urgently recommended the issue of a proclamation by the Governor-General for the purpose of disabusing the Sepoys of the delusions which possessed them, and of inducing the well-disposed among them to separate themselves from the mutineers. On the 24th of May he reiterated this advice:—

"On the mode of dealing with the mutineers, I would strenuously oppose general severity towards all. Such a course would, as we are unanimously convinced by a knowledge of the feeling of the people, acquired among them from a variety of sources, estrange the remainder of the army. Hope, I am firmly convinced, should be held out to all those who were not ringleaders, or actively concerned in murder and violence. Many are in the rebels' ranks because they could not get away; many certainly thought we were tricking them out of their caste; and this opinion is held, however unwisely, by the mass of the population, and even by some of the more intelligent classes. Never was delusion more wide or deep. Many of the

\* It has been truly said that the telegraph saved India, for by it John Lawrence was enabled to make those arrangements which preserved the Punjab and recovered Delhi.

best soldiers in the army—among others, of its most faithful section, the Irregular Cavalry—shew a marked reluctance to engage in a war against men whom they believe to have been misled on the point of religious honour. A tone of general menace would, I am persuaded, be wrong. The Commander-in-Chief should, in my view, be authorized to act upon the above line of policy; and when means of escape are thus open to those who can be admitted to mercy, the remnant will be considered obstinate traitors even by their own countrymen, who will have no hesitation in siding against them. I request the earliest answer to this message. The subject is of vital and pressing importance.”

On the following day (25th of May), Mr. Colvin reported to the Governor-General that he had himself taken the decisive step:—

“Impressed by the knowledge of the feelings of the native population, as communicated in my message of yesterday, and supported by the unanimous opinion of all officers of experience here, that this mutiny is not one to be put down by high-handed authority, and thinking it essential at present to give a favourable turn to the feelings of the Sepoys who have not yet entered against us, I have taken the grave responsibility of issuing on my own authority the following proclamation. A weighty reason with me has been the total dissolution of order, and the loss of every means of control in many districts. My latest letter from Meerut is now seven days old, and not a single letter has reached me from the Commander-in-Chief.

#### “PROCLAMATION.

“Soldiers engaged in the late disturbances, who are desirous of going to their own homes, and who give up their arms at the nearest Government civil or military post, and retire quietly, shall be permitted to do so unmolested.

“Many faithful soldiers have been driven into resistance to Government only because they were in the ranks and could not escape from them, and because they really thought their feelings of religion and honour injured by the measures of Government. This feeling was wholly a mistake, but it acted on men’s minds. A proclamation of the Governor-General now issued is perfectly explicit, and will remove all doubts on these points.

“Every evil-minded instigator in the disturbance, and those guilty of heinous crimes against private persons, shall be punished. All those who appear in arms against the Government after this notifi-

cation is known, shall be treated as open enemies.”

The time has not yet arrived when this subject can be reviewed with judicial calmness; but Colvin is no longer among us to answer for himself, and it is impossible in a notice of his life to pass over a point to which public attention has been so strongly directed. My object is not to revive the discussion, or to maintain that the proclamation was free from objection, but to give, as nearly as it can be ascertained, the defence which Colvin would have made if he had been alive. He might have relieved himself from all responsibility by not issuing any proclamation without the previous sanction of the Governor-General, but his position as local Governor, acting with the Commander-in-Chief for the suppression of the insurrection in his government, and his strong sense of the necessity of the measure, made him take another view of his duty.

The course adopted by John Colvin is the usual one on such occasions. The mutiny at the Nore and the Irish rebellion are the last two cases in point in English history, and were treated in a similar manner.

There were two other proclamations in 1797, dated 22nd April, 27th May, and the 6th of June.

The preamble of the Irish Act of Parliament, 38th of George III. cap. 55, entitled “An Act for the king’s most gracious, general, and free pardon,” also offers terms to those who having taken up arms were willing to submit.

In an ordinary state of public feeling, unsparing military execution would not have been considered justifiable until the attempt had been made to distinguish between the leaders and followers, between those who struck the blow and added outrage to insubordination, and those who passively or unwillingly yielded to the movement of the body to which they belonged. To this it has been replied, that there ought to have been no parleying with rebels, and that the armed opposition should have been put down before the attempt was made to discriminate between different degrees of guilt. But if Mr. Colvin had waited till then it would have been too late. The object was to apply a solvent to reduce the compact mass of rebellion to its elements, and to give to the well-disposed an opportunity of returning to their allegiance, leaving the guilty remainder to their well-deserved fate.

The proclamation was universally approved at Agra. The vast extent of the danger which was opening on us, and the

sincere and thorough delusion which possessed the mass of the Sepoys about the intentions of Government, were understood there. Regiments were beginning to give way all round. To prevent the fatal mischief from spreading, it seemed the wisest thing that could be done to mark that we desired to be just; to offer the means of retreat to those, not already desperately committed, who had been betrayed into the rebel ranks by the insane apprehension about religion, or by the impossibility of separating themselves at the moment from their corps, and to appeal through them to the feelings of the regiments yet in obedience. It seemed to John Colvin and his advisers that this was the right thing to do at that time, and under those circumstances. They ought not to be judged by the event, but by the state of things as it reasonably appeared to them then and there. The new proclamation directed by the Governor-General remained without effect, just as much as Colvin's did. The crash of regiments advanced so fast, that a new idea—that of entire mastery and expulsion of all Europeans from India—seized all minds, and terms of accommodation were no longer listened to. If ever there was a chance of the kind, it was at first, before we were engaged in a war *à l'outrance* with our whole native army, the gravity of which no one will deny; and John Colvin tried to seize that chance.

Colvin earnestly protested against his proclamation being interpreted as offering pardon to those who had murdered or injured their officers. He urged that the last paragraph limited the first; that the words, "that those guilty of heinous crimes against private persons shall be punished," were meant expressly to include crimes against officers as well as other subjects of the Government, as was apparent from the sense of the Hindostani word in the original proclamation, which in the English version was translated "private persons;" and that, taken as a whole, the proclamation was identical in substance with a telegraphic message from the Governor-General<sup>b</sup>, bearing the same date as the proclamation, but received subsequently to its being issued. To this the Governor-General replied, that as the proclamation

<sup>b</sup> The message was as follows:—"Those for whom no amount of severity can be too great are—

"Every man who resists with arms the Commander-in-Chief's force;

"Every man who has taken part in the murder of an European officer or other person;

"Every ringleader.

"Generally, a distinction should be drawn between the regiments which murdered their officers and those which did not. To men of the latter forbearance in the first instance, and hope

promised liberty to every man who delivered up his arms, unless he was an instigator of disturbance or guilty of heinous crimes against private persons, it threw the burden of proof upon the authority to whom the arms were given up; and every man of the regiments believed to have murdered their officers might, with the proclamation in his hand, claim his discharge unmolested, unless proof was ready against him individually,—which was not possible. Colvin made no rejoinder to the Governor-General, but to his own family he wrote that, although "the proclamation remained a mere trifling incident in the great series of events," and he would give no further trouble to others on the subject, he wished his own relatives to understand the grounds of his conduct. "That those," he said, "who had taken a leading or a deliberately malignant part in the revolt would ever seek to take advantage of the notification, we knew to be quite out of the question. The chance that seemed open, through the proclamation, of escape to such persons was what called forth the heavy censure at many distant points; but we who were nearer the scene, and knew the real spirit of the revolt, could not entertain such a supposition." To this Colvin might have added, if he had lived to complete his defence, that the Governor-General afterwards himself issued a circular letter, in which the principle was fully admitted that a distinction ought to be made between the innocent and guilty, even in Sepoy regiments which had murdered their officers, and that punishment ought to be founded upon some proof of individual guilt; and the Governor-General's Circular was issued on the 31st of July, when all hope of securing an immediate political result, by inducing the comparatively innocent to separate themselves from their more guilty associates, had passed away—which was not the case in May, when the character of the insurrection had not been fully developed. The difficulty of obtaining evidence must have been encountered at some time or other, unless it had been determined to make no distinction between the Sepoys belonging to the offending regiments, whatever their individual conduct might have been.

Mr. Colvin's active and useful life was now rapidly drawing to a close. A hostile force, composed chiefly of the Neemuch Brigade, arrived within a short march of Agra. The main body of our much smaller

of pardon, if they should shew a claim to it, may be extended.

"Menaces are quite unnecessary.

"I beg you to communicate this to the Commander-in-Chief."

force went out to meet them. The entire Christian population of the town and cantonments went into the quarters prepared for them in the old Royal Residence, which had the name, but very little of the character, of a fort. On the 25th of August, 1857, there were 4,289 inmates, of whom, including the European regiment and the Artillery, 1,065 were male adult Europeans, 443 Eurasians, and 267 native Christians, and the remaining 2,514 were women and non-adults of the same three classes. As everything had been foreseen and arranged, the bad effects which might have been expected from the compression of this mixed multitude into a narrow space at the worst season of the year have not been experienced. But Colvin had received his death-stroke. His government, the improvement of which was the cherished object of his life, had been reduced to the space commanded by the guns of the fort, and even this remnant was threatened by a war-cloud from the direction of Gwalior. He must be reckoned among the victims of the mutiny by a sharper and more protracted agony than if he had fallen by the sword of the mutineers. His first attack of illness immediately preceded the removal into the fort. His friends frequently and earnestly pressed upon him the necessity for a temporary cessation from work; and as soon as it was safe to do so, they transferred him to the freer air of cantonments, the benefit of which he gratefully acknowledged. His son Elliot was out in the district, but near enough to be recalled in time to see and be recognized by his father. On Wednesday afternoon, the 9th of September, he sank quietly, without pain, to his last blessed sleep. As rumours had reached Agra of great desecrations having been committed elsewhere on the remains of Europeans, it was considered right to bury him inside the fort, where the funeral took place next morning. The following notification was issued on the occasion by the Government of India:—

“Fort William,  
Home Department, Sept. 19

“NOTIFICATION.

“It is the melancholy duty of the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council to announce the death of the Hon. John Russell Colvin, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces.

“Worn by the unceasing anxieties and labours of his charge, which placed him in the very front of the dangers by which of late India has been threatened, health and strength gave way; and the Governor-General in Council has to deplore with sincere grief the loss of one of the most

distinguished among the servants of the East India Company.

“The death of Mr. Colvin has occurred at a time when his ripe experience, his high ability, and his untiring energy would have been more than usually valuable to the State.

“But his career did not close before he had won for himself a high reputation in each of the various branches of administration to which he was at different times attached, nor until he had been worthily selected to fill the highest position in Northern India; and he leaves a name which not friends alone, but all who have been associated with him in the duties of Government, and all who may follow in his path, will delight to honour.

“The Right Hon. the Governor-General in Council directs that the flag shall be lowered half-mast high, and that seventeen minute-guns shall be fired at the seats of government in India upon the receipt of the present notification.

“By order of the Governor-General of  
India in Council.

C. BEADON,

“Secretary to the Government of India.”

Colvin was one of the last of our Indian statesmen who derived their inspiration by immediate tradition from Malcolm, Munro, Metcalfe, and Bentinck. These wise master-builders completed the edifice of our Indian empire on the solid foundations of good faith, justice, and personal respect. Many of their disciples devoted themselves to the interests of the natives with a self-denying zeal which has been seldom equalled. It would be well to consider how far this tone is maintained by the rising generation of Indian functionaries. Previously to the present outbreak, painful symptoms were not wanting of the over-confidence arising from habitual success, of the pride which goes before a fall, and especially of a disposition to undervalue the natives, and to be indifferent to their feelings, which alone would disqualify us for the government of India. Incredible as it appears, a practice has arisen of late years of designating the natives—not the mutinous Sepoys merely, but the natives generally—by the opprobrious name of “niggers;” and it is evident from the surprise expressed by the natives of India at the personal courtesy with which they are treated on their visits to this country, that some great change has taken place in the demeanour assumed towards them by our countrymen in the East. This is passing strange to those who were nourished in the spirit of Sir

John Malcolm's instructions to his assistants; and it is stranger still to observe that such practices have been suffered to grow up without rebuke from the Indian Government.

#### RESCHID PACHA.

Jan. 7.—By a telegraphic dispatch we learn that Reschid Pacha, the eminent Turkish minister, is dead. There were conflicting reports as to the manner of his death—one account representing it as sudden, another as having occurred after three days' illness. But of the fact itself there seems to be no doubt. Reschid Pasha was the especial *protégé* of our minister, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, who, we believe, regarded him as almost the only honest statesman in Turkey; and the news of his death, following so hard upon that distinguished diplomatist leaving him at Constantinople in the fulness of his power, must doubtless make a deep impression on his Lordship's mind. The Turkish statesman was born in 1802. After serving official patrons in various subordinate capacities, he progressed to the rank of Pacha in 1834, and was made special envoy to Paris and London. He subsequently obtained high office under Sultan Mahmoud, but the true beginning of his high career as a minister of progress commenced with the reign of Abdul Medjid. Receiving the title of Minister of Foreign Affairs, he became practically the first minister of the new Sultan, Abdul Medjid. The great day of Reschid Pacha's life was that of the proclamation of the Tanzimat, otherwise known as the Statute of Gulhane. Upon the 3d of November, 1839, the representatives of all the European powers, the ministers, governors of provinces, generals, corps of ulemas, patriarchs of Christian communities, together with an immense crowd drawn from all parts of the community, were assembled in an open space belonging to the pavilion of Gulhane, to hear read a charter which was to serve as a new basis of civil and religious law in Turkey. The Sultan appeared in great pomp, and near him was seated the Prince de Joinville. Reschid Pacha read the document aloud. Copies and translations were distributed to all present, and a universal shout arose for the Sultan. Since this important event Reschid Pacha has, with brief intervals, occupied most important posts in the service of the Sultan. He has held several times the appointments of Grand Vizier and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1841 he became again for a time the Sultan's representative in England. His successive adminis-

trations have been a series of struggles to realise the Tanzimat; but it must be owned that in this he has only very imperfectly succeeded. His foreign policy has been directed, above all things, to the maintenance of peace. He was not in power when Prince Menschikoff visited Constantinople; but when the Russian envoy presented to the Sultan a disgraceful convention, the sovereign appears to have felt that the time was come to make an end of the intrigues which had excluded his abset servant from power, and Reschid Pacha was again called to direct the affairs of the empire. In the spring of 1855 he again lost office, still, however, exercising an influence on the Government. He resumed office in the middle of last year, and has died in office. Reschid Pacha was European in his opinions, habits, and tastes. He knew several European languages; he kept no harem, and was "the husband of one wife."

#### ADMIRAL HUGH DOWNMAN.

Jan. 4. At his residence, Hambleton, Hants, aged 93, Admiral Hugh Downman.

Hugh Downman was born at Plympton, Devonshire, in 1764. His uncle, Dr. Downman, of Exeter, was a physician of considerable practice, and had a local reputation as an author and play-writer. He obtained for Hugh Downman an offer from Capt. Mitchell Graham to go to sea with him in the "Thetis," 32, which he then commanded, and in this ship Mr. Downman remained from Oct. 10, 1776, until Aug. 1778.

Appointed as a midshipman to the "Arethusa," Capt. S. Marshall, he was wrecked in her, while chasing the enemy's frigate, off the island of Moulins, and was kept a prisoner of war in France from March, 1779, till Jan., 1780. In the "Edgar," Mr. Downman was present at the relief of Gibraltar, and in Lord Howe's partial action with the combined fleets of France and Spain, Oct. 20, 1782. On March 5, 1790, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and served on the East India station.

Returning to England in the beginning of 1793, Lieut. Downman joined the "Alcide," 74, Capt. Linzer. In this ship he was present at the occupation of Toulon, and the reduction of Corsica, and here he first personally distinguished himself by cutting out a French gunboat from under a battery at St. Fiorenzo, and by heading a detachment of 100 seamen and marines, and planting the first gun on a mountain overlooking the defences of the enemy, and deemed by them to be inaccessible.