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INDIA BOARD, October 24, 1857.

THE following Dispatch has been received at the East India House:—

The Governor-General of India in Council to the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

No. 57.

(Extract.) *Fort-William, September 9, 1857.*

We have the honour to forward for your information the accompanying copy of a Minute recorded by the Governor-General relative to the death of Sir Henry Lawrence; the appointment of General Sir James Outram to the united command of all the troops in the Dinapore and Cawnpore divisions; and his re-appointment as Chief Commissioner in Oude.

Minute by the Governor-General of India, September 8, 1857.

RECENTLY the Government availed itself of Major-General Outram's presence in Calcutta to appoint him to the united command of all the troops in the Dinapore and Cawnpore divisions.

Major-General Outram is now approaching Cawnpore. He will accompany the reinforced column of Brigadier-General Havelock in its advance upon Lucknow, and, as circumstances may arise calling for the exercise of civil and political authority on Major-General Outram's part within the province of Oude, it becomes necessary for me to place on record the determination which was formed by the Government some time ago, of re-appointing Major-General Outram, for the present, to the post of Chief Commissioner in Oude, vacated by the lamented death of Sir Henry Lawrence, K.C.B.

I beg to submit this proposal for the concurrence of my colleagues.

Although intelligence of Sir H. Lawrence's death reached the Government long ago, no official announcement of this sad event, and none of the particulars connected with it, were received until some time after the first reports; and the details are not even now very fully known.

A wound received whilst leading an attack on the 2d of July against the insurgents, and believed to have been slight in itself, but acting doubtless on a constitution impaired by protracted

labours in an exhausting climate, and on a frame weakened by the unusual fatigues, anxieties, and responsibilities of the preceding month, sufficed to close the career of one of the most valued and best loved men whom India has counted amongst her servants and benefactors.

In the course of his service, extending over thirty-five years, in Burmah, and Afghanistan, in Nepal, in the Punjab, and in Rajpootana, Sir Henry Lawrence was distinguished for eminent ability, devoted zeal, and generous and self-denying exertions for the welfare of the people among whom he was placed. As a soldier, an administrator, and a statesman, he has deservedly earned an exalted reputation amongst the foremost, and has been an honour to the Government he served.

Impressed with a sense of his great qualifications I selected him to be Chief Commissioner in the province of Oude. In that position, from the first appearance of disaffection amongst the troops quartered in the province, his conduct of affairs was marked by foresight, calm judgment, and courage. If anything could have averted the calamitous outbreak which has been followed by the temporary subversion of our authority in Oude, I believe that the measures which were taken by Sir Henry Lawrence, and the confidence which all men, high and low, Native and European, felt in his energy, his wisdom, and his spirit of justice and kindness, would have accomplished that end. As long as there was any hope of restraining the wavering soldiery by appeals to their sense of duty and honour, he left no becoming means untried to conciliate them. When violent and open mutiny called for stern retribution, he did not shrink from the (to him) uncongenial task of inflicting severe punishment. When general disorder and armed rebellion threatened, he was undaunted, and completed rapidly and effectively the precautionary preparations which, from the beginning, he had had in view. And, though he has been prematurely removed from the scene, it is due mainly to his exertions, judgment, and professional skill that the Lucknow garrison has been able to defy the assaults of its assailants, and still maintain its ground.

There is not, I am sure, an Englishman in India who does not regard the loss of Sir Henry Lawrence, in the present circumstances of the country, as one of the heaviest calamities.

