

THE BREAK DOWN OF THE MONOPOLY  
OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY  
IN 1813.

by

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

The relations of Europe with India commence with the Greek invasion in 327 B. C. After the break down of the empire of Alexander the Great the direct contact of western Europe with India was severed. We have however records of travellers and pilgrims who had visited India and carried to their countries the news of untold wealth. One of the earliest pilgrims that came from the Court of Alfred the Great of England was Sighelmus, Bishop of Shireborne. (1) He came to see the sepulchre of St. Thomas in India. He carried back from India precious stones and spices. Commerce never ceased entirely and in the days of the Renaissance the products of India passed through the hands of Mohammedan merchants. With the rapid growth of civilization the value of this trade became enormous. The original trade routes for the products of India were overland. The goods were taken by caravans from the northwestern frontier of India across Persia to Aleppo and afterwards by ship to Italy. After the growth of Mohammedanism and the growth of the power of the Turks the caravan route across central Asia became quite unsafe. (2) It was inevitable therefore that the Christian nations of Europe wanted to find a new route to India by sea. With this object Christopher Columbus sailed westwards under

the Spanish flag but he discovered America instead of India. The next nation of importance that became famous for discovery of new lands was Portugal. Various expeditions were sent to find a sea route to India and the hope of the sea route was strengthened when Bartholomew Dias doubled the Cape of Goodhope in 1486. It was in the month of July, 1497, that a fleet of three ships was placed under the command of Vasco da Gama to follow the route taken by Bartholomew Dias and find the way to India. After a weary voyage of eleven months Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut, a port on the south western coast of India. The Indian ruler of Calicut, known as the Zamorin, welcomed him to his shores but the Moors who had the monopoly of trade became jealous of the Portugese adventurers. (3) The Portugese emerged victorious in the struggle with the Mohammedans and transferred the monopoly from the Mohammedans to themselves. The situation in India was very favorable to the Portugese in establishing their political supremacy. The power of the Mohammedans in India was not yet concentrated in the hands of the Great Moguls. The Southern India was divided among various petty kings who were jealous of each other. Vasco da Gama who came to India a second time in 1502 formed an alliance with the Rajah of Cochin and Cannanore against the Zamorin of Calicut and bombarded the latter in his capital. In 1505 Francisco de Almeida was sent as the first viceroy of the Portugese possessions and Albuquerque, who succeeded him

as the viceroy, seized Goa and made it the capital of Portuguese India. (4) For nearly a century the Portuguese enjoyed a monopoly of Indian trade. The interests of Portugal were subordinated when the Portuguese crown was united with that of Spain under Philip II in 1580. In 1640 Portugal again became a separate power but she could not compete with her rivals, the Dutch and the English, who had come on the scene. The Portuguese had neither the political strength nor the personal character to found an empire in India. (5)

The Dutch were the first European nation who broke through the Portuguese monopoly. (5a) The first Dutchman to double the Cape of Goodhope was Cornelius Houtman who reached Sumatra and Bantam. The various companies that were formed by the Dutch were amalgamated by the States General into The Dutch East India Company. In the beginnings of the 17th century there was a keen rivalry between the Dutch and the English in the islands of the East Indies. Finally the Dutch drove the English out of the islands after the massacre of Amboyana in 1623. (6) The English therefore resorted to the mainland of India and laid the foundation of their future empire. The English in their turn routed the Dutch out of India in 1758. Next came the French, whose first East India company was founded in 1604. Five more companies were formed in France in different periods and the last one

was the result of the union of the French East and West India, Senegal and China companies, under the name of 'The Company of the Indies' in 1719. The first Dutch East India company was formed in 1612 and the second in 1670. The Danish settlement of Tranquebar and Serampur were both founded in 1616, and acquired by the English by purchase from Denmark in 1845. The company started by the Scotch in 1695 did not amount to much. 'The Ostend Company' incorporated by the Austrian monarch, Charles VI, in 1723 was for a time a serious menace to the Dutch and English companies. The Austrian company became bankrupt in 1784. The last nations of Europe to engage in maritime trade with India were Sweden and Prussia. The Swedish company received its charter on June 13th, 1731, but its operations were of little importance. King Frederick the Great authorized two Prussian companies in 1750 and 1753 which died a natural death,

The Indian trade was a prize for which many of the European nations struggled one against the other for four hundred years. The economic monopoly had a tinge of political monopoly but England alone had the diplomacy to emerge from the struggle as a successful power by turning her East India Company into a sovereign power in India. The earliest English attempts to reach India were by the north western passage but the attempts ended in a failure. The first modern Englishman to have visited India was Thomas Stephens (?) who became

the rector of the Jesuit's college in Salsette in 1579. In 1583 three English merchants; Ralph Fitch, (4) James Newberry and Leeds took the overland route for India. The Portuguese were jealous of them and put them into prison. The defeat of the 'Armada' gave the English a stimulus to their maritime enterprise.

The East India Company had its origin in the commercial rivalry between London and Amsterdam. The merchants of London held a meeting on the 22nd September, 1599, at Founders Hall with the Lord Mayor in the chair. (8) They agreed to form an association for the purpose of trading directly with India. Queen Elizabeth sent Sir John Mildenhall (9) by way of Constantinople to the Moghul Emperor to ask for privileges of trade in India. On the 31st of December 1600 the English India Company was incorporated by royal charter under the title of "The Governor and Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies." (10) The original company had only 125 shareholders and a capital of 70 000 pounds sterling. This was raised to 400 000 pounds sterling when the voyages were taken on the joint stock account. The exclusive right of trading to that country was granted by Her Majesty for a term of fifteen years. The corporate capacity and the privilege of the exclusive trade was renewed and revived under the various English monarchs with a condition that, if the trade became unprofitable to the nation, the charter could be cancelled

after a three years warning. The Governor and the Company were also empowered to establish factories and settlements in the East Indies. In 1661 they were authorized by Charles II to coin their own money.

By an Act of Parliament King William III raised a loan for public service. He authorized of the loan to form a trading company and gave them the privilege to trade with the East Indies. Thus the "English Company trading to the East Indies came into existence. The "London Company" and the "English Company" finding that if their competition continued it would ruin both agreed to unite together in 1702 and this was effected on the 22nd of July of the same year, (11) From thenceforth the English Company took the style of "The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies".

About the middle of the 18th century the Company acquired by grant and conquest various lands in India. In 1765 the Moghul Emperor appointed the Company to the office of the Dewan of the provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. This sovereign power of the Company over a vast territory made the company a political power in India. (12)

A change in the administration of the possession in India was made in 1773 by the Parliament. This was passed during the time of the ministry of Lord North and the Act was known as the Regulating Act. By which

the status of the Governor of Bengal was raised to the rank of Governor General who was assisted by a council of 4 members. They had the controlling power over the governments of Madras and Bombay. A further reform in the Government of India was made in 1784 known as Pitts India Bill. It founded the Board of Control in England and also strengthened the supremacy of Bengal Government over other provinces. The unique feature of the Bill was that the power of recall of any principal officer was entrusted in the hands of the King.

The question of the renewal of the company's charter was brought before the House of Commons in 1793. The ministry tried to bring a bill in which the power of the crown was to be continued over India. The principal places of manufacture, Liverpool, Glasgow, Paisley, Manchester, Norwich opposed the monopoly. A compromise was effected by which the private traders were allowed to send to India 3 000 tons of shipping, subject to the restriction of lodging imports in the company's warehouse. A clause was also inserted by which religious knowledge should be imparted to the British subjects in India. This was a distinct step in the breakdown of the monopoly and it paved the way for further privileges to the private individuals in the charge of 1813.

1. Purchas His Pilgrime. Vol.II. Page 287.
2. Stephen H Morse. Rulers of India 'Albuquerque'  
Page 20.
3. Purchas His Pilgrime. Vol. II Page 70
4. Stephen H. Morris. Rulers of India 'Albuquerque'  
Page 88.
5. Hunter, Sir W. W. Brief History of the Indian  
peoples. Page 165.
- 5a. The Annual Register or a view of the History,  
politics and Literature 1793. Vol. 35.  
Page 124.
6. Ledger and Sword. Page 170. Vol. I.
7. Common Journals. Vol. 68. Page 232.
8. Ledger and Sword. Vol. I. Page 18.
9. Ibid. Page 18.
10. Commons Journals. Vol. 68. Page 232.
11. Ibid. Page 233.
12. Ledger and Sword. Vol. II. Page 184.



## CHAPTER II.

THE RECHARTING OF 1813.  
PRESENTATION OF THE CASE BY PETITIONS.

We have seen the growth of opposition to the exclusive monopoly of the East India Company. The changes that were made in the charter of 1793 satisfied neither the Freetraders nor the religious forces who were eager to carry the gospel to the non Christian lands. The situation became critical in the year 1813 as it was on the eve of the expiry of the charter of the East India Company. According to the custom the East India Company presented on Feb. 25 (1) its first petition for the renewal of its charter. Thereupon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, by command of the Prince Regent, who had been informed of the said petition, recommended it to the consideration of the House of Commons.

The Petitioners in approaching the House for the continuance of the system by which the relations between Great Britain and the East was then regulated advanced seven arguments for continuance of the monopoly in the hands of the East India Company.

The first argument they brought out was that their monopoly had been renewed under different monarchs of England for the last two hundred years. (2) This would not have occurred but for the reason that the

system had brought to their country unbroken prosperity. The second argument they gave in support of the system was by citing the evil results that had followed the establishment of a rival company styled "The English Company trading to the East Indies" in the year 1698. The creation of the new company had caused a great rivalry in the East and European was set against European. (3) The original "London Company" and the "English Company" finding that if their competition continued, it would ruin both agreed to unite in 1702 and this union was effected on the 22nd day of July of the same year. (4) The London Company completed the transfer of the property and surrendered its corporate capacity and from thenceforth the English Company took the style of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

The third argument the Company advanced for the renewal of the charter was on the grounds that it had contributed to the national glory by territorial acquisitions in India. In 1758 the company got the free tenure of the town of Calcutta and in 1759 the Subador of Deccan made over to them the Circar of Masulipatam. In 1763 the Nabob of the Carnatic gave to them the several districts of land surrounding Madras. They had taken all the factories, forts which belonged to the French, Dutch and Danes in India. (8) Their significant success in territorial gains was in 1765 when

the Moghul Emperor granted to them the Dewan of the provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, by which the company had become the sovereign power of the said possessions.

They argued that they had a right to use these possessions for their own advantage. However they were ready to become parties to any arrangement which was consistent with their rights and the security of British India and which would not deprive them of the means of fulfilling their pecuniary engagements with the public and individuals.

The fourth argument the company brought forward for its claims to the Indian monopoly was that it had given good government to India. It had found the country divided into many states feudatory to the Moghul where the will of the strongest was the only practical rule of conduct. By the establishment of courts of justice and the granting of better rewards to those who devoted their lives to the study and administration of laws adapted to the usages, customs and religions of the inhabitants they had removed temptation to corruption. Courts of criminal judicature had been universally erected which had provided for personal liberty and security. Thus the means of foreign commerce from ports to ports and internally had been facilitated.

The company's claim was based upon the usefulness of its military establishments, artillery and marine.

On the suggestion of His Majesty's ministers the company had sent a large force from India to Egypt by the Red Sea to co-operate with His Majesty's forces against the French in 1801. (6a)

The sixth argument given by the company was its success in the Chinese trade. Furthermore the company pointed out that free trade was good only as a theory but would not work well for the trade with the East. The final argument advanced was that the tranquillity of India was not maintained by a physical force but by a moral force and in a great degree even by prejudice. Any change in the system would alarm the natives and undermine their submission to British authority. For these reasons they wished that the territorial acquisitions and the trade to the East Indies and China be continued under the petitioners.

Two supplementary petitions were presented to the House by the East India Company advancing the same claims as the former petition, while a fourth petition which was submitted at that time, solicited from the nation payment of a debt of 2 294 426 pounds sterling claimed by the company. The above petitions were referred to a special committee consisting of Robert Thornton and William Curtis.

The announcement of the imminent expiration of the East India Company's charter of exclusive privileges seemingly was received at first with very little

public interest. Men's minds were engaged with mighty events that were taking place on the continent and the interest of this commerce was overshadowed. (7) By degrees, however attention was drawn to the topic when the East India Company presented the above petitions on Feb. 25 for the renewal of its charter. Therefore as soon as the Parliament met a deluge of petitions came pouring into the House of Commons. Most of these petitions attacked the principle of monopoly and condemned the career of the Company while others supported the existing system of trade. As the petitions that came to the House were too numerous to discuss all here it seems best merely to detail chronologically the petitions that were received by the Commons during the first two weeks - Feb. 13-17 - in order to show from what sources they came and what their objects were.

On February 3 three petitions were presented to the Commons from Salford, Glasgow and Bristol which advocated free trade to the East Indies and China. The petition from Salford mentioned the difficulties they were undergoing because of the continental blockade and the necessity for an outlet for their goods. (8) Glasgow and Bristol pleaded for the opening up of the outports.

On February 5 a petition from Edinburgh was presented appealing to the House that equal treatment should be given to all the British subjects and to include Leith as one of the ports to receive the imports

from the East Indies. On the same day a petition from the shipbuilders of Yarmouth was received in the Commons requesting them not to admit the India built ships to British registry. Four more petitions were received on the same day, of which two were from the Chamber of Commerce, and merchants of Glasgow and the other two were from traders and bailies of the towns of Glasgow and Newark. These were against the monopoly of the East India Company and the exclusive right of the port of London. Two other petitions which were received at the same time from London and Tavistock pleaded for the continuance of the monopoly in the hands of the East India Company and restriction of the trade to the port of London.

On February 8 three petitions were received by the House from the manufacturers of of "long ells" at Crediton and cloth drawers in the employ of the Company at London, and also from the inhabitants of Tiverton advocating the exclusive trade to the East India Company and the restriction of imports to the port of London. On the same day seven other petitions were presented to the Commons of which three were from Liverpool and the others were from Greenock, Borough of Dumfries, Montrose and Scarborough respectively. Each one of them petitioned a free trade to India and the same advantages for the outports as the port of London.

On the next day a petition from the shopowners and traders of Kings Lynn was received which condemned

the exclusive trade of the Company to India and China. The petitioners cited the flourishing commerce of the Citizens of United States with China as an example of the success of private traders. (9) Four petitions were presented to the Commons on February 10 from Bridlington, Paisley, Birmingham and Whitby. The first three petitions requested the House to open up the trade to India and China and to open the outports also. The Petition from Birmingham asked that the British subjects have the right of free residence and colonisation in the East. The petition from Paisley however was against the vessels that were built in Asia being registered in Great Britain. Similar petitions for free trade were presented on the following day from Ruthenglen, Shropshier and Lancaster but one from London advocated maintaining the restriction of imports to the port of London. On February 12 five petitions were presented to the Commons from Stockport, Wellington, Belston and from Bristol. All the petitions presented, except the one from Wellington, advocated free trade and the opening of the outports. The petition from Wellington pointed out the danger of free trade by citing the consequences that had resulted from the opening of the South American trade.

On February 15 a petition from the Borough of Tovey was received at the House which appealed for a free trade and it also discussed the need for a

liberal government in India. On the same day a petition was presented from the committee specially appointed by the General Assembly of the National Church of Scotland. The petitioners requested that the ministers ordained by the Scottish Church be permitted to officiate in the British dominions in India. Three more petitions were presented to the House on the same day from Sterling, the Burgh of Dunfermline and Totnes. The first two were for free trade while the third was for the exclusive monopoly in the hands of the East India Company. On the next day four petitions requesting the Commons for free trade were received from Botton, Burntisland, Greenock and Lanark. On the same day another petition from the Tillet manufacturers and painters of London was presented to the House which pleaded for the restriction of the China trade to the East India Company. On February 17 a petition from Barnstaple was received by the House which requested the Commons to renew the exclusive monopoly of the East India Company and also pleaded for the restriction of the trade to the port of London, on the ground that the opening of the outports would lead to smuggling.

The sources and character of the petitions that came into the Commons the first two weeks (February 3-17) have been shown, it is necessary now to examine the petitions as a whole in order to see on what grounds were based the case of those allied interests which ad-



vocated the exclusive monopoly to the Company and the free traders and the missionaries who opposed the existing system. The main support of the company came from the City of London. The capitalists of the City of London had been getting large profits because of the monopoly of the East India Company. They had invested large sums of money in docks, warehouses and roads and a change in the system and especially of the opening of the outports would take away a large part of their trade. They contended that the citizens of London would incur a heavy loss in the value of their properties such as docks and warehouses. (10) Another argument they brought forward was that the Company had regulated Indian trade by annual sales of the imports from India. This system enabled the foreign merchants interested to gather at one center and conduct their transactions more quickly and satisfactorily. This would not be possible if the outports were allowed to import the East India goods, because of the distribution of the trade centers. A change in the existing system instead of remedying the evils thus would only transfer the profits from one class of people to another. (11) Another argument brought forward by the Londoners was that if the free traders were allowed in the East India trade and the imports were not restricted to the port of London it would result in unlimited smuggling. The result would be a loss of revenue to the government for they would find it hard to collect the ad

valorem duty to the full value.

Another powerful backing of the exclusive monopoly of the Company came from the manufacturers of a certain kind of woollen goods known as the "long ells". This woollen goods was the chief export of the company to the Chinese markets. The manufacturers of long ells had been receiving regular orders from the Company on which depended their trade. They feared that if the free traders were allowed to trade with China it would ruin their manufacture. Further it was essential for the manufacturers to have a steady sale for a large population of the cities of Crediton, Tavistock, Wellington, Totnes, Barnstaple and Great Torrington were employed in this manufacture. The manufacturers of long ells cited the failure of the free traders in South American trade (12) and remarked that the same evil consequences would result if the exclusive trade to the Company was removed. Similar opinions were also expressed by tea dealers and merchants in the port of London, who argued that the China trade would be lost because of the indiscretion of the free traders. The consequences would then be the destruction of the Company's China trade which would lead to their inability to perform the functions assigned to them in the government of British India. The other subordinate interests that supported the Company in their claim for the exclusive monopoly were the shipbuilders and men

employed in the shipping business and, also the dyers who were employed in that industry by the Company.

The chief opponents of the exclusive monopoly of the East India Company were the free traders, the outports and the humanitarian interests of Great Britain. The free traders pointed out that exclusive monopoly was ruinous to the Company as well as to the nation at large. The embarrassment in which the affairs of the Company had been placed and the loans which they had obtained were strong evidences as to this fact. A very large portion of the trade had been yielded up to foreign nations from a deficiency either in the capital or in the energy and enterprise of the Company. The most important articles from India and China were supplied at high rates. The free trade would allow the enterprising traders to invest their capital which would be productive of the greatest benefit to the manufacturing interest of the country. (13) The free traders also cited the success of the American traders in India and especially in China as an example of the achievement of private traders. This was an argument to refute the statement made by the allied interest of the Company with regard to the South American trade. The free traders contended further that it was their birthright to trade with British possessions and that a grant of an exclusive monopoly to some was unfair. The merchants of Bristol and Sheffield brought out the fact that the British nation could not carry on

their trade with Europe owing to the continental blockade and also with America on account of war. (14) It was therefore necessary that they should have some outlet for their manufactured goods. It was unfair also to allow the foreign nations that were at peace with England such as the Portuguese the advantages of this trade while the British subjects were excluded from it. This was not only an injustice but was an insult to the character of the nation for it implied that the British were incapable of trading with those countries in competition with the foreigners.

The second force which fought against the exclusive monopoly of the East India Company and the port of London was the outports. Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow and many other outports had merchants, vessels, docks and warehouses. They demanded not merely the right to send goods to India already allowed them but the privilege to bring back its products to their own ports. They said that the interests of the whole nation should be considered instead of the petty interest of the port of London. Leith, Liverpool and Belfast claimed that they had spent large sums of money on their docks and warehouses for the opening of the outports. Further, they claimed that justice should be shown to all the British subjects alike.

The last but not the least power which tore down the exclusive rights of the East India Company was

the missionary zeal. The anxiety to take the gospel to non Christian lands was started in Scotland but it spread to every part of the kingdom. The Scottish Church claimed that the British residents in India who were members of the established Church of Scotland should have the same rights as the Church of England. For this reason they asked for permission to send ministers ordained by the Scottish Church to India. Along with this request came also the appeal for permission to spread the gospel among the non Christian natives of India. These petitioners asked also permission for teachers to go to India to educate the native children. The Church of England, the Church Missionary Society, the London Missionary Society (16) and the Baptist also supported the efforts of the Scottish Church by sending a number of petitions to the House requesting the Commons to permit the missionaries to enter freely into India and preach the gospel to them. They requested further that no obstruction of any kind should be placed in their way in the performance of this sacred duty. Among educational institutions Cambridge University also backed up this movement.

How far the petitions played an important role in breaking down the monopoly of the East India Company could be seen in the bill that was passed in the year 1813. The evidences that were given by the agents of the Company before the whole House and the select committee

favorcd the exclusive monopoly to be continued in the hands of the Company. Judging from the resolutions that were brought by the select committee and the results it would be logical to conclude that the petitions had influenced greatly both the Commons and the public. The East India Company as well as the counteracting forces realized the value of the petitions. The fact that the East India Company used its influence in sending petitions that were favorable to it could be seen in the petitions sent by its various employees such as cloth drawers, Inspectors of woolen goods, the packers, printers and officers employed in the shipping. The petitions sent by these employees resembled very much one another in their request and the language used in them. The same could be said regarding the petitions of the manufacture of "long ells". Likewise the petitions from Crediton, Barnstaple, Gloucester and Ashburton which requested the House for the continuance of the monopoly in the hands of the East India Company resembled each other in form, matter and style.

The interests that operated against the monopoly such as the free traders, the outports and the religious forces, in particular, used the same weapon and more effectively than their opponents. Petitions of these forces came from every section of Great Britain to the House of Commons. For instance the petitions of Lynn, Kingston-upon-Hull and many other places had

the very same wording in their demand for free trade. The outports, such as Plymouth, Exeter and Montrose, in asking for the right of import into their harbors had the same matter, form and style. The religious forces used the petitions as the most effective weapon. We could see this in the similarity of the language and request of the innumerable petitions that came into the House in the months of April, May and June. The various denominations like the Baptists, Scottish Church and Church of England disregard their denominational differences in their fight for the common goal.

Out of 923 petitions submitted to the House of Commons 58 petitions were for exclusive monopoly while 69 were against monopoly. The other 796 petitions were for the propagation of the gospel in non Christian lands. Evidently then there must have been some agencies behind these petitions which were circulating model forms to the different cities to get the support of the people and thus create a public opinion. The petitions that were against the monopoly were too numerous for the Government to disregard and we must therefore recognize the fact that the radical change in the charter of the Company in 1813 was due to the crystalization of the public opinion against exclusive monopoly through the petitions.

1. Commons Journal. Vol. 68. Page 237
2. Ibid. Page 232.
3. Ibid. Page 234.
4. Ibid. Page 233.
5. Ibid. Page 233.
6. Ibid. Page 234.
- 6a. Commons Journal. Vol. 68. Page 235.  
In 1801 the East India Company sent a large force to Egypt to fight the French forces. This expeditionary force captured all the French possessions in India. The Company received only a partial recompense for their aid.
7. Wilson, Horace Hayman, The History of British India. Vol. I. Page 360.
8. Commons Journal. Vol. 68. Page 210.
9. The Statutes at Large from Magna Charta to the eleventh Parliament of Great Britain, Vol. 41, Page 329. Parline, Charles Oscar, Diplomatic negotiations of American naval officers, 1778-1883, Page 157. The first merchandise direct from the orient exposed for sale in America was brought to this country by pirates in 1699. By 1710 the piratical voyages of the colonists to the Eastern seas had ceased but certain articles of oriental merchandise however continued to find their way to America. Chinese tea and China ware were imported through the British East India Company.

In 1783 some enterprising merchants of New York and Philadelphia purchased the ship "Empress of China" and sent her to Canton loaded with ginseng and other articles of commerce. Among the officers and the crew, she carried a supercargo, a young Bostonian, by name Major Samuel Shaw. This boat arrived at Canton on August 28, 1784, and was given a favorable reception by the Chinese. The next ship to visit the orient was the "Grand Turk" which also touched several ports in India. Major Shaw was chosen by Congress to be the first consul at Canton. In



1789 fifteen American ships visited Canton and in the same year an American ship brought the first cargo of Bombay cotton from India. On July 4, 1797, a treaty was concluded between Great Britain and the United States of America by which the people of the United States were allowed to trade with the British possessions in the East Indies. The Americans proved successful rivals of the Company. From 1800-1812 the American merchants did a thriving trade with the East. By 1820 the commerce of America with China exceeded that of any other nation with the exception of Great Britain. The chief products carried to China by American merchants were ginseng, opium, quick silver, lead, iron, copper, seal skins and broadcloth. The chief articles imported from China were teas, silk, camphor, rhubarb, sugar and china-ware.

10. Commons Journal. Vol. 68. Page 246.
11. Wilson, Horace Hayman, History of British India 1805-1831, Vol. I. Page 363.
12. Commons Journal. Vol. 68. Page 151.
13. Ibid. Page 126.
14. Ibid. Page 152.
16. George Smith, Short History of Christian Missions. Page 168. The London Missionary Society founded in 1795 was the immediate result of the Bengal mission of William Carey. On November 4, 1795 a formal meeting of evangelical ministers of all sects was held which resulted in the foundation of this society on September 21, 1795. Zachary Macaulay was one of the guiding figures of this Society.

## CHAPTER III.

THE RECHARTERING OF 1813.  
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY.

After the petitions were presented by the East India Company on the 25th February the House of Commons referred them to a special committee consisting of Robert Thornton and Sir William Curtis, who were authorized to send for papers and records and to summon any person whose evidence would help the House in settling the question of the charter. However this committee was discharged the next day and its functions were resumed by the whole House. Meanwhile it was brought to the notice of the House of Commons by the East India Company's agents that there were many men in England at this time who had previously resided in India as Company's agents or had been in the employ of the Company indirectly. The Commons decided to get their opinion by inviting them to give their evidence at the bar of the House. These hearings were started on March 30, 1813. The first witness that was examined was Warren Hastings who was Governor General of India in 1774. He was of the opinion that the masses of people in India were not in a position to buy European articles. He firmly believed that the opening of the trade would not increase the consumption of European articles by the natives but would cause ruin to the interest of the Company. The unrestricted inter-

course of Europeans would lead to acts of tyranny and oppression upon the natives. He was of the opinion that the British Government should not treat the religions of other countries with contempt. If the religions of India were openly condemned by the missionaries it would end in a rebellion. (3)

The next witness that was called upon that day was Lord Teignmouth (Sir John Shore) who had been Governor General of India in 1793. He was of the opinion that the opening of the trade would not in any way increase its amount. He firmly believed that an unrestrained intercourse of Europeans would be prejudicial to the interest of the country. With regard to the missionaries he thought that if their conduct was regulated by prudence and was under the influence of that piety which they professed to teach they would be highly esteemed by the natives. (4) They could convert the people to Christianity prudently without causing alarm. The control of the missionaries should be left at the discretion of the local government.

The next day (March 31) William Cowper, who had been in the civil service of the Company in the province of Bengal gave his evidence. He thought the opening of the trade would not increase the consumption of European articles. He was not in favour of an unrestrained European intercourse in India. With regard

to missionaries he was of the opinion that if they were authorized by the British Government to convert the people it would result in danger to the local authority of the company, also the establishment of a bishop in India would complicate the situation. However he was for the establishment of schools for the instruction of native children.

The day following (April 1) Thomas Graham who had served in the civil service in Bengal was examined by the House. He said that free trade would not increase the consumption of European articles in India. If the Europeans were allowed without any restraint they would get into the interior and quarrel with the natives which would produce a general insurrection. The opening of the outports also would produce disastrous results to the Empire. (5)

On April 5, Lt. Col. Sir John Malcolm who had served in the province of Madras as political agent was examined. He said it would be dangerous to the peace of the country if the Europeans were allowed to proceed to the interior of the country where there were no courts. Major General Alexander Kyd who also had served as a military officer in the province of Bengal on April 8 opposed vehemently the indiscriminate influx of Europeans. He cited the example of a private named Averoy in Madagascar and said that in India also it would lead to

cases of piracy if the private traders were disappointed in their speculation. (6)

The same day William Young collector in the province of Bihar testified that it would be dangerous to permit an unrestrained influx of Europeans on the ground that they were unfamiliar with the customs of the country. He was followed by David Haliburton who had served in the revenue department in the province of Bengal testified that it would be injurious to the local government of India to allow the free entrance of British subjects into India. Similar opinions were expressed by two other witnesses, Graeme Mercer who had been a doctor in the employ of the Company and David Vanderheyden. The former argued that the Company's servants were instructed regarding the customs and prejudices of the natives while the private traders would be ignorant of their usages and were liable to get into quarrels with the natives. George Lenox Prendergast who had served as judge in the province of Gujerat also was examined on the same day. He predicted danger to the country if the Europeans were left uncontrolled by the local government.

On April 9 William Bruce Smith who was a merchant in Bengal testified that there was no demand for European articles. He stated that it would disturb the peace of the country if the European agents got into

the interior. On the same day Hugh Lindsey, Commander of one of the East India Company's ships and two other merchants, by name Lestock Wilson and William Fairlie, testified that the Indian markets were overstocked with European goods.

Col. Munro who had served in the army in the province of Bengal testified on April 12 against the free trade, on the basis that the native manufactures were better suited to the Indian taste and climate. He was against the Europeans getting into the interior of the country for he feared quarrels with the natives. He thought that the commercial character of the Government should be retained. He believed it would weaken the Government if it were deprived of its commercial functions.(7)

On April 13 Lord Castlereagh, on behalf of the ministry, moved for the appointment of a select committee on the ground that the hearings were consuming so much of the time of the House that its business was interrupted. A debate ensued and the motion of Lord Castlereagh was carried by 95 against 37. The select committee that was appointed consisted of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, Nicholas Vansittart Chancellor of the Exchequer, Canning, Tierney, Keene, Sullivan, Charles Grant, Robert Thornton, Abercrombie Robinson, George Smith, Lushington, Forbes, Finlay, Bruce, Rickards, Thomas

Courtenay, Allan, Thompson, Robert Smith, Astell, Bathurst, Stephen Holford, Viscount Clive, Alexander, Ponsonby, Whitbread, Vander Heyden, Abercromby, Grenfell, Hart Davis, Brothers, Phillips, Henry Montgomery, Frederick, Robinson, Long, Rose, Blackburne, Addington, Sir Benjamin Hobhouse.

According to the order of the House the select committee began its first sitting on April 15 to hear the evidence on the East India Company's charter. John Vivian a solicitor to the Excise Department was first examined by it. He was against the opening of the outports as he predicted smuggling if the existing system be changed. It is significant to note that the various witnesses who were brought before the House and its committee were either the servants of the Company or others whose interests were common with the East India Company. On the same day Sir Charles Warre Malet a civil servant in the employ of the Company at Bombay testified that the markets were overstocked with European articles. He believed that there was no need for the change in the form of the Government since the prosperous condition of the country depended on the present system.

Alexander Falconer was examined on April 27 before the select committee. As one that had served in the civil and military service for a long time he

held that an unrestrained intercourse of Europeans would endanger the interest of the British Empire. He was of the usual opinion that there was not any demand for European articles. On the same day Thomas Cockburn who had served in the civil service at Madras gave his evidence. He believed that there would be no demand for European articles by the natives due to their customs and manners. He supported the present system of control by which every person who went into the interior carried a passport. He believed that the commercial and political character of the Company should never be separated since India had no mines and depended upon foreign commerce to feed the circulation of its currency. (8)

Charles Butler who had been a civil servant in Bengal was examined on the 20th of April. He was not for the free trade nor for unrestricted intercourse of Europeans in India. John Tracey who had served in the several departments in the East India civil service testified that the Europeans should not be allowed to enter India without a control for he believed it would end in litigation which was considered as a degradation in the sight of the natives.

On the same day Thomas Sydenham who had served as a Resident at the Court of Hyderabad gave his testimony that there was no demand for European articles. His chief



objection to the coming in of the Europeans without check was that it would lead to political intrigues for he was afraid that the Jaghirs would employ these adventurers to train their army which would be a menace to the British Government. (9)

Robert Morris who was a ship surgeon was examined on the same day. He said that the Indian markets were overstocked with European goods. He believed the present system of transportation in Company's vessels was more profitable than the transportation in private vessels. (10) John Woolwine who was engaged in the Indian coastal trade also said that there was no demand for European articles.

William Davis who was formerly a purser on one of the Company's ships was for the opening of the outports but he, like others, said that there was a decrease in the demand for European articles in India. William Stanley Clarkes who had served as Commander of Company's ships said that there was no demand for European articles in India. He remarked that the opening of the Eastern Islands to free traders would end in the smuggling of tea into England.

Lt. Col. Sir John Malcolm who had served in the Indian army was re-examined on the same day (April 29). He was against the permitting of Europeans without control. He said it was harder to govern the Europeans than it was to govern the natives. (11) He was of the

opinion that the increase in the knowledge of useful arts might lead the natives to increase their own comforts but in no way strengthen the political security of the English Government in India. He believed in the policy of "divide and rule" and so the present condition of the natives, being divided into various castes, was essential to the security of the British Government. (12)

Martin Lindsay who had served as commander of Company's ships was examined on May 10, 1813. He, like others, said the Indian markets were overstocked with European goods. He also said that the opening of the trade would lead to smuggling of tea into England.

Thomas Garland Murray, Esq. who was also a commander of a Company's ship expressed his views as Martin Lindsay, Esq.

James Horsburgh who was a mariner was examined on the same day. He gave his opinion that the opening of the China trade would lead to the increase in price of tea in China owing to competition. He also said that there would be a great loss in the revenue of the Government if the trade was thrown open.

Daniel Beale formerly a Prussian Consul at Canton was examined on May 11, 1813. He said that the Company was the best medium to carry on the Chinese trade. The Company was able to keep down the price of tea in China. (13) It was impossible for an individual to compete with the company in the export of woollen goods.

John Ranking who had traded in piece goods was examined on the same day. He was against the opening of the outports and free trade for it would have an injurious effect. Cartwright, the Company's Accountant General, said that the Company made its profit on tea and cotton piece goods. James Drummond who was formerly supercargo had the opinion that the opening of the China trade would produce two results. The first would be the total loss of the trade due to the misconduct of the sailors or the persons who conducted the trade. Secondly it would lead to the exclusion of the English from the port of Canton by the Chinese Emperor. (14) Edward Vern who was examined on the same day as a tea broker testified that the Company's tea was the best kind as the supercargoes were given the first choice by the Hong merchants. Though the Americans used green tea in their country yet they purchased the black tea to trade with Europe. Thomas Styan, also tea broker, expressed similar view to that of Vern. Mungo Dick who had served in the civil service of the Company said that the commercial character of the government was necessary for it helped the natives, especially poor women, by giving them regular work in weaving cotton goods. John Bainbridge who was a general merchant was examined next. He said that the success of the American trade was because they were neutrals. He remarked that the Americans were sending their ships at less expense as their insurance was very reasonable.

The Americans were carrying Indian articles to the Spanish colonies owing to the differences between Spain and her colonies. He was of the opinion that if the outports were thrown open the duties that were collected at the Company's sales would surely exceed the duty of the articles levied at the outports. Consequently the outports would have an advantage over the Company and London merchants.

On April 13 when appointing a select committee the House of Commons had instructed them to report from time to time the business done. The select committee during the hearings made twenty reports of their work to the House and on June 4, 1813 Lushington from the select committee reported to the Commons that they had come to several resolutions. On the request of the House Lushington then read the following fourteen resolutions:

1."Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient, that all the privileges, authorities and immunities, granted to the United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, by virtue of act or acts of Parliament now in force, and all rules, regulations and clauses affecting the same, shall continue and be in force for a time to be limited, except as far as the same may hereinafter be modified and repealed."

2."Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee that the existing restraints respecting com-

mercial intercourse with China, shall be continued and that the exclusive trade in tea shall be preserved to the said Company, for a time to be limited.

3. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that subject to the provisions contained in the preceding resolution it shall be lawful for His Majesty's subjects to export any goods, wares or merchandise, which can now or may hereafter be legally exported from any port in the United Kingdom to any port within the limits of the charter of the said Company as hereinafter provided; and that all ships navigated according to law proceeding from any port within the limits of the Company's charter, and being provided with regular manifests from the last port of clearance, shall respectively be permitted to import any goods, wares and merchandise, the product and manufacture of any countries within the said limits, into any ports in the United Kingdom which may be provided with warehouses, together with wet docks or basins, or such other securities as shall, in the judgment of the Commissioners of the Treasury of Great Britain and Ireland respectively, be fit and proper for the deposit and safe custody of all such goods, wares and merchandise, as well as for the collection of all duties payable thereon, and shall have been so declared by the orders of His Majesty in council in Ireland. Provided, always that copies of all such orders in council shall be laid before both

Houses of Parliament in the session next ensuing."

"Provided also, that no ship or vessel of less than 350 tons, registered measurement, shall be permitted to clear out from any port in the United Kingdom, for any port or place within the limits aforesaid, or be admitted to entry in any port of the United Kingdom, from any place within these limits."

"Provided also, that no ship or vessel shall proceed to any place within the limits of the Company's charter, and under the government of the said Company, except to one of their principal settlements of Fort William, Fort St. George, Bombay and Prince of Wales Island, and that every ship so proceeding shall be furnished with a license for that purpose from the Court of Directors."

"Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any ship or vessel from proceeding to any place within the limits aforesaid, under the especial authority of the commissioners for the affairs of India; but that all applications for licenses to proceed to any place, not being one of the principal settlements of the said company, shall be made to the Court of the Directors, who shall, within fourteen days from the date thereof, transmit the same to the commissioners for the affairs of India, with any representation the said Court may think proper to make, upon the subject of such application; and that

the said Court, if directed so to do by the commissioners for the affairs of India, shall issue their licenses or licenses accordingly."

"Provided also, that no ship shall be permitted to clear out from any port of the United Kingdom for India unless attested lists in duplicate shall have been delivered to the principal officer of the customs at the port of clearance, specifying the number and description of all persons embarked on board of the said ship and all arms laden therein; and that all persons proceeding upon such ships shall, upon their arrival in India, be subject to all the existing regulations of the local governments and to all other rules and regulations that may hereafter be established, with regard to the European subject of His Majesty, resident in India."

"Provided also, that upon any application made to the Court of Directors, by or on behalf of any person desirous of proceeding to India, the Court of Directors (unless they shall think fit to grant a license for that purpose) shall transmit every such application, within the term of one month from the delivery thereof, to the commissioners for the affairs of India, who if they shall see no objection thereto may, and they are hereby authorized to direct such person or persons, at the special charge of him or them to proceed to India, and that any such person or persons so desiring to proceed, shall be furnished with a certificate by the Court of Directors

according to such form as shall be prescribed by the said commissioners, signifying that such person or persons have so proceeded with the cognizance and under the sanction of the said Court of Directors, and that all such certificates shall be considered by the governments in India as entitling such persons, while they shall properly conduct themselves, to countenance and protection in their several pursuits; subject to all such provisions and restrictions as now are in force or hereafter be judged necessary with regard to persons residing in India, as they may at any time think proper."

"Provided also, that no such ship which shall have proceeded as aforesaid, shall be admitted to entry in any port of the United Kingdom, without a regular manifest duly certified, according to such regulations as may hereafter be enacted."

"Provided also, that no article manufactured of silk, hair or cotton wool or any mixture thereof, shall be entered or taken out of the warehouse, except for exportation, unless the same shall have been brought into the port of London and deposited in the warehouse of the said United Company, and that all such articles shall by them be exposed to public sale by auction, in order to ascertain the duties payable thereupon; and in all other ports, as well as the port of London, such articles when entered and taken out for exportation, shall be charged according to their value, under the



regulations legally applicable in other cases to duties payable ad valorem."

"Provided also, that on the return of every ship from India, lists of her crew, specifying the number and description of all persons embarked on board the said ship, and all arms laden therein shall be delivered to an officer of the customs at the first port at which she shall arrive, and shall be by him transmitted to the Court of Directors, according to and subject to such provisions as may be made, with a view to the discovery of any British subject who may have gone to or remained in India contrary to law.

4. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that as long as the government of India shall be administered under the authority of the said Company, according to the provisions, limitations and regulations hereafter to be enacted, the rents and revenues, and profits arising from the territorial acquisitions in India, shall, after defraying the expenses of collecting the same, with the several charges and stipulated payments to which the revenues are subject, be applied and disposed of according to the following order of preference."

"In the first place, in defraying all the charges and expenses of raising and maintaining the forces as with European as native, artillery and marine, on the establishments in India, and of maintaining the

forts and garrisons there and providing warlike and naval stores. 2dly, in the payment of the interest accruing on the debts owing or which may hereafter be incurred by the said Company in India. 3rdly, in defraying the civil and commercial establishments at the several settlements there. 4thly, that the whole or any part of any surplus that may be or remain of the above described rents, revenues and profits, after providing for the several appropriations, and defraying several charges before mentioned, shall be applied to the provisions of the Company's investments in India, on remittances to China for the provisions of investments there or toward the liquidation of debts in India, or such other purpose the Court of Directors, with the approbation of the Board of Commissioners, shall from time to time direct."

"Provided always, that the appropriation aforesaid, shall not extend, or be construed to extend to prejudice or affect the undoubted sovereignty of Great Britain and Ireland in and over the said territorial acquisitions nor to preclude the said United Company from the enjoyment of or claim to any rights of property they now have, or to which they may hereafter be entitled, within the territories aforesaid."

5. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the receipts into the Company's treasury in England, from the proceeds of the sales of their goods,

and from the profits arising from private and privileged trade, or in any other manner, shall be applied and disposed of as follows: First, in payment of bills of exchange already accepted by the Company, as the same shall become due. 2dly, for the current payment of debts (the principal of the bond debt always excepted) as well as interest, and the commercial charges and expenses of the said company. 3rdly, in payment of a dividend of ten pounds per cent on the present or any future amount of the capital stock, after the separate fund upon which the same was originally charged by the 124th clause of the 33 George 3, Cap. 52, shall have been exhausted; the said payments respectively to be made half yearly. 4thly, in the reduction of the principal of the debt in India or of the bond debt at home, as the Court of Directors, with the approbation of the Board of Commissioners shall from time to time direct."

6. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that when the principal of the debt, bearing interest in India shall have been reduced to the sum of ten millions of pounds sterling, calculated at the exchange of 2 sh the Bengal current rupee; 8 sh the Madras pagoda; and 2 sh 3 d the Bombay rupee, and the bonded debt in England shall have been reduced to the sum of three millions of pounds sterling; then and after the surplus proceeds which shall be found to arise from the revenues of India, and the profits upon the trade,

after providing for the payments aforesaid, shall be applied to the more speedy repayment of the capital of any public funds or securities which have been or may be created for the use of the said Company, the charges of which have been or may be directed to be borne by the said Company, in virtue of any act or acts of Parliament; and that any further surplus that may arise shall be set apart, and from time to time paid into the receipts of His Majesty's exchequer, to be applied as Parliament shall direct, without any interest to be paid to the Company, in respect or for the use thereof, but nevertheless to be considered and declared as an effectual security to the said Company, for the capital stock of the said Company, and for the dividend of  $10\frac{1}{2}\%$  per annum, in respect thereof, not exceeding the sum of twelve millions of pounds sterling; and that of the excess of such payments, if any, beyond the said amount of twelve millions, one sixth part shall, from time to time be reserved and retained by the said company for their own use and benefit, and the remaining five sixths shall be deemed and declared the property of the public, and at the disposal of Parliament!

"Provided also, that if the Company's debt in India, after the same shall have been reduced to 10 000 000 pounds sterling, shall be again increased beyond the amount or if their bond debt in England, after the same shall have been reduced to 3 000 000 pounds sterling shall be

again increased beyond that sum, then, and so often as either of these cases shall happen, the surplus proceeds shall be appropriated to the reduction of such new debts respectively, until the debts in India shall be again reduced to 10 000 000 pounds sterling and the bond debt in England to 3 000 000 pounds sterling.

7. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the said Company shall direct and order their books of account, at their several presidencies and settlements in India, at their factory in China, at the island of St. Helena or elsewhere, and also in England, to be so kept and arranged, as that the same shall contain and exhibit the receipts, disbursements, debts, and assets appertaining to or connected with, the territorial, political, and commercial branches of their affairs; and that the same shall be made up in such manner, that the said books shall contain and exhibit the accounts of the territorial and political departments separately and distinctly from such as appertain to, or are connected with, the commercial branch of their affairs; and that the arrangement of accounts so to be made shall be submitted to the approbation and sanction of the Board of Commissioners for the affairs of India."

8. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient that the ships built within the British territories in the East Indies, and employed in the commerce between India and the United

Kingdom, should, during the present war, and for eighteen months after the conclusion thereof, be permitted to import any goods or wares, or merchandise, the produce or manufacture of any countries within the limits of the East India Company's charter, except as aforesaid or to export any goods or wares or merchandise from the United Kingdom to the British settlements in the East Indies or to any of the places within the said limits, in the same manner as ships British built and duly registered as such; and that, after the expiration of the period above mentioned, the said India built ships should be liable to such other provisions as Parliament may from time to time enact, for the further increase and encouragement of shipping and navigation; and that effectual provision should be made, at the charge of the owners and commanders of such ships, for the maintenance, while in the United Kingdom, of the Asiatic sailors employed in the navigation, and for the return of such sailors to their native country."

9. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient to make provision for further limiting the granting of gratuities and pensions to officers, civil and military, or increasing the same, or creating of any new establishments at home, in such manner as may effectually protect the funds of the said Company."

10. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this

committee, that all vacancies happening in the office of Governor General of Fort William, in Bengal or of Governor of either of the presidencies or settlements of Fort St. George or Bombay, or of Governor of the Forts and garrisons of Fort William, Fort St. George or Bombay or of commander in chief of all the forces in India or of any provincial commander in chief of the forces there, shall continue to be filled up and supplied by the Court of Directors of the said United Company, subject nevertheless to the approbation of His Majesty, to be signified in writing under his royal sign manual, countersigned by the president of the Board of Commissioners for the affairs of India."

11. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the number of His Majesty's troops in India to be in future maintained by the said Company, be limited; and that any augmentation of force exceeding the number so to be limited shall, unless employed at the express requisition of the said Company, be at the public charge."

12. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient that the church establishment in the British territories in the East Indies should be placed under the superintendence of a bishop and three archdeacons, and that adequate provision should be made from the territorial revenues of India for their maintenance."

13. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it is the duty of this country to promote the interest and happiness of the native inhabitants of the British dominions in India, and that such measures ought to be adopted, as may tend to the introduction among them of useful knowledge, and of religious and moral improvement. That, in the furtherance of the above objects, sufficient facilities shall be afforded by law, to persons desirous of going to, and remaining in India for the purpose of accomplishing those benevolent designs.

"Provided always, that the authority of the local governments respecting the intercourse of Europeans with the interior of the country, be preserved, and that the principles of the British government, on which the natives of India have hitherto relied for the free exercise of their religion be inviolably maintained."

14. "Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient that the statutes and regulations framed or to be framed by the Court of Directors of the College established by the East India Company in the county of Hertford and of the military seminary of the said Company, in the county of Kent, as well as the establishment of offices connected therewith, or the appointment of persons to fill such offices, be subject to the control and regulation of the Commissioners for the affairs of



India; and that the power and authority of the Board of Commissioners, shall be construed to extend to the issuing or sending orders or instruction to the Court of Directors, for the purpose of their being transmitted to India, respecting the rules and regulations and establishment of the respective colleges at Calcutta and Fort St. George, or any other seminaries which may hereafter be established under the authority of the local governments."

"Provided always, that no writer shall be appointed into the service of the said Company at any of the presidencies of Fort William, Fort St. George and Bombay, who shall not have received a course of instruction at the said college of Hertford."

The House of Commons met on June 11 and Lord Castlereagh moved the order of the day to consider the resolutions which were reported to the committee of the whole House. Sir John Newport moved to postpone their consideration to a later date and was supported by Whitbread who opposed the consideration of the resolutions on the score that they were contrary to the opinion held by Lord Castlereagh as chairman of the Board of Control. But Lord Castlereagh, Tierney and Keene were for the discussion of the resolutions and the question of delaying being put to vote it was defeated by 192 against 21.

The House met again on June 14 and Lord Castlereagh moved the order of the day for a resumption of the adjourned proceedings. Howorth objected to the preamble of the resolutions and declared that it should state in whom the actual sovereignty of territorial possessions in India was vested. Sir John Newport in supporting the previous speaker moved an amendment that the sovereignty in India should rest with the Crown. (15) Majority of the members including Lord Castlereagh and Wilberforce were against the amendment and the motion being put to vote was negatived. Lord Castlereagh then moved that the words 'twenty years' be substituted instead of an 'unlimited period' with respect to the duration of the Charter. (16) Mr. Ponsonby moved that the term be limited to 'ten years' instead of 'twenty' while Mr. Rickards was for taking away the commercial side once for all from the Company and leave only political control of India. A division ensued and on being put to vote Mr. Ponsonby's amendment was defeated by 137 against 61. The House again divided on the original resolution which was passed by 184 against 14.

They proceeded to the 2nd Resolution 'that the existing restraints respecting the commercial intercourse with China shall be continued and that the exclusive trade in tea shall be preserved to the said

Company, during the period aforesaid.' Mr. Marryat objected strongly against the monopoly of the East India Company and cited a case in which the South American country prospered when the monopoly of a Spanish Company was abolished. (17) He said the abolition of the monopoly also helped the Spanish Company.

Mr. Canning moved an amendment to limit the period to ten years and the House divided on the amendment and it was defeated by 130 against 57. The Second Resolution on the China trade was then carried and the House adjourned.

The House met again on June 16 for further consideration of the resolutions. The 4th resolution on the revenue of India was read and adopted. The 5th resolution on the pecuniary obligation of the Company and the 6th resolution on the Company's finance were read and were also adopted. The question was then put on the 7th resolution which dealt regarding the Company's accounts. Mr. Creevey observed that it was hard for the Company to keep separate the political accounts from the commercial. Lord Castlereagh said that the Company would be checked by the Board of Control. The 7th resolution was then accepted. The 8th resolution concerning India built shipping was negatived. Lord Castlereagh stated that it was his intention to omit this subject in the bill. The 9th resolution on the granting of pensions, the 10th resolution on the power

of the Crown to fill the vacancies in Indian government and the 11th resolution regarding the East India Company's troops were also read and after a discussion were also agreed to by the House.

Lord Castlereagh then moved the 3rd resolution permitting the British subjects to trade with India which had been postponed previously. Mr. Baring moved an amendment, the object of which was to confine the return of vessels from India to the port of London. He maintained that by this arrangement the country would not suffer any loss of revenue. He concluded by saying that if his amendment was accepted he would propose the duration of the period for five years. Some members were in favour of the amendment while many others were for the original resolution. Among those who were in favour of the Amendment were Messrs. Grenfell, Thornton, Sir William Curtis, and Astel. Those that opposed the amendment were Sir John Newport, Protheroe, Rose, Abercromby, Robinson and Marryat. The House divided on the amendment and it was defeated by 131 votes against 43.

Lord Castlereagh proposed an amendment providing that with respect to places not immediately within the limits of the Company application for private trade should be made to the Board of Control. The Board of Control should at the same time consult the Court of Directors. (18) Mr. Creevey objected strongly to the

private traders getting licenses from the officers of the Company. Sir John Newport and Mr. Horner opposed the amendment while Mr. Grant, Senior, and Sir Mark Wood spoke in its favour. The question being put the amendment was carried by 122 votes against 19. The 3rd Resolution, as amended, was then adopted. The 12th resolution regarding the church establishment in India was read and adopted. When the 13th resolution on persons going to India for the purpose of accomplishing benevolent designs was moved, a strong argument came up and so it was adjourned for the next day. The 14th resolution on the establishment of training schools was then read and adopted. The permission of the House was asked by Lord Castlereagh for framing the resolutions into a bill and at the same time the resolutions as passed were ordered to be sent to the Lords. (19)

On June 17 the resolutions were received by the House of Lords who ordered that they be printed. At the meeting of the Lords on 18 June the Earl of Buckingham moved that the Lords would go into a committee on Monday to consider the resolutions sent them by the House of Commons. Lord Grenville and the Earl of Lauderdale opposed the consideration of the question and proposed a delay on the ground that they needed certain papers which would enlighten them on the very first resolution. Thereupon the Earl of Buckingham said that the needed

papers would be on the table on the next Monday but he was not for delaying the consideration of the resolutions. On June 21 the Earl of Buckingham moved that the Lords go that day into a committee on the East India resolutions. The earl of Buckingham in moving the resolutions went into detail for the purpose of showing the policy. He was for opening the trade to India but not the Chinese trade. With regard to the Church in India, he was of the opinion that there should be a superintending church establishment in the Church of England. The resolutions were then read by Lord Walsingham and were agreed to. (20)

On June 22 the House of Commons met again to resume the adjourned debate on the 13th resolution. Lord Castlereagh on opening the discussion remarked that there was a misconception regarding the unrestricted resort of persons to India. He was of the opinion that there would be no danger of missionaries entering India so long as they were under the supervision of the Court of Directors who were in their turn controlled by the Board of Control. He declared that the missionaries would do more good to the people than could be done by the direct acts of the government. (21) Sir Henry Montgomery objected to the resolution giving as his reason that the Britishers were not themselves pure and he also quoted the Vellore Mutiny as an example of the danger of a future rebellion should they interfere with the religion of the people. Mr. Wilberforce warmly supported the

resolution being convinced that the people of India ought to receive the blessings of Christianity. He refuted the arguments that the people were unchangeable by citing the number of converts to Mohammedanism and the changes in the land system. He pointed out the changes in Hinduism as a result of Buddhism and Sikhism. (22)

Forbes, Fawcett opposed the resolution while Thornton and Lushington supported the resolution. The House divided and the resolution was carried by 89 votes against 36.

The House met again on June 28 and Lord Castlereagh moved that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the East India Charter Bill. A great discussion ensued, some of the speakers condemned the Bill, especially the clause regarding the missionaries, while others supported the Bill. Mr. Lushington who spoke in favour of the Company brought out the fact that there was a third party, viz., the natives of India, whose interest should be considered. Charles Grant, Senior, said that the present government in India was far better than during the times of Mohammedan rule and he attributed the reforms to the Company's servants such as Hastings, Barwell, Francis and Burke.

The Commons met again on July 1 and Lord Castlereagh, in moving that the House go into a committee for the consideration of the Bill, suggested that it

would mean useless delay if the House spent time on the discussion regarding the general principle of the Bill. He requested them to discuss particular clauses. Some of the members thought that the request was extraordinary and said they would give their opinion before the third reading of the Bill. Mr. Canning moved an amendment stating 'that the exclusive trade to China should be continued to the East India Company during the further period of ten years.' There was a discussion on the question and the committee divided and the amendment being put to vote was defeated by 69 votes against 29.

The clause respecting the propagation of Christianity in India being read, Lord Castlereagh expressed his desire that the clause might be allowed for the present to pass without discussion. Sir T. Sutton disapproved of the clause for an open avowal would bring disaster to the local government. He proposed an amendment to the clause; 'it is expedient to send persons to India for the above purposes, viz., to propagate Christianity'. He wished that the words be 'that it was expedient to send persons to India for various lawful purposes'. The amendment was supported by Mr. Marsh in strong terms while Mr. Wilberforce, the backbone of the missionary movement, opposed the amendment vehemently and declared that it was indispensable to have the backing of the Parliament for the propagation of the gospel. (23) Several members spoke in favour and



others against the amendment and the House divided, for the original clause which was defeated by a vote of 54 against 32 for the amendment.

On July 2 the Commons met again and Lord Castlereagh moved the House to go into a committee for the further consideration of the bill. Mr. R. Thornton objected to the clause for keeping 20 000 British troops in India. The clause was, however, agreed to after a protracted discussion. Mr. Dundas remarked that there were many Scottish residents in India. He proposed therefore that a clergyman of that church be sent to each of the three presidencies with a moderate salary. The clause was defeated, however, by 20 against 18.

The Chariman then obtained permission of the House to present the Bill with the amendments. The report was then brought and it was ordered to be taken into further consideration on Monday next.

The Commons met again on July 5 and, on the motion of Lord Castlereagh, the Bill was then recommitted pro forma and some verbal changes were made in some of the clauses. The Bill was ordered to be recommitted the next day and printed as amended.

The House met on July 12 and Mr. Lushington proposed that the East India Bill be now received. The Bill was read a first and second time. (24) A discussion regarding the introduction of Christianity ensued and Mr. Tierney was for changing the preamble

of the clause but the amendment was defeated. The Bill was read a third time on the motion of Lord Castlereagh on July 13. (25) The Bill was then definitely passed in the House of Commons.

The Bill being submitted to the House of Lords was read a first, second and third time on July 15, July 16, (26) July 19 respectively and the Bill was agreed to by the Lords on July 20, whereupon the royal assent was given to the Bill. (27) Thus closed a contest in which the first serious blow was dealt the monopoly of the East India Company, after it had been enjoyed by them for two centuries.

1. Commons Journal. Vol. 68. Page 237
2. Ibid. Page 407.
3. Parliamentary Debates. Vol. 25. Page 427.
4. Ibid. 433.
5. Ibid. 495.
6. Ibid. 651.
7. Ibid. 781.
8. Ibid. 879.
9. Ibid. 902.
10. Ibid. 949.
11. Ibid. 989.
12. Ibid. 992.
13. Ibid. 1025.
14. Ibid. 1056.
15. Parliamentary Debates. Vol. 26. Page 624.
16. Ibid. 630.
17. Ibid. 630.
18. Ibid. 697.
19. Ibid. 697.
20. Ibid. 786.
21. Ibid. 827.
22. Ibid. 836.
23. Ibid. 1077.
24. Ibid. 1191.
25. Ibid. 1203.
26. Ibid. 1203.
27. Ibid. 1219.
28. Ibid. 1226.

## CHAPTER IV.

RESULTS OF THE CHANGE IN THE  
CHARTER OF 1813.

The abolition of the exclusive monopoly of trade to the East India Company and the opening of doors to the missionaries led to great changes in the administration of India. Hitherto the East India Company looked for profits in trade only but now it had to direct its energies to the good government of the people while the unselfish activities of the missionaries worked manifold blessings on the people of India.

The results of such a change in the policy of the Company was, from the economic standpoint, the gradual loss of its trade to the East Indies. The private traders who came to India after the change in the charter proved themselves successful rivals of the Company. The decline in the Company's trade is shown by the exports and imports. In 1813-1814 the trade value was 13 500 000 pounds sterling while it fell in the year 1829-1830 to 11 600 000 pounds sterling. (1) Taking the average of three periods of five years each, at the end of the first, the profits amounted to 1 500 000 pounds sterling, at the end of the second term they had fallen to an average of 830 000 pounds sterling and at the end of the third period to 730 000 pounds sterling. (2) On the other hand the private traders prospered as may be deduced from the following fact. The tonnage of the

general public in 1814 amounted to 1 000 tons but in 1829 it had risen to 60 000 tons. (3) The value of the exports and imports of the private traders in 1813-1814 was 9 000 000 pounds sterling while it increased in 1829-1830 to 11 600 000 pounds sterling. With the above figures in favour of the success of private traders in India they had a good ground for getting the opening of the Chinese trade. So on the next renewal of the charter in 1833 the Parliament thought fit to abolish the Company's exclusive trade to China and in return for which the Company was to receive an annuity of 630 000 pounds sterling for twenty years.

What the Company lost in trade was compensated by the prestige it gained in the territorial acquisitions it made in the next three decades. The year 1817 marked the beginning of a new era of aggressive annexations, for in this year the Peshwa's dominions were annexed to the Bombay presidency and the nucleus of the Central Provinces was formed out of the territory rescued from the Pindaris. In 1830 the Company took the administration of Mysore into its own hands but it was restored to the native government in 1881. The independent principality of Coorg was subdued in 1835 and the territory was annexed. Sind was the next victim to fall a prey to the greedy policy of Ellenborough in 1843. The result of the first Sikh war in 1845 brought the tract between the Sutlej and the Beas, known as the Jalandar Doab,

under the control of the Company. The whole province of the Punjab was, however, annexed after the second Sikh war in 1849. The Company then looked for new conquests and the opportunity came in a war with Burma, and lower Burman was added to the British possessions by proclamation in 1852. In 1886 the ruler of upper Burma was captured and his territories were annexed. Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General in 1848, pursued a policy known as the "doctrine of lapse".<sup>(4)</sup> The policy was that if a native chief left direct male heirs, the Government recognized their right to succeed to the private fortune and the public government of their father. But when there was only an adopted son Lord Dalhousie respected the claims of the heirs to the private fortune of the late chief but denied the right of the adopted son to succeed to the public government of the state. This policy brought under the direct control of the Company the native state of Satara in 1848 and several other states like Jhansi, Nagpur, Berar and Carnatic became victims to the same policy in 1853. The rich kingdom of Oudh was annexed in 1856 with an excuse of misrule. There are, however, several native states like Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir and Bhopal whose internal administration are entirely in the hands of the native rulers while their external relations are controlled by the British Government through their repre-

sentatives known as the Residents.

Since the Company acquired extensive territories which brought under its rule a large population of India the responsibility of the Parliament for the good government of India was also increased. Successive reforms in the constitution of the Indian government continued to be introduced. The Act of 1833 added to the Council a new legal member for making laws and regulations. The Governor-General-in-Council was given entire control over other presidencies in all points relation to the civil or military administration.<sup>(5)</sup> It was enacted also that no native nor any natural born subject of India should be disabled from any office by reason of his religion, place of birth or color.<sup>(6)</sup> The charter of the Company was renewed for the last time in 1853 not for a definite period of years. On this occasion the number of Directors was reduced and their patronage as regards appointments to the civil service was taken away to make room for the principle of open competition. The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 brought a radical change in the administration of India for it marked the downfall of the Company as titular ruler. The Act for the better government of India in 1858 finally transferred the administration from the Company to the Crown.<sup>(7)</sup> It enacted that India would be governed by England through a Secretary of State assisted by a council of fifteen members. The Governor General received the new title of Viceroy. By

the Indian Council Act of 1861 the Governor General's council and also the councils at Madras and Bombay were increased by an addition of non official members, either natives or Europeans for legislative purposes. On January 1, 1877, Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. The Reform Act of 1921 known as "Montague Chelmsford Reforms" was the beginning of a new era of self-government for India.

We have seen the economic and political changes in India after the change in the charter of the Company in 1813 but now we should turn our attention to the progress India has made in religious, social and cultural lines. Before 1813 the attitude of the East India Company towards Christian missionary efforts was deplorable. (8) The Company openly supported the Hindu religions for political and commercial reasons. As we have seen, it required 900 largely signed petitions backed up by the philanthropic Wilberforce to secure even a partially tolerant charter. The Directors of the East India Company placed on record in 1813 in a formal memorial to the Parliament their conviction that "the sending of Christian missionaries into our Eastern possessions is the maddest, most extravagant, most expensive, most unwarrantable project that was ever proposed by a lunatic enthusiast". (8a) When Carey and Thomas reached India in 1793 they were subject to great trials and indignities by the agents of the East India Company. Judson and other American missionaries were,



on their arrival in India ordered to depart from the country.<sup>(9)</sup> Such an action of the Company did not entirely prevent the coming in of other missionaries. The Danes were the first European Protestants to send missionaries to India. Ziegenbalg who worked in the south translated the New Testament into Tamil in 1711.<sup>(10)</sup> The work which the Danes inaugurated was carried on through the whole of the eighteenth century. Schwartz, by ordination a Danish clergyman and by appointment an agent of the Christian Knowledge Society, linked the work of the Danes with that of England. Schwartz died after forty eight years of service and left behind him 10 000 converts. The Rajah of Tanjore threw open his kingdom to Christianity in 1798. What Ziegenbalg and Schwartz did for the Danish mission and the Church of England, Carey did for the Baptist mission in Bengal. Carey entered India in 1793 and being refused entry into the Company's possessions he went to the Danes at Serampore. Here he formed a brotherhood with Marshman and Ward who were sent from England as his colleagues. The results of the work of Carey and his associates could be seen in the increase of the Protestant native church of India to a community of half a million within forty years. The Church of Scotland followed the lead of the Danish mission and the work of the church was trusted well in the hands of Dr. Duff who arrived in India on the 27th of May 1830. He served as heir to Schwartz and Carey but

he excelled them by instituting the educational method of evangelizing the country. Through Duff came the famous education dispatch of 1854 which established the Indian universities. (11)

Seeing the wisdom of united work without rivalry the various Societies and denominations have taken up different fields for their work. In 1886 there were fifty six churches and Societies at work in India and among them were 8 Presbyterians, 5 Episcopalians, 7 Lutheran, 8 Baptists, 3 Methodists, 2 Congregational, 1 Moravian, 1 of Friends, 1 undenominational and 9 isolated. The free Church of Scotland holds the district around Calcutta, Bombay, Poona and Madras and Nagpur while the Established Church works from Darjeeling to Sialkot in the Punjab. The United Presbyterians Church covers Hindu speaking Rajaputana and the Irish Presbyterian Church has charge of Gujerat. The American Presbyterians are evangelizing the valley of the Ganges. The Canadian Presbyterians are working in the native state of Indore while the Welsh Calvinists are in Assam. The Church Missionary Society has the most extensive jurisdiction in the Punjab, Kashmeer, Tinneveli and Travancore and the London Missionary Society shares its work in the last place. The propagation Society is doing its work in Travancore, Tinnivelli and Burma. The English Wesleyans and the Methodist Episcopalians of America are working respectively in Mysore

and Oudh. The two Congregational Societies of England and America are spreading their influence in Travancore, Ahmednugger, Madura and Western India. The Moravian mission is working in the regions of the Himalayas.

The work of these missions has accelerated the increase of the Christian population in India. Within the period of 1901-1911 the population of India increased by 6.4% while the Indian Christians increased in the same period from 2 664 313 to 3 574 770, which is 34.2% increase. (12) The rate of increase of Indian Christian communities during the last five decades up to 1911, has been 22%, 33.9%, 30.8%, 34.2%. (13)

Great social changes followed the coming in of the missionaries and the reaction on the local government for social reforms could be seen in the abolition of suttee or the voluntary burning of a widow after the death of her husband and the suppression of Thugs in 1829. Women's rights are recognized and more than a million women vote in India and they are now employed in the various departments of the government. There are now women city councilors and there is a great future for the women where they are properly educated.

The country which of all others, with the exception of Japan, is distinguished for educational progress both under governmental and missionary auspices is India. Indigenous education under native patronage had been in operation for centuries but it was limited

to the higher classes. The East India Company had established, through Warren Hastings, a government college in Calcutta in 1782. The Sanskrit College at Benares was opened in 1791 and the Hindu College in 1817. The College at Poona was founded in 1821 and some others followed the example. The British Government made a series of inquiries into the state of education. The personal influence of Dr. Duff was a very forcible factor in the statement issued by Lord Macaulay in 1835.<sup>(14)</sup> It established the English language as the medium of high educational training. The work was stimulated by Charles Wood who established what is known as the system of grants-in-aid. It secured financial aid both to the governmental and private colleges. The commission of 1882 in which the missionaries took an active part had advocated elementary education and higher special education. It had recommended also the advisability of preparing text books which would help the youth to build up character. The necessity of vocational training was felt and a net work of institutions were established in different parts of the country. These are the results that followed the change in the policy of the East India Company in 1813. Thus in spite of all the direful prediction the country has progressed, which is largely due to the change in the charter of 1813.

1. The Annual Register or a view of the History, Politics and Literature of the year 1833. Vol. 75. Page 151.
2. Ibid Page 180.
3. Ibid 181.
4. Temple, Sir Richard. Men and Women of My Time. Page 109.
5. The Statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland 3 William IV 1833. Vol. 73. Page 818.
6. Ibid Page 180.
7. Ibid 21 and 22 Victoria 1857-1858, Vol. 98. Page 424.
8. Liggins, John. The Great Value and Success of Foreign Missions. Page 80.
- 9a. Ibid Page 81.
9. Ibid 80.
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