

**SPEECHES OF CAPTAIN
EASTWICK ON THE SINDE
QUESTION,
THE INDIA BILL OF 1858,
ETC. REVISED AND CORRECTED**

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Speeches of Captain Eastwick on the Sindh Question, the India Bill of 1858, Etc. Revised and
Corrected by William Joseph Eastwick

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WILLIAM JOSEPH EASTWICK

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A SPEECH

DELIVERED AT

A COURT OF PROPRIETORS OF EAST INDIA STOCK
ON 26TH JANUARY, 1844.

THE AMEERS OF SINDE.

East India House, January 26th, 1844.

A SPECIAL General Court of Proprietors of East India Stock, was held this day at the Company's House in Leadenhall Street, to consider certain resolutions on the subject of the recent annexation of Sinde to the British territories. The Minutes of the last Court having been read, the Chairman (Mr. J. Corron) said this Court had been specially summoned, at the desire of nine proprietors, to consider certain resolutions regarding the recent proceedings in Sinde. After some preliminary discussion, whether the question should be postponed, the Clerk, at the command of the Chairman, read the following Requisition:—

“ To the Honourable the Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

“ HONOURABLE SIR,—We, the undersigned Proprietors of East India Stock, request that a Special General Court may be convened at the earliest period, to take into consideration the following resolutions proposed to be submitted to them:—

“ 1. That, from the printed papers recently laid before the Proprietors, on the subject of Scinde, it is the opinion of this Court that the proceedings of the Government of India, which ended in the dethronement, exile, and imprisonment of the Ameers, and the seizure of their country and private property, were uncalled for, impolitic, and unjust.

" 9. That this Court does, therefore, most earnestly recommend to the Court of Directors the immediate adoption of such steps, by representation to Her Majesty's Government, or otherwise, as may cause all practicable reparation to be made for the injustice already committed, and enforce the abandonment of a line of policy inconsistent with good faith, and subversive of the interests of the British rule in India.

" We have the honour to be,

" Honourable Sir,

" Your obedient servants,

" J. SULLIVAN.

" WM. J. EASTWICK.

" JOSEPH HUME.

" CHARLES FORBES.

" HARFORD JONES BRYDGES.

" JOHN POYNDR.

" ARTHUR J. LEWIS.

" A. HOGG.

" THOMAS MARRIOTT."

" *London, January 16, 1844.*"

MR. SULLIVAN then rose to bring forward the question. CAPTAIN EASTWICK seconded the motion, and said :—

I rise to second the motion. It is with great diffidence I venture to trespass upon the attention of this Court. I am not in the habit of addressing public assemblies, and I feel the difficulty I shall have in expressing my sentiments; I feel also, what is of far greater consequence, how perfectly incapable I am of doing justice to the cause I have undertaken. I can assure the Court, the effort is a very painful one to me. But holding, as I do, such strong opinions on the impolicy and injustice of our late proceedings in Sindé, and having had an especial interest in marking the progress of our relations with the native States of the banks of the Indus, I deem it my imperative duty, as a friend to the natives of India, as an enemy to

oppression, and as a Christian, to protest most solemnly against those proceedings, and to lend my humble aid to any attempt that may be made, to draw the attention of this Court, and the public at large, to a line of policy, so repugnant to my notions of justice, and, in my opinion, so discreditable to the British name. In the discussion of this question, in the discharge of what I conceive to be a public duty, I should wish to avoid every expression that might tend to excite angry feelings; I should wish especially to keep clear of that party spirit, which, losing sight of fixed and immutable principles, looks only to criminate persons; at the same time I should wish to speak unreservedly, and state the conclusions I have come to, derived from personal experience, and from a careful and attentive perusal of the documents recently laid before the Proprietors.

After the able and eloquent address of my Honorable Friend, it will not be necessary for me to occupy the time of the Court by entering minutely into the whole case. It will be sufficient if I state my reasons for giving him my support, and at the same time advert to any particular points, that may appear to me not to have been sufficiently noticed. Agreeing as I do, generally, in the observations that have fallen from my Honorable Friend, and in the Resolutions proposed, recognizing most fully and cordially the necessity of bringing this question before the Court, in order that the facts may be given to the public in a tangible and authentic form, there are yet marked points of difference in our view of the case, and to some of these I will take the liberty of alluding. We