

**AN INDEX TO THE TIMES  
AND TO THE TOPICS AND  
EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1863**

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An Index to the Times and to the Topics and Events of the Year 1863 by J. Giddings

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AN

INDEX

TO

The Times,

AND TO THE

TOPICS AND EVENTS OF THE YEAR

1863.



By J. GIDDINGS,

AUTHOR OF "AN INDEX TO 'THE TIMES' AND TO THE TOPICS AND EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1862."

LONDON:

WILLIAM FREEMAN, 102 FLEET STREET.

1864.

*Camera Ref.*

\* \* \* "I do not write this to flatter the *Times*. I do not always agree with its opinions. I do not think it perfect. But I feel persuaded that were it to alter or to sink, the character of England would fearfully suffer, the unjustly wronged and the cruelly oppressed would lose a powerful and ready champion, the interests of truth and righteousness would miss a great advocate." \* \* \*

—Letter of "A Twenty Years' Reader," in the *Times* of 18th December (302 e 5.)



## PREFACE.

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THE "INDEX TO THE TIMES" was projected for the purpose of supplying "a long-felt public want." We desire to see it ranked among the most popular of our annual publications, and no effort will be spared to attain that end. The volume for the past year, now submitted to the public, will, it is hoped, give proof that great pains have been taken to render it acceptable and generally useful. The delay in its publication has arisen from unavoidable circumstances and from the desire to make it as perfect and as correct as possible.

It will be observed that the volume for 1863 has more than doubled in size when compared with that for 1862. This arises from the many additions which have been suggested, and from the increased multiplicity of references.

Among the principal improvements may be noted :—

1. A complete "Index" to the Parliamentary Proceedings and Debates. This portion of the work forms of itself a perfect Remembrancer of the political events of the year.

2. Under "Banks," "Companies," and "Railways," all the prospectuses, reports, meetings, and other proceedings of those numerous financial and mercantile bodies are given.

3. The names of the reigning Sovereigns, the Ministers of State, and the population of the different countries, also the names of the Governors, &c., and the numbers of the population of the various colonies and dependencies, are inserted. For some of this information we are indebted to that useful publication, the *Statesman's Year-Book*.

4. The names of the Members of Parliament, of the Lord-Lieutenants, and in many cases the names of the Chief Magistrates, of the several Counties, Cities, and Towns, are stated.

It was intended to insert the names of other local authorities, but great difficulty has been experienced in procuring correct returns of them ; we are, therefore, obliged to

abandon for the present, this part of our plan. To those gentlemen who so kindly responded to our applications, we return our sincere thanks.

The Articles which precede the "Index," entitled "The Year 1863," "The Session," and "A Summary of the Principal Financial and Commercial Events of the Year," are reprinted from the *Times*; they form collectively a valuable historical sketch of the year's events and proceedings.

Full explanations are given at p. xxvii. of the plan upon which the Index has been prepared. The addition in every case of the column, as well as the page referred to, will be found to facilitate reference.

Our correspondents require from us minute details of, and information upon subjects which, though trivial to the many, are all-important to the few. We are convinced that it is impossible to make a selection which will satisfy every individual, and we have, therefore, proceeded upon the plan that nothing chronicled is too unimportant to be noticed.

The "Index" for the current year, to appear in 1865, will contain, in addition to other improvements, references to the cases tried in the different Law Courts, and to the trials of prisoners at the Assizes and other Criminal Courts.

J. G.

LONDON, 1st July 1864.





## THE YEAR 1863.

*From the TIMES of December 31, 1863.*

DURING the past year the troubled condition of the Eastern and Western Continents has furnished a contrast to the tranquil prosperity of England. The Government has earned general approval by the prudence and temper with which it has avoided any collision with the United States, and its diplomatic intervention in Poland was only censured because it seemed inconsistent with the national determination to persevere in a policy of peace. Notwithstanding the continued deficiency in the supply of cotton, the distress in Lancashire has steadily diminished, and the elasticity of trade has counterbalanced the stagnation of one of the most important branches of industry. The Customs receipts, the general revenue, the imports and exports, have exceeded the limit of all former years, and a bright summer produced one of the most fruitful harvests which have ever been gathered in England. Unfortunately, neither the fine weather nor the consequent abundance has extended to Ireland. The failure of successive crops has caused great distress among the rural population, and it is perhaps not a cause for regret that the extraordinary demand for labour in the United States has stimulated the adoption of the painful remedy of emigration. Archbishop MacHale not unnaturally seizes the opportunity of denouncing the English Government and nation, and it is possible that even an ecclesiastical agitator may be sincere in his erroneous reference of economic evils to political causes. The land fares ill where, before wealth can accumulate, it is necessary that men should decay or disappear, but the evil, which is finding for itself a violent cure, is already of long standing. The substitution of cattle for human beings offers a plausible grievance to seditious orators; but when climate and soil are adapted to pasture and green crops, it is better to grow food for men than to keep men, for want of food, on the verge of starvation. If Ireland overflows, it must be presumed that it is still too full, while the re-

gions which absorb its superfluous population still offer boundless vacancies. The Americans may be excused for the complacency with which they point to the thriving yeoman who may be the son of a pauper Irish peasant. The secret of the transformation is to be found in the undoubted geographical fact that America is larger than Ireland. If the proportional areas were reversed, while all political circumstances remained the same, the current of migration would at once ebb backward across the Atlantic. Messrs Bright and Cobden endeavour to disturb the contentment of the English labourer by incessantly reminding him that he is "divorced from the soil." In Ireland, a few years ago, every rood, or every acre, struggled hard to maintain its man. The famine of 1847 and the distress of 1863 supply an experimental commentary on the project of contending against Nature.

The year has been saddened and rendered memorable by the loss of many eminent statesmen and soldiers. Sir James Outram was one of the most sagacious and gallant in the long succession of heroes who have conquered and kept the Empire of India. A generation ago he was described as having taken more forts, pacified more hill tribes, and experienced more extraordinary adventures than any living officer, and although he had not reached old age he had since been constantly engaged in the prosecution of similar labours. He took a part in the conquest of Scinde, he commanded the expedition to the Persian Gulf, and all England appreciated his delicate generosity when, waving his superior rank, he served as a simple volunteer under Havelock in the famous march to Lucknow. Lord Clyde, at the end of a still longer career, had attained a higher elevation. A Colonel in the army in 1854, he died a Field-Marshal and a peer in 1863. The Crimean War left him standing at his proper level, above the carpet knights or Court favourites, who had subsided into their proper obscurity; and in the Indian Mutiny he shewed that there

was one English General who understood the art of war, and who was not ashamed to economize the lives of his men. He had done his work, he was far advanced in life, and, out of the range of his profession, he was not distinguished by intellectual power; but the country saw with pleasure that his long services had been at last duly rewarded, and it would willingly have awarded him a few more years of prosperous repose.

Some of those who are recorded in the obituary of the year have been summoned in their natural order. Lord Lyndhurst had outlived all his contemporaries, and had seen a younger generation fast fading away. During the ninety years of his life, among some greater and a few more fortunate men, he had met with neither friend nor enemy who surpassed him in natural gifts and acquired accomplishments. In accuracy, in rapidity, in vigour and daring, with the closed fist or the open hand, as a scholar, a lawyer, and a parliamentary debater, he excelled almost every adversary and rival. As a statesman he was wanting in the enthusiasm which indicates deep convictions, and, although he had much social knowledge of mankind, a want of sympathy prevented him from understanding the English people. He was a finished intellectual athlete, and when he retired from political contests, he shewed on many occasions that his impulses were often generous and wise. It was his good fortune to survive the enmities which he had frequently provoked, and to remain in extreme old age the object of general admiration. Lord Lansdowne, who had often opposed him in the House of Lords, preceded him by a few months to the grave. His respectable abilities, supported by his rank and wealth, by no means adequately accounted for the high position in the State and in society which his death has left unoccupied. The sound good sense and the moral qualities which found expression in the graceful dignity of his manner had made Lord Lansdowne the most favourable type and representative of the English aristocracy. His interest in literature and his genuine taste for art helped to sustain the activity of mind which enabled him to the last to enjoy and adorn society. His unflinching and winning courtesy proceeded from a deeper source. Although he loved social popularity, he never condescended to insincere demonstrations of familiarity, and yet, like Chaucer's knight, he probably never said anything offensive,—

"In all his life, unto no manner of wight,  
He was a very perfect gentle knight."

His political judgment derived additional value from his calm temper and from his long experience. He was Chancellor of the Exchequer fifty-eight years ago; and, at the time of his death, a hundred years had elapsed since his father attained Cabinet rank. Happily for himself, Lord Lansdowne was trained up in

the liberal opinions which became dominant in his maturer life. His moderation was shewn when he headed a section of the Whigs in the coalition with Canning, and long afterwards in his acceptance of office under Lord Aberdeen. If he was not a bitter partisan, he was a thorough Englishman. He was one of three or four members of the Government, and of a not much larger portion of the higher nobility, who shared the earnest purpose of the nation during the Russian War. An equally large circle of acquaintance regretted the loss of Mr. Ellice. His sagacity and energy had raised him early in life into political importance, and to the close of his long career he never relaxed in his genial activity. Although he affected neither eccentricity nor peculiar elevation of purpose, he had, like all really remarkable men, found an exceptional place for himself. At one time the adviser, or, in American phrase, the "wire puller," of the Whigs, he afterwards formed the link between the leaders of the party and the House of Commons as it issued from the Reform Bill. Although his taste and habits were aristocratic, he cultivated an intercourse with many classes both at home and abroad. None of his friends or former colleagues knew Frenchmen better or Americans as well. In his later years he delighted in the society of younger men, who found that his abundant store of reminiscences never overlaid his ready interest in every passing event of importance.

The sudden and premature death of Sir George Cornwall Lewis was universally lamented. Though his qualities were not brilliant or showy, his reputation had grown rapidly, and he was regarded by the House of Commons and by the country with confidence and with hope. The fame of his vast learning added weight to his authority, but he was more especially trusted because he possessed that peculiar form of common sense which is found to be inseparable from honesty. His friends entertained on fuller grounds, and with clearer insight, substantially the same opinion of his character which was generally received. His conversation, and in some instances his parliamentary speeches, displayed a quiet playfulness which was intimately connected with a singular and admirable exemption from the weakness of credulity. Traditional fallacies and new-fangled paradoxes were equally unattractive to his understanding. The common belief that if he had lived he might have held the highest office in the country, shews that he had attained in public estimation a rank which is rarely accorded even to popular statesmen. The roll of political losses closes with the death of Lord Elgin, at an age which might have justified him in hoping for a long career of usefulness and distinction. His sound understanding and great industry had enabled him to profit by the early opportunities of employment which he owed to political and family connexion. In Jamaica, in Canada, and

amidst the arduous and complicated negotiations in China he was always found equal to the occasion. His Indian administration seemed likely to be peaceful and prosperous, especially as he had the faculty and habit of avoiding quarrels both with his superiors and his subordinates. As Lord Elgin's life was passed abroad, the popular belief in his capacity was necessarily founded on his habitual success. Good fortune is in modern, as in ancient times, one of the most valuable attributes of a statesman. Two men of letters who have died within the year deserve a place by the side of Generals and Ministers. Archbishop Whately was one of the clearest and most instructive writers of his time, and notwithstanding some eccentricities of character, he had won general respect in his difficult position. A deeper feeling of regret is caused by the recent and sudden death of Mr Thackeray, when he had scarcely passed middle life. The popularity of his writings is co-extensive with the educated class, to which they were exclusively addressed. His copious and polished wit, his restrained tenderness, and his keen observation of social life were intimately connected with the purity and gracefulness of his style. In the higher gift of creating fictitious characters, notwithstanding a narrow range of choice, he perhaps surpassed all contemporary rivals. In burlesques and parodies he indulged in the wildest revelry of caricature, but the personages of his novels were almost as exempt as living men from distortion and exaggeration. In many circles of society personal sorrow for so fresh a loss will supersede for the time any disposition to criticize his writings. In the recollection of his friends, his varied accomplishments will be less prominent than the simplicity and gentleness which formed the basis of his character.

The appointment of Sir John Lawrence to the vacant Viceroyalty of India has received universal approbation. Although the revenue is flourishing, the ablest of Indian rulers will find sufficient occasion for his energy, and also for his vigilance. The frontier disturbances are probably of little importance, but the mutiny has furnished a precedent to malcontents as well as a warning, and the higher classes of the native population are every day becoming more impatient of their social and political inferiority. Sir John Lawrence will exercise that combined influence of love and fear which has in all times been most effective in the East. Doubtful loyalty will be determined by the consciousness that it would be dangerous to dispute the authority of the Viceroy, who, on the other hand, like all the best servants of the Company, sympathizes with the native subjects of the Crown as fully as with his own countrymen. In the meantime, the affairs of India present a smooth surface, and public attention is rather fixed on the remoter regions of Asia. The continuance of civil war in China has not prevented a rapid expansion of English trade, and perhaps it has not

been without advantage in disposing the Imperial Government to a liberal and friendly policy. Political pedants and philanthropic grumblers have denounced as lawless encroachments the different forms of support which have been within two or three years afforded to the Chinese authorities. Mr Cobden, with characteristic vagueness in the application of history, has compared the occasional interference of Englishmen in the affairs of China with the proceedings of Cortez and Pizarro. What has really been done is less daring, less ambitious, and less questionable. The English and French forces have prevented the Tseepings from approaching the European settlements at Shanghai, and a certain number of English officers have, with the sanction of their Government, entered the Imperial service. Even Chinamen will fight when they are disciplined and properly led, and the English commanders have gained so many advantages that an American adventurer who had deserted to the rebels is said to have betrayed his new associates, and to have rejoined the winning party. The Spaniards of the sixteenth century deliberately undertook the conquest of America, and it is notorious that England in the present day has no designs upon China, except to prosecute the innocent occupation of buying and selling. The machinery of commerce will not perhaps be adapted to its purpose without some infringement of cut-and-dried maxims derived from the recent practice of the most civilized portions of Christendom. The assailants of English policy have a more plausible ground of complaint in the untoward events which have lately occurred in Japan. The murder of an offending Englishman has been avenged by an attack on the residence of a delinquent chieftain, and in the conflict which ensued a populous town has been unfortunately destroyed. If the officers who were concerned are proved to have exercised undue severity, either they or their superiors will receive the censure which they may deserve; but in Japan, as well as in China, it will be necessary to protect the lives and property of Englishmen, and even to assert the right of trade, which can evidently only be enjoyed with the assent and co-operation of the Japanese themselves.

The colonies have for the most part happily avoided any contribution to contemporary history. The new Canadian Parliament seems disposed to make some provision for the defence of the province; the more depressed of the West Indies cherish the hopes of retrieving their fortunes by growing cotton for the English market; Australia flourishes, though successive Ministries rise and fall like bubbles during the experimental stage of Constitutions compounded of the inconsistent elements of irresponsible government and promiscuous suffrage. As wild sheep from a Welsh or Scottish mountain, when they come to fatten on a Lowland pasture scarcely need the care of a shepherd, colonial populations, as long as land