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35 South Street,
Park Lane,
W.

March 26/69

Dearest Madame Mohl

Yes: I must have the little cat with a cultivated mind, brought up in the purple. "Bring it up" for me, if you please, with every accomplishment of singing & dancing, such as poor Mr. Eli had. Is it a lady or a gentleman?

My Pa & ma are wonderfully well, thank you. He was here a short time ago, passing thro' from Aix Bade.

No: you did not send me the 3rd Vol: of Ranfrey. Nor have I read it. I never get anything amusing or interesting for myself, except for my business. Do you know I am often 3 months saying to

myself: 'I will get such & such a book' - & never find a moment to do it in?

But I believe the principal thing I write for now, is about Sir John Lawrence. I cannot conceive what your informant means by his "injustice towards Natives". Because the one characteristic of his Government, - acknowledged by all friends & foes, - has been:- a certain petulant chivalry towards Natives, especially peasant Natives, which has often made him overlook the strict justice of a question, as e.g. in Land Tenure, - his one absorbing idea being to raise the Native - just as there are some in England who, in

then one absorbing idea, which is to raise the pauper - forget all Political Economy.
I wrote a little "Role on Pauperism" in "Harper's Magazine" for March which I sent to Mr. Mohl - [do you know whether he ever got it?] to shew that, to raise the pauper was according to the strictest rules of Political Economy. I was only like the drummer boy, going round, by beat of drum, just to wake people up. You must sometimes trample on the toes of Political Economists, just to make them feel whether they are standing on firm ground. To do good useful work in this world, you must enlist the interests of every body on your side. Christian efforts won't do - You must shew well-directed

worldliness that their interest is to help you. that is is cheaper to go out of their way a little to teach people & help themselves than to give ~~their~~ money in charity. or in Poor Law to offer paupers the Workhouse or to let them die.

But - to return to Sir J. Lawrence he is come back - & wrote me one of his little letters, beautiful in their stern simplicity & modesty - & is coming to see me.

You can ask Sir B. Frere about him, if you like. But they are two men, so unlike, yet each so roundly perfect in his own way, that they can never understand each other - never touch at any point - no tho' eternity. I love & admire them both with all my mind & with all my heart - but have long since given up the

slightest attempt to make either understand the other. But each is too much of a man, too noble, too chivalrous, to denigrate (dénigrer) the other.

As for Sir J. Lawrence's Government — he is had great faults — the greatest of which was Annexation — & this without the slightest desire of popularity or power on his side. But he never could see that the Annexation of Lord Dalhousie, which was necessary during the process of conquest, must be exchanged for quite another policy in organizing & administering for 200 millions of people in time of peace. He could not delegate power to the local Governments. The Centralization was something inconceivable. I knocked my head against it at every step. Sir J. Lawrence

tied, with his indefatigable industry & power of government, to do all the business in his own room for an country bigger than Europe, of which Bengal is bigger & more populated than France

(Peacy hath highest acts of manhood thay battles ever kings.

but he has left his mark on India. Wherever superstition or ignorance or degradation or dirt or fever or famine, or the wild bold lawlessness of brave races, or the cringing slavishness of clever feeble races, has to be found – there he has left his mark – he has set India on a new track which – may his successors follow!

"Knight of a better era
Without reproach or fear
Laid down well that Bayard
And Sidney & Pitt are here!"

You ask about the sanitary affairs for the natives: the whole of our sanitary work

for the last 3 years has been for the natives.
The soldiers' Sanitary organization is now complete. And, tho' of course it will be years before the details are worked up to it, still they have nothing to do, since we got out ten millions of £, but to go on.
What pleases me is that, in the new Govt. of India Bill, just passed here, they have given powers to the Governor Genl. (such as that of naming natives to Govt. appointments without making them pass thro' the English competitive examination) & other powers which Sir John Lawrence had been contending for for years. And to him who knew the natives better than any man on this planet they did not give these powers. And

they have given them to Dora Mays, who does not know a Sikh from a Bengalee!

Mark me the story of my work dearie - and I feel inclined to answer, like Canning's Knife-grinder: —

Story, God bless you! I have none to tell, Sir,
Only last night, a-fighting at the Chequers
he gets a hole in his head, his hat & his breeches. That's just like me. I have only to tell how I have been fighting, & broken my head, when you ask after my work.
Don't suppose I have not more to tell about Sir J. Lawrence. But he is too big for a letter.
And my hand won't write any more. Ever yours

Nightingale

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W.