

and he gravely smiles and inclines his finely-shaped head with a gracious movement. The contrast between this and the

Oriental love of rich warm colouring, and lavishness of display.

The mounted men are resplendent from their clanking spurs to the peaks of their turbans. Take Havildar Major Inkasingh and Havildar Panjasingh, the two Sikhs of the Governor-General's Body-guard (a corps which corresponds to the English Household Cavalry), and say could you find two finer fellows in a day's march? Their shining boots, spotless white trousers, long, crimson-skirted coats, and their beautifully-worked



A. L. Cleave,

AT EASE.

Auckland.

conscious blush, the deprecatory smirk of our own civilisation is very sharp, and you long for a little less civilisation.

The contingent was formed with the intention of being representative of the 230,000 native troops in India—the troops being drawn from the Punjab, Bengal, Hyderabad, Madras, and Bombay Cavalry and Queen's Own Guides, and all the infantry in the provinces—and those who are in a position to judge say that the end has been quite fulfilled. There are one hundred men representing something like sixty-two regiments, fifty being from the cavalry and fifty from the infantry. Accompanying the contingent, the members of which are all officers and non-commissioned officers, is a small army of camp followers—the Gunga Djins—who have all the furbishing and none of the glory. Queer spindle-shanked, cotton-swathed mortals they are too, always jabbering away in mellifluous Hindustani, and showing their white teeth, especially when the Auckland small boy goes up to them with his "Salaam Sahib." The camp follower's clothing is simple enough by that of their master's, which is typical of the

turbans in crimson and gold make a picture indeed. But there are more elaborate uniforms. There is one dark



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ATTENTION.

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blue tunic almost hidden with curiously minute gold bullion work, with epaulettes, belt and cross belt to correspond, while the