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অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

এই খানি উপাদেয় বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ। দুই শত বৎসর পূর্ব্বে লিখিত।

মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ অৰ্দ্ধ আনা।

অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

শ্রীশ্রীবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া পত্রিকা।

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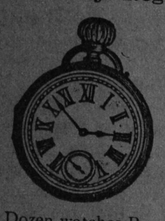

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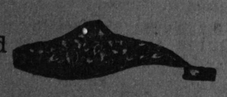
Household  Slippers

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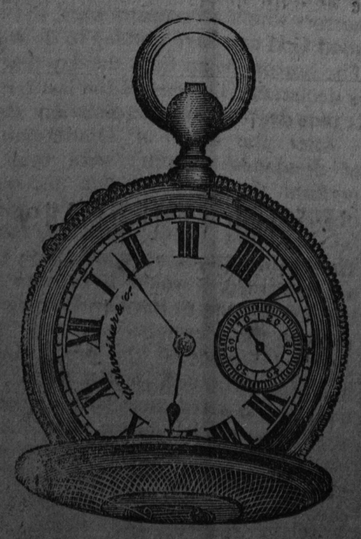

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 16, 1898.

ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES TENANCY BILL.

In our last article on this subject, we pointed out that the Bill proposes to withdraw the power of transfer, hitherto enjoyed by occupancy and ordinary tenants. That such a provision is open to grave objections, goes without saying. In the first place, it is an established fact that the tenants who possess the free right of transfer are more prosperous, and therefore far better able to withstand the shocks of famine and scarcity than those who do not possess that right. We shall let the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, the member for the Central Provinces, speak on this point. Says he :—

I confess that I for some time thought that it would be better to restrict the power of the tenant of mortgage or sale by law ; but recent experience has caused me to change my opinion. The necessity of resorting to money-lender has been so forcibly brought home to one's mind by the famine and the continued scarcity of the last three or four years, that one must pause before giving support to any measure restricting the borrowing power of our tenants. That even the most deserving and thrifty tenant must borrow in such a year, has been shown by almost every officer in the Central Provinces, whose opinion was invited in 1894. Though many of these officers recommended some restriction of this power, their unanimous opinion was for the retention of some form of alienation by which the tenants, with the help of the Malguzars, could borrow the necessary funds for cultivation, maintenance of their families and other necessary purposes.

We should have thought that Mr Chitnavis, who is a Malguzar (zaminder), Honorary Magistrate having first-class power, President of District and other Boards, and who has been watching the course of events in his Province for some years, was in a better position to prove a fact like this than a Government official, however eminent. But Mr. Chitnavis is humble : to give an additional weight to his arguments, he quotes eminent authorities, one of whom has expressed himself in terms so felicitous that we have felt tempted to quote him :—

The experience of the past few years in Saugor and Damoh (says Mr. Carey, a Settlement Commissioner whom Mr. Chitnavis quotes) has forced on me the conviction that the much-abused sowcar is a necessary institution in a country such as India, with its insecure agriculture. We must have Josephs to store in years of plenty for seasons of deficient crops. In these districts during the three last years (I do not allude to the present year 1896-97) most of the land has been sown with the aid of the sowcar, though each season brought increasingly heevy losses. The interests of the sowcar are in this particular matter identical with those of the ryot. If the land remains unsown, the money-lender loses all his venture. Is it to be accepted that the money-lenders would have done as much, had the security, which the cultivators had to offer, been less? Possibly they would, as the last chance of recovering their past loans. But will they be so ready to do so in future when the law of the land enables the cultivator to repudiate his liabilities, pocket the swag and and retain his land?

It takes lakhs of rupees a year to sow any particular district, and it is impossible for Government to fill the place of Bania unless a grand system of Agricultural Lands Banks was introduced. The present aid afforded by Government in the shape of Agricultural Loans Act, beneficial as it is, really represents but a drop in the ocean.

To the above statement of Mr. Carey Mr. Chitnavis adds :—

I would add that the capital necessary to keep the tenant's family in food and clothes till the crops are sold in the market, is also a heavy item which cannot be overlooked. Now, how can the tenant borrow all this money in a bad year? Under the proposed law he will be able to do so only at a rate of interest which will make it practically impossible for him to free himself from his embarrassments in the future. But the theorist will very likely rejoin and say "Oh, but the tenant can borrow under the Agricultural Loans Act at a very low interest." The State, I take it, is not going to start an Agricultural Bank or become lender of money to the agriculturists on a large scale. I have the authority of the present Chief Commissioner himself for this statement. "The Government" says he, in his Revenue Administration Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1895-96, "can never entirely supplant the natural and traditional agencies for the supply of seed to tenants who are not provident enough to store it for themselves ; and it would be most injudicious to attempt to interfere with those agencies by too frequent advances which can only have the effect of making terms harder for those whom Government cannot afford to assist." Moreover the formalities which must be gone through under the Loans Act are so elaborate that a simple peasant prefers his village sowcar, though his terms are less favourable, than those of the Government. The very fact that the tenants have not largely availed themselves of the Act, shows either that it is unsuited to the conditions of agricultural society in India or that those, entrusted with its working, have been unable to satisfy those for whose benefit it is intended, that in the long run and taking everything into consideration, it is better to have the Government as their creditor than the village sowcar.

In the second place, the provision will have the effect of diminishing the value of all occupancy and ordinary holdings. The tenants must borrow. This is as undoubted a fact as two and two make four. But will the Sowcar (money-lender) lend them any money when they have no security to offer? "The essence of property," as Mr. Chitnavis [illegible] it, "is its transferability." Is there any [illegible] doubts that their property would [illegible] siderable depreciation if the owners thereof can not transfer or mortgage it to the lender? The foundations of all trade are security and credit—the one dependent on the other. Any attempt to lower the tenant's credit by depreciating the value of the only security he possesses and is in a position to offer in times of need, must be considered a retrogressive and undesirable move.

In the third place, we deny the constitutional right of Government to interfere at all in this matter. The right of the tenant in his holding is absolute so long as he pays his rent. The recent discussions on this subject have dealt the final blow to the unjust and absurd doctrine that the Government is the sole proprietor of the soil in India. From the fussy claims put forward on behalf of the State by some of its over-enthusiastic agents, it is refreshing to turn to the straight-forward declaration that "subject to the payment of the land-tax, the tenant's right in his holding was perfect." The statement of the ancient law-giver of India, Manu, that "cultivated and is the property of the man who cuts away the wood and who first cleared and tilled it," is the principle on which land-tenure in India is and ought to be based, and has repudiated in distinct and unmistakable terms, the Mahomedan theory of the State ownership of the soil. Such being the case, we hold that the right of the tenant is equal or superior to that of the malguzar and consequently he has as good a right as the malguzar to alienate the land of his estate.

In the fourth place, the provision is objectionable because the practice of transfering has become too generally recognised in the Province to be ignored in legislation, and has been brought about under the operation of the rule of the survival of the fittest. This being the case, the constitution must necessarily be suited to the requirements of the Province and must therefore be productive of good.

In the fifth place, the prohibition of transfer to the tenants is objectionable as it interferes too much with the social liberty of the people—the ideal of all good Governments. In withdrawing all power of alienation from the occupancy and ordinary tenants, Government virtually say to them, "we will tie your hands and force you to be discreet and provident" Government do more. They also tie the hands of the malguzar and say to him, "though your tenant is penniless, and cannot carry on cultivation and though he is improvident, yet you must have him. You shall not have another." "But the landlord", says the Hon'ble Member for the Central Provinces "has the right to say that an improvident tenant ought not to be forced upon him when half the transfers take place in favour of agriculturists presumably better and more thrifty than the outgoing tenants." Will the Government at this late hour of the day deny this right which Mr. Chitnavis speaks of? Will the English nation, to whom freedom is the breath of the nostril, fasten a yoke on the poor tenants of the poorest Province of India and destroy their credit?

It is said that the intention of the Government for withdrawing the power of transfer and mortgage from the tenants, is benevolent and good. We find no difficulty whatever in giving credit to the Government for the best of intentions. But the great question is : is it right, is it constitutional, for a Government to say to a people, "we admit the thing is yours ; but you must not sell or pledge it, in case you go to the dogs?" "I would rather see England free and drunk than sober under compulsion", said the late Archbishop Maggee once in the House of Lords. We, of course, quote from memory. Might not we say, "We would rather see our tenants free and improvident than provident under fear of law"? It is quite enough, we think, that we are hemmed in on all sides by penal and restrictive legislations. We do not very much like the idea of adding to our existing burdens. The gloomy phantom that the desire for doing what we like with what is admittedly ours, must remain ungratified. The temper of our countrymen is, we should say, not very tolerant just now of this new and rigorous form of social tyranny.

Lastly, the argument that the right of transfer leads necessarily to the lands passing wholesale into the hands of Malguzars or Sowcars, has no very solid foundation. Indeed, the official records show that the number of transfers is not at all large in the Central Provinces. And "a large portion of voluntary transfers," says Sir Charles Lyall, "are productive of good." There may be some danger of the money-lenders ousting the agriculturists, when they are aliens having no community of interest, as in the Sonthal Pergunnas and the Deccan. But that is not the case in Bengal or the Central Provinces. With certain safe-guards, however, the right of transferability in the Central Provinces might be recognized, without any danger to the interests of the people. For instance, a provision giving the Malguzar the right of vetoing any sale made to any other than a cultivating tenant, might be inserted in the Bill. This would enable the Malguzar to exclude the Sowcar as a holder ; and, at the same time, place as small a restriction as possible on the tenant's power of turning his interest in the land to the best account.

THE DECAY OF DIPLOMACY IN INDIA.

Diplomatic works are always kept concealed from the public view ; for, they are sometimes not savoury, and sometimes the disclosure defeats the object in view. Yet it is known what Sir Robert Sandeman admitted in a letter to an English paper when the Manipore affair formed the subject of discussion in Parliament. He said, it was common practice with him to send a friendly invitation to a refractory sardar, and when he came unsuspecting, to put him under arrest.

Of course, the Manipore affair has not been forgotten. The plan of campaign in that business was not the act of a petty political, but of the Governor-General in Council itself. The wise Councillors sat to devise means for the purpose of speedily bringing to an end the disorder that was alleged to have been prevailing in Manipore, an independent State which simply acknowledged the suzerainty of the Government because it was too weak to resist the claim. It was actually planned to invite the leading man in the country to a friendly converse, and then put him into prison.

Sir Robert Sandeman said, this sort of diplomacy succeeded very well. This we very much doubt. In the early days of British rule in India, diplomacy succeeded better, because both the peasant and the prince had absolute faith in the words of an English official. But silly, and, we must say, culpable acts by individual officials somewhat destroyed that confidence in the high character of the English nation, and this meant an incalculable mischief to the Empire itself.

At the present moment, diplomats, like Alexander the Great, are weeping ; for, they fancy, they have no more work in India. We shall, however, presently show that this is a sad mistake. Their idea is that the only work that the diplomats have now in India is in regard to the dealings with the Ameer and the border tribes. In short, the whole ingenuity,—the entire strength of the Foreign Office is now directed towards the N. W. Frontier. But yet what is the result? While the Ameer should seek our friendship, we have to seek his While he should pay for our friendship, we have to pay for his. Is it not? This is what the diplomatic service has achieved.

As to the Borderers, the India Government has ever been a pagoda tree to them. They got nothing but help from the India Government. In the India Government these Border tribes have got a power upon which they can fall back for assistance in their internecine quarrels, and quarrels with the Ameer. The India Government does not want anything from them, but pays them handsomely merely for their mere forbearance. Why are they then up against us? It is because diplomacy is not understood here in India. Perhaps Englishmen have yet to learn how to deal with Asiatics.

We said that it is a sad mistake to suppose that the Foreign Office has no work in India. We have yet three hundred Princes in India. What the British cannot do is to confiscate their States. That being the case, the supreme duty of the Government is to give these Princes a training, suitable to their rank and position, so that they can govern their people wisely, and stick to the suzerain with heart and soul. But how does the Political Department treat with these Indian Princes?

Gilgit was wanted for imperial purposes. We refer to the famous Gilgit document, published by us, and which created such a row to show the croocked ways of the Political Department. If the Ruler of the Kashmir State had been taken into confidence and frankly told that that province was wanted for the defence of India, he would have heartily entered into the business. He would have himself done everything heartily under British control. But the straightforward path was abandoned, as not suited to the genius of the Indian Foreign Office and a diplomatic correspondence was entered into between the Resident and the Foreigh Office how to get hold of the province without exciting suspicion in the minds of the Prince!

Lord Lansdowne went a step further. He wanted to force the Prince to sign a voluntary Edict of Resignation. Of course, here was an Irish bull ; but Lord Lansdowne actually announced that the Edict was voluntary, though the Maharajah telegraphed to the *Times* that he had been forced to sign that precious document! The Maharajah was kept fasting, and was not allowed to break his fast until he had voluntarily signed the paper. This reminds us of the Edict of Resignation signed by the late Maharajah of Tipperah and in which Mr. Greer, the present Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, then Political Agent at Agoretollah, played a prominent part. We may describe this interesting affair one day.

A sympathetic heart, openness, inexhaustible patience and full knowledge of the surroundings are essential for success. But do Englishmen possess all the qualifications enumerated above,—we mean, English officials here in India? First of all, they are always in the dark as to their surroundings. They know not what is ten yards ahead of or behind them. They have to deal with the natives of the soil; but they cannot trust any one of them. So either they fail to get at accurate information, or if they do so they accept it with suspicion. Indeed, they can not utilise such information to the best purpose because they can never be sure of it.

Then, as for inexhaustible patience, Englishmen in India, and, especially those in the Political Department, know best whether they have it or not—deponent sayeth nothing further about this matter.

Whenever the [illegible] remedy sought is [illegible] matic work costs a go[illegible] macy fails, and it is follow[illegible] succeeds, as it always does, thou[illegible] an enormous sum and generally bri[illegible] profit. If diplomacy had done its work, [illegible] number of our fruitless and expensive ex[illegible] peditions could have been reduced to almost a zero.

As we said the other day, the diplomatic work ought to be put into the hands of the Indians under European control. Indians ought to be trained for diplomatic service, and employed in dealing with Hindus and Mussalmans. Having patience and full knowledge of their surroundings, it is likely they would succeed better in dealing with Asiatics than Europeans. Considering that our main troubles proceed from these fruitless wars which incompetent diplomacy thrusts upon us, the experiment of entrusting Indians with the work is worth a trial. We make this appeal to those Englishmen, who are patriots and are for the good of the Empire, and not to those who think that every berth in India is for the European, and to entrust a native with responsible work is to deprive a European of his birth right.

MESSIAHS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS.

Both Jesus and Mahomed preached the brotherhood of man ; and Buddha, the other Prophet, went a step further and preached the brotherhood of all living things! Yet we see the followers of these respective Prophets quarrelling amongst themselves in a manner which must be repugnant to the Masters whom they profess to follow. The followers of Buddha are just now the weakest, and those of Jesus the strongest. Is God or a future world a myth? Do the Prophets themselves, worshipped as Messiahs in the world, exist? If so, why do not they settle the matter amongst themselves? Thus Buddha, Jesus and Mahomed may sit in a conference, if need be, under the presidency of the Almighty God Himself, for a satisfactory settlement of differences that exist among their respective followers. Or is it possible that they do not now take any interest in the affairs of their followers?

The crushing defeat of the Dervishes has filled a good many Christians with gratitude to God for His mercy in granting this victory. Is it possible that God takes any interest in such bloody affairs, nay, takes any part in them? The probabilites are that He does nothing of the kind. Probably, He does not meddle with such affairs, and leaves them to be settled by the combatants themselves on their own responsibility.

That God will side with the Christians, who are His children, for the slaughter of Mussalmans, who too are His children, does not seem at all probable. If God Almighty had any pleasure in these slaughters, He would have never sent Messiahs to preach the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and the divine character of such virtues as forgiveness, meekness, charity, sacrifice, and so forth. If God loved blood-shed and slaughter, He would have sent warrior Messiahs, armed with canons, and not peaceful beings without any implement of destruction in their hands.

If Messiahs are realities and not fictions, these wars must be repugnant to Him. Of course, the easiest way of stopping the wars would be for the three Messiahs to sit in a conference, as we suggested above, and settle the difference amongst their followers. But we have no means of reaching them,—much less of moving them. Besides, supposing the Messiahs came to an agreement, demarcating boundaries and posting picquets, so as to avoid future complications between their followers, would their followers abide by the terms of the treaty? Would the Christians, for instance, abide by the decision of their Master? We doubt very much that they would. For, if they had any real respect for their Master, they could have never levelled guns at their brethren and shot them dead.

Jesus Christ preached that his followers should not only forgive their enemies but also love them ; they should, when assduaeil in one cheek, turn the other, to please their assailant. That being the rule of conduct he recommended to his followers, it is certainly not obeying him to fire guns and kill fellow-beings. The horrors which accompany wars, show that a good God can have nothing to do with them. The horrors begin from the day that the war is declared. The end of the last terrible war is thus described in the *Saturday Review* :—

After the battle of Omdurman, bodies of Soudanese troops were told off to perform the repulsive but necessary task of killing the wounded dervishes who might be shamming death upon the battle-field. Unless this odious work had been efficiently accomplished, it would have been impossible for our men to have crossed the ground without the occurrence of many casualties. Another defence of the proceeding which has been advanced, is that every wounded man who is saved must have proper medical attention, which means diminishing the precious stock of lint and other necessaries without making fresh demands on the limited staff. The Generals are obliged to reduce the medical staff and its accompanying supplies to a minimum; and they assert that our men must not be allowed to suffer in order to preserve the savages against whom we are fighting, and [illegible] Christian work! The Mussalmans can take umbrage at the barbarous conduct of the Christians ; but then, would not the enemy have, in the same manner, butchered the Christian wounded? In this war, besides, the British were fighting against a Mussalman Power on behalf of another Mussalman Power. We said the other day that the Indians are not necessarily the less, and the English the more, favoured, because the latter hold a superior, and the former a subordinate, position. Only see what unsavoury works a nation has to do, which has to expand and hold Empires.

The Hindu population of the Umballa City and Cantonment are just now much exercised over the following incident, the particulars of which have reached us from more than one source. There is a Mission School at the Cantonment. A number of the Hindu students of the school were in the habit of holding meetings on Saturdays, in which they, after singing hymns, said their evening prayers. The Superintendent of the Boarding House connected with the institution and the Head Master of the school took objection to this practice ; and the boys removed their quarters elsewhere though they attended the Mission School as before. On the third day after the removal, three of the boys, who were scholarship-holders, were expelled from the school, for reasons not yet known to the public Thereupon the other boys got alarmed and asked the Head Master for their discharge certificates, so that they might leave the school and join another. The Head Master, however, would not grant them the certificates. The boys then applied to the manager of the school, but with no better result. In distress, they forwarded the following application to the Inspector of Schools in a registered cover :—

To
The Inspector of Schools.
Delhi Circle.

We, the undersigned boys of the Mission High School, beg to state that some days ago, we were forbidden by the Superintendent of the Boarding House, out of prejudice, at the order of the Head Master, to perform our religious duties, which we had been practising for a long time. In consequence we were obliged to leave the Boarding House, on which we took permission from the Head Master as well as the Superintendent to make some private arrangements for our lodgings in the city. Scarcely two days ago, the Head Master in great anger expelled us from the school for reasons not known to us. Under these circumstances, we beg you most respectfully to ask the Head Master to grant us discharge certificates so that we may join some other school. Furthermore we beg to bring to your kind notice the fact that three of us are scholarship-holders and in their cases discharge certificates are required immediately, otherwise they may be liable to lose their scholarship.

Fearing that there might be some delay in getting a reply, they also sent a telegram to the Inspector of Schools to the above effect. But no reply came. The boys then sent a pre-paid telegram to the Director of Public Instruction ; but he too vouchsafed no reply. The over-anxiety shown by the expelled boys to obtain discharge-certificates, one cannot wonder at ; for, under the existing rules, they could find admission to no school without them, and this meant the blasting of their future prospects. While the boys and their guardians were in great perplexity owing to his silence, the Inspector of Schools came to Umballa Cantonment on the 26th September. This raised their drooping spirits. The boys presented themselves before him with their application for discharge certificates. Our correspondent thus describes what happened on the occasion :—

When the boys came before him with their applications, he would not only not grant their prayer but showed temper. A boy went to him with his guardian's application for his discharge cirtificate. The Inspector was so much incensed at the conduct of the boy, that he is said to have torn off the application and used unparlimentary language towards the students.

As we said above, the incident has been greatly exercising the Hindus of Umballa. They have been taken aback by the apparently unaccountable conduct of the Inspector of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction. They called a large public meeting in the open grounds of Mande, at which Lala Muralidhar presided. At the meeting, speeches were delivered, setting forth the complaints of the boys. A Committee was formed, composed of some leading Hindus of the locality, with a view to agitate the matter till the wrongs done to the students were not removed. We believe, the Inspector of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction have their version of the affair. If so, we should be glad to publish it.

By the death of Mr. Livingstone, lately Principal, Krishnagar College, a vacancy occurs in the European, *i. e. the really superior*, branch of the Bengal Educational Service; and as both Doctors Martin and Hoernle are about to retire, there will naturally be two more vacancies. In a series of some dozen articles we discussed the question of the exclusion of our countrymen from the Superior Educational Service in all its bearings. Here is

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

...armament. Does ...e its own respon-

...

...ome of the questions sug- ...the Currency Committee :—

...o you think that there is any quantity ...f rupees hoarded in India?

29. If so, can you roughly estimate how much, *i.e*, what proportions of the coinage?

30. Do not the natives prefer to hoard silver rupees to silver bullion?

31. Do not the natives prefer to hoard gold coin to silver coin?

32. If gold sovereigns were imported and made legal tender, would not natives change their hoarded rupees into gold coin and hoard it?

33. If gold coins were current in India would not you send remittances of it up-country to pay for goods purchased, instead of sending rupees?

34. If gold coin was obtainable at the treasuries would not a large quantity of ornaments be made out of it, instead of out of silver?

35. Is not there an immense quantity of silver ornaments in India?

36. Do the natives feel the effect o the difference in value between now with silver bul ion 30 per cent. lower than the silver in the rupee as compared with before the mints were closed when silver and the rupee were of the same value?

We think any man in India can give satisfactory replies to the questions proposed above. As a rule, rupees are not hoarded here; that is absolutely certain. The Indians do not prefer silver rupees to silver bullion for hoarding purpose. Currency notes have taken the place of rupees. Yes, hoarded rupees would be converted into gold; but hoarded rupees don't exist. The fact is, very few people make savings in India. The great bulk of the people live from hand to mouth. There is no provision for old age here; children provide for their old parents. During marriages silver and gold ornaments are prepared,—silver by the poor and gold by the rich, for the bride. We said, the great bulk of the people live from hand to mouth. If anyone can manage to save something, he pays his debts; if he has more he lends the amount at high interest to his neighbours. Gold is not purchased for hoarding purposes. When any one has rupees to spare, he converts them into currency notes and not gold; because these notes, when stolen or otherwise mislaid, could be sometimes recovered. Banking is almost unknown. Wealthier classes in cities deposit their surplus money in banks; but their number is exceedingly limited. In such cities a good many middle-class men deposit their earnings in Government Savings Banks. India should not be judged by other countries. The condition of India is quite different from that of any other country. We shall showthis difference in a few words. In India, independent gentlemen do not exist. That is to say, their number is infinitesimal. Ninety five per cent. of the population belong to the lower classes. Of these five per cent. of the higher classes,the vast majority have to earn money. India is not difficult to govern. The people have got used to a hard life; and it is thus they are able to bear the strain of taxation. The people have no holidays and no luxury except tobacco. They are the most industrious in the world. The lower classes have found with consternation that their silver has depreciated in value by 40 per cent. But they are yet loth to part with it; for, they hope that the value would rise in time.

THE accounts that are reaching us from Dharwar, show that the town is in a very sad plight. The Dharwar correspondents appeal "to our sense of humanity to exert our influence with the authorities to remove their grievances." What these are they represented sometime ago to the Government by a telegram, and the representation was wired to us for publication. It would appear therefrom that if the plague is regarded a great evil, the Dharwar people consider the measures, enforced to put it down, a greater one! That is the tale all over the country. The reader may not so soon forget the circumstances under which a Dharwar Brahmin committed suicide. In short, his tragic end had a direct connection with the enforcement of some plague measures. We expected good results out of the sad incident, which was an effective protest against the way in which the plague measures were being enforced in the town. But we are sorry to learn that the tension of feeling between the people and the local authorities is increasing. The reader is aware that five Commissioners of the Dharwar Municipality resigned because of some unparliamentary language used towards them. We hoped that the Col, lector would repent in his cooler moments for what he had done in a fit of passion and settle his differences with them. But, it seems, far from doing this, he has been persisting in the course he adopted. He accepted their resignation and ordered for bye-elections to fill up their places. As was to be expected, his attempt to override the popular feeling made these bye-elections a farce. This is what the *Mahratta* says :—

The bye-elections were fixed for the 5th instant, but there were only three candidates for the five seats. The farce of election completed, it was found out that the highest number of votes recorded for the most successful candidate was only twelve, while the other two secured, it is said, a single vote each.

We are horrified to learn from the above paper that two more deaths have occurred at Dharwar, which the public believe "to be extreme protests against the plague measures."

THE Commissioner of Chittagong thus takes his revenge upon the two local papers in his Division, in his Annual Administration Report :

There are two newspapers now in Chittagong —the old-established *Sunshodhinee* and the newly-started *Jyoti*. They are not always too accurate in their information, and generally exaggerate any failure of crops, damage by cyclones and so forth.

That is, however, precisely the charge which these papers brought against the local authorities of Chittagong. What they said was that it was not they who exaggerated but it was the officials who under-rated. That the people of Chittagong suffered and are still suffering from severe distress, there is no doubt; for, not only the local papers but parties unconnected with the press, gave us dismal accounts of things in the interior of the district. It appears, therefore, that if there was some tendency of exaggeration on the part of one, there was also a disposition on the part of the other to poohpooh the whole thing. The authorities and the newspapers are thus quits; and the adverse remark of the Commissioner on the conduct of his critics, does not mean anything particular,—it is only a tit for tat. The public has, however, a right to know what is the actual state of the distress which is prevailing in Chittagong. If no reliance can be put upon the newspaper version, it may be urged with equal force that no reliance can be placed upon the local official version too. The best way for the Government to ascertain the truth, therefore, is to make an enquiry through an impartial party and publish the result for general information. The popular notion is that the unfortunate people of Chittagong have been very much neglected by the parsimonious policy of the Government and that they deserved a more liberal treatment than they have got. If the impression is wrong, it ought to be removed by a more conclusive evidence than the report of the Commissioner, who is practically on his defence in this matter.

THE other day we had the painful duty of unfavourably commenting on the decision of the Sessions Judge of Patna in the case of the local Sub-Inspector of Police. To-day we have much pleasure in thanking him for having disposed of an alleged theft case in which the local police figured. One Santu, a lad of twelve, was marched to the Police thana by a constable, because it was alleged he was found walking in broad daylight with a shawl in his arm. Thence the same constable together with another took him to a house from where he said he had got the property. The City Magistrate convicted the boy and sentenced him to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment. The District Judge, to whom an appeal was preferred, disbelieved the story of the prosecution and ordered the release of the accused. He made the following observation on the case: "To send a suspected person against whom there is no accusation, in charge of two constables, to point out the place from which he took suspected property," the Judge remarked, "is to give direct encouragement to undue pressure; and if, as is said, this was done by the Police Sub-Inspector at the Thanah, it is nothing short of a gross neglect of duty on his part."

WE are glad to learn that the Municipal Bill Agitation Committee are working with vigour; and that the rate-payers, generally speaking, have been roused to their sense of duty at this crisis. Unfortunately, the Puja time is near at hand; and the enthusiasm evoked in this connection may vanish with the commencement of the usual festivities. The Committee should, therefore, show greater energy during these festive occasions than they have hitherto done. There is yet much to be achieved. It is quite true that subscriptions are flowing in and signatures are being collected; but it goes without saying that the more money is raised the greater will be the amount of work done here and in England. The members of the Committee should, therefore, see every big and well-to-do rate-payer, and ask him to contribute his mite. Then, the sooner the signatures are secured the better for the cause. For, there is no knowing when the Select Committee on the Bill commences its sittings and proceeds with its business of settling the clauses. The Plague Vigilance Committees are excellent organizations in the city. They should be availed of, both for the purpose of collecting subscriptions and signatures.

ON the 9th instant we published a list of 61 questions, issued by Government to certain leading merchants of Calcutta. Many of those questions are of the most frivolous nature, and many are of little importance; and all have, as already been observed by us, a humorous side to them, and are what are called by the legal profession "leading," that is, framed in such a way as to draw the kind of answer hoped for from unwary witnesses. We have already noticed several of these questions; to-day we shall notice two more, 52 and 53. Question 52 stands thus: "If an import duty was put on silver, making its value equal to the same quantity of silver in the rupee, would it not give great satisfaction to a large proportion of natives of India?" Our reply to this is most emphatically no. Any native of India who has in the least studied the currency question, clearly sees that so long as silver represents India's standard of value, a duty on it would simply be another form of falsifying India's money. Only a return to honest money can, or will, give satisfaction to any native of India who has studied the question and has the good of India and the prosperity of the great mass of its people at heart.

"Question 53 stands thus. "If the mints remained closed, and the rupee fixed at a certain sterling price, say, 16d. to rupee, and convertibility into sterling at that rate was granted, would it not greatly benefit all trade with foreign countries?" Our answer is that it might benefit trade with foreign countries; but we don't see how it could in any way benefit India or the Indian producer, and the end must be the eventual ruin of the agriculture and industries of India. So long as Government continues to give an artificial value to India's money, which it does not posses in itself, the excess value put on it becomes a monopoly and not "free trade", and can not possibly benefit the great mass of the people of India. Government can not put an artificial price on the currency, but by making some section of the people pay the difference; and in this instance, the difference must fall on the agricultural and industrial classes, who produce the wealth of India, either in manufactured goods or agricultural produce for export; and the result of the proposal would simply mean putting the burden of taxation unequally on the people of India for the benefit of the consumers who produce nothing. Only open mints and honest money can benefit the great mass of the people of India. The tola of silver must be worth a rupee and not ten annas; and whenever Government deviates from this standard, it can only do so by increasing taxation on the producing classes of India. Conceal this fact under whatever form you may choose, it remains the same. Some one must pay the difference. By continued closed mints and an artificial value on the rupee, Government simply propose to perpetuate the enormous and unjust loss thrown on the people of India by the cruel and unjust depreciation of the value of their savings in the form of silver ormaments or other utensils. The past five years have clearly shown that a continuation of closed mints means ruin to the Indian; and the proposed gold standard means extra taxation to find the gold and the utter depreciation of everything in India—for the benefit of whom? Let the Government answer. These proposals are certainly not for the benefit of the people of India.

THIS was how the Editor of the Chittagong *Songsodhini* was sought to be put into trouble. From the official papers published elsewhere, it will be seen that the newspaper in question published a letter of the Legal Remembrancer, relating to a case of the Court of Wards, pending before the District Judge of Chittagong. The local authorities considered it a contempt of court; and the Commissioner of the Division, at the instance of the District Magistrate, drew the attention of the Judge, suggesting that he should take proceedings against the Editor. The proper course for the District Judge was to tell the Commissioner to mind his own business and not to attempt to interfere with his judicial independence. But now-a-days the Joint Magistrate, as a rule, is the District Judge, and he cannot outgrow his awe for the Commissioner of the Division or even the District Magistrate. In short, it is the executive heads who now practically control the judiciary; and the judicial independence of the bench, in many cases, is a myth. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, the District Judge held a superior position to that of the District Magistrate; and he and the Divisional Commissioner were almost in the same rank; at least, the Commissioner never ventured to thrust his advice upon the Judge in any case pending before his court. The result was that people had then unbounded faith in the decisions of the judicial courts. All this has been changed, and the executive, as we said, now practically rules the country both in matters judicial and executive. Well, as soon as he got the memo. of the Commissioner, the District Judge of Chittagong issued a Notice to the Editor of the *Sonsodhini* to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for contempt of court. The Editor submitted an explanation, and the Judge was good enough to let him off with a warning. But was the proceeding of the Judge legal? Had he any power to take up such a case? Well, in matters like this, it is the High Courts alone which, under the Charter Act, can take action; the District Courts have absolutely no jurisdiction in such cases. The essence of the offence relating to contempt of court, as provided in the Penal Code, under which only the Muffasil courts can deal with it is that the offence is committed *in the presence of the court*. The making of comments on a *sub judice* case is not an offence committed in the presence of the Court; and so it does not come under the Penal Code or any other Codes under which Muffasil courts act. The District Judge of Chittagong will thus see that it was not the Editor of the *Songsodhini* but himself who committed an error of judgment. It is rather surprising that the Commissioner of a Division, the Magistrate of a District and a Sessions Judge should show such lamentable ignorance of law. The Editor should have submitted no explanation at all; all that he should have done was to tell the Judge that under the law he could not issue the Notice that pid.

IT is said when Mrs. Lister reach England, she will have not only not to se out her term of imprisonment there, but may claim damages for her incarceratio A parallel case, we are told, occurred in t sixties, with the following result. In t beginning of 1860, Lieutenant Glov who was stationed with his regiment at Ag amused himself by firing mud pellets o of a gun at natives passing through his co pound. One of these pellets struck a pu kah-coolie who died from the effects. Lieu nant Glover was tried by court-martial a sentenced to five years' imprisonment in Agra Fort. Shortly afterwards, and throu the exertions of influential friends, it w arranged that Mr. Glover should be se to England to complete his term of imp sonment, as his health was considerab affected by his detention in the Agra For He was sent home, but he had barely been landed when his relations had him produced on a *habeas corpus* in an Appellate Court, on the ground that he was wrongfully restrained, that his sentence was to be carried out in India, and that no Court in India had authority to send a prisoner to England or any foreign country for the carrying-out of the sentence. Not only was Lieutenant Glover ordered to be released, but his friends went further and sued the Duke of Cambridge, as Commander-in-Chief, for illegally imprisoning Glover in England, and they got damages. So what the friends of Mrs Lister have got to do is to bring her somehow or other in England; for, then they can not only secure her release, but, like Lieutenant Glover, obtain a good sum as damages. The case of Mr. Maltby, the Madras Magistrate could have been also a parallel one, if Mrs Lister could turn a lunatic. Mr. Maltby having murdered a couple of his bearers on a Christmas Day, suddenly lost his reason. He was then sent home at the cost of the tax-payers and consigned in a lunatic asylum. He, however, effected his escape, went to Switzerland, and came back to England a thoroughly sound man. Next we find him threatening the Secretary of State for India with a suit for damages for wrongful dismissal. How the matter at last ended, we know not; but, the general belief at the time was that Mr. Maltby was given a bonus and his wrath was appeased.

THE book "Indian Sketches," advertised in another column, has not as yet b... distributed to the press, for reasons wh... need not be enumerated here. To awak... the rulers of India to a sense of their d... to the people of this country, the author undertook to write a series of articles in this journal, headed, "Perpetual Slavery of India." His original idea was to complete the series, to have them collected and published in the form of a volume, and distributed in England. He could not complete the series. His friends, however, remembering his original intention, published a volume entitled "the Indian Sketches," in which were included not only the series alluded to above, but other articles on divers subjects that he had written for this journal. A copy of the book, however, somehow or other reached, the *London Review*, and this is the comment of that paper on it :—

"INDIAN SKETCHES."

By SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE, with an Introduction by W. S. Caine. (*Calcutta : G. L. Ghose, 1898.*)

The author's brother decided to collect together Shishir Kumar Ghose's articles which appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and publish them in the form of a volume. Most of these sketches, written in excellent English and an attractive style, were published when the author was a young man, the tone of which might have been refined if the MS. had been given into the reviser's hand; but, as Babu Mati Lal Ghose points out, they are probably more characteristic in their original form. These sketches are of a miscellaneous character: stories, with a distinct imaginative faculty on every page; excellent descriptions of exciting scenes; theological essays; a dissertation on Sutteeism; poetry; a spirited and long defence of their political rights ignored by the Government, entitled "The Perpetual Slavery of India," which it would do good to certain of the English people, if they would only take the trouble to read, and many other interesting essays. There is one called, "Mr. Kipling and his Member of Parliament," which is a warm criticism of an article which he published in the *Contemporary Review*. In it Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose says some hot things of Mr. Kipling. He is indignant at the intense hatred towards the Indian people that the article betrays. Here is one rather hot innuendo: "Mr. Kipling knows as well that he has to pay court to the strong, and the one short way of pleasing the strong is to leave him alone and abuse the weak. . . . The object of Mr. Kipling is to laud up the Indian officials and cry down the educated Indians and their friends in Parliament." Surely this is not generally known, and discovers a quite new phase of the already many-sided man. This particular article contains a good deal of interesting matter, and touches upon many delicate points. However, it is pleasant to find that our friends in India are capable of writing in such an interesting strain as is to be found in this book.—*London Review*, Sept. 17.

Yes, the difficulty is to make the English people read a book written by an Indian. Is it not strange that the Indians who have so far Anglicized themselves as to be able to write "in a strain which is likely to be interesting to Englishmen" should be yet thought as aliens and treated as a conquered nation by the enactment of sedition and other repressive laws?

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE progress of American women, in finding careers for themselves, is shown by the following table, published by the Government of the U. S. A.:—

	1870	1890	1897
Actresses	692	3,249	3,862
Architects	1	22	53
Painters and Sculptors	412	9,810	15,340
Writers on scientific and literary subjects	159	2,725	6,164
Clergy ladies	67	1,235	1,522
Dentists	24	337	417
Engineers	0	127	201
Journalists	35	888	1,436
Lawyers	6	208	471
Musicians	5753	34,518	47,309
Officials	414	4,875	6,712
Doctors and Surgeons	527	4,555	6,882
Theatrical Proprietors	100	634	943
Book-keepers	0	27,775	43,071
Copyists and Secretaries	8,016	64,048	92,824
Type-writers and short-hand writers	7	2 ,185	50,633

The list is apparently not exhaustive ; for, it does not include the number of ladies in America who have succeeded in growing beards, moustaches and other masculine signs on their persons. A few years ago, a painter, while painting Saraswati, the goddess of learning, adorned her with a pair of moustaches under the influence of *ganja*. This, of course, created a god deal of merriment. But such goddesses, we are told, are no rare sights in America. If women in America gradually all become men, how will the most advanced nation in the world continue to live ?

MAHARAJAH SURJA KANT ACHARJYA CHOWDHURY of Mymensing, who, it will be remembered, has already sent a young Indian to Italy for education in painting, now, we are glad to learn, intends sending three young Indians to America to receive technical education.

THE line between Kurhani and Mozafferpur, on the Bengal and North Western Railway, which was breached during the late flood, has not been as yet made ready for traffic. It appears it will take a month more to have the same fully and completely repaired. Vigorous attempts are being made to complete the repairs before the opening of the Sonepore Fair.

THE *Bankura Darpan* says that a number of wild elephants, which have appeared in the district, are causing immense mischief to crops and vegetables. Lately they have killed two men and have severely hurt a villager at Sholepore, within the jurisdiction of Ondai thana. The paper appeals to the authorities to get rid of this pest, as the people in the locality, where the elephants are seen, have been greatly frightened.

A MADRAS telegram to the *Pioneer* reports a plague riot in Trichinopoly. Colonel O'Hara, Medical Officer in charge of that station and Chairman of the Municipal Council, gave a lecture last week on plague, in which he stated what precautions would have to be taken. Upon this, some Mussulmans invited all their co-religionists to combine, in order to defeat the objects of the Plague Committee ; and on Sunday a mob proceeded to the segregation camp, burnt it down and then stoned the hospital assistants. The next day, three persons were arrested in this connection, and will be duly put on their trial.

A FEW days ago, our Arrah correspondent reported to us, and the statement was published in these columns, that the well-known Hindu preacher, Pundit Ambica Dutt Vyas, was dead. It subsequently transpired that it was a mistake, and the correction was promptly made. The mistake arose in this wise. There were two Pundit Ambica Dutts in Arrah—one Pundit Ambica Dutt Vyas and the other Pundit Ambica Dutt Misra. It was the latter who had departed this life ; and as he was not so well known as the other, the report was naturally current in the town that the distinguished Hindu preacher had died, and it was sent to us for publication.

A DEPUTATION, headed by Dr. Bhandarkar on behalf of the Poona Industrial Association, waited upon the members of His Excellency's Executive Council on Thursday last, in order to acquaint those gentlemen with the objects of the Association, and to ask for their patronage and assistance. It is said that two Hon'ble Councillors have consented to become Life Members of the Association. As for State-aid to the Association, the Hon'ble Members of the Council are not reported to have done anything more than offering their good wishes and a promise to do what may lie in their power, A way of getting funds for the Association, however, was pointed out by the Councillors hinting out that the Native States may be approached for substantial pecuniary help.

THE *Charu Mihir* of Mymensingh relates the following particulars of a serious crime and lawlessness. In December before last, a party of Mussalman *badmashes* one night entered the house of Niraj Sheik in village Gurh Bajail in thana Muktagacha, severely assaulted the inmates of the house, and forcibly carried off Joyfut Bibi, wife of Niraj. She was removed from one place to another, till after two months her husband succeeded in finding her whereabouts. The Police was duly informed; and Arfan Sardar, one of the badmashes, was arrested and *chalaned* by the Inspector of Mutkagacha thana. While Joyfut Bibi and men of her husband's party were on their way to Mymensingh to give evidence in the case against Arfan, they were attacked by a number of persons belonging to the same party of badmashes, who severely beat all others and again carried off Joyfut Bibi. She was, again, after a month or so, traced in the house of one Akbar, and rescued by the Police. And while Joyfut was being escorted to Mymensing by the Police Inspector and others, the party was attacked and Joyfut was again forcibly carried off. Some time after, she was again traced, and was brought to Mymensing to give evidence. Some of the badmashes have since been arrested. One of them, named Arman Piada, has been sentenced by the Assistant Sessions Judge to years' rigorous imprisonment. The others are proceeding.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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MONETARY.—Saturday's quotations lwere 1-3-15-16 for demand and 1-4-5-16 for six months.

WITHDRAWAL OF REGULATIONS.—The regulations made by the Military authorities when the plague was declared in Calcutta have now been withdrawn.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT.—The Hon. Mr. Finucane goes on three months' privilege leave at the end of this month, and Mr. F. A. Slack, who is returning from leave in the Sunda, will act for him.

CANCELMENT OF DECLARATION.—A Notification is published in the *Gazette* cancelling the P. W. Department Declaration, of the 4th May last, for land required for the excavation of a tank at Ichakali, in the district of Naokhali.

EXTENSION OF AN ACT.—The Lieutenant Governor has authorised the extension of the provisions of Act II (B. C.) of 1867 (an Act to provide for the punishment of gambling and the keeping of common gaming-houses) to the Chittagong Municipality from the 1st proximo.

THE PETROLEUM ACT.—Among the consolidation Bills which the Legislative Department have now in hand is one to consolidate and amend the Petroleum Act so as to make it apply to solids, such as carbide of calcium, as well as to liquids of an inflammable nature.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SPECTACLE.—After the conclusion of the thunderstorm on Wednesday night, at Madras, a single flash of lightning, unaccompained by rain, struck a large casuarina tree in the Adyar district, dividing the trunk in four sections from the bottom, presenting an extraordinary spectacle.

EXAMINATION FOR POLICE SUB-INSPECTORSHIPS.—The next divisional examination of candidates to fill vacancies in the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police will be held on the 19th and 20th December 1898 at the following centres:—at Calcutta (Senate House) for the Presidency, Rajshahi, and Burdwan Divisions; at Bankipore for the Patna, Bhagalpore, and Chota Nagpur Divisions; at Dacca for the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions; and at Cuttack for the Orissa Division. The necessary informations regarding the examination will be found in Wednesday's *Calcutta Gazette*.

CIVIL ENGINEERING COLLEGE, SIBPUR.—The following alterations in the rules of the College have been sanctioned by Government:—1. All applications for admission to the Engineering and Apprentice Departments must be accompanied by a registration fee of Re. 1, which in no case will be returned. 2. The tuition fee in the Engineering Department is raised from Rs.8 to Rs. 10 a month. 3. With the exception of Apprentices on the free and reduced fee lists, all other Apprentices will pay a tuition fee of Rs. 3 a month for each month of the year. These rules will come into force in the case of all admissions in June 1899, but will not apply to students already in the College.

BRANCH GAURANGA SAMAJ.—Last Saturday, a meeting was held in the premises of the Chaitanya Vidyalaya, 3 Muddon Mitter's Lane, for the purpose of founding the Simla Branch of the Gauranga Samaj. There was a large and influential assembly. Pundit Ambika Churn Vidyaratna read and explained texts from the Srimut Bhagagbhat, which was highly appreciated. Babu Rassik Mohun Chakravarti, Secretary to the Gouranga Samaj, delivered an eloquent address which was listened to with rapt attention. The Branch Samaj will hold a meeting every Saturday.

EXTRAORDINARY CYCLONE AT DELHI.—At exactly 3.-15 P. M. on Wednesday amidst a heated stillness unpleasantly suggestive of the hot weather—a small cyclone tore down upon Delhi from the north-west at a rate which must have closely approximated to a hundred miles an hour. Fortunately, its area was very limited, but unfortunately the *Morning Post* compound lay in its direct path, and for half-a-minute things were very lively. The noise resembled continuous thunder-claps, and the confusion was indescribable. When things settled down it was found that the corrugated iron roofing of the smaller of our two press buildings had been torn clean off. The whole business was over in thirty seconds, and were it not for the unroofed building, some chaprassis picking up their turbans, and a few damaged pigeons and kites smoothing their ruffled plumage, it would be impossible to credit the astounding violence of the whirlwind. It was no joke while it lasted, as to shift 2,000 feet of corrugated iron, strongly clamped down to solid beams, represents a good deal of horse-power exerted at a given point.—*Morning Post.*

MR. CHARLU'S WEDDING GIFT.—It is not half a bad idea of the Hon. Mr. Ananda Charlu, says the *Indian Mirror*, to use a book of love stories as a wedding gift. Mr. Charlu is often humorous and sometimes original. And both humour and originality are to be found in the wedding present he has made to Mr. Babington Smith and Lady Elizabeth Burce on their marriage. The present has taken the form of a volume, containing half-a-dozen love stories, called from ancient Hindu literature, and published by Mr. Charlu, under the style of "Love's Triumph Orientally Told." It is kind of Mr. Charlu to return the kindness in this novel fashion, and we may be sure that, before they leave India, the happy pair will have declared their supreme ecstasy to the author of "Love's Triumphs" at the triumph of their own love.—*Madras Standard.*

CROP AND WEATHER.—There were some scattered showers of rain, but the weather generally was clear and hot throughout the week ending 10th instant. The general prospects of the crops are favourable except in the flooded tracts, where both the *bhadoi* and winter rice have suffered considerably. Want of rain for the rice crop on high lands is beginning to be felt in some parts. In parts of Midnapore and Balasore the rice crop has been damaged by insects. The cultivation of lands for the *rabi* crops is proceeding, and the showing of pulses has begun. The harvesting of the *bhadoi* crops and jute is almost over. There has been little change of importance in the price of common rice since the last report. Some difficulty in procuring fodder is still experienced in some of the flooded tracts ; elsewhere the cattle are in good condition.

THE "TIMES OF INDIA" AND A PRESIDENCY MAGISTRATE.—Mr. S. B. Spencer has been pleased to inform the world in general, and ourselves in particular, that "he has no objection to lengthy and correct accounts of cases appearing in papers." Were Mr. Spencer an official censor of the press, this momentous announcemant might have some interest for us ; but as the functions of the presiding Magistrate of the Mazagon Police Court are distinctly limited, it seems a little superfluous. Mr. Spencer has again taken occasion to say that a report published in these columns was "in bad taste." We have already explained that the report in question was supplied from official sources contained no comment, and was printed in the same way as police reports are printed daily. There is no question of taste involved; and in any case, it is not our intention to bandy words regarding a question of taste with an Acting Fourth Presidency Magistrate.—*The Times of India.*

DEATHS FROM WILD ANIMALS.

IN the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the figures of deaths from wild animals for 1897 are 701, as compared with 642 in 1896. The mortality due to wolves continues to be heaviest in those Provinces, the number of deaths caused by these animals during the past four years, 1894 to 1897 inclusive, being 160, 246, 417 and 426, respectively. In Gorakhpur the number of deaths ascribed to wolves in 1897 is 58, but no wolf is reported to have been killed in that district. In the Lucknow District the number of deaths increased from 8 in 1896 to 26 in 1897. But in the Allahabad District the number fell from 39 in 1896 to 2 in the year reported on, but in this district the number of wolves killed in 1897 was 97, as compared with 52 in 1896. The deaths in the Moradabad District were reduced from 118 in 1896 to 79 in 1897. The number of deaths in the Budaun District was 95, and only 30 wolves were destroyed. Better results are expected in the Rohilkhand Division during the current year, as an enhanced scale of rewards has been sanctioned. It is reported that 520 wolves were destroyed in the Meerut District during 1897 as compared with 35 in 1896, but the Local Government is doubtful of the accuracy of the figures. In the Central Provinces the heaviest mortality is attributable to tigers and panthers. The number of deaths caused by tigers rose from 172 in 1896 to 350 in 1897, and by panthers from 54 in 1896, to 214 in 1897. In Balaghat the number of persons killed by tigers was 76, as compared with 43 in 1896 and the number killed by panthers was 21, while no deaths from these animals were reported in 1896. In Mandla the deaths caused by tigers rose from 11 to 62, and by panthers from 4 to 27. In Bilaspur 52 deaths are ascribed to tigers and 25 to panthers, as compared with 38 and 10, respectively, in the previous year. The mortality caused by these animals is reported to have increased in almost every district. This is no doubt due, as in Bengal, to the people resorting in larger number to the forests in search of food, and to the dryness of the year which brought the animals nearer inhabited parts in search of water.

TWO British Officers, four native officers, and 192 rank and file with 21 followers and three hospital assistants sailed in the "Rajputana," a few days ago, to join the British East African Force.

IN CONNECTION with the announcement by the Hon. Mr. Rivaz that the Central Provinces Tenancy and Land Revenue Bills would be passed at Simla, the *Calcutta Weekly Law Notes* takes occasion to remark that this is contrary to practice :—"As a rule, no important measure of legislation is introduced and passed at Simla. The Government of India can depart from this rule only in cases of emergency. There are three notable instances of measures of importance having been passed at Simla. These are (1) The Tariff Act (XVI) of 1875, (2) The Indian Arms Act (XI) of 1878, (3) The Official Secrets Act (XV) of 1889. As regards the two latter, emergency or State exigency may with some propriety be urged in justification. But with regard to the Tariff Act of 1875, it will be remembered that the passing of it at Simla not only raised universal public protest, but also met with the disapproval of the Secretary of State for India. If we are not mistaken, Lord Northbrook sought to justify it on the ground of emergency. This formed the subject of long correspondence between him and the Secretary of State ; and Lord Northbrook, finding that he was unable to convince the Secretary of State, ultimately resigned. In the face of these facts we do not think that emergency could with any propriety be urged with regard to the Central Provinces Tenancy and Land Revenue Bills. We always like to see our Legislature and Law Courts follow the settled practice."

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, OCT. 12.

It is quite settled that one anna postage comes into force between the United Kingdom and India and the Colonies from Chtistmas day next.

Prince of Faridkote will be installed before Dashara.

PURI, OCT 14.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor having called for all the papers on monkey killing from the District Magistrate, the Magistrate Mr. Delevingne has ordered the municipal authorities to submit to him all the papers on the question at once, and he has also suspended monkey killing until further orders from His Honour. We give our hearty thanks to Mr. Delevingne for his such wise sympathy to Hindu feeling and also to Doctor Gillman for his continued advocacy of Hindu cause. As for latrine nothing has been done as yet.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, OCT. 11

Daily interviews are taking place between Sir Edmund Monson and M. Delcasse on the Fashoda question. The *Temps*, dicussing the British Blue-book, remarks that Lord Salisbury no longer bases the Anglo-Egyptian claim to Fashoda upon the anterior rights of the Khedive but on the right of conquest over the possessions of the Khalifate. This change of front, the *Temps* adds, greatly assists the French argument, and M. Delcasse can count upon the support of the whole nation equally with the support given to Lord Salisbury.

LONDON, OCT. 11.

A vote of "No Confidence" in the Government has been carried in the Cape House of Assembly by thirty-nine against thirty-seven votes.

LONDON, OCT. 12.

The reported removal of the Egyptian War Office to Khartoum is untrue.

LONDON, OCT. 12

The Porte proposes to retain a small garrison in Crete as the emblem of the sovereignty of the Sultan.

LONDON, OCT. 13,

President McKinley, speaking at Omaon referred to new and grave problems chae fronting the nation., "We must avoide," oth said "the temptation of undue aggressrn,, and aim only at securing our own geneal welfare, ours never having been a military government."

LONDON, OCT. 12.

Accredited reports have reached London that Marchand is in such straits that it is impossible for him to remain long at Fashoda. Lord Rosebery addressing a meeting at Espon on the Fashoda question said that it involved points of extreme gravity. France had deliberately ignored the warning given while he was in office, and if the British Government maintained the present attitude the nation would make any sacrifice to support them. Nevertheless he hoped for a pacific settlement of the question since M. Delcasse was conciliatory, and had practically admitted that the Marchand Mission was unofficial.

LONDON, OCT. 12.

Sir Gordon Sprigg's ministry at the Cape has resigned, and Mr. Schereiner has undertaken the task of forming a new Cabinet.

LONDON OCT. 13.

The powers are despatching a fresh note to the Sultan rejecting the proposal to retain a small garrison in Crete, and declaring that every Turkish soldier must leave the Island within the specified time.

LONDON, OCT. 13.

The Hon. St. John Brodrick succeeds Lord Curzon as Parliamentary Secretary to the Foregin Office.

LONDON, OCT. 13.

While numbers of the Paris strikers are resuming work the Railway Union has to-day ordered a general strike on all French Railways.

LONDON, OCT. 13.

The French have captured King Samory with the whole of his family and all his leading chiefs.

LONDON, OCT. 13.

General Sir Francis Grenfell has been appointed Colonel Commandant of Rifles (the Rifle Brigade ?)

LONDON, OCT. 13.

The German authorities have appointed a Naval Captain named Jaeschke, Governor of Kiaochau, in the place of Rosenthal.

LONDON, OCT. 14.

The French papers announce the discovery of a military conspiracy to overthrow the present rulers. The conspiracy was not directed against the Presidency nor in favour of any pretender. The plot was led by a prominent General, and was to be executed to-morrow, when General Chanoine, Minister of War, was expected to be absent from Paris.

LONDON, OCT. 14

M. Brisson, the French Premier, being warned, has taken steps to thwart the railway strike which is to begin to-day. The troops have been sent to occupy all the stations.

The French threaten to send troops across the Chinese frontier unless a Frenchman, who is in the hands of the rebels in Szechuan is released.

LONDON, OCT. 14.

General Lockhart has gone to Balmoral on a visit to the Queen, and proceeds to Bombay in the steamer Caledonia, joining the vessel by the overland route.

MR. MILNE, Executive Engineer, is, on return from leave, posted to the Bara-Ajmere and Marwar Railway Survey. Mr. Rice, Assistant Traffic Superintendent, on return from leave, is transferred from the Oudh and Rohiikhand Railway to the North-Western Railway. Mr. Sisson, Assistant Engineer, is tansferred from the Vizianagram-Raipur Railway Survey to the North-Western Railway.

Correspondence.

"LORD GAURANGA."

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have been fortunate enough to come across the book "Lord Gauranga or Salvation for All", and have found it most interesting as well as useful for religious culture. The entire Hindu community is highly indebted to the author for his conferring such a blessing on it. It is only by such efforts that the true religion comes to light during this state of social and religious revolution. The name of Sri Krishna Chaitanya is somewhat known in this part of the country, but a very few have the knowledge of who he was and what he has done. I strongly believe that the book in question establishes firmly the foundation of faith in our religion, and thereby prevents light-minded people from converting themselves to the faith of other religions, which also in many respects fail in satisfying them. I, therefore, think that it would be a great service in the cause of religion if the book is translated into the vernaculars of our country.

J. N. PATHAK.
Mudikhana, Santakram's Lane, Baroda.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE S. J. SERVICE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The present system of recruiting officers in the Subordinate Judicial Service being very defective, and severe injustice being done to many of the enrolled candidates, I beg to address you the following lines, hoping that you will try your best to discuss the matter in the columns of your valuable and much-esteemed paper, with a view to have the present grievances redressed.

In every department of Government service, there is a fixed rule, according to which appointments are allotted to candidates. In this department, there is no such fixed rule.

It is the express rule of the department that seniority of enrolment would not entitle a candidate to obtain an appointment earlier. Nor does the department give priority to merit.

In fact, in this department officers are recruited at random from the enrolled candidates. It is said by the authorities in charge that in allotting appointments those claims which would be soon age-barred, are considered first before others, in spite of the latter being superior in point of merit or seniority of enrolment. This method, to a certain, extent is fair, no doubt. But it goes hard with those candidates who, after creditably passing the University examinations earlier than others, had their names so enrolled for appointments in the department and are very often turned out disappointed in the long run.

Vacancies in this department are not of every-day occurrence, and thus the claims of the earlier-enrolled candidates being delayed, their names are very often struck off from the list after their prescribed age is over. So young age which is of very great importance to every one desirous of Government employment, and was also a blessing to the candidates in this department at the time of enrolment, becomes a source of misfortune at the time of allotment of appointments by the authorities. I may also add that by the present system the ablest and the most intelligent candidates are very often excluded, which is a great loss to the public as well as to the Government.

In my opinion, merit or seniority of enrolment should be the only guide for giving priority to claims for employment in uniformity with the rules of the other departments.

ONE AGGRIEVED.

THE LUCHMIPORE ESTATE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I will give you an impartial account how the Luchmipore Estate in Bhagalpore at last came into the hands of the Court of Wards. After the death of the chief, his widow, who adopted a son, managed the property. The Estate was, as usual, involved ; and the Ranee came to feel that an attempt would be made to place it in the hands of the Court of Wards. To ward off this calamity, she sought counsel of her Dewan. It was settled that the only way to avert it, would be to bring a European into the scene, that is to say, to place the Estate in the hands of a European manager. The Dewan was, of course, entrusted with the task of bringing this about; for, the widow, being a Hindu lady, had to work through her servants. The Dewan had thus to find a European as manager, but also one who is agreeable. He found such a man in one Mr. Breadwood. He had taken the lease of a lead-mine from the Estate, and this made him acquainted with the servants of the Estate. The proposal was made to Mr. Breadwood, who, of course, at once acceded to the request, and he was made manager of the Luchmipore Estate. The Dewan then advised the Ranee to keep some private property solely to herself, that is to say, under his own control. The Dewan and Mr. Breadwood were on excellent terms.

Mr. Breadwood saw that the Dewan had great influence with the Ranee; so his interests did not lie in quarrelling with him. The Dewan, on the other hand, knew that so long Mr. Breadwood was there, there was no chance of the Estate being taken possession of by the Court of Wards, and he thus practically extinguished himself.

The agreement with Mr. Breadwood was at first for three years. These three years they all passed happily. On the expiry of the term, Mr. Breadwood again applied for a fresh agreement and this was entered into. The second agreement was for one year only. On the expiry of the second agreement, the third was entered into. This was again for three years. Mr. Breadwood thus got altogether seven years' agreement to manage the Estate in the way he liked. Indeed, to the credit of all parties it must be said, that for five years they managed to live in peace and amity,—the Ranee, the Dewan, and Breadwood.

The Ranee wanted to transfer the property to her son, and she applied to the authorities for it. This proved an apple of discord. We next see Mr. Breadwood requesting the Ranee to enter into a fresh agreement with him for seven years. The terms of the agreement proposed an absolute surrender of property to Mr. Breadwood. The Ranee refused it.

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three grounds:—(1) the terms proposed were very hard; (2) the last agreement had not expired; and (3) Mr. Breadwood had not rendered the accounts for the five or six years that he had managed the property. This refusal on the part of the Ranee to accede to the terms of Mr. Breadwood, caused a breach between the two. Mr. Breadwood applied to the Commissioner of the Division to have this agreement sanctioned; but the Commissioner said in reply that the Ranee was the master, and he had no hand in the matter. The Dewan was opposed to this transfer of property in the name of the son; and seeing that he was daily losing power, he resigned. Mr. Breadwood, under the terms of the last agreement, continued to manage the property. But the good feeling between him and the Ranee was completely destroyed. A report was made by the *amlas* that the young Kumar was interfering with the management of the property. The Ranee was asked to show cause, and a Barrister, Mr. Peacock, was brought from Calcutta to defend the Kumar. The enquiry showed that the Kumar had done nothing wrong; but his education was neglected, and the Ranee suggested that a Hindu tutor should be appointed for the purpose of educating the Kumar. We, however see a European, Mr. Craven, was appointed as tutor to the Kumar, and accordingly the new tutor came to Luchmipore. The arrangement did not meet with the approval of the Ranee, for, she wanted a Hindu and not a European for his son's tutor. Thus Mr. Craven did not find an access to his pupil. However, the Ranee, fearing the displeasure of the authorities, wanted to have a talk with Mr. Craven. A Darbar was held, and he, Mr. Carven, was invited to come. In reply to her invitation, Mr. Craven said that he had no business with the Ranee, and thus there was a rupture between the new tutor and the Ranee. On the day this Durbar was held, the Sub-divisional Officer of Banka was present. It is believed that the Ranee having refused to accept this new tutor, the authorities were offended and the Board was requested by them to place the property in the hands of the Court of Wards. The Ranee, as a woman, had no means of resisting the above arrangement. It must be borne in mind that the Kumar will come of age in two or three years.

A WELL-WISHER OF THE RANEE.

MONKEY-KILLING AT PURI.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I read the proceedings of the Puri Municipality on the monkey-killing question, and your editorial remarks thereon in your issue of the 3rd instant. I have no hesitation to say that any sensible reader, reading your remarks with the proceedings, will draw the conclusion that you are not impartial, as a journalist of your standing and position should in *all cases* be, in casting your side-glances at "a Brahmo" and "a Eurasian"; for, it requires no prophet to see that of the 8 Commissioners (including the Chairman), who sat at the meeting of the 14th April, 1897, in which the monkey-killing Resolution was passed, 6 were Hindus (2 being Brahmos) of whom again one was a Panda, and two were high-caste Uriya Brahmans, *viz.*, Panda Narayan Khuntia, Hazuri Nilkantha Khuntia, Babu Harihar Misra. The other 3 were all staunch Hindus. The Resolution was passed unanimously without a single *dissentient* voice. There was no European Chairman, for fear of whom it might be urged the dissenting Commissioners kept quiet.

I am the veritable "Brahmo", and in several of my visits round the *Hindu town*, many Uriya Hindu residents strongly pleaded for the *killing* of monkeys that did all sorts of havoc and mischief. They said, they had several times prayed for the same thing, but in vain. They also named Mr. Madeira, Conservancy Inspector, whom they begged for killing monkeys. As a Commissioner, I was bound by the honour of my position to put down the matter in writing before the Commissioners; and I did so in my report, dated the 25th March, 1897, which has been mentioned in the proceedings. The Conservancy Inspector, being asked by the Chairman, put his Note upon my Report. I don't remember, at this distance of time, what he wrote. But as far as I can remember, I did not, in my Report, propose the killing of the monkeys, but simply stated what I had been requested to do by the Hindu residents.

Now, in common fairness, would you not do the same? Supposing you had the misfortune of being a Commissioner of the Puri Municipality and were requested by the Hindu residents to take steps to kill the monkeys, which often *bit, lacerated* and *severely wounded* their dear children and snatched off their hands the *plates of eatables*, would you not communicate the substance of their request to the Commissioners at a meeting? And if this report is embodied in a Resolution, and passed unanimously by the Commissioners, of whom three-fourths were Hindus, and acted upon by the appointment of one shot at Rs. 8 per month, for nearly 4 months, with the result of some 400 monkeys killed, wherein would lie your guilt or your singularity as a Brahmo, supposing you were one? As for the Eurasian Inspector, Mr. Madeira, he was not a Commissioner, but a mere servant of the Commissioners, bound to carry out their orders and as such quite innocent.

T. N. CHAKRAVARTI.

Krishnagur.
The 10th October.

[It was on the authority of our Puri correspondent that we said that it was on the report of Babu T. N. Chakravarti, a Brahmo, that the crusade against the monkeys was undertaken. Babu T. N., it will be seen, denies that he recommended the slaughter of the animals.—Ed.]

As already announced, the Secretary of State has sanctioned the appointment of a Special Commission to make an investigation of a scientific character in India in connection with the plague. The main questions with which the Commission will deal, are the origins of the different outbreaks of plague, the manner in which the disease is communicated, and the effects of the curative serum and preventive inoculation. The Commission will be composed of three scientists from home and two civil officers of Indian experience. Messrs. J, P. Hewett, Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, who shortly returns from furlough, and Mr. A Cumine, of the Bombay Civil Service, have been selected to represent the latter. A Secretary to the Commission will also be appointed shortly.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

THE CASE OF THE CHITTAGONG "SONGSODHINI."

From

J. D. Anderson, Esquire,
Collector of Chittagong.

To

The Commissioner of Chittagong.
No. 1333 G.
Chittagong, the 20th August, 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that in the issue of the "Songsodhini" of the 17th August there is printed a letter, addressed to you by the Legal Remembrancer and relating to a matter now *sub judice*. I would suggest that the Editor be asked to explain how he obtained possession of the letter. It must obviously have been divulged to him by some clerk in your office, in mine or in that of the General Manager. In any case, however, the Editor must have known that the letter was not his or public property, and ought not to have been published without your consent.

I have &c.
(Sd) J. D. Anderson.
Collector.

URGENT.

Memo No. 1457 C.
Dated Chittagong, the 23rd August, 1898.

Copy forwarded to the District Judge of Chittagong, together with a copy of the Legal Remembrancer's letter No. 201 W of 15th July, 1898, for information. Perhaps the District Judge will think fit to take proceedings against the Editor of the "Songsodhini" for contempt of Court in publishing the Legal Remembrancer's opinion during the pending of the civil suit in the District Judge's court.

(Sd.) G. E. Manisty.
Offig. Commissioner.

J. MIS. CASE.

Court of the District Judge of Chittagong
Suit No. 68 of 1898.

Government . . . . . Petr.
vs.
Editor of "Sonsodhini"

1. 31-8-98. Register. Issue Notice upon Editor of "Songsodhini", fixing 10th September, 1898, to show cause why he should not be proceeded against for contempt of Court.

(Sd) J. N. Roy.
for O. D. J.

[The following is the translation of the Notice issued to the Editor in Bengalee.

Court of the District Judge of Chittagong.
Suit No. 68 of 1898.

To the Editor of the "Songsodhini."

This is to inform you that whereas in the issue of the "Songsodhini" of the 17th August you, without the permission of the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, published a letter received by the said Commissioner from the Legal Remembrancer's office *in re* the probate to the estate of the late Woomesh Chunder Roy, while proceedings in connection therewith were still pending before this court, you are required to show cause why you should not be prosecuted for contempt of court. If you have any such cause to show, you are required to be present in this court on the 10th September, 1898, and do the same.

Duly signed and sealed. Dated the 3rd September, 1898.

By order of the District Judge.
(Sd.) J. Maranda,
Sheristadar.]

[The following is the translation of the Editor's Explanation, submitted in Bengalee.

To His Honour
The District Judge of Chittagong.

Respectfully sheweth.—

In accordance with the (Motfurka) Notice, dated the 3rd September, 1898, I have to show cause as follows:

(1) I have not committed the offence of contempt of Court, nor have I ever had any desire to commit the offence.

(2) The suit regarding the probate was not being heard by the Court on the day the letter was published in the "Songsodhini." The hearing of the suit had already been concluded. Judgment had been reserved, and therefore. no opinion was expressed (in the paper) regarding the suit.

3. At the time the letter was published, the Court did not consider the publication as constituting contempt of Court, nor did it take any action, of its own motion, under Section 480.

4. The Commissioner or the Collector drew the attention of your Honour to the publication of the letter, giving it as his opinion that it constitutes the offence of contempt of Court. Therefore, if any contempt has at all been committed, it has been commited not by me but by him. Moreover, the Commissioner's letter reached your Honour after the proceedings in the suit had come to a close.

(5.) I have committed no offence under section 228. Moreover, the act attributed to me was not done in the presence or view of the Court.

(6) I have not been able to make out under what section of the Code I have been considered guilty of an offence and the Notice accordingly issued to me. For this reason I am not in a position to render a full answer. The Notice is illegal.

(7) I have not been able to understand how and in respect of which Court I committed contempt by publishing the letter without the Commissioner's permission.

(8) In publishing the lettter I have in no way commented upon the hearing or procedure in respect of any pending suit or proceeding in your Honour's court. Under the circumstance there can be no contempt of Court.

Under the circum tances, I most respectfully pray that your Honour will take the above into your consideration and exempt me from liabilities under the Notice.]

2. 10-19-98 Heard. Order reserved.

(Sd.) G. Gordon.
O. D. G.

12-9-98. The Editor has submitted an Explanation and he was subsequently represented by Babu Prasanna Kumar Das. The Editor refuses to give the name of the person who gave him the letter in question; and he is unable also to answer me that he did not receive it from some one interested in the probate case to which it refers. I am, therefore, unable to accept his statement that the article was intended merely as a criticism of the conduct of the Court of Wards. I am obliged to conclude that the publication was made with the intention of influencing the decision of this court. In England this has, I believe, always been held to be contempt of Court, and has occasionally been severely punished. In this country also the High Courts have always held that they have the power to commit for contempt of Court and they have exercised it in several cases. If seems clear to me that subordinate Courts are entitled to the same protection; and I should not hesitate to pass an order similar to those made by the High Courts, if I thought that they were necessitated in the interests of Justice.

In the present case the Editor prefers an apology; and it is also argued on his behalf that no action would have been taken if the attention of this Court had not been officially called to the letter in question.

I admit that I should not have taken any notice of the letter if I had not been requested to do so, and the my decision also shows that it had no influence upon it. I also assume that the Editor had no personal interest in the case in which the Court of Wards was the petitioner for probate, and it is therefore possible that the writer was not responsible for the motive that inspired his article. Under such circumstances, I do not desire to take further action. This case is dismissed. It is hoped that such a regrettable error of judgment will not be again committed.

(Sd.) G. Gordon.
O. D. J.

A MADRAS telegram to the *Indian Daily News* says:—Information has reached Madras from Podanur that nothing is known there of the tragedy at the plague camp, telegraphed to Calcutta yesterday.

The *Akhbar-i-Alum*, a Meerut weekly, was prosecuted for publishing obscene matter. Hakim Mukarub Hussain, the proprietor, pleaded that for the last three or four months he had been seriously ill, and never saw the objectionable articles, as he was unable to attend to public or private business. He also argued that his staff had been under a mistake, for what appeared was merely the translation of a medical work, which had run through four issues of 1,000 which had been registered by the N.-W.-P. and Punjab Governments, and had been publicly sold for some years past, and that, as Government had never taken any notice of the original publication, it was naturally thought Government approved of the publication. They were, therefore, misled and expressed regret if they had erred in any way. Mukarub Hussain was fined Rs. 250 by Mr. Wild, the District Magistrate; while he fined the translator Mahomed Ismail, Rs 100. In another case Mahomed Hussain was fined Rs. 150, Aiziz Ali, Rs. 250, and Mahomed Khalil Rs. 100 for translating, publishing any selling a book called "Tohfa-tul-Ashkeen" ("An Excellent present for Lovers.") In defence these persons urged that the book was a mere translation of a medical work, and was thus not obscene from a libidinous point of view, and that the passages objected to were also to be found in several other medical works by other authors which were field.

HELPLESS ON THE SHOALS.

A GREAT steamship, feeling her way in a fog, ran upon a low mud bank and stuck fast, about twenty miles from her port. She had on board a valuable cargo and nearly three hundred passengers, most of whom were almost within sight of their homes. The tugs came and tried vainey to pull her into deep water. The officers were as able navigators as there had ever been. But she was helpless, and it was deep low water. Only one thing could be done—to wait. A few hours later the Captain said to his passengers, "*The tide is rising;* we shall be off presently." Sixty minutes more and the ship floated. It was now noon. At two o'clock sharp the impatient voyagers stepped ashore. They might have been delayed longer save for the one fact which the captain had announced in four words.

Perhaps this simple and not uncommon incident may contain a lesson for you and me. Suppose we draw a little comparison and see. The man who learns nothing from things at his elbow will only waste his time going to college.

Mr. William Jordan is grocer and postmaster at Bright Waltham, Wantage, Ber[illegible], where everybody knows him and believes in him. On December 7th, 1893, he wrote a letter to a friend, and by consent of both parties we print a part of it.

"In the autumn of 1890," he says, "I had an attack of influenza. The effects of it lingered with me. I had no heart for anything. I was tried, languid, and weary. My appetite fell away, and what I did eat gave me a sense of tightness and fulness at the chest; my bowels were very costive, and I suffered much from sick headache. Sharp pains often caught me between the shoulders, and, my breathing was very bad. I kept on with my work, but, on account of my weakness, the task was doubly hard. For about four months I was like this when one day the thought came to me to try a medicine that so many of my customers bought of me and spoke so highly of. I carried out this idea, and after I had taken one bottle of it I noticed this first of all—*My appetite was better.* I could I eat; I relished my food; I got stronger. took another bottle and was as well as ever. That is three years ago, and I havent had a touch of illness since. (Signed) William Jordan"

One more letter—short and right straight to the point. Mr. William R. Saunders writes it He is a newshagent, and lives at Old Town, Wotton under-Edge, Gloucestershire. His letter is date-November 7th, 1893, just one month to a day earlier than Mr. Jordan's. That merely happens so the two gentlemen having no knowledge of each other.

"In the spring of 1891," says Mr. Saunders, "I found myself out of sorts all unexpectedly. I couldn't fancy what had come over me. I was low, weak, and tired. I could eat hardly anything, and what I did eat gave me so much pain and distress that I came to dread sitting down to a meal. There were pains in my chest, sides, and back, between the shoulder blades. Then I got so weak that my work was a sort of drag on my hands; and even when walking I was so short of breath I had to stop and rest here and there. I took medicines the doctor gave me, and pills, &c, that my friends recommended; but it was no use, they didn't help me. And all the time, month after month, I was getting weaker and weaker. At last I got a bottle of medicine from Bristol that was right. That the bottle had this effect at first. *My appetite came back*, and when I got through with the second bottle I was completely cured. (Signed) William R. Saunders."

Now for the lesson. You see what it is, of course, but let's have it in words. When the ship was fast on the shoal only one thing helped her—*the rising tide.*

When these two men were fast on the shoal of illness only one thing helped then—*the rising appetite* With eating and digestion came strength and health, for the trouble was that universal destroyer and deceiver, indigesttion and dyspepsia.

The *tide* rose to the pull of the moon. The languid *appetite* is roused by medicine finally resorted to by both our correspondent—Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup.

WHAT THE QUEEN EATS.

ALL ABOUT HER MAJESTY'S FARMS, DAIRIES, AND BAKERIES.

EVERY Royal Palace has its own elaborate system of household management, and this even when the Court only spends a few nights in the year at any one Royal residence. Thus, there are most elaborate and excellent kitchen and household arrangements at Buckingham Palace, and yet, as most people know, Her Majesty rarely honours London with more than a two days' visit.

So expensive is it to set the vast machinery of a Royal household in motion, that one cannot wonder very much at the Queen's marked disinclination to invite her innumerable foreign relation to "put up" at one of the Royal Palaces.

If she once related the very strict rules she has made on the subject, Buckingham Palace would soon become the favourite London "hotel" of Continental Royalties, the more so that there would be no bills to pay, and as for the question of "vails," they are expected to be almost as large in an ordinary hostelry as in a Royal residence.

Till Queen Victoria ascended the throne extravagance ran riot in each Royal household, but in the quiet, deliberate manner to which Her Majesty has accustomed the nation to see her act in so many much more important matters, the young Queen set herself to inaugurate reforms in this most essentially feminine department, and now boardwages are the order of the day, and even when the Court is in residence at certain of the palaces, this rule is not relaxed.

Of course, it is a great mistake to say that Queen Victoria at home—that is to say, Windsor, Osborne, or Balmoral—does not act in a very different manner from what she has found it necessary to do in those Crown residences occupied by her but seldom. Although everything is conducted with a certain regard to economy, there is no stint. Her Majesty's household—speaking in the technical and not, of course, in the official sense of the term—receives, wherever it may happen to be, its supplies from one of the home farms or gardens.

Thus, the cream and butter is dispatched every morning from Frogmore dairy, a most charming and exquisite building, fitted with all the newest improvements, and which is often visited by the Queen's grandchildren, and both at Balmoral and at Osborne a few cows are kept, with a view to providing absolutely fresh milk for the many royal babies who find their way to their grandmother's and great-grandmother's country homes.

The Queen has very decided tastes of her own, even in butter, and accordingly all that turned out from the Frogmore dairy for the Royal table is only very slightly salted, and is made up after its arrival in the cool, vault-like chamber where the daily supply is salted, and is made up after its arrival in the cool, vault-like chamber where the daily supply of cream butter, and ice is kept, into tiny pats, the Royal Crown being stamped on each. Even in the matter of dairy management Her Majesty does not conceal her preference for Scotch methods, and the head dairywoman at Frogmore is a native of Deeside.

All Her Majesty's bread is made by the Palace baker, and each Palace boasts of a baker of its own, with the one exception of Buckingham Palace, for when the Queen is in town she is always supplied by a Viennese, who has had the honour of providing the Palace with what is commonly called French bread since the far-off day when he came, a Jewish refugee to London, and found the kindest of friends and patrons in the late Prince Consort.

At one time Her Majesty, even when at Windsor, had a regular daily supply of these rolls sent her, but on one occasion the train arrived too late, and now the Royal baker does the best he can to produce the dainty French and Viennese bread of which his Royal mistress is so fond. It is characteristic that the Queen is always content to have stale rolls on Sunday, in other words, she does not countenance Sunday bapings.

The Queen's children do not share all her tastes in this respect; thus, the Empress Frederick only eats rye bread, and the four children of Princes Beatrice are entirely restricted to brown bread, although they are occasionally given as a treat one of their grandmother's French rolls, made up into the shape of a little mannikin.

In Callander is to be found the modest little shop from which Her Majesty gets her regular weekly supply of Scotch shortbread. This has continued ever since the time when the Queen made a sojourn at Invertrossachs, situated some two miles from Callander in the vicinity of the beautiful district immortalised by Scott in his "Lady of the Lake." Another Scotch speciality, which always accompanies the Queen, wherever she may be, at home or abroad, is Lochnagar whisky, for the Scotch and Irish national drink is the only form of spirits which her physicians allow Her Majesty to take.

A great northern delicacy much appreciated by Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice is hotch-potch, and a peculiar kind of oatmeal soup, in the receipt for which white wine figures.

As in more humble households, the fish question plays now a far more important part in Her Majesty's larder than was formerly the case. As time has gone on, people have become aware of the extreme nutritive value of even the least expensive eable fish, and Queen Victoria sets a good example to her subjects by her affection for cod and whiting. Wherever the Court may happen to be staying, a good supply of both these marine delicacies arrive daily, and when Her Majesty is stopping at Osborne, fresh fish figures largely at every meal, excepting, of course, at tea.

The Queen is very fond of Scotch salmon, and she owns fourteen miles of salmon fishing on the Dee, including the famous Abergeldie stretch, noted for the splendid catches often made there by amateurs. But even when Her Majesty is abroad, her keepers, during the salmon season, despatch at least twice a week splendid salmon to the Queen's larder. The first lady in the land has also a thorough liking for cheese, and Cheshire has always been especially favoured by Her Majesty.

The Royal household depends almost entirely for fruit, both forced and, in season on the beautiful kitchen gardens, pineries, and vineries at Frogmore. Her Majesty has a wholesome dislike to anything forced or out of season; but with the old-fashioned hostess's true regard for her guests, it has always been her earnest wish that everything provided should be of the very best and also of the rarest. Even during the winter, strawberries and cream are not unfrequently found on the Royal table, and it is asserted that the Empress Eugenie first formed a taste for hot-house grapes, when she and Napoleon III. spent a few days at Windsor in 1854.

Every kind of spice—for Queen Victoria has all the German fondness for cinnamon—is to be found in the Royal storeroom, and Her Majesty has remained faithful to special blends of tea and coffee, recommended to her when she was still a young married woman by Lord Grey. It is hardly necessary to say, that the coffee is both fresh roasted and fresh ground every day, and that Her Majesty favours the old-fashioned China tea of her youth.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab will proceed to Nahan with his staff on the 28th of October, and instal the Ticca Sahib on the *gaddi* rendered vacant by the death of the late Raja.

THE Commander-in-Chief has confirmed the sentence of death passed on Trumpeter Muggu Singh, of the 1st Punjab Cavalry, for shooting a Ressaldar of the same regiment on the 7th of July.

CHARACTER BY THE EYEBROWS.

AN arched eyebrow does not indicate the high order of intelligence, but is expressive of great sensibility. Scant growth of the eyebrows denotes lack of vitality; on the contrary, heavy thick eyebrows indicate a strong constitution and great physical endurance.

They are not beautiful on a woman's face, however much they may signify either mental or bodily vigour, and when they are not only heavy, but dense and meet at the nose, they are disagreeable, and are said to accompany an insincere and prying nature.

Long drooping eyebrows lying wide apart, indicate an amiable disposition. Where the eyebrows are lighter in colour than the hair, the indications are of lack of vitality and great sensitiveness.

Faintly defined eyebrows placed high above the nose are signs of indolence and weakness. Very bushy eyebrows give the face an intense and searching expression; when natural they accompany a passionate temperament.

Very light eyebrows rarely are seen on strongly intellectual faces, although the colour of the eyebrows is not accepted simply as denoting lack of intelligence; the form gives the key to the faculties and their direction. Red eyebrows denote great fervour and ambition; brown, a medium between the red and black.

THERE were 34 cases and 36 deaths in Bombay on Tuesday.

LORD SANDHURST with his Staff left Simla on Thursday, on the termination of his visit to the Viceroy.

NO cases of plague are yet reported in Madras. Inoculation is proceeding rapidly. The authorities are meeting with hearty support in preventive measures from all classes. No less than sixty dhobies were prosecuted on Thursday for infringing the licensing rules.

THE report of the Indian Famine Commission is now practically ready for presentation to Government. Mr. McIntosh, who has been acting as Secretary to the Commission, will shortly revert to his substantive appointment of Junior Secretray to the Bengal Board of Revenue.

OFFICIAL intelligence having been received that the funeral of the Queen of Denmark takes place on the 19th instant, the Governor-General directs that flags shall be hoisted half mast high at all the forts and stations throughout India on that day.

A MADRAS telegram to the *Englishman*, dated the 13th says:—Exaggerated rumours appear to have gained currency as to the cyclone in Madras As a matter of fact a storm of cyclonic nature, which was reported as crossing the Bay several days past, seems to have spent itself before reaching the Coast in the neighbourhood of Masulipatam. The steamer *Jupiter*, however, encountered somewhat severe weather 240 miles north of Madras, having evidently passed through the outskirts of the so-called cyclone. She arrived in Madras harbour yesterday, having slightly damaged her deck-fittings.

A POONA telegram says:—A mysterious affair occurred on the railway a short time back. A *mauzair* was found sleeping at Kern station with some thousands of rupees worth of jewellery in his possession. He was taken to Sholapur where the police havildar, satisfied of the man's honesty, released him. The man left a large portion of the property at the police *chowkey* and went to the native city. Days later his body was found floating in a well near the *chowkey* stripped of ornaments and the bag which the deceased carried was found to contain less property. The police are making enquiries.

THE annual Note on the crop experiments in Assam for the past year shows that there was an increase in the number of experiments effected in all districts, except Cachar, Kamrup, and Lakhimpur. The most important crop grown in the Brahmaputra Valley is sali or late transplanted rice, and is that with which the largest number of experiments have been made. According to these experiments the average yield of the crop per acre is a little over 19 maunds. There are two varieties of sali—bar dhan and lahi dhan. Regarding the comparative productiveness of the two varieties, the former is much more prolific than the finer variety, lahi dhan, and gives an average outturn of 21½ maunds per acre, against 15¼ maunds per acre, the average of the finer variety. Similar experiments with rice were conducted in Cachar and also in the Khasi, Garo and Jaintia Hills. Experiments made with sugarcane show that the average weight of molasses per acre is 1,513 lbs., or a little below 18½ maunds; that cane yields 47·12 per cent of its weight of juice and 8·30 per cent. of its weight of molasses; and that the juice yields 17·61 per cent, of its weight of molasses. During the year jute was the object of 48 experiments in Sylhet and Goalpara, but the aggaregate cuttings up to date is too small to give a reliable estimate of average outturn. Experiments made with musta d in the Brahmaputra Valley disclose that the average outturn per acre is 607 lbs., or a little below 7½ maunds. In the Surma Valley the average per acre was only 457lbs or a little over 5¼ maunds.

THE *Pioneer's* Simla correspondent writes:—Frontier matters have been well to the fore in the Viceroy's Executive Council of late, for the terms which the Afridis are to be offered with a view to establishing a satisfactory settlement in the Khyber region, have been under discussion and final orders have now been framed. Mr. A. F. D. Cunningham, who is to be associated with General Egerton in the political part of the business, leaves here tomorrow for Peshawar so as to have ample time to prepare for the assembly of the *jirgahs* on the 24th instant. We shall have to wait some little time before the terms of the Government decision are made known, but generally it may be said that the Afridis will not be treated harshly. They have been on their good behaviour since January and this has been taken into consideration in dealing with the question as a whole. The renewal of their old allowances would, it is said, satisfy the clan, but there are the side Issued of new forts in the Pass and the laying down of the "formation" for a railway, though the line itself is not likely to be built. I cannot say whether this latter point has been decided, so it is useless to discuss it. The Afridis are in a peaceable frame of mind just now, and it is not anticipated that the *jirgahs* will prove obstructive, though doubtless they may put forward certain "grievances." This is characteristic of Pathans when they themselves have committed offences; they like to put out a plausible case though they may have any real intention of holding out for superior authority.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE CRETAN OUTBREAK.

HOW IT WAS BROUGHT ABOUT.

A CORRESPONDENT writing to the *Standard* from Candia on September 9th says :—

Long ere this you will have received telegraphic information of the serious *emueute* on the part of the Moslem population that took place in Candia on Tuesday last, the 6th instant. I take advantage of a mail leaving to-day to send you a fuller account of this sad affair. About two months ago, by the order of the Admirals, a Cretan Assembly was established for the government of all those parts of the Island which are held by the Christians. In order to give this Assembly the means of carrying on a government, the Admirals decided, about a fortnight ago, that a tax or tithe—referred to now as the "dime"—should be levied on all agricultural produce exported from the Island. This tax, moreover, was to be collected solely by Christians, and sent to the Assembly, which has its seat near Canea. All taxes at the ports have hitherto been collected, of course, by Turkish Government officials, but this "dime" was not to pass through the hands of the Turkish Custom House officers at all ; it was to be dealt with, as I have already said, by the Christians only. In connection with this "dime," the Admirals further decided that the arrangements for instituting it and collecting it should be carried out by the various Commandants of the International troops at their respective ports. Thus at Retimo, which is held by the Russians, the Russian Commandant would make the necessary arrangements ; at Spinalonga the French would do it, and so forth ; while at Candia the English Commandant, Colonel Reid, of the Highland Light Infantry, would inaugurate the new tax, and appoint the officials for its collection.

Last week, at all the ports held by the International troops, excepting Candia, the new tax was successfully applied. In the case of Retimo, Kesimo, &c., the various Commandants marched down accompanied by large bodies of troops to the different Custom-houses, and installed the Christian collectors whom they had selected to gather the "dime." In Candia there was delay in carrying out the order of the Admirals, and the causes of the delay will be duly appreciated when the various conditions prevailing at the ports are considered. At all the other Moslem seaports those by the other European Powers—there are great numbers of Christians as well as Mahomedans, so that, in the event of a Moslem rising, the European troops would have the support of the Christians ; but at Candia it is entirely different. Candia is a sort of Moslem preserve. In it there are about sixty thousand Mahomedans, and only about twelve hundred Christians. These Mahomedans, moreover, included a great number of desperate characters, men who have every reason to be at war with anything and everything in life. They have lost their all. Hundreds of them were once wealthy farmers ; to-day they have nothing ; their farms have been taken by the Christians. In many cases their families have been massacred, just as in turn they have massacred the Christian families. They dislike the English ; and they consider that they owe but very little allegiance to their own Government.

To attempt, then, to put a new tax upon such a people for the benefit of the Christians, was, to say the least, very risky. The British Senior Naval Officer, I understand, pointed this out at the meeting of the Admirals, and he also brought to their notice the small English forces available in Candia if there were any resistance by the Moslems to the tax being imposed. Apparently, his representations were not considered sufficiently serious to leave Candia out of the scheme of taxation, and orders were accordingly. [illegible] that place for the "dime" to be established. To make a bad situation worse, the orders were apparently misunderstood at first. It was thought they applied to other Custom dues as well as the "dime." This is a matter, however, that I must leave. Suffice to say, when the Senior Naval Officer and Sir Alfred Biliotti, our Consul, arrived from Suda last Friday, the 2nd instant, the whole matter was put straight and the Turkish Governor of Candia, Edhem Pacha, was informed what had been decided upon.

The tax was to have been inaugurated on the 3rd instant, but the Turkish Governor asked for two days' grace in order that he might communicate with his superiors at Canea. The Governor at Canea replied to Edhem Pacha that he was to comply with the wishes of the Admirals and Tuesday, the 6th instant, was the day selected. It is no secret that, at this stage of the proceedings the Turkish Governor at Canea wrote to the Admirals pointing out to them the courteous manner in which the English had dealt with his official in connection with this "dime;" as compared with the roughshod way in which, by a large display of force, the other Powers had imposed the tax.

I have already stated that Candia contains a large number of desperate Moslems who have lost their farms to the Christians. Now twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, large markets are held outside the town, from five to six miles distance, in which, under the protection of the British troops, the Moslems of Candia and the Christians of the country around trade. The products of the towns are exchanged for those of the country. At these markets a singular thing might happen. A Moslem of Candia goes out and perhaps buys from a Christian what is really his (the Moslem's) own farm produce. This is in itself, perhaps, enough to "rile" the ordinary man ; but now the "dime" means in such a case that after having bought the produce of his own farm from the Christian, if he wishes to export it he must further pay a tithe upon it, and that this tithe, moreover, must go to enable the Christian Government to carry on ; to keep him—the Moslem—in fact, out of his farm.

On Tuesday, the 6th instant, Colonel Reid interviewed the Moslem leaders, who said that there would be no disturbance in connection with the opening of the "Dime" Office in the afternoon. About 2 P.M. the Commandant went to the Custom-house with a small escort of Highland Light Infantry and the Christian officials whom he had selected for collecting the "dime." When he arrived at the Custom-house, which is close to the water's edge of the enclosed harbour of Candia, he found the place locked up, and there was difficulty in obtaining the key. This circumstance of itself showed that matters had not been accepted by the Turkish officials so passively as had been supposed. In fact one Turkish officer, Churchill Bey, a Levantine styling himself an Englishman, and the chief of the new gendarmerie here, went so far as to tell Colonel Reid that what he was doing was illegal. This probably will be a matter for future consideration. The key was eventually obtained, and our officials went into the Custom-house They had no sooner entered when firing was heard going on in the main street, about two hundred yards off and on hurrying to the gate of the harbour Colonel Reid found three of his men, who formed a portion of the picket for patrolling the town, wounded by knife stabs, while one Moslem was lying dead, killed by the patrol. The Colonel and his party cleared the long covered gateway leading from the town to the harbour, and shut the gate. He himself now returned to the Custom House with his party, but on the way they were subjected to a heavy fire from all the houses and ramparts around the harbour. Fortunately, the Custom-house is near the Telegraph Office, and the Colonel managed to get telegraphic messages for assistance despatched to his camp, which is situated on the outskirts of the town, to Her Majesty's ship *Hazard*, which was lying off the port, and to the Senior Naval Officer at Canea. The camp was unable to assist, owing to its position as regards the Insurgent Moslems, they being between it and the Custom House. The *Hazard*, although but a gunboat, managed to send two boat loads of armed men to assist the Colonel and these as soon as they entered the harbour, were met with a regular storm of bullets from all quarters. Some of the sailors reached the Custom House, while others found refuge at the gateway. At six o'clock the Governor, Edhem Pacha, with Turkish troops, appeared upon the scene, and gave both the sailors and soldiers safe conduct to the *Turquoise* a small English steamer lying inside the harbour and used for distilling fresh water from sea water for the English troops. In this ship also a great number of Christians found a refuge from the Moslems, and as soon as she could get up steam she put to sea.

During this time the massacre of the Christian population was going on and their houses pillaged and fired. The whole of Tuesday night and the following day the town was on fire in a number of places. At midnight, Her Majesty's ship *Astræa* arrived from Suda Bay and she was followed later by the *Camperdown*, the Senior Naval Officer's ship, with Sir Alfred Biliotti on board still later Italian, French, Russian, and Austrian men-of-war arrived, some bringing troops, which have been landed and encamped on the outskirts of the town. Thousands of armed Christians are in the neighbourhood.

"MANY have said their children would have died of croup, if Chamberlain's Cough Remedy had not been given," write Kellam & Ourden, druggists, Seaview, Va. "People come from near and near to get it and speak of it in the highest terms." This is equally true of this remedy in every city where it is known. Buy a bottle at*—and test it for yourself.

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RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND BRITISH FEEBLENESS IN CHINA.

(*Overland Mail.*)

THE following communication from one of our friends, who is an influential and instructed observer of British policy in the Far East, has reached us, and we have much pleasure in publishing it :—

Hong Kong, Aug. 5, 1898.—China and Africa are destined to play an important part in the world in the twentieth century, and events in the Far East now threaten to move with much greater rapidity than they have ever done in the past. The vast territories and teeming populations in Asia must in the natural trend of things come under modern civilisation ; the very best of material and physical force is waiting to be utilised, and weighty developments are not far off. We on the spot cannot begin to realise what great uses the dominating races will make out of the two Continents, more particularly China uses which will be a lively, yea, refreshing variety upon the squatting and colonisation of the North American Continent and the Australias.

Since 1895 Russian diplomatic successes in the Far East have been phenomenal, and through French and German assistance have attained heights seldom reached. It, however, appears doubtful, the gain so far being mainly Russian, whether even the sagacious Muscovite will be able to retain a monopoly of French aid and thereby hold on at the altitude to which the Grea White Bear has so suddenly risen. The Japanese-Chinese war precipitated affairs and has brought about an entirely new state of matters for which Russia was not prepared. Rapidly as she has acted, and can act on occasions, events have moved too fast for her. The completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway will not be a fait accompli for some years to come ; yet no Power has realised so completely the vastly changed position in the Far East since the Japanese-Chinese war as Russia has done. The extraordinary brain power in Russian statesmanship may be difficult to locate, but nevertheless Russia has already acquired and secured prizes of no ordinary magnitude and richness, and without drawing the sword. In the matter of astuteness in empire-making and expansion the Bismarck of 1860-1880 must take a back seat in competition with Muscovite diplomacy and statesmanship. Russia, *assisted* by France and Germany, deterred and prevented the Japanese in 1895 from entering into possession of the fruits of their victory, coerced her into retroceding the Liao-tung Peninsula to China, and thus "*save China*" from Japanese domination, not in the interests or for the benefit of the Chinese, but in order that Russia, France, and Germany might help themselves to no lean slice of Chinese territory, as they have already most effectively done, notwithstanding reiterated British protests. In the interests of the Chinese and the Anglo-Saxon race it is a matter of great regret that up to the present time the Dowager-Empress of China, Li Hung Chang, and Russian diplomacy should have so completely overmached and out-distanced British statesmanship. The victory has been complete. Our diplomacy has been worsted. The slow-moving British Government have not given evidence that they yet begin to realise the vastly changed position of affairs in China; they seen reluctant to believe and loath to recognise that the situation is seriously altering daily; they have protested that under all circumstances, even at the cost of war, the open door policy and treaty rights would be upheld, that no spheres of influence would be tolerated, that the integrity of the Chinese Empire would be maintained, that we must prevent it falling into ruins, invite it into the paths of reform, assist it to perfect its defences, increase its commercial prosperity, &c.

These and such like protestations have been reiterated, but all in vain. England has not extended any moral support or substantial backing to the notoriously weak, corrupt, and effete Chinese Government—a Government which is tottering, utterly hopeless and helpless from within, and equally helpless and hopeless without foreign assistance. The maintenance of the integrity of the derelict and putrid Imperial Government of China cannot be accomplished by loud, wordy protestations or by platitudes, however, high sounding. Herculean force is absolutely essential. Cabinet Ministers have indulged in angry statements, and, so far, they do not seem prepared to back the same up by action. Russia is already in possession of Manchuria—a white man's land and climate, with a population of upwards of 20,000,000 people, a most virile race, possessed of all the best qualities for the making of an army and unlimited as regards numbers. Germany is in possession of Kiao-chau (England gratuitously recognised Shantung Province as within the sphere of German influence, which irreparably neutralises the value of Wei-hai-wei), while France already occupies Kwong Chau Wan, has acquired a railway concession to Naning in Yunan, &c.; and Britain, yes, Great Britain, it is sad to think, notwithstanding her oft-declared policy of "the integrity of China" and her big talk of stopping grabbing, has herself grabbed and "leased" Wei-hai-wei and 200 square miles of territory at Kowloon opposite Hong Kong. Re the latter, Lord Salisbury's Government has, however, reserved that the walled city of Kowloon shall continue under Chinese jurisdiction doubtless to save Chinese "face," and thus permit of the corrupt Mandarin setting up within British territory an *imperio*. Anything more monstrous ludicrous, humiliating or imbecil it is impossible to conjecture. The Unionist Government have made a melancholy mess, our morale and prestige have gone, and our officials appear to have gone one step further, which cannot but weaken British influence in China, though it is doubtful if that be now within the bounds, of possibility. It is understood that England, in consideration of the so-called rectification of the boundaries of Hong Kong, has promised China liberal treatment in revenue matters. Consequently the Chinese Government has opened its mouth very wide, and asked for numerous rights and privileges :—

1. To open and establish a Chinese Customs office in the midst of Hong Kong, for the collection of opium and other duties.

2. The Commissioner of Chinese Customs in Hong Kong to be officially recognised by the British Government.

3. The erection and continuance of Chinese Customs stations for the collection of duties within British territory.

4. The Chinese revenue cruisers (officered and manned possibly or probably by Russians or French) to be at liberty to visit the waters (British) of Hong Kong at any hour of the day or night.

5. The special use of two wharves or jetties in the Hong Kong harbour opposite the junk anchorage.

6. The right at any time to examine the Hong Kong opium farmers' warehouses stock of opium, books, &c., and a great deal more—too much to detail here. Before agreeing to grant any one of these concessions, it might be interesting, if not instructive, were the British officials to ascertain the exact nature of the privileges which Russia, Germany, and France extend to the Chinese Government in the collection of Chinese revenue and duties at Port Arthur and Talienwan, at Kiao-chau, and at Kwong Chau Wan repectively. The British Government might just as well permit France to establish French custom houses at Dover, Folkestone, or in the Thames.

A preliminary contract for the extension of the Shanghai-kwan-Newchwang (the latter is a treaty port) Railway, between the Chinese Government railway officials and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Jardine, Matheson and Co., was signed in June last, but so far the Russian Government has succeeded in preventing the Chinese Government from ratifying the said contract or agreement. In his protest—which was one of the strongest possible nature—to the Tsung-li-Yamen, M. Pavloff, the Russian charge d'affaires, quoted section 3 of the St. Petersburg Convention, and pointed out that the proposed railway loan comes under the provisions of the said convention, and concluded his protest with the words : "A thousand times ten thousand times it cannot be agreed to."

Early this year Russian agents commenced negotiations with the notorious Sheng Taotai, the Director-General of Imperial Railways, *re* the contract for the Pekin Hankow Railway, which has now been transferred by the so-called "Belgian Syndicate, to the Russo-Chinese Bank, *alias* the Russian Government. The money required to build the railway will be Russian-French, and the real owner of the line will be the Russo-Chinese Bank, who will work and control it. The contract has not yet been ratified, but in face of these facts it is impossible to realise the grounds on which Mr. Curzon can regard China's assurances respecting the Yang-tse as definite and binding or how the Chinese Government can allege to our Minister in Pekin that Russia has no interest in the Pekin-Hankow line.

Lord Salisbury's declaration that England was prepared to support China against any Power committing an act of aggression, in consequence of China's having availed of British assistance in the construction of railways or other public works was most refreshing and welcome. Britain's attitude hitherto *vis a vis* the China Question has been feeble in the extreme impossible by any process of reasoning to dignify it by the name of a policy. If, however, the Unionist Government have at last decided upon a definite policy, we earnestly hope they will stick to their guns; but their indecision and inaction has been fraught with untoward consequence to British interests. Russia in the meantime has taken full advantage of England's feebleness, appears not to be satisfied with the acquisition of Manchuria, and her latest move on the board is an attempt, as audacious as it is courageous, to seize and secure the heart of China through becoming the owners and having the control of the Pekin Hankow Railway, which would ultimately mean the ousting and the freezing out of Great Britain from the Yang-tse Valley. How much longer and how much further Muscovite aggression will be allowed to go remains to be seen.

Negotiations had been proceeding satisfactorily between a substantial British syndicate, Sheng Taotai, director-general of Imperial Railways, and the Tsung-li-Yamen for a railway concession from Canton to British Kowloon, opposite Hong Kong, until a few weeks ago, when the French Minister interferred and protested against the granting or leasing of any such concession—the French evidently presuming that Kwangtung province is within their sphere of influence. The concession or lease is shelved for the present, as, no doubt, the Tsung-li-Yamen deem it inexpedient to move while the French protest remains in force, which is, no doubt, supported by the Russian Minister.

It is most essential for the preservation of Great Britain's most important interests in China (eighty per cent. of the whole foreign trade), that the Celestial Empire should not fall under the dominion of Russia; and, consequently, one of the gravest questions of the day is, whether it would be judicious for England single-handed to bolster up and defend the maintenance and integrity of the rotton, corrupt, and indefensible Chinese Government.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing, information has reached me from two thoroughly independent and absolutely reliable sources that the Russian Admiral was in receipt of definite instructions from St. Petersburg to withdraw the Russian ships from Port Arthur in March last—at the time of the British naval demonstration in the Gulf of Pechili—if the British Government had insisted upon the withdrawal of the Russian fleet from that port. Russia, no doubt, puffed up by her successful bluff in re Port Arthur, has now bearded the lion in his den by acquiring as a naval base Raheita, in the Straits of Babel Mandeb immediately opposite Perim, which base, if allowed to be fortified, will completely neutralise our present commanding position at Aden and Perim in the Red Sea. Ichabod! Ichabod! our glory has departed.

THE Railway survey party which has been ordered to assemble with a view to linking uh the Mari-Attock line with Kohat and Bannp will make a thorough examination of thu country beyond the Indus from Kushalgare and Kalabagh south-westwards to the mouth of the Tochi Valley.

FEW men in this country are better or more favorable known to the drug and medicine trade than Mr. E. J. Schall, buyer in the proprietary amedicine department of the Meyers Bros., Drug Co., St. Louis. He says: "My boy come home from school with his hand badly lacerated and bleeding and suffering great pain. I dressed the wound and applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm, freely, all pain ceased, and in a remarkably short time, it healed without leaving a scar. For wounds, sprains, swellings and rheumatism, I know of no medine of prescription equal to it. I consider it a household necessity." Sold by

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"I can't see how any family lives without Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy," says J. R. Adams, a well known druggist, of Geneva, Ala., in a letter inquiring the price of a dozen bottles, that he might not only have it for use in his own family, but supply it to his neighbours. The reason some people get along without it is because they do not know its value, and what a vast amount of suffering it will save. Wherever it becomes known and used it is recognized as a necessity or it is the only remedy that can always be depended upon for bowel complaints, both for children and adults. For sale by*

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THE GREAT ICE OF GREENLAND.

LIEUTENANT PEARY'S EXPLORATIONS.

THE compete account which Lieutenant Robert E. Peary publishes of his seven expeditions in Greenland from 1886 to 1887 will gain immensely in interest from the fact that he is just about to start on a determined attempt to reach the North Pole, which is the result of the years of experience and preparation recorded in these two handsome volumes. Everyone will hope that these pages do not complete the story of his courageous career, and that in his own words they merely "clear the field for something further."

THE CHARMS OF EXPLORATION.

From the earliest days, when men dreamed of the ever-sunny Eden of the Hyperboreans, far beyond the land of the Anthropophagi, the region within that magic line which bounds the northern disk of midnight suns and moonday nights has exercised a compelling fascination on men and women of all intellects, age, and conditions.

We are still as ignorant as were the ancient Romans of the Arctic and Antarctic regions. We know not whether they will divulge the secret of the earth's subterranean heat, or elucidate the cause of earth's magnetism, or the reason for its continued vitality.

Will the first man who stands on either Pole breathe the same atmosphere as ours, will he discover the nature of the two Auroras, the secret of the earthquake, the hidden tragedy of the valcano, the mysterious attraction of the needle to the north ? He may even explode that old hypothesis of the round earth's shape—and find that "jucundum mundum cognovimus esse rotundum" must no lon er be the creed of young geographers, and that the Eskimo of Smith Sound are right in thinking that the world is flat. When Mr. Borchgrevink started on the "southern Star" he was told by a member of the Royal Geographical Society that it was a shameful thing for us to remain so long in ignorance of any portion of "this ridiculously small universe ;" and the desire to chart or map out every foot of sea or land we have is a quite laudable ambition in itself.

Of the solid advantage that may acrue from doing so no one can yet say very much. But it would not be strange if, in a region of the strongest contrasts, where active volcanoes are found surrounded by eternal ice and snow, where the poppy—that symbol of the warm and sleepy East—blossoms at the very foot of ancient glaciers, some material were to be found which would make possible a necessity as yet unknown, in the conditions of a future civilization that will be very different from our own.

LIEUTENANT-PEARY'S SHARE IN ARCTIC WORK.

In the vast field of exploration that has been attacked from so many different points by the men whose names are familiar to all lovers of the North, Lieutenant Peary has made himself a very definite and individual place.

He has pointed out that the loss of life in Arctic Exploration, even including those expeditions which have utterly disappeared in the savage fastnesses of the White North, amounts to about two per cent. of the total number engaged in the work, a percentage less than that among sailors and fishermen on the British coasts.

This percentage it is Lieutenant Peary's ambition to keep even lower, by the method that he has fairly proved to be successful, of very small parties.

It is a popular fallacy that there is safety in large parties The entire animus of the Arctic regions is against them, and in the event of their being thrown either temporarily or permanently, upon the resources of the country for sustenance, an occurrence that is one of the most certain of Arctic possibilities the members of such large parties must starve where a small party would have abundant rations.

In the Franklin Expedition of one hundred and thirty-eight not one lived to tell the story of their awful final days ; and nothing can well be imagined more terrible than the retreat and struggle for life with a large party under the fearful stress of the Arctic.

So Lieutenant Peary's main peculiarity consists in having a party of two only, depending on dogs for traction, on the dogs themselves for dog-food.

In the last resource, the two men would subsist during the last four or five days of their return much upon the flesh of their last dog, who had previously eaten all his companions. But our explorer has also chosen a very definite area of exploration, and means of progress on it.

Lieutenant Peary's work has been entirely expended upon Greenland, and his chief discovery has been that travel is at once safest and most speedy, not on the sea-ice near the coast, but on the interior ice-cap, of that extraordinary continent. His description of this ice-cap is the most novel and interesting feature of his book.

THE ICE-CAP OF GREENLAND.

Stretching southward over the swelling bosom of the earth the Arctic island-continent of Greenland is a pendant brooch in the glittering necklace of ice and snow that circles the North Pole.

Its inappropriate name was the invention of a shrewd old land agent, Eric, the outlaw from Iceland, who discovered it nine hundred years ago. But his laudable efforts at advertising nomenclature did not succeed in attracting very many colonists, though his son Lief started from here to discover the New World, and though the Crusades themselves were furthered—it is said—by a tribute of gleaming walrus-tusks from these iceberg-haunted seas.

Then a fleet of pirates descended on the colony, and carried off many hundreds of its inhabitants to repopulate the towns of Europe that had been desolated by the Black Death.

A century later Davis re-discovered a land of desolation, in which nearly all the colonists had disappeared, and even to-day the Danes, who live in nearly every habitable yard of Greenland, discover scattered ruins of houses and churches that are as silent as the ice-floes about the mysterious fate of their vanished owners.

With a length of 1,750 miles and a breadth of 690, all there is of land (as we understand the term) in Greenland is a ribbon from five to twenty-five miles in width along the coast, surrounded by the Arctic sea, the playground of the ice-pack and the berg, itself in turn surrounding and supporting like a Titan dam, the great white ice-cap beneath which the interior of the country is buried.

Yet the real conditions of this interior are very different from that imagination of Alps and Pyrenees beneath a covering of snow retaining their original irregularities of outline, which is the usual mental picture of a rocky Arctic continent.

For the accumulated snow precipitation of centuries has gradually filled all the valleys until it has levelled them even with the mountain summits and has at last buried the highest of these summits hundreds and even thousands of feet deep in snow and ice. So that the interior of Greenland to-day is an elevated unbroken plateau of snow lifted eight thousand feet above the sea, a huge white glistening shield resting upon supporting mountains.

It is an ice Sahara to which the Great Desert of Africa is insignificant; for on the snowy wastes of inner Greenland no form of animal or vegetable life occurs, no fragment of rock, no grain of sand is visible.

The infinite expanse of frozen plain, the infinite dome of cold blue sky, the cold white sun—these are the only things seen by the traveller who makes his painful way across the blanket of snow five thousand feet above the mighty summits of the mountains.

TRAVELLING ON THE ICE-CAP.

A very important peculiarity of this marvellous plateau is the intensity of its pervading light. The Arctic sun—that for four months is continuously above the horizon—is in clear weather as brilliant as the sun in any southern latitude ; and this brilliancy is increased by reflection from an interminable and absolutely unrelieved glistening white surface of snow lifted up into pure and highly rarified upper strata of the Arctic atmosphere.

The pungent quality of this blinding glare is such that a man without careful protection to his eyes would, in a few hours, be as helpless as a new-born kitten.

Sometimes, though rarely, cloud shadows drift across the white expanse and develop into furious storms that veil the entire sky.'

"Many a time," writes Lieutenant Peary," I have found myself in such weather travelling in grey space, feeling the snow beneath my snow shoes, but unable to see it. No sun, no sky, no horizon—absolutely nothing that the eye could rest upon. Zenith and nadir alike an intangible grey nothingness. As far as the evidence of my eyes went I was walking upon nothing. The space between my snowshoes was equally as light as the zenith. The opaque light which filled the sphere of vision might come from below as well as above. . . . The wind is never quiescent on the 'Great Ice.' Day and night, summer and winter year in and year out, it is sweeping down, sometimes with greater, sometimes with less, velocity, from the frozen heart of the 'Great Ice,' bearing with it a burden of snow and following the most direct slope to the land, some of it sinking in whirl pools and eddies into the valleys, but much of it being carried on to the coast cliffs, over which it goes swirling into the sea or on to the sea-ice.

THE EXPLORER'S PLANS.

It is under conditions of this sort that Lieutenant Peary proposes to travel to the Pole in his new forthcoming expedition. His plan has been to raise a sum sufficient to ensure persistent continued effort, so that if his attempt fails the first year it can be repeated the next, and the next, until it is done.

He has also arranged for the establishment of a party of picked Eskimo families, a surgeon, and an experienced leader at the highest practicable point on the north-west coast of Greenland ; with ample supplies, means of communication which will enable the colony to sustain itself until its work is accomplished, and with a practical line of retreat entirely independent of the ship.

Lieutenant Peary has arrived at this entirly by the help of private enterprise and by his own indomitable energy.

The Government has never appropriated, nor been asked to appropriate, a dollar for any of his expedition, though, of course, it has allowed its Lieutenant sufficient leave of absence to accomplish his work.

Nor can the assistance of the explorer's wife be forgotten in any estimate of the high spirit and organizing capacity that has gone to make Lieutenant Peary's work so valuable and so full of even higher promise; for she has been with him on the mainland of Greenland, she has kept the skimos and the explorers in good temper, she has even presented her husband with a daughter born within the limits of the Arctic Circle whose fascinating portrait will be found on page 206 of the second volume.

SOME WONDERFUL PICTURES

This portrait is but one among a great number of illustrations that are among the most extraordinary we have ever seen. What for instance, can be more pitifully convincing than the various photographs of the explorer's diminishing team of dogs on his last journey back from the great ice-cap. "Five," "Three," "Two," "One"—those faithful shadows pull his sledge to safety until only a single survivor remains. There comes an irrestible memory of the ballad, with such different associations—

Oh, I am the cook and the captain bold,
And mate of the Nancy Brig,
And the Bo'sun tight and the midshipmite
And the crew of the captain's gig.

Or, to turn to more amusing pictures, the mane photographs of Eskimo babies are the most queerly delightful presentments of infant life that can be imagined.

Then there ore walruses and polar bears and seals ; vast meteorites that have been brought from Greenland to the United States ; appalling photographs of naked Eskimos for the enjoyment of anthropological experts ; Kayaks performing impossible feats in ice-cold water ; snug little corners in an artfully-constructed Arctic house above all, intensely interesting pictures of the life and customs of the Smith Sound Eskimos, and the habits of ladies and gentlemen like Ak-pud-ik-su-ah-ho, Klip-e-sok-su-ah, Kud-look-too, Shak-up-soon-ah, Oo-bloo-iah, and Tah-tah-rah, with which festive-sounding name we close this far too brief suggestion of the many interests contained in an exciting and thoroughly well-arranged book.

Lieutenant Peary's pages will be one of the strongest recommendations he can offer of the intensity of his purpose and the careful sagacity and inventiveness of his plans. Everyone who reads them will follow with a more lively interest the future erstory of the explorer who is just starting on his final quest.

THE next two volumes of the General Acts of the Governor-General in Council will probably be issued before the end of the current month.

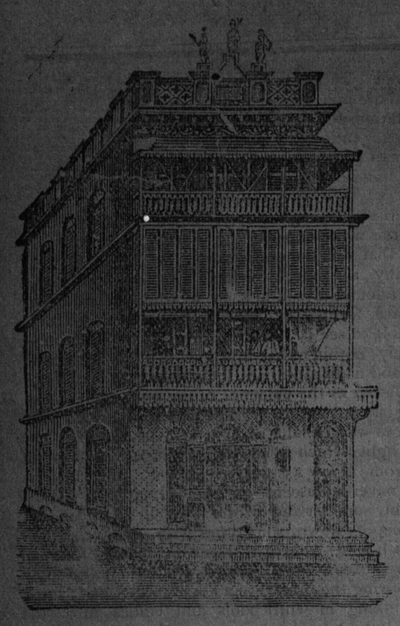
THE heir-apparent to the guddi of Sirmoor will be installed on the 26 instant. Sir Mackworth Young will be at Nahan to witness the ceremony.

THE Government of India are now considering the question of the future conduct of Forest Surveys, and the Surveyor-General and Mr. Reynolds, Superintendent of Forest Surveys, have been summoned to Simla to assist in discussing the matter.

THE Government of India are inclined to grant an amnesty to the Afridi and Orakzai deserters and absentees from the regiments. November 15th has been fixed as the date up to which their cases will be considered. Similarly the payment of pension and reserve pay to pensioners and reservists in those tribes will be considered up to that date.

A RECENTLY-published Blue book contains the particulars of the proceedings of the International Conference, held at Brussels in June last, to consider the Sugar Bounty question Lord Salisbury's instructions to the British Delegates were concise and to the point. In a despatch, dated May 31st, he told them that it was the earnest desire of Government to secure the suppression of all bounties on sugar, which are considered to be prejudicial to the general interests of the British Empire. The Delegates were authorised to press for, and to assist in the negotiation of an international convention for this purpose ; but as no bounties are given in the United Kingdom, it would be their duty to consider and report on any proposals that might be made by Belgium or other bounty-giving States, rather than to put forward, in the first instance, any definite proposals on behalf of Great Britain. The despatch concluded by stating that Her Majesty's Government sincerely hoped that the deliberations at Brussels would relieve them from the necessity of "prosecuting any ulterior measures" which might be rendered necessary, especially in regard to British Colonies, if the system of bounties should still be retained. The deliberation at Brussels did not in any [illegible] lieve Her Majesty's Government, [illegible] Russia [illegible] insuperable obje-

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta



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KAVIRAJ NOGENDRA NATH SEN, Physician, Surgeon, Accoucheur, Member, Paris Chemical Society, Surgical Aid Society, (London), Society of Chemical Industry (London), Indian Medical Association, and Calcutta Medical Society, etc., etc., practises the Ayurvedic System of Medicine after having learnt the principles of Western Medical Science, and obtained with credit a Diploma from one of the Government Medical Institutions to the country.

KARNA-ROGANTAKA TAILA,
OR
EAR DROPS.

It cures otorrhœa, otitis, tympanites inflammation and all other diseases of the ear. Deafness if not of long standing, is sure to be cured by its use.
Price per phial ... ... Rs. 12
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This medicine not only allays all local irritation but improves the digestion and strengthens the constitution. Hence, it is used with the most signal success in Asthma, Bronchitis, Cough, Consumption, Influenza, and all affections of the Throat and the Chest.

It diminishes the secretion of mucus in the bronchial tubes and lessens the irritation of the respiratory centre. It increases longevity and renders the organs strong. It sharpens the memory and intelligence and gives vitality to the old and debilitated tissues. It restores the body to beauty and the bloom of early youth and supplies physical strength and power or endurance to it. It stimulates the appetite and induces activity in the flow of the secretions. It is of great service to the young, old, and the weak. It is infinitely better than Codliver Oil. For proving its superiority to Codliver Oil, one need only use it for a short while. The tradition is that it was with this medicine that the Aswins, the celestial physicians, restored the Rishi Chyavana, emaciated and weak with age and penances, to the bloom and beauty of youth.

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[illegible]g-worm Powder cures all sorts of Ringworm. Price 8 annas per phial. Postage Ans. 4 only.
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" " **Surgical Aid Society (London).**
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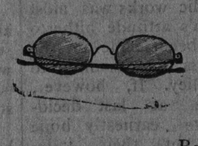

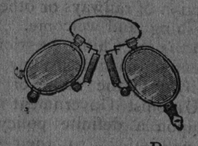

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We do not charge for packing seeds. **Seed list** posted free on application.

Plants supplied at moderate prices and very carefully packed.

Best Fruit Grafts, *Chinese pine apples*, several roadside and timber trees, most beautiful and scented varieties of select *Roses*, distinct varieties of *Crotons, Palms*, Ferns, Orcheds, Arancaries, Camellias and Magnolias of sorts, Santalum Album Coffee, Camphor Rudrakha, Nutmeg; many other ornamental foliaged plants, Culbons plants Dahlias, choice giant Floworing cannas, Gloxinias and beautiful creepers are always kept ready for sale. Please send for revised Horticultural and fruit Catalogues with 2 annas and half anna postage.

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ACTION.—It arrests bleeding from the bite instantaneously, subdues inflammation and reduced swelling of the bitten part in 3 or 4 days at the most It purifies the blood by eliminating the poison.

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