









JANUARY 25, 1877.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA.

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CALCUTTA, THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 1877.

Reuter telegraphs from Constantinople :—

The Turkish Grand Council convoked to consider the final proposals of the Powers has unanimously rejected them, as being contrary to the integrity and dignity of the Ottoman Empire. The Council amid shouts of "Death before dishonor" resolved "the Ottoman Porte must not further discuss the proposals of the European Powers. The Conference is broken up and the delegates have left Constantinople.

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We have much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following notice :—

"The repairs to the Indian Association for the cultivation of science Building, No. 210, Bow-Bazar St., having been completed, Lectures will be resumed.

A Lecture will be delivered by the Very Rev. E. Lafont, S. J., Rector of St. Xavier's College, this Evening (the 25th Jany.) at 7½ P. M.—Subject: Gravity.

Donors of Rupees 50 and upwards and monthly subscribers will be admitted free. Tickets that were issued to them last year, will do for this year.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—Annas 8.

Tickets may be had on application to the clerk at the office of the Association any day except Sunday between the hours of 10½ A. M. and 4½ P. M., and on the day of Lecture up to the time of Lecture.

MATENDRA LAL SIRCAR M. D.  
Honorary Secretary.

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A correspondent writes us to say that the members of the newly established Bograh Association wanted permission from the local Magistrate to present through him a loyal address to Her Majesty the Empress of India, but were denied the permission on the ground that the Association has not been recognized by the Government. We cannot understand what objections the Magistrate could have in receiving such an address and thus hurt the feelings of Her Majesty's loyal subjects on a joyous occasion, except that political Associations are always hateful to irresponsible autocrats. If the members of the Association without troubling the Magistrate had sent their address to the Lieutenant Governor, it would have been thankfully received.

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The appeal of the perjury case in which the Fenja ryots were convicted came again before the High Court on Monday last. It will be remembered that in the course of the proceedings taken against the notorious tea-planter Webster, the ryots, that is the petitioners in the present case, most of whom, by the way, were shot down by Webster's men made certain statements on the alleged fal-

sy of which they were placed on trial and sent to rigorous imprisonment. Thus these poor wretches were doubly punished, having first received gun-shots at the hands of the tea-planters and then being incarcerated by the local authorities. It will also be remembered that after they had served out half the term of their imprisonment, some kind-hearted people took compassion on them and presented a petition on their behalf to the High Court, before the Pooja vacation. The High Court enlarged the prisoners on bail and took up the case after the vacation. It was however postponed, and was again taken up on Monday last. Now in prosecuting a man for perjury, the judicial sanction of the Court in which he perjured himself, or of some superior Court, is necessary. But the Joint Magistrate Mr. Badcock before whom the ryots were said to have committed the perjury had not given such sanction. The petitioners therefore urged that their conviction was wholly without jurisdiction and should be quashed. It was alleged on the side of the Crown, the present prosecutor, that the necessary order was passed by Mr. Kirkwood, the officiating Magistrate in the shape of a memo or minute, headed "Notes on Mr. Webster's case disposed of by Joint Magistrate, Mr. Badcock, on the 6th inst." The petitioners urged however that Mr. Kirkwood wrote the memo in his executive and not judicial capacity and that he himself had admitted it in his reply to a petition of the petitioners. The High Court Judges were curious to see this famous memo in original,—copies of which, we are told, were sent to the Police Superintendent for information and guidance, to the Government pleader for the same purpose and to Messrs. Bullock Brothers as representatives of the firm connected with the Tenua Tea Gardens probably for their edification,—and asked the Legal Remembrancer, who appeared in behalf of the Crown, to produce it. But it had mysteriously disappeared from the record, so the case was postponed to Monday, the 12th February, and a telegram was sent to Chittagong directing the Judge to forward the whole of the papers, including Mr. Kirkwood's famous memo, without the least delay possible.

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It will be in the recollection of our readers that about two years ago the ryots of a number of Deccan villages rose against the local sowcars or money-lenders, plundered their houses, destroyed their grain stocks, mortgage-deeds, bonds and other valuable documents. The disturbances assumed a serious shape, and the police having been found inefficient in suppressing the riots, the Military had to be called into requisition. A Commission was appointed the year before last to inquire

report upon their origin. Their report was submitted to Government sometime since, but has only recently been made public. It contains a large amount of information regarding the relations between the Koonbe ryot and the sowcar, the cause of the late riots, the general condition of the population in the disturbed districts &c.

The Commissioners have attempted to throw all the blame upon the sowcars. It was their unscrupulous dealings, they say, which goaded the ryots to rise against them. With due deference to the opinions of the Commissioners, we submit however, that the real origin of the agrarian rising is to be sought elsewhere. The sowcars were no doubt the immediate cause of the disturbances, but to say that the ryot was goaded to open resistance only by the extortionate practices of the money-lender is all moonshine. The real evil can only be found in the growing impoverishment and destitution of the ryot. The ryot would have never resorted to a money-lender, and be his slave, if he were not reduced to a wretched plight. And the growing wretchedness of the Deccan ryot is principally due to a heavy and uncertain land assessment. The Commission partially admit it, for they say that the ryots were in a far better position twenty years ago and this they attribute to "a fixed assessment at moderate rates." The land settlement of the Government is in fact the cause of the ryot's woe. With the exception of Bengal and Oude, the land systems prevalent throughout the rest of British India are levelling in their character and impoverishing in their effects. This is more especially the case with Bombay. Its tenure is ryotwari and the settlement periodical, the term extending over 30 years only. During the first period of settlement the ryot found some relief but the next, that is the revised settlement, has invariably proved to be very hard upon the cultivator. In fact, the assessment of land in the Deccan is the hardest of its kind. Land-holdings on which 12 As. assessment was levied have been, we are told, assessed at from 14 Rs. to 128 Rs. People are beggared all round, indebtedness prevails and relinquishment of lands to pay the Sarkar has been inevitable. Even such a supereroof Government as Mr. Hope admitted in his administration report that the assessment was pitched too high and unless measures were taken to lower or reduce it, the state of the districts will be deplorable. Thus it is obvious wherein lies the true cause of the disease. To avert a future agrarian rising, Government should improve its land settlement. Unless this is done no amount of remedial measures proposed by the Commission will produce the desired effect.

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THE LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT.—The following judgment in the case of "The Queen vs. Ramcharan Bysack and another", quoted from the Statesman, will disclose some of those high handed proceedings which oftentimes characterize the administration of criminal justice in this country :—

The appellant has been convicted of having defamed one Moty Lall Sen by writing and posting an anonymous letter to the Commissioner of Rajshay, giving certain information regarding a dacoity, and adding that two relatives of Moty Lall, Kedar Sen and Chunder Sen, had brought the stolen property to his house, where it was, and where they were disputing as to its division. It appears that the letter was forwarded to the Magistrate of Rajshay for disposal, and that that officer through the District Superintendent, sent to the District Superintendent of Howrah who forwarded it for inquiry to his subordinate Police. The exact nature of the inquiry order does not appear, as Mr. Reilly's order is not on the record, but it appears that Inspector Samuel inquired as to the writer, and learning that there was considerable enmity between these Sens and Mahanundo Gupta proceeded to the house of the latter, where he found the appellant, and after some conversation with him he managed to elicit some information which induced him to send in the appellant to the District Superintendent who forwarded him to the District Magistrate on the 15th August.

Mr. Grant, the District Magistrate, on that date recorded a long statement and probably verbally ordered the Court Inspector to admit him to bail, for I can find no trace of any written order except one written and signed by the Court Inspector, on which however Mr. Grant wrote an order that the appellant should be sent to Hajut because he failed to furnish the necessary bail. It also appears that from that date, 15th August, to 27th November, the appellant remained in Hajut that is until he was convicted and sentenced. There is some explanation of the extreme length of the incarceration, since the summary and illegal dismissal by the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Rash Behary Bose, of the complaint made it necessary to refer the matter to the High Court, but that does by no means account for the original order the illegality of which is beyond all doubt. At the same time that the District Magistrate passed the orders for the custody of the appellant in default of bail, he appears to have directed that information should be given to Moty Lall with a view to his prosecuting, and that accordingly on 24th August 1876 he (Moty Lall) filed a petition against Ram Churn (the appellant) and Mahanundo. On the 24th the complainant was examined by Baboo Rash Behary Bose to whom the case was referred, but that officer appears to have allowed considerable delay to take place, and ultimately on September 6th dismissed the case in default which necessitated a reference to the High Court whose orders were not obtained until 14th October, when the case was referred to Babu Tariq Churn Mitter, Deputy Magistrate. The complainant was examined on 20th October and his witnesses were summoned. He was again examined on 30th October, and the accused and some of complainant's witnesses were examined on 31st and again on 2nd and 17th November when the accused Ram Churn, the appellant, was called upon to plead to charge, the other accused being discharged on 18th. Some witnesses cited for the defence were examined on 17th November, and the appellant was convicted on 27th November of defamation, and sentenced to 4 months simple imprisonment.

I have carefully read the record, and I can find absolutely no evidence to support the conviction.

The Deputy Magistrate has relied on the statement

on a comparison between the writing on the anonymous letter and some writing made by the appellant, and upon this alone he has convicted the appellant and upon this alone is no way in itself evidence against the appellant. It has not been recorded as directed by section 122 of the Code of Criminal Procedure nor does it bear the certificate required or any sufficient attestation. Nor is it proved by any evidence that the appellant did make such statement. If it had been recorded in accordance with law it would under section 80 of the Evidence Act have been evidence, but it is not only defective in form, but the circumstances under which it was recorded would make it altogether inadmissible.

The Magistrate and Police appear to have altogether forgotten that they could not take cognizance of any such matter as against the appellant or any one suspected of having written a defamatory letter, without a formal complaint, for it is not a cognizable offence; and further the clause of section 142 of the Code of Criminal Procedure expressly declares that cases under chapter XXI Penal Code which refers to defamation shall not be taken up without complaint. But notwithstanding this, the police "produced" Ram Churn before the Magistrate without any apparent reason and the Inspector admits that he would "not let him go before producing him before the Magistrate," and this is followed by the Magistrate's examining him at considerable length, and with considerable pressure, as his examination shows and these illegal proceedings were followed up by an order for bail (so it is presumed) or at all events by an order for his custody in default of bail, though the law forbade the Magistrate to take cognizance of such a matter without complaint (Section 142 Code of Criminal Procedure). The invitation to Moty Lall to complain which followed was most injudicious and the retaining the appellant in custody until such a complaint was preferred was most objectionable and without any sanction of law.

Then this is followed by proceedings before Babu Rash Behary Bose which ended on September 6th by the dismissal of the case on default, and yet no order was passed for his release from Hajut so far as the record shows.

Then we have the reference to the High Court for the revival of the case, and the subsequent proceedings before another Deputy Magistrate, which have resulted in the conviction of the appellant and his sentence to 4 months simple imprisonment after he had already been for more than 4 months in Hajut. It is a fitting termination to such proceedings before the Magistrates of Howrah that I should have to add that there is no evidence to support that conviction, for the statement recorded by the District Magistrate is not evidence; there is no legal evidence of any admission made by the appellant and the evidence afforded by comparison of hand writing is such that it would be altogether unsafe to place implicit reliance upon it. I am surprised to find that Babu Tariq Churn has referred to Section 17 of Evidence Act as authorizing the reception of the prisoner's statement at evidence against him, for Section 17 merely gives the definition of the term "admission" as used in that Act under the circumstances mentioned in the Sections which follow it.

The conviction and sentence must be set aside, and the appellant must be released.

H. T. PRINSEP, Sessions Judge."

We have often said in these columns that one of the duties of the police and the Magistrates is to hunt up cases, and here is a fair specimen of it. A man was suspected of having written a defamatory letter, the offence (?) he thus committed was not a cognizable one without formal complaint. The complainant was not forthcoming, but the police with its usual zeal sought him out and compelled him to prosecute the man. The police also most unwarrantably arrested the man, produced him before the Magistrate without any apparent cause, and then kept him in Hazut for weeks together. The case came off before the Deputy Magistrate and was dismissed by him, the prosecutor having failed to enter appearance. And yet the defendant was ordered back to custody by the Magistrate Mr. Grant, was prosecuted though there was no complainant present, convicted and sentenced to 4 months imprisonment! Where is, we ask, the liberty of the subjects if they are hunted up like wild beasts, by an unscrupulous police, backed by autocrats with unlimited powers?

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THE FAMINE POLICY.—When the Government admits that it "runs the risk of being charged with inhumanity" and then declares that it "will not be deterred by such considerations from a course of action which it knows to be right" there must be an end to all discussions on the subject. This declaration on the part of the Government means that it is perfectly aware that its policy will be condemned by the public, but it does not care much what the public may say on the subject. In short the Government will do what it thinks right in spite of what the public may say to the contrary. After this declaration of the Supreme Government, it will not only be labor lost but presumption, on the part of the public, to advise the self-sufficient and self-willed rulers of the land what to do at a critical time, when twenty one districts, with a population of twenty seven millions, are threatened with the direst calamity, which can befall a nation.

But yet the public cannot acquiesce, without a protest, in a policy, the framers of which know it to be "inhuman" or will be characterised by the public as such. The ground taken by the Government is a safe one and is one which has served it more than once and it is that old plea—poverty. Let us however first of all see how the Government argues out its case. Says the Resolution: If indiscriminate private charity is bad, the indiscriminate charity of a Government is far worse [undoubtedly so], but who ever urged Government to be indiscriminate in its charity? This is evading the real point at issue and quarrelling upon one in which there can be no two opinions. The Government will never sanction a course of action which tends to demoralize the

quite so. Never do it by all means.] It is essential in the present state of the finances that the most severe economy should be practised. [We only regret that this is not more often practised.] After inculcating all these principles, the soundness of which nobody ever questioned, the Government goes on to say that "so far as the resources of the State admit" and "with the means at its disposal" it will not fail to do its duty to the people. Now we think these are not the legitimate conclusions of the principles above enunciated. Because strict economy is necessary, because indiscriminate charity is to be condemned, because a course which tends to demoralize the people ought to be avoided, therefore it does not follow that the Government will only avail itself of "the means at its disposal" and not extraordinary means, to save the subjects of Her Majesty from death by starvation. The expression "the means at the disposal of the Government" is very vague, and considering the general tone of the Resolution, positively alarming.

But there is another expression in the Resolution which has taken us quite aback. It says: "Even, however if financial considerations were less overpoweringly strong, it would still be true that a Government has no better right in times of scarcity, than in other times, to attempt the task of preventing all suffering and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community." What does the Government mean by the above? Let us however see what it means. It means this, if it means anything. The Government does not choose to make a distinction between sufferings from starvation and other causes. Even if the Government had sufficient money it would not forget every other consideration for the sake of 27 millions of people who were only dying of starvation. For instance there is a great deal of suffering for want of separate cells for the prisoners; the duty of Government must be equally divided between the prisoners and the famished, and it sees no reason, why those suffering from starvation, should have the first consideration. Take another example. The people of the up-country suffer a great deal from the scarcity of water, and the Government sees no reason why tanks should not be excavated for them first or at the same time with the relief afforded to the famished. If this be the view of the Government, then the Government has, according to the public of India, taken a very inhuman view of the whole affair, a view which will simply outrage the feelings of the whole country. According to this public, whose opinion, the Government declares at the out-set, will not deter it from the course it has chosen to adopt, the Government has very little idea of its solemn responsibility when it classes sufferings from starvation with other sufferings.

We said the general tone of the Resolution is alarming. Now compare the statement "Even however &c," with that of the State Secretary during Lord Northbrook's Government on a similar occasion. Lord Salisbury then said, "Her Majesty's Government may rely upon the Government of India not shrinking from using every available means, at whatever cost, to prevent, so far as they can, any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects in consequence of the calamity which now threatens Bengal." There is a great deal of difference between these two sentiments, one declared in 1873 and the other in 1877. The one breeds confidence, the other creates alarm. The one gives assurance, the other is nothing more than an apology. The one indicates a generous heart, the other displays acute reason. Need we say that we, the poor people of India, need the display of heart and not of intellect of England?

The Resolution is very unfortunate in the instance it gives of the manner in which relief operations were carried on in Gorakhpur and Basti during the scarcity of 1873. In these relief works there were about 2 lacs of men who were provided for. But when a full day's labor was insisted on, all these men left their works and fled home. Thus: "When a lax system is established, and every one down to the merest child gets paid for the merest pretence of work, with probably a good many abuses besides, the thing becomes too attractive, the whole country tends to come on the works, the numbers threaten to be absolutely overwhelming." Now is this not a very humiliating confession for a Government to make? The laborers in the works receive but few pieces per diem, barely sufficient in times of scarcity to keep body and soul together. If for such a pittance the whole country flocks to the works, what must be the state of the country! Is it possible in any other country in the world, to draw overwhelming numbers to the works on such terms as these?

There is another fact to which we shall humbly draw the attention of the responsible rulers of the land. The prevailing notion of the country is that famines are brought about by the sins of the rulers and the rulers are held responsible for the lives of the people suffering from scarcity. Did it never occur to Lord Lytton that a ruler who fails to afford adequate relief to the people in times of scarcity is not fit to rule? A Government which takes shelter under the plea of poverty when the people are threatened with death from starvation must be inherently defective in its constitution. The Government pleads poverty, but we are to forthcom-

ing to punish the Ameer if he turns traitor. We not ten times the amount of money, nor can we to meet the present crisis, be available, if the barbarians beyond the Caucasus take it into their heads to break their heads in the wall of fort Attock. So the plea of poverty is a plea and such plea will not do when the lives of millions of Her Imperial Majesty's subjects are threatened.

The general tone of the Resolution is not in keeping with the kind heart of Lord Lytton. Lord Lytton is a kind hearted man and of that he has given proofs. The nobleman who could remonstrate with a soldier for maltreating a native, who lost his temper in penning the famous Fuller minute is not surely a man of hard heart. In saving lives from death, Englishmen generally display greater pluck and generosity than the natives of this country. If nothing moves stolid England, a famine in India throws our masters in a state of delirious excitement. If Englishmen are the most money-loving nation in the world, a famine in India makes them forgetful of their national vice. These are all known to us; what mischievous elf has then brought about this change in English sentiments and thoughts? What is the secret of this sudden change of policy? Is it really want of money? Is the object to give a threat and thus prepare the nation for the imposition of taxes? If that be the case we have no cause of quarrel with the Government. But the people are alarmed and Government ought to do something to assure them. If the object of the Government be merely to re-impose the income tax, we are quite confident the nation will cheerfully pay it if it be only to save the lives of millions and if "the most severe economy is practised" in all the departments of the Government, which, as the Government itself says, has become essential considering the present state of finances.

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**THE PROCLAMATION OF 1858 AND THE VICEROY'S ADDRESS.**—In a late issue we said that in spite of solemn assurances on the part of the Queen to promote our happiness and add to our prosperity, an astounding discrepancy stares us in the face as we go forth to verify them in our belongings and surroundings. An equally confounding discrepancy is visible between Her Majesty's celebrated Proclamation published to the world nineteen years ago, and the Address of Her Imperial Majesty's Representative delivered the other day at Delhi before the assembled Princes and peoples of India. The Proclamation is like a balm to the wounded soul; it is soothing and re-assuring; it imparts cheerfulness and gladness to hearts bent down with despondency; in short, it is the best heritage which an affectionate parent can bestow upon her dutiful children. The Address, on the other hand, is boastful and replete with bombasts signifying the omnipotence of the British Government; it is more calculated to scorch than soften the heart; it deals with some vague generalities which produce no impression on the mind; while the display of England's prowess and wealth and a conqueror's pride in a rhetorical language, and such expressions as "Her Majesty's Possessions throughout the world comprise a seventh part of the earth's surface and three hundred millions of its inhabitants," "Her Majesty's great power," "Your loyal allegiance," ought not to have found a place in an Address the object of which was presumably to secure the attachment of a conquered people.

The Address also contains expressions which can hardly be reconciled with the Queen's promises embodied in Her Proclamation of 1858. Thus in the Proclamation Her Gracious Majesty is pleased to say: "And it is Our further Will that so far as may be Our Subjects, of whatever Race or Creed, be freely and impartially admitted to Offices in Our Service the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge." The Address however, touching this subject, goes on to speak: "The administration of this great Empire demands, from many of those to whom share it is entrusted, attributes, not exclusively intellectual qualifications, to which moral and social superiority are essential. More especially therefore, does it rest with those, who, by birth, rank, and hereditary influence, are your natural leaders, to fit themselves and their children for the honorable duty which is open to them by accepting the only education that can enable them to comprehend and practise the principles steadily maintained by the Government of the Queen, their Empress." Further on the Address says.—"You must all adopt as your own that highest standard of public virtue which comprises loyalty, incorruptibility, truth and courage. The Government of Her Majesty will then cordially welcome your co-operation in the work of administration." Thus while in 1858 promises were held out to us by the Queen that we would be freely and impartially admitted to offices in Her Majesty's service, we are coolly told after eighteen years' "rapid advance" and "increasing prosperity" by the same Queen's own representative on the auspicious day of Her assuming the highest title in the land that we must wait and improve our morals before we can expect to have a share in the work of administration. The people, who are not children, though Government would like to treat them so, were hardly

prepared for such a homily which is a direct insult to our intellect and moral sense.

But it is to the opening few lines of the Address we shall particularly draw the attention of our readers. After referring to the Proclamation of 1858, the Address goes on to say: "The promises made by a Sovereign whose word has never been broken, need no confirmation from my lips," or, in other words, the promises which Her Majesty held out to the people of this country nineteen years ago, in her celebrated Proclamation, have been faithfully fulfilled to the letter. We are well-nigh staggered at the assertion, especially as it comes from the mouth of such an august personage as Her Majesty's Representative himself on so solemn an occasion. But there are, as we said, discrepancies and let us examine how the case stands. Is it really true that "the word of the Sovereign" has been faithfully carried out by Her servants? We shall presently see.

Her Majesty the Queen said "We shall respect the Rights, Dignity, and Honor of Native Princes as Our own; &c." Has her word in this respect been kept unbroken? The House of Jodhpore is as illustrious as any in the country, nay in the world, and yet the Sovereign Prince of Jodhpore was insulted and expelled from the British territory by Lord Mayo because the Prince foolishly claimed precedence over a rival house. This was no respecting the rights and dignities of Native Princes. It is however a thankless task to rake up old matters, but yet the case of the ex-Gaekwar is not one to be put aside. To pack a sovereign Prince as a common felon and put him virtually in "vile durance" is certainly not maintaining the Dignity and Honor of the Native Princes. People have not also as yet forgotten the affair in connection with the Nawab of Tonk, which, though enveloped in mystery, was clear enough to show that neither the Rights nor the Dignity and Honor of a Native Prince were respected on that occasion. It is true that the Native Princes and Chiefs have not been dispossessed of their States, but the same cannot be said of their rights and privileges, and on the whole, their position is now far worse than before. They have now to attend Durbars and pay homage to the Governor-Generals more frequently than they ever did, and this is calculated to humiliate them before the eyes of their subjects. Their power of trying and punishing British subjects in their territories has been taken away from them and no one can deny that this is a direct blow to their honor and dignity. We need hardly allude to the Political Agents and Residents, who, it is notorious, exercise a constant terrorism over the Indian Sovereigns. The Prince of Wales himself admitted that the Native Princes are oftentimes harassed and worried by these Politicians. These Residents are invested with unlimited powers and they can seat or unseat a Prince as is amply exemplified in the case of Gaekwar, and even the biggest of the Indian Princes, the Nizam, trembled the other day at the determined opposition of one of these Politicians.

Her Majesty was further pleased to say: "We hold Ourselves bound to the Natives of Our Indian Territories by same Obligations of Duty which bind Us to all Our Subjects; and those Obligations by the Blessing of Almighty God We shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil." India is here plainly acknowledged to form integral part of the British Empire,—not a conquered dependency, but a member of that great body politic. Her Majesty makes no distinction between Her Indian and British born subjects. The proclamation unequivocally admits the Natives to an equality of rights and privileges with the Anglo-Saxons. It assures to us a faithful and conscientious regard for our interests. But the British-born subject is not amenable to the same Criminal Procedure which obtains in the land. Instances can be cited by hundreds in which Englishmen have been slightly punished or set free for offences which have secured for the Natives the highest penalty provided by the law. Her Majesty's Indian subjects are proverbially loyal, but loyal or not, the Queen bound Herself by a sacred promise to treat them equally with Her other subjects, yet we are treated with the utmost distrust while unlimited confidence is reposed in Her European subjects. The whole Indian population have been disarmed as if they are natural enemies to the Queen and one must take out a pass or licence before he can keep even a fowling piece in his possession. Now this is not fulfilling Her Majesty's obligations faithfully and conscientiously. Her Majesty never intended to emasculate a once noble nation, but Her Officers have reduced them to the most helpless condition possible. The Military Department is sealed to us, the Foreign Office is not for us, and we are not trusted even with the minutest secrets of Government.

As to the appointments of Her Majesty's subjects irrespective of creed or color to posts under Government, it is notorious how the loaves and fishes of the State are shared in by the ruling race, while a few bones and crusts only are distributed to the children of the soil. It is admitted on all hands that the Natives are quite fit for any post, either in the judicial or executive branch of the service, but the fat employments are not for them. The doors of the Civil Service are practically closed on us, and though a Bill about ten years

ago with the object of appointing the direct to the covenanted service, yet far off from its sacred precincts as we are and are threatened to remain so by the Vice-Press himself till we have made sufficient progress in our morality. We have no access to the offices, Political and Military, under the Government. We commanded armies and held all the important posts of trust when the Mahomedans ruled the country, but under the benign and civilized government of the English, in the face of promises most solemnly made by the Sovereign, our inherent rights are trampled under foot, and we are not allowed to take any share in the work of administration of our own country.

Religious neutrality is solemnly promised in the Proclamation, but it is well known how it is preserved by Her Majesty's servants. The Mogul Emperors are condemned for having imposed the zezia tax, but we also pay the zezia in the shape of a contribution for the spiritual food of the handfuls of Christians that are in the country. This is certainly not maintaining a strict neutrality in regard to the religions of all Her Majesty's subjects.

And lastly our Gracious Queen was pleased to promise : "When, by the blessing of Providence internal Tranquility shall be restored, it is our Earnest Desire to stimulate the Peaceful Industry of India." The blessings of the Providence have been showered upon Her Majesty and the nation, and internal tranquility has also been established throughout the land, but the peaceful industry of

it has not been stimulated. Her Majesty's servants may not be wanting in good intentions. But these are frustrated and nullified by a queer freak of fortune. Far from encouraging the industries of the country, the late Government of Lord Northbrook never recognised the desirability and never harboured the design of making the Natives an enterprising and industrial people. Rather has it steadily maintained a contrary policy, the cool, ungenerous policy of neglecting and keeping down native interests and promoting those of its own. Indeed our rulers have not openly asserted the right of the strong over the weak, of the superior over the inferior. There is no law prohibiting us from the pursuit of trades and industries. We are not kept out of our mines, or tea and coffee fields. All the resources of the country are left open to us, and every man is at liberty to select his own career, and carve out his fortune in his own way. True, there is a semblance of justice in the actions of Government, but virtually and to all intents and purposes the country has been reduced to an utterly wretched condition. The scheme of Government is skillfully devised to deaden every energy of the nation.

The conquerors have, by means of masked isolation fully disabled us, and disinherited us all that is of advantage to us. The free-trade principle has been forced upon us, and in the name of right and philanthropy, doctrines the most hostile to all Indian arts and industries, have been introduced into the country.

#### SCRAPS AND COMMENTS.

A correspondent informs us that the speech which Babu Issur Chunder Bose, Zemindar of Sreedhupore, made on the occasion of the assumption of the Imperial title created a favourable impression amongst the European community of Jessore. The Babu, we are glad to hear, made a donation of Rs. 500 to the Jessore Dispensary funds, and besides, illuminated the greater portion of the town and displayed fireworks in a considerable quantity. He also entertained the leading gentlemen of the town to a hearty dinner. The Rajah of Chanchara also spent a good deal in giving a dinner to the Europeans and displaying fire-works.

The *Pioneer*, as the mouth-piece of Government, would make us believe that the intentions of Government are far from warlike. Regarding the Frontier affair it says :—

The rumours of great military preparations on the Frontier have spread all over India the expectation of important operations. We are in a position, however, to calm apprehension or disappoint hopes as the case may be. For some time past Government has kept itself ready for contingencies in case of a general outbreak of war. But there never was, and is not now, any intention of moving hostile forces against the hill tribes, or beyond the Frontier. We may add that the relations of the British Government with Cabul are altogether friendly."

Yes the Amir is quite friendly, but is it a fact that he insulted the British Ambassador at Cabul and sent an insolent reply to the letter of the Government?

The following startling news has been published in the *Indian public Opinion* :—

It is rumoured at Cabul that the Russian Ambassador has asked the Amir to permit the Russian troops to pass through his territory, in return for which, the Russian Government would grant to the Amir the towns of Shir Ganj, Takka Yamat, Khiva, and a few others together with certain territory adjacent to Peshawar. In case of non-compliance, the Amir has been threatened with open warfare with the Russians. His Highness has appointed, and sent his son, Nur Mohamed Shah, and the Prince Ata Mohamed Khan, to decide the

In reference to *Nautch*, a lady in England writes to the *Times* :—

"I am glad that the announcement

of the ball-dancing is proposed as one of the enlightened Indians. It is well-known how very objectionable this is considered by all the respectable English. But what is ball-dancing, pray? Is it not far more indecent than Indian *Nautches*? The Biewallis at least dress themselves properly, but your young English ladies would not only care to cover their persons, but dance with young men in a manner which is simply shocking. It is amusing how an English lady is indignant at the Indian *Nautches*, while she herself perhaps had danced many an English dance with young people of the other sex.

S. C. M. sends an account of the Muzzahapore Chota Dnbar. He says that the Town was but indifferently illuminated and some blankets were distributed among the poor.

The famine cost in the Madras Presidency has already reached Rs. 40,000,000, while the expenditure for the same purpose in Bombay amounts to Rs. 12,15,350. Knrul, where Sir Richard Temple is shortly expected, is now said to be the most afflicted of all the Madras Districts.

The first interview between Lord Salisbury and the Sultan, which took place on the 10th Dec., last, is thus described by a correspondent of the *Times* :—

Lord Salisbury and his suite were introduced to the Sultan on Sunday. The audience was private. The Special Delegate and his Secretaries wore uniforms. They were admitted not into the Throne Room, but into a plain apartment on the ground-floor, and bidden to sit down in the Imperial presence, the whole reception being remarkable for the absence of all those prostrations and salaams which have been the rule at this Court for so many centuries, and which the present Padishah has abolished, to the great relief of his First Dragoman and Master of the Ceremonies, whose back, he says, still aches with the bare recollection of what he formerly had to go through. The Sultan's welcome to his distinguished European visitors, was by all account extremely cordial and benignant, and the impression he made upon them, as, indeed, upon all he has hitherto come into contact with, has been in every respect favourable. The young Sovereign, it seems, has a somewhat sad, care-worn look, and his appearance is that of a man considerably older than the "Almanach de Gotha," which gives the date of his birth as the 22nd of September, 1842, would make him. But allowance must be made for the weariness effect of a Southern climate and of a secluded harem life. The Sultan spoke with unaffected diffidence, as he has hitherto done on all similar occasions, about his recent accessions to the throne, and his consequent inexperience of affairs, and dwelt on the difficulties with which he was beset. He ended by an assurance that the most earnest wish of his heart was to promote the welfare of all his subjects, placing them on fairly equal conditions and calling them to the enjoyment of the same rights. The Sultan, I am told, spoke these words to this effect, and there can be little doubt that he said what he meant. On the uprightness and benevolence of his intentions no question has as yet arisen, and it is quite certain that, were matters to be settled between him and his subjects, the ascendancy of his Imperial rank and sacred character would enable him single-handed to ensure the happiness of his people. Unfortunately, the Ottoman Empire, although a despotic, is not a Monarchical State. It is simply an oligarchy having at its head as a ruling class, not a feudal or a patrician aristocracy, but a crowd of high functionaries in or out of place—Viziers or ex-Vizier's Valis, Pasahs, &c.—constituting a satrapy rather than a bureaucracy, reigning, not ruling, or ruling through subalterns whom they despise, and who hate and cheat them, and contending among themselves for the monopoly of a mere shadow of authority, which they exercise solely for their own benefit, and which they are unable or do not care to turn to the advantage either of the Sovereign or of the country.

An esteemed correspondent writes us on the subject of Lord Lytton's speech :—

Sir.—In the telegraphic summary given in the "Times of India" of the speech of Lord Lytton delivered on the 3rd instant I find the following important sentence :—

"I do most seriously believe, that one single act of deliberate injustice,—one marked and conspicuous departure from the principles of equity—which have hitherto guided our Government, one clear instance of either inability or unwillingness to redress a wrong, whoever the sufferer, high or humble, native or European—I do say most seriously, as a record of my conviction, that this would be more discreditable, and therefore more disastrous to the British Empire in India than any financial or military catastrophe."

This is greatly refreshing to read after having been accustomed to see, perpetrated daily before my eyes, the grossest and most grievous injustice. His Lordship speaks of "one single act" but what if I show his Lordship ten acts of the most deliberate and most flagrant injustice, acts which are not merely conspicuous departures from the principles of equity but utterly subversive of those principles? And what if I further prove, by unimpeachable evidence, that the court which daily does such injustice has been made practically irresponsible and that its superiors by refusing to hear appeals, stifle the complaints of the sufferers? Will it then be acknowledged that, in the words of his Lordship, the acts of such a court are "discreditable to the Empire" which allows them and that the continued existence of such a tribunal reflects dishonour and disgrace on the British rule. To convince you of the truth of my statements I will send you, in a few days, a faithful account of a case decided by the court of which you will feel thoroughly satisfied.

that the said court shrinks from often resorts to deliberate misdeeds enormous injustice. Sir, is it not a journalist and a loyal subject to expose the misdoings of such a court? It has been systematically ruining the province and which consequently more unpopular in that possibly do?

I give publicity to these few in order to draw the attention to the scandals I speak the causes of the evils which the Empress the affection of

Yours faithfully,

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, writes to the effect that a Persian envoy is expected in St. Petersburg to announce the policy which the Shah will pursue on the outbreak of a war between Russia and Turkey. That the Shah of Persia should not consider it necessary to depute a second envoy to London is a fact of some significance. It appears there is scarcely any probability of England's recovering its lost prestige at Teheran.

The undermentioned jewellers are said to have been some of the principal contributors to the exhibition of jewellery at the Delhi Assemblage, estimated at £5,000,000, or Rupees five crores :—

Buddyass, Mooken, Bahadoor, forty lacs; Bhugomandass, ten lacs; Monohurdass, thirty lacs; Kartick Setty, five lacs; Messrs. Handford and Crew, one crore; Paunallal of Bombay, sevety lacs; Fukeer Chund and Soonderdass Chunnoo of Benares, twenty and ten lacs, respectively; from Baroda, about forty lacs. The sale of jewellery does not seem to have been attended with such liveliness as was hoped for by the adventurous jewellers. We suspect that the above statement is subject to a liberal discount.

We learn from a Lahore Paper that the Khan of Khelat and his following of about 200, left Delhi on Thursday last in charge of Dr. Duke; they spent Friday at Amritsur, and are expected in here on Saturday. His Highness was very loth to leave his comfortable quarters at Delhi; and it was with great difficulty, we believe, that he was induced to consent to take his departure. On dit that the Khan took a great fancy to his large tent as well as its furniture, and was desirous of removing it bodily to Khelat, as well as the furniture which it contained. Politically vainly protested that the tent was the property of Government, and that it was merely lent to him; and it was not until he was firmly but in plain language given to understand that he had got all that he was to receive from Government, that he abandoned his claims to the handsome tent and its contents.

A German firm, Asbeck, Osthaus and Co., are manufacturing a substance they term steel iron, in five different varieties; so that they can furnish steel upon iron, iron between two layers of steel, steel between two layers of iron, steel core and iron skin, or iron core and steel skin. It is made in an iron shell, divided into two compartments by an iron plate. Before melting, both the steel and malleable iron are cleansed from any substance which would impede their welding. In the casting, they are run at the same moment into the shell, in such a manner that the separating diaphragm serves to weld the two metals together, which form an inseparable mass when cooled. The process is recommended for rails, anvils, armour plates, &c.

The Admiralty have asked for designs for a gun capable of piercing 36in. of armour. The preparation for the manufacture of this gun, supposing its weight to be not more than 200 tons, will not necessitate the extensive outlay in new machinery and plant which attended the production of the original 81-ton gun, the various appliances then provided having been contrived with a view to further requirements. Various alterations, however, will be requisite at every process.

At the Imperial Assemblage the amnesty of 1859 was extended to actual leaders of the revolt of 1857. They may now go back to their old homes; being only obliged to give notice to the district authorities both of their return and of their intention to behave well for the future. If they should ever wish to leave the district, they must also give notice. The exception excluding murderers and leaders of the mutiny is to be kept in force; and Feroz Shah, the late King of Delhi's son, is especially named as not partaking in the privileges now conferred.

At the interview at Madhopoor, Lord Lytton agreed to pardon the Jasvan Rajah for this conduct in 1848, and reverse the attainder against this Hill Chieftain. The Rajah of Jasvan's son is the Maharajah of Cashmere's son-in-law, so that this fair and reasonable act of clemency and grace was peculiarly acceptable to the Maharajah. The old Rajah was the principal man of the Hill Chiefs who rose in insurrection in the north of the Jullunder Doab in 1848, when Sher Singh and Moolraj called on all to rise and deliver their country.

Regarding the injustice done by the English Government to the Zemindar of Palconda, Madras, the local *Athenaeum* says :—

We have received a copy of the opinions of the Press in the Zemindar of Palconda's case, neatly bound in pamphlet form, by which we are reminded that this unfortunate native nobleman is still under restraint at Veilore, not being allowed to leave that place without a pass from the civil authorities; and that no steps have been taken, as far as the public are aware, by the Madras Government to restore his undoubted rights and to atone for conduct, which we have before commented on in these columns as being utterly indefensible, and in the highest degree culpable and cruel. Why an admittedly innocent boy should have been placed in strict confinement, his property confiscated, and he kept in this state for forty years, has never been, and can never be, justified. We should, however, have thought that the cruel injustice of this terrible outcome of what has been styled, "State necessity" would have been in some measure atoned for, by the wretched man receiving some little portion of the imperial sunshine that has made glad the hearts of so many. But no. Convicts have been released by the sands from the Imperial Majesty's tails, but

official espionage, and at this moment cannot move about without the written authority of the civil authorities. While not the remotest idea of doing him justice by a formal restoration of estates that are legitimately his, appears to have entered the official mind. Can Lord Lytton, the warm-hearted, the kindly, the gracious, know of this fragrant case?

#### Anecdotes regarding the Khan of Khelat.—

The *Pioneer's Special* at Delhi furnishes the following: "I have already spoken of the Khan at home in his own camp with his sirdars, of their dinners on the floor, and their passion for the spoons belonging to the mess-tent. Other stories are told of them moreover, one that they have eaten up all their soap. This is a good deal to believe, but at any rate the soap has been made a way with. The whole camp was properly supplied one day, and the next there was not a cake left. But these little anecdotes pale beside the narrative of the Khan's first introduction to the pleasures of dining out. I hear that the fence at which he first came to grief, so to speak, was the fish sauce. There were two kinds offered to him on one salver, and he carried a ladleful of each to his mouth to see which he liked best, concluding finally to establish a mixture on his plate. Then the earlier side dishes fared badly when they came within the sweep of the Khan's arm, till it was explained to His Highness that there were many other delicacies in reserve, and that he would do well to nurse his appetite. Altogether his fellow-guests must have had a very amusing evening, though some little incidents I have left unnoticed may have given them starts occasionally."

We learn that Government has found it necessary to postpone for the present the Railway Conference which was to have met here in February. The delay is due to the pressure of work caused by the famine in Madras and Bombay, which will prevent the representatives of those presidencies from leaving their posts for some months to come.

Sayad Mir Muhammad, the representative of the Amir of Kabul, with the British representative in Kabul, Ata Muhammad, are coming to Peshawar, to have an interview with Sir H. Davies and Sir L. Pelly; Dr. Bellew, though at present Sanjour Commissioner of the Panjab, having been appointed to the meeting as interpreter, and to give the benefit of his experience on frontier matters. The *Pioneer* admits that there has been a coldness between the Government of India and the Amir, which the forthcoming interview will, it is hoped, put an end to; and hints that an attempt will be made to induce the Amir to allow a European envoy to reside at Kabul.

Notwithstanding all the Military preparations that are known to be going on in the Panjab, the Allahabad paper still asserts that there is no intention on the part of the Government of India to undertake a frontier expedition, still less do they imply a likelihood of any hostile operations against Afghanistan. The activity amongst the northern garrisons is due to the outside chance that, if war recommences after the breaking up of the Conference, and if England joins in it, a force might be wanted, not for an attack on, but for the defence of, the integrity of Kabul.

We have much pleasure in giving insertion to the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Director Public Instruction:

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 10 of the 1st January 1877, reporting the liberal support given to the Music School attached to the Calcutta Normal School by Baboo Sourindro Mohun Tagore, Doctor of Music.

2. You state that, for several years, Doctor Tagore has contributed Rs. 30 per mensem for the salary of a teacher of music, besides awarding annually two silver medals to the most proficient students in the Art, and that recently he has presented the Music School with a Table Harmonium of the value of Rs. 200.

3. The exertions of Doctor Sourindro Mohun Tagore in the cause of education in music have more than once been brought to the notice of Government, and I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to request that you will convey to him the acknowledgments of the Government of Bengal for his enlightened liberality.

Dr. R. N. Khory, a Native of Bombay, has taken the degree of M. D. in the University of Brussels.

In the event of hostilities with Russia arrangements are perfected at the Admiralty for an immediate and material increase being made to the squadron on the North American and West Indian station.

Dr. H. D. Masani, a Hindu gentleman of Bombay, now in England, has become member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Mr. D. Warlikar, another Hindu gentleman, has passed the first M. R. C. P. Examination.

There is a report that Mr. Stuart Bayley, the Commissioner of the Patna Division, is to be the Secretary to the Bengal Government in the Judicial and Political Departments, Mr. R. L. Mangles, the present incumbent, succeeds Mr. Bayley in Patna.

The King of Burmah is always trying to cultivate friendship with some of the European Powers, and extend his commercial relations with them. It appears His Majesty has lately sent an Embassy to Spain. This Embassy—so Reuter informs us—had a State reception in Madrid. A commercial treaty between Spain and Burmah is in view.

Preparations are in active progress for the Fron-

man says:—"The Commander-in-Chief passed through to-day to Rawalpindi, where the Lieutenant-Governor will join him for consultation about Frontier affairs. Travellers are warned that the road between Rawalpindi and Peshawur is unsafe. Ladies are forbidden travelling by night. General Keyes is expected at Kohat on the 20th. A Squadron of the 4th Punjab Cavalry forms part of Major Sandeman's escort to Khelat. There are great preparations for the Frontier Campaign."

A serious water famine is apprehended in the Madras Presidency. A telegram to the *Englishman* states:—

Wells are being sunk on an extensive scale, but in certain districts require blasting through rocky strata, which is a work of time and skilled labor. Water in Madras city very short, wells drying up and Redhill water-supply failing. Unprecedented importation of grain. Beach piled with rice bags for nearly half a mile. Strand choked with bullock carts, mule wagons, and lines of carts dragged by coolies. Demand for rice by Native inland merchants still apparently inexhaustible. Government purchases have ceased, Supreme Government having questioned property of former purchases without its sanction. Sir Richard will decide this point, also the question of food or money wages and large or small works. Latest forecasts indicate two million people on Relief works by April.

We have heard of grain bazars being looted during a famine, but never of a special grain train being looted. The *Madras Times* writes:—

We learn that Mr. Hill, the Divisional Officer in charge of the 1st Division, on the North-West Line of the Madras Railway, telegraphed, on Thursday afternoon, to the Traffic Manager, Mr. Church, that the line of Railway between Wontimettah and Cuddapah, for about half a mile in length, was obstructed by huge boulders of rock evidently placed on the line with a view of stopping and looting a special grain train approaching that locality. The driver, we hear, on perceiving the obstruction, stopped the train, unhooked his engine therefrom and proceeded leisurely with his engine to examine the matter for himself; when, during his absence the waggons were attacked, it would appear, with a view to loot the grain that was being conveyed by that train. Serious apprehensions were entertained by the railway officials in regard to the outgoing 6 p. m. Mail Train of Thursday. At the time we write the line continues still blocked, and we hear that the driver on his return to the waggons from the scene of danger, was also attacked as well as the guard.

The question whether the law of maintenance and champerty, or any rules analogous to that law, as it exists in England, have been introduced into and form part of the law of India, has been for a long period in controversy in the Indian Courts. In the judgment, delivered on the 25th Nov., 1876, on the appeal of Ram Kumar Coondoo and others vs. Chandra Kant Mukerji from the Calcutta High Court, their Lordships of the Privy Council made the following remarks on the subject:—

"But whilst their Lordships hold that the specific English law of maintenance and champerty has not been introduced into India, it seems clear to them upon the authorities that contracts of this character ought under certain circumstances to be held to be invalid, as being against public policy. Their Lordships think it may properly be inferred from the decisions above referred to, and especially those of this tribunal, that a fair agreement to supply funds to carry on a suit in consideration of having a share of the property, if recovered, ought not to be regarded as being, *per se*, opposed to public policy. Indeed, cases may be easily supposed in which it would be in furtherance of right and justice, and necessary to resist oppression, that a suitor who had a just title to property, and no means except the property itself, should be assisted in this manner. But agreements of this kind ought to be carefully watched, and when found to be extortionate and unconscionable, so as to be inequitable against the party; or to be made, not with the *bona fide* object of assisting a claim believed to be just, and of obtaining a reasonable recompense therefor, but for improper objects, as for the purpose of gambling in litigation, or of injuring or oppressing others by abetting and encouraging unrighteous suits, so as to be contrary to public policy,—effect ought not to be given to them."

Oude and North-West have at last been amalgamated. We extract the following from the proceedings of the Government, Home Department:—

The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that it is expedient, on grounds of financial and general policy, to combine the Administration of Oudh with that of the North Western Provinces.

2. The simplest mode of carrying out this measure is to transfer the seat of chief executive authority in Oudh from Lucknow to Allahabad, leaving matters otherwise as they stand. This will cause the least disturbance of existing arrangements, and will provide, with the greatest amount of economy possible, for the maintenance of the peculiarities of the Oudh administrative system.

3. The Governor-General in Council is, therefore, pleased to declare that, the office of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces being vacant, the Chief Commissioner of Oudh shall be transferred to it. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner will exercise the present functions of both offices within each Province respectively, and will be required to reside at Lucknow for a portion of the year.

Writing about the speech of the Viceroy on Proclamation Day, the *States* includes its remarks in the following words:

Detailed criticism of the speech. As an effort of composition it may get the praise of elegance. Its division by turns the different important reminds one of a Royal speech at Unfortunately, we have no guarantee a speech, the prelude to a speech to give form and solidity to when we have reached the end more words, is the institution of the Order of the Indian Empire of honour, were what the have had enough and more than banners and medals, certificates meaningless vanities. B

titles and dignities, creating Imperial Councillors who will never be asked for counsel, and Generals of the British Army who will never be asked to serve, we shall only make our honours and our titles contemptible in the eyes of those we seek to conciliate. It would seem that the Government has adopted with modifications, Pope's famous lines to characterize the people of India, and shape its policy towards them:

Bold the child, by nature's kindly law,  
Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw;  
Some livelier playthings gives his youth delight;

A little louder, but as empty quite:

Stars, garters, gold, amuse his riper stage,

And beads and prayer-books are the toys of age.

The people, and Princes of India are to be for ever treated as children, to be put off with pattings and praises, and kept from sulking by such toys as stars and medals, and parchment certificates. It is not statesmanship but Beconfield fireworks.

The *Bombay Gazette* severely takes the *Pioneer* to task for publishing Official Papers earlier, and thus castigates the Allahabad Paper:—

The *Pall Mall Gazette* used to be spoken of as a paper written by gentlemen for gentlemen; and in like manner the *Pioneer* may justly be described as a paper written by snobs for snobs. We daresay our Allahabad contemporary will himself admit the accuracy of this definition; for his ambition does not soar high, and he is quite content, by the exercise of "a judicious profusion" to buy little bits of news with which he may titillate the appetite for gossip of the unthinking members of Anglo-Indian society. For the higher function of journalism, which involves the careful and impartial discussion of public measures with the view of enlightening the public mind and assisting the Government to carry on the administration of a country in accordance with public opinion, the *Pioneer* has the loftiest content. Its simple policy to corrupt Government servants, paying them for information which it afterwards does attempt to criticize but communicates to its readers in the air of a State trumpeter proclaiming some Imperial decree. The position of the *Pioneer* peculiarly qualifies it for undertaking work of this kind. It is a paper without a bottom. It is published indeed at Allahabad, but it represents no living, organized community. At Bombay, and in some degree also at Calcutta and Madras, the newspapers speak in the name of a great population educated in the knowledge of public affairs and full of life and energy. But the *Pioneer* has no public opinion of any kind at its back, it represents nobody but the officials who supply it with news for money or on the condition of being written up in return for their base betrayal of secrets of State; and it might as well be published at Simla or wherever else the Government of India may fix its residence as at Allahabad. No doubt, freedom from local prejudices is an advantage; but it is better to be swayed unconsciously, in the discussion of administrative or legislative measures, by the character of the people among whom one dwells, than deliberately to use a newspaper as the medium for advertising the claims to high position and public honours of men who are not too scrupulous to sell to the highest bidder the information acquired by them confidentially in the service of the State. A journal of the *Pioneer*'s stamp cannot fail to bring both itself and the Government into discredit, Lord Lytton has had the shrewdness to see that those high officials who may have thought they were making use of the *Pioneer* for the good of the State E systematically bribing it with titbits of information made very great mistake, since the proprietor of the *Pioneer* is really made use of them. No opinion of the *Pioneer* on any question carries the slightest weight with the public for the simple reason that a paper which is not independent at once ceases to command the respect even of its own readers; and it may, without exaggeration, be said that the only use the *Pioneer* is now put to is to keep prominently before the eyes of the Viceroy in Council the names of the gentlemen who write in its columns. A newspaper employed to serve purposes of this kind may help forward the fortunes of individuals, but it must injure the credit of the State.

The *Civil and Military Gazette* is informed that a message has been sent to Kabul by the Foreign Office, demanding an explicit explanation of the Amir's recent demeanour towards the British Government and Russia; and that the demand is to be made and insisted upon, that a British Officer shall be permitted to remain at Kabul, to represent the Government there, and to keep it informed of what goes on in Central Asia. This may be looked upon as the first step towards the carrying out of that vigorous foreign policy which it was reported Lord Lytton was charged with, when appointed to the Viceroyalty, and which the India Office are now determined to carry out.

We learn from the *Indian Daily News* that:—

On Saturday last, after 4 p. m., while His Excellency the Governor-General of India was driving through College Street to Barrackpore, Baboo Baney Madhub Sen, son of Baboo Gooroo Churn Sen, of Colcotollah, who was driving his mail-phæton speedy behind, attempted to pass His Excellency's carriage. The guards of His Excellency repeatedly requested the Baboo to slacken his speed, and to drive behind the State carriage. Having given no heed to it, he was firm in his resolution, his carriage was stopped by the guard, and he was handed over to the Police, and may be introduced to Mr. Dickens to-day?

#### Advertisement.

##### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

##### Alteration of Trains. N. W. P.

With reference to the advertisement dated 31st October, 1876, the public are informed that the Extra Passenger Train, which has been running daily between Allahabad and Delhi since the 1st November last, to meet the Imperial Assemblage will be withdrawn on and from 1st next.

BRADFORD LESLIE,  
Agent and Chief Engineer.

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