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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট গ্রন্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

শ্রীঅদ্বৈত প্রকাশ।

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বাগবাজার, পত্রিকা আফিশে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অনুরাগবল্লী।

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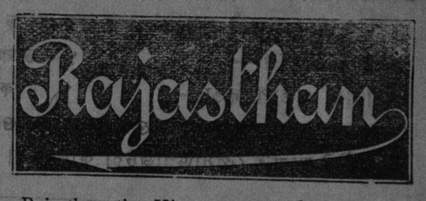

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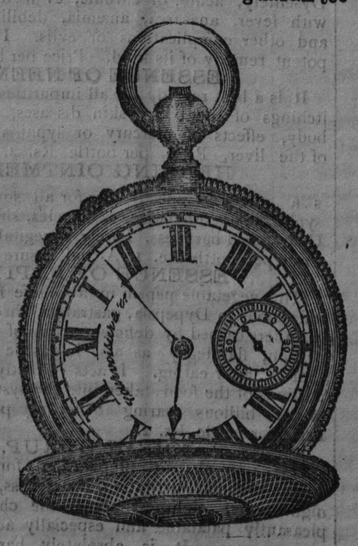

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TARANTULAS do not dance to the sound of the violin, but let their victims do the dancing. But Polar bears enjoy the violin, and lizards are affected by any kind of music.

The boa-constrictor and python are senseless to every kind of harmony, but the cobra is fascinated by the flute, and still more by the violin; elephants are also very partial to the former instrument. Tigers, while appreciating the flute and violin, are driven to fury by the strains of a hermonium, and leopards are effected in the same way. Wolves will stop in the chase to listen to a cornet solo, but should it be accompanied by any other instrument they disregard it entirely.

On the other hand, the so-called musical seal shows no emoion on hearing any sort of music, not even a brass-band.

A NEW RAILWAY SYSTEM.

TWO MILES A MINUTE.

MR. F. B. BEHR, the advocate of the "Mono'f rail system, in a lecture at the Liverpool Chamber os Commerce the other day, gave some interesting detail' about the proposed "Lightning Express" railway between Liverpool and Manchester, over which trains are to run at a minimum speed of ninety miles an hour.

The new line will differ from the ordinary two-rail track, in that it will consist of a single rail elevated about 4ft. from the ground, and supported on "A." shaped steel trestles. The coaches intended for the line are to be fitted with wheels in the centre and these will run on the elevated rail. The position of the coach on the railway may be likened to the saddle packs which hang on each side of the camel's back. It is intended to place the triangular supports about 3ft. 3in. apart and at each side there will be fixed literally two rails one about 18in. above the other. The object of these is to increase the stability of the system and to engage the thirty-two horizontal guide wheels with which the car is fitted. Electricity will be the motive power, and the cars each of which contains four electric motors, will pick up current from an electrical conductor. Mr. Behr promises that the journey from Liverpool to Manchester—a distance of some thirty miles—shall not take more than twenty minutes at the outside. Similar lines (all worked by steam locomotive power) have been built in many parts of the world, and Mr. Behr has arrived at the conclusion that the system is the only one suitable for speeds of 100 miles an hour and over. At the Brussels Exhibition in 1897 he built a Mono line, and had a car capable of holding 100 persons, propelled over it by electric traction at a speed of ninety miles an hour. Higher speeds, he says, could doubtless have been attained had more current been available. He is of opinion that when once he has built the Liverpool and Manchester line, the Railway Companies will come to see the advantages of the Mono rail system for express passenger traffic at 100 to 150 miles an hour. He proposes that single rail lines should be built along side the great trunk lines, and that these should be kept exclusively for express trains. The ordinary lines would then be used for slow trains and goods service, and all this would tend greatly to the benefit of the public and the Companies.

LASSOING A PUMA.

WE were going down a small canon on the desert side of the Sierra Madras, and had reached an open place that had once been a wash, but was now overgrown with low bush of various kinds, and gotten partly over it when one of the cowboys of the party suddenly whispered "Hush!" and pointed ahead. There were five of us in the party, and we had been on a wild horse hunt. Three of the men were expert vaqueros, and could rope a steer or a broncho in less time than it takes to tell it.

The object which called the halt was a creature that looked at first like a big tan-coloured greyhound. It stood by the side of a deer, and a second look showed us that it was the "leon del monte" or mountain lion. He was a big fellow, and as he looked up and raised his fine head he might well have been taken for a lion. As we came down the canon we had spread out forming a semi-circle as we topped. The lion would have to break through the lines to reach the mountains or take to the low hills on either side where he could be easily shot; on the other side was the limitless desert.

The animal did not stand on ceremony. He gave one fierce glance at us, then with a growl, sprang over the body of the deer and made for the low hills on the right. The entire party sprang forward, but the cowboys were ahead, and, before a rifle-shot could be fired, they had swung their lariats from the saddle, and were close after the big cat.

The distance across the clearing was about one hundred yards, and the lion bounded over it with remarkable speed; but an avenging Nemesis was behind. He reached the edge of the canon, sprang lightly up the side, and in a moment would have been safe; but as he scrambled up—whiz! went three lariats, three horses settled back upon their hanches, and the "leon del monte", with a wild scream of rage, fell backward, biting at the ropes that had wound about his head and legs. Two of the lariats had taken effect, and the men now separating the lion was held in opposite directions, snarling, screaming, biting, and kicking up the rocks in a fierce struggle to escape; but the hide ropes held him securely, and escape was out of the question. With a whiz the other lariat went whirling through the air again, deftly falling over the head of the big cat that now clung sullenly to the rocks, lashing his tail fiercely, while his eyes reflected with a greenish light the fury that burned within.

It was high jinks for the cowboys to lariat a mountain lion—their mortal enemy, the animal that killed off the deer and antelope and did not hesitate to mutilate a cow or horse if occasion demanded.

As camp was but half-a-mile or so away it was proposed to take the lion down—not an easy task. It was dragged out into the centre of the canon, screaming defiantly, one man at either side, while the third kept behind. The ropes were shortened up to about twenty feet, and as one of the horses came near the vicious animal leaped at it with a terrific bound, and would have landed fairly upon the broncho and rider had not the opposite lariat. Stopped him mid-air, bringing him down heavily upon his back. Without trained horses and skilled hands such an attempt would have been impossible, but, as it was, the lines were shortened up and the lion stood captured, yet defiant, the centre of the triangle. At the word the party moved ahead, dragging the American king of beasts along. How he pulled back, snarling and growling! Now clinging upon one side, leaping at another, and cying the horse and rider behind—an animated fury held by three small ropes, and the cowboys whose sturdy bronchos hauled him along with the greatest ease. Over the stones he went and through the bush until finally the big sycamore, which marked the camp, was reached. Here he was fastened and kept for several weeks—a pet in name, but a perfect fury in point of fact.

SYED NAZR ALI, a Pleader of the Lucknow Munsiffs Court deposed on Saturday in the Judge's Court to the effect, that a document which he saw two days ago in the Record has been stolen by some miscreants. The learned judge disbelieved the pleader's stetement and observed that the paper was lost long ago.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 12, 1899.

LORD CURZON AND THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE Indian Association in its address to the Viceroy, laid down, in emphatic language, the theory that, we quote the exact language, "it would be altogether out of place in an address like this to discuss the great public questions of the day." After laying down this principle, the Association utters some harmless platitudes. This done, the Association again resumes the subject of the great public questions of the day, this time asking point-blank His Excellency's permission to refer to them. The permission is asked, and, having assumed in the next sentence that the permission has been granted, the Association refers to some of the great questions of the day.

IN reply the Viceroy says, (we quote also the language, for any paraphase will spoil its beauty):

In your fourth paragraph you justly remark that it would be altogether out of place on an occasion like this to discuss the great public questions of the day, and that you would not be justified in eliciting an expression of my opinions with regard to them at so early a date. I observe with pleasure that your disclaimer in the former respect has not prevented you from conveying to me with considerable amplitude and with abundance of argument, your own views on several of these topics.

If the Viceroy had simply said that he thanked them for the information placed at his dispoal, and that they would receive his best attention, the reply would have elicited no comment. But, there is almost an imperceptible sarcasm in the reply. The Viceroy, in short, puts the matter in this fashion: "You say it would be out of place to refer to questions of the day, while you do the same thing. Why this trickery? Why do you try to humbug me? Is it your object to lead me into a trap? Well, I am too wary for that!"

INDEED, the Viceroy is not at all to be blamed for having taken this view of the address. The Association begins with the principle that, it is out of place in an address like the one it has presented, to refer to public questions. Then, the Association talks of other things and thereby manages to forget, or tried to make the Viceroy forget, what it has said before, namely, that "it is out of place &c." And finally the Association does the very same thing which, it said at the start, would be improper. Nay, the Association goes further—it not only raises some of the great questions of the day, but it does so with "considerable amplitude" and "abundance of argument." That the Viceroy meant to be sarcastic would appear clear from the two quotations in the last sentence.

To be fair, the Association was not absolutely sincere when it laid down the principle that it would be out of place in an address of welcome, to refer to the great questions of the day. What they meant and ought to have said was that, they did not think it would be out of place in an address like this, to let the Viceroy know some of the great questions of the day. If they had begun in that manner, the Viceroy could not have held the Association blameworlty for the "disclaimer." Of course, the question is often discussed whether or not, it is permissible in a complimentary address, to notice the great questions of the day. Yet there are many instances on record where such addresses have been presented, and accepted with "pleasure". The Viceroy himself clears the point. He says that "it would be an advantage to me to be made acquainted" with the feelings of the people in regard to the important questions of the day. The Indian Association did quite right in putting down, in distinct language, that it did not expect an expression of opinion on the said public questions of the day; for to ask Lord Curzon to declare his opinion at once, without studying them, would be scarcely respectful to his Lordship. So, if the Indian Association had simply told his Lordship that it did not think it out of place to let the Viceroy know, who is a newcomer, simply for his information and not for an expression of opinion, how matters stand here, the Viceroy would have considered that a service and thanked them for it; indeed, his Excellency has acknowledged this.

THIS is what His Excellency says in the end:—

It will be my duty to look into both sides and to decide, so far as decision is called for, impartially, and without fear or favour. In the discharge of this duty I cannot always expect to carry with me the assent, or even the approbation, but I hope that I may at least never forfeit the respect of the community, which I regard as so high an honour, while energy and hope are still strong within me to serve.

If the people of India seriously lay it down, that the supreme duty of the Viceroy is to please them, we humbly beg to urge that the Viceroy can not object to it. To please the people is to please God, that is the saying. It may happen that sometimes the ruler is right and the entire people wrong. But these are exceptional circumstances. Yet, when the people are wrong and the ruler is right in any other country in the world than India, the ruler has to yield to the people. But in India we do not venture to claim that the supreme duty of the Viceroy is to please the people. But we can urge this that the supreme duty of Lord Curzon is to please himself. Let him please himself, and the people of India will have nothing further to ask.

TAKE the case of an honest and intelligent man, proud of his integrity of purpose, and strength of mind. What can be greater misery for such a man than to forsake a principle, do an unjust act, or to justify a wrong by false arguments? For Lord Curzon to justify a wrong, His Excellency will have to satisfy an intelligent public, and satisfy himself. With the respect that his Lordship has for himself, it will be impossible for him to justify an act which he knows to be wrong. What then have we to fear if his Lordship says that, he cannot always expect to gain the approbation of the people, and when (as he adds) he will do nothing to lose their respect? Let his Lordship please himself, and that is all that we want of him. We have been convinced of what his Lordship knows already, that it is impossible for his Lordship to sanction what he knows to be unjust.

INDIA, THE LAND OF MAHATMAS.

LORD CURZON recommended Europeans in India to elucidate and conserve "the priceless treasures" that are to be found in the researches of the Indian savants. The learned and conceited European may incredulously enquire, what is there to learn in India? That was precisely the question that Mr. Sinnet, a former editor of the *Pioneer*, put in a letter to Madame Blavatsky. In that letter, which was shown to us by that illustrious lady, Mr. Sinnet contended that the natural arrangement would be for the West to teach the East, and, therefore, for the East to pretend to teach the West must be an extravagant pretension. Yet Mr. Sinnet ended by surrendering himself entirely to Madame Blavatsky, and becoming one of the most powerful advocates of Hindu mysticism. And did not Mr. Sinnet end by declaring that the Mahatmas could fling a piece of stocking across the Atlantic?

The "pretensions" put forward on behalf of the Mahatmas may not be believed, but there is no doubt of the feat performed by Haridas, in the court of Ranjit Sing, and recorded by European officers. That at least is a historical fact. And what did this man do? He allowed himself to be buried and a heap of barley to be sown over his grave. After the lapse of three months or more, when the barley had been harvested, he was dug up, apparently a dead man, but was revived by his disciple. Now, let a European beat that! The Rontgen ray is a great discovery, but it is nothing in comparison with the art of living underground for four months, without breath, and without food, drink and light, in a hermetically sealed chest!

Nearer our time a Bengalee Sadhu, found in the densest part of the Sundarbuns, in a state of trance, in the midst of Bengal tigers and other ferocious beasts of prey, was seen by thousands who are still alive. When the jungles were being cleared he was discovered in a sitting posture with breath suspended, and apparently a dead man. He was brought to Calcutta and was revived. No body could tell how many years,—it might be hundreds of years,—he had been in that state of trance in the wilderness, far from human habitations. He himself, when revived, refused to disclose anything. One night, he disappeared, and was never heard of. Who in Calcutta has not seen this Bhukailas Sadhu?

This is what Emperor Jahangir, son of Emperor Akbar, says in his autobiography, translated by Major Price, and printed for the Oriental Translation Committee, London:

At the period of which I am about to speak there were to be found in the province of Bengal performers in sleight of hand, or jugglers, of such unrivalled skill in their art that I have thought a few instances of their extraordinary dexterity not unworthy of a place in these memorials. On one occasion, in particular, there came to my court *seven* of these men, who confidently boasted that they were capable of producing effects so strange as far to surpass the scope of the human understanding, and most certainly when they proceeded to their operations, they exhibited in their performances things of so extraordinary a nature as without the actual demonstration the world would not have conceived possible, such, indeed, as cannot but be considered among the most surprising circumstances of the age in which we live.

These men exhibited twenty-eight feats, each more wonderful than the one preceding. Here is the first:—

First, they stated that of any tree that should be named, they would set the seed in the earth, and that I should immediately witness the extraordinary result. Khaun-e-Jahaun, one of the nobles present, observed if they spoke truly he should wish them to produce for their conviction a mulberry tree. The men arose without hesitation and having in ten separate spots set some seed in the ground, they recited among themselves, in cabalistical language, unintelligible to the standers-by, when instantly a plant was seen springing from each of the ten places, and each proved the tree required by Khaun-e-Jahaun. In the same manner they produced a mango, an apple tree, a fig tree, an almond, a walnut, and many more trees, and this without any attempt at concealment in the operation; but open to the observation of all present, the trees were perceived gradually and slowly springing from the earth, to the height of one, or perhaps of two cubits, when they shot forth leaves and branches: the apple tree in particular producing fruit, which fruit was brought to me, and I can attest to its fragrance.

The fact was not, however, confined to the apple tree alone, for having made the other trees appear in the manner above described, they said that if I thought fit to order it, I should taste of the fruit of every tree, which did not fail to increase the astonishment already excited. Then making a sort of procession round the trees as they stood, and invoking certain names, in a moment there appeared on the respective trees a sweet mango without the *rind*, an almond fresh and ripe, a large fig of the most delicious kind, and so with the pine and every other tree of which they had set the seed, fruit being pulled in my presence and brought to me, and every one present was allowed to taste of it. This, however, was not all; before the trees were removed there appeared among the foliage birds of such surprising beauty in colour and shape, and melody of song, as the world never saw before; and the more to confirm us in the reality, the birds were observed to whisper to each other in playful indifference among the branches. At the close of the operation the foliage, as in autumn, was seen to put on its variegated tints, and the trees gradually disappeared into the earth from which they had been made to spring. I can only further observe, that if the circumstances which I have now described had not happened in my own presence, I could never have believed that they had any existence in reality.

Then comes the second in which the problem, how to light a city, is solved:—

One night, and in the very middle of the night, when half this globe was wrapped in darkness, one of these seven men stripped himself almost naked, and having spun himself swiftly round several times, he took a sheet with which he covered himself, and from beneath the sheet drew out a resplendent mirror, by the radiance of which a light so powerful was produced, as to have illuminated the hemisphere to an incredible distance round, to such a distance, indeed, that we have the attestation of travellers to the fact, who declared that on a particular night, the same night on which the exhibition took place, and at the distance of tent days' journey, they saw the atmosphere so powerfully illuminated, as to exceed the brightness of the brightest day that they had ever seen.

Take the ninth feat:—

They produced a man whom they divided, limb from limb, actually severing his head from the body. They scattered these mutilated members along the ground, and ein this state they lay for some time. They then extended a sheet or curtain over the spot, and one of the men putting himself under the sheet, in a few minutes came from below, followed by the individual supposed to have been cut into joints, in perfect health and condition, and one might have safely sworn that he had never received any wound or injury whatever.

Here is the twelfth:—

They caused two tents to be set up at the distance of bow-shot, the one from the other, the doors or entrances being placed exactly opposite; they raised the tent-walls all around, and desired that it might be particularly observed that they were entirely empty. Then fixing the tent-walls to the ground, two of the seven men entered, one into each tent, none other of the seven entering either of the tents. Thus prepared, they said they would undertake to bring out of the tents any animal we chose to mentien, whether bird or beast, and set them in conflict with each other. Khaun-e-Jahaun, with a smile of incredulity, required them to shew us a battle between two ostriches. In a few minutes two ostriches of the largest size issued, one from either tent, and attacked each other with such fury that the blood was seen streaming from their heads; they were at the same time so equally matched, that neither could get the better of the other and they were therefore separated by the men, and conveyed within the tents. My son Khoorum, then called for the neil-gai, and immediately were seen to issue from the tents two of those untameable animals, equally large, fat and fierce, which likewise commenced a furious combat, seizing each other by the neck, and alternately forcing one another backwards and forwards for the space of nearly two ghurries of time, after which they were also separated, and withdrawn into the tents. In short, they continued to produce from either tent whatever animal we chose to name, and before our eyes set them to fight in the manner I have attempted to describe and although I have exerted my utmost invention to discover the secret of the contrivance, it has hitherto been entirely without success.

Of course, it may be alleged that Jahangir and his whole court were deceived. Anyhow the Emperor solemnly declares that he with his whole court saw these feats in broad daylight, and in an open field. Those who have seen the feats of Hossein Khan,—and Maharaja Jotindra Mohun is one of the thousands among the living who have seen them,—will find no difficulty in believing those described by Jahangir. That Hossein Khan could, at the request of parties, procure a fine dinner or the finest fruit from Cabul at a moment's notice, was witnessed by many leading men of our community, who are still living. So, you see, the feats described are much more wonderful than anything that has hitherto been achieved by Western science.

MURDERS AT POONA.

WHILE we were looking forward to a period of peace, happiness and rest under the rule of a Viceroy, who is day by day winning the hearts of the people, one or more miscreants at Poona have threatened to disturb this happy augury by committing foul murders, and reminding the country of the dreadful days of the Poona tragedy two years back. For particulars we refer the reader to another column. A couple of murders are nothing in a country with a population of three hundred millions, no society being free from foul crimes. But India, is a non-criminal country and any shocking case of murder, therefore, creates a noise here. In the present case, though luckily the victims were not Europeans, yet they had to do something in a certain case in which the Government had taken a certain interest. It is, therefore, only to be expected that a certain section of the Anglo-Indian press will try to make capital of it.

Well, there are Anglo-Indian officials and organs who like nothing better than disturbances. A smooth life they do not like; it does not enable them to come before the public, and make a good deal of noise. They want it to be established that while the Indians are all scoundrels and enemies to the Government, they themselves are honest folks and friends of the State. Any mishap that befalls the Indian is, therefore, a wind-fall to them. This is what the *Times of India* says:—

The fate of the two Dravids shows that the instruments of terrorism and lawlessness in the Presidency are still at work undeterred by the punishment which has overtaken one of their number. The murder once more raises the question of the real source of the mysterious conspiracy to commit outrage and defeat the ends of justice, the exsistence of which in the Deccan is now placed beyond a reasonable doubt.

We are sorry to see the *Englishman* partially echoing the above sentiment. Well, the position of the *Times of India* is that there were bad men before, and that though some of them were punished, the punishment was not sufficiently deterrent to root out crime. In other words, crime existed and yet exists, and the remedy is drastic punishment.

But there is another view of the question which men, blinded by passion, will never see. The *Times of India* prays for the extirpation of crimes, but we fervently pray that the Government may not be led to *create* criminals by its own blunders. It is one thing to root out crime where that exists, and it is another thing to introduce crime where it did not exist before. For be it known that, criminals can be created and multiplied by a faulty way of governing the people.

We shall shew how that can be done. Put a man in a position, that he can not keep his honor or preserve his life or limb, and he will be tempted to commit evil to extricate himself. Punish the wrong man and you multiply crime.

Plague appeared in that compact city of Poona; and the Government, with the best of intentions tried to stamp it out. To be able to do it successfully, absolute segregation was insisted upon, and to carry this out thoroughly British soldiers were employed. The British soldiers suddenly found themselves, as it were, in the midst of a city newly conquered. It came to be generally recognised by the Indians that plague was better than the means adopted to stamp it out. At a moment of peril, when every one was expecting to be the next victim of an inexorable discase, a miscreant, who had lost the balance of his mind, took it into his head to murder the chief officer, entrusted with the task of carrying the operation out and another English officer. Of course, it is quite true that the murdered officials were but carrying out orders, at a great sacrifice to themselves, and they did not deserve to be murdered. But it also ought to be borne in mind, that the people were in a state of frenzy. How can Englishmen, who are free from the plague, appreciate the state of mind of the citizens who are in the midst of a plague? Under such circumstance every one suffers more or less from partial insanity.

The crime committed at Poona is unknown in India. Why then did it occur in that city? Can any honest Englishman deny the fact that the murders would not have been committed if the Government had not committed a blunder in regard to its plague policy? Indeed, if the plague policy, latterly introduced all over India, had been in existence in the Bombay Presidency at the time the murder was committed, the British officials would never have lost their lives.

In the above, we give some faint idea how criminals can be created by faulty methods. Need we describe how they could be multiplied? The way to do it is to hang the wrong man. Some miscreants in the lower ranks of society, having nothing at stake and perhaps tired of a hard life, committed the foul deed, but it was the Natus, Mr. Tilak, and the entire city of Poona that were made to suffer. The present murders, committed by men of the lowest rank, will be sought to be fastened upon men of position and education, if the Bombay Government chooses to follow its old method. And what will be the result? Seeing that the jolliest thing in the world is to commit murders, the miscreants will go on repeating their crime and inducing others to join them! It is far better to leave a crime undetected, than to fasten it upon the wrong man. For that is the surest way of encouraging crime, and multiplying criminals. How can one be sure that the present murders are not the work of the authors of the previous murders too?

IT goes without saying that the Assam colonization scheme of Mr. Cotton has the support of the entire Indian public. It is, however, a matter of surprise that it should have failed to secure the entire support of the Government of India also. For, if it will benefit the people of this country, it ought to benefit the Government of India as well. We hope to deal with the question fully in future issues. In the meantime we may notice the salient features of the scheme and the points on which the Government of India differ from Mr. Cotton. The question of the colonization of the waste lands in Assam by the settlement of surplus population from congested tracts in other parts of India has been engaging the attention of the Government of India and the Assam administration for the last two years. In a letter dated 2nd June 1897, the then Secretary to the Government of India discussed the matter at some length and expressed the opinion that the colonists should be settled as cultivators holding immediately under Government, without the intervention of a middleman. In short, the Government of India advocated the ryotwari system as it exists in parts of the Punjab watered by the Chenab Canal. If, however, a ryotwari system, pure and simple, could not be introduced in Assam, the Government of India was of opinion that the aid of capitalists should be secured, and expressed this view in the following para:—

The Government of India have always strongly held the view that, in provinces like Burma and the temporarily settled portion of Assam, where a raiyatwari tenure already prevails, the greatest care should be taken to prevent the middleman from intruding between Government and the cultivator; and these views have already been pressed upon the Assam Administration in my letters of the 17th of September, 1895, and the 14th of January, 1896. So far as the development of Assam alone is concerned, the Government of India steadfastly adhere to them. The exclusion of the middleman would at most postpone the development of the province; while if once admitted, he is there for ever. The province is already being gradually colonised by a slow but steady process of settlement from Bengal and Behar; and the Governor-General in Council holds strongly that he would be failing in his duty to the future population of Assam, if in order to secure the full development of its material resources 20 or 50 or even a 100 years sooner than it would otherwise come about, he deliberately introduced, while having power to exclude, the relation of landlord and tenant to which a large proportion of the agrarian trouble existing in India is due.

The Government of India thus showed its preference in distinct terms for the ryotwari system to that of the zemindari, as it exists in Bengal. The above has provoked a Note from Mr. Cotton which, in ability and statesmanship, stands second to none of the State documents of a similar kind. We hope to publish the Note in full for discussion in a future issue. In this Note, Mr. Cotton shows the superiority of the zemindari system over the ryotwari in an unassailable manner. In Assam at least, says he, "a ryotwari tenure is impossible." In the following paragraph which is quoted from the Note, Mr. Cotton has described the real situation with vigour and in the clearest language possible:—

The opinions of every man are largely influenced by his individual antecedents, and while the experience of the advisers of the Government of India who dictated those letters is derived from other parts of India than Bengal and Assam, so I must confess that my own personal experiences have been entirely derived from those provinces. In other parts of India it may be true to say that a large portion of the agrarian trouble existing in India is due to the relations between landlord and tenant. I am not competent to speak of other parts of India, but in regard to Bengal I do not hesitate to affirm that there is little foundation for such a statement. The narrow induction drawn from occasional disturbances sometimes misleads us into the delusion that general disaffection exists. The one or two causes of disturbance come prominently to notice; the thousands and thousands of instances in which order and contentment prevail pass by unobserved. The occasional agrarian demonstrations to which so much importance has unduly been attached have, for the most part, been stirred up by the injudicious interference of zealous officials, who in their ignorant prejudice, brand a whole class of the community as inherently vicious, and are incapable of recognising that the changes which must eventually take place ought to be allowed to arise spontaneously out of the circumstances in which the country is placed. It cannot be too emphatically affirmed that the ordinary relations between Zemindar and raiyat in Bengal are satisfactory and friendly. It cannot be too often repeated that the Zemindars of Bengal are the basis of internal order within the province, and that it is to the recognition of that organisation which from time immemorial has existed in India—a patrician aristocracy of indigenous growth, trained by past associations to control and lead the lower orders of the people—that the Government must always look for support and for the maintenance of its own duration and stability. The lower orders stand in urgent need of an aristocracy above them, their ignorance and characteristic docility and want of firmness require the guidance and protection of more powerful superiors, and I am convinced that the adoption of any policy to reduce the power of the dominant classes and to destroy distinctions in the different strata of society—a policy unfortunately in vogue in many quarters—is fraught with danger to the State.

Mr. Cotton has spent his life-time in Bengal, and no one is more competent to speak with authority on the benefits or evils of the Permanent Settlement than he. And what does he say? Agrarian riots, says he, which are so common in other parts of India,—where the ryotwari system prevails, that is to say, where the State is the great landlord and the ryots are directly under it with no middlemen between them—are unknown in Bengal. And, says Mr. Cotton, if there were occasional agrarian disturbances in Bengal they were due, not to want of friendly feelings between the ryots and the zemindars, but to the over-zeal of the officials! We will here cite an instance in support of this statement of Mr. Cotton. The great agrarian riots in Pubna in 187[illegible] were actually brought about by the local officials and encouraged by the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir George Campbell!

The ryotwari system prevails in certain parts of Assam, and Mr. Cotton thus graphically enumerates its evils:—

Under the operation of this settlement the Assamese have become a people of petty agriculturists reduced to one dead level of a peasant, proletariat, with no substantial middle class such as forms the backbone of the nation in more favoured countries, and no upper class on whom they can lean for guidance and assistance during an emergency. Although the natural fertility of the country is so great and the area of land available for cultivation is so vast that there is no danger of their ever falling below their present condition of rural respectability, there is no prospect of their ever rising above it. The descendants of the Ahom Rajas are practically on the same level as their former subjects. Higher education languishes, and is only maintained in a feeble manner by the institution of State scholarships. There are no middle-class men who, in the words of Rai Jagganath Barua Bahadur

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in every country in the world always lead the van of progress, enter the learned professions, direct the commerce and trade of the country, man the Civil and Military services, and cultivate the arts and sciences. There is no class available for furnishing duly qualified employes for the public service and the Administration is compelled to fall back for its requirements in large measure on the middle-class population of the Surma Valley and Bengal. There is not, and can never be under the present system of settlement, a single wealthy man within the Brahmaputra Valley. Capital does not exist and when labour is left to itself, it stagnates and agricultural labour in particular becomes lethargic and sluggish. Each man cultivates as much as he requires for his own needs, and no more. There is no healthy increase of population, no material extension of cultivation, no development of trade, no flow of enterprise, and it is needless to add, no accumulation of wealth.

Mr. Cotton, if he had been so inclined, might have said many other things in favour of the Permanent Settlement. If Bengal is the richest and most advanced Province in India, it is simply owing to this settlement. Above all, the Permanent Settlement has practically driven famine from Bengal. From this point of view alone, the Government of India should have hailed the proposition of Mr. Cotton with delight.

The reply of the Government of India to Mr. Cotton's Note, dated the 26th of January 1899, tries to find fault with some of Mr. Cotton's arguments and throw cold water upon some of his important propositions. But Mr. Cotton may rest assured that the whole of India is with him; and, most likely, when the new Viceroy has studied the subject thoroughly, His Excellency may also side with him.

WHEN the late Maharaja of Durbhanga died, his brother had already made a good deal of advancement in spiritual matters. While his brother was moving in publre life, he was silently going through seveci spiritual culture. Suddenly he found himg self heir to a vast property. The youn- Maharaja does not now know what to do with it. By his spiritual culture he has outgrown his love for wealth or any earthly ambition. It is of no moment to him, whether he is called His Highness, or whether a G. C. S. I'ship is conferred on him, or whether he is reduced to poverty. His new possessions and honours are burdensome to him, and he does not know how to get rid of them. All these may sound strange to European ears, but yet what we state is perfectly correct. A man who has once been able to taste the joys that proceed from spiritual culture will find only an abomination in earthly property. The mischief is that His Highness feels that he is the trustee of a vast estate, and that he cannot evade the responsibilities of his position. We think, however, that the Maharaja can devise a means by which he can satisfy his craving for spiritual food and, at the same time, perform the duties that society expects of him.

WE learn from the *Pioneer* to hand that Mr. A. M. Markham, manager of the Hutwa Raj, is going on leave, and that a successor is to be appointed. Here is an opportunity for Sir John Woodburn to ask the Board of Revenue to appoint a competent native gentleman in his place. If the last wishes of the late Maharaja are to be respected, either Bipin Babu or Debendra Babu, both of whom have served the estate faithfully and ably for many years, ought to get the post.

INDIA offers to the Royal House of England her sincere condolences for the untimely death of Prince Alfred, the only son of the Duke of Edinburgh who is now reigning at Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The Prince has been cut off in the prime of life by the relentless hand of Death, who owns no sovereign but its own iron and inscrutable will. Her Majesty has, of late years, received many shocks, not the least of which we have the painful task of recording to-day; but we are glad to find that she bears up with truly Hindu resignation. One must perforce bow down to the divine Will of High Heaven.

"I SHOULD have considered it as a publiccalamity," says His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal when addressing H. H. the Maharaja of Durbhanga at the latter's installation, "if another great Raj in Behar had passed into a long minority." This speaks well of the sympathy of Sir John Woodburn with the people of this country. For a long minority, either in a big Zemindari or in an Indian State, means a wind-fall to the Europeans. We cited the case of Hutwa, amongst several others, to show how Europeans are benefited by this long minority. We said that, Mr. Buskin, who held a subordinate post in the estate, secured for himself Rupees *sixty-seven thousand* before he retired. The Bengal Government was interpellated on this subject, and the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane in reply said :—

Mr. Buskin served the late Maharaja of Hutwa for 30 years as Manager, Assistant Manager, and in other capacities. He was the Maharaja's confidential friend and adviser, and highly esteemed by him. It is the custom of the Raj to give pensions to old servants on their retirement, and it is reported that the late Maharaja wished to give Mr. Buskin a liberal pension. The Maharanee has, since the Maharaja's death, pressed on the Court of Wards the propriety of giving Mr. Buskin a pension of Rs. 600, and also of leasing him a Raj indigo factory on favourable terms. The Court of Wards agreed to the pension, but refused to lease the factory. Mr. Buskin has been allowed to commute the pension into a lump sum according to the rules of Government service for commutation of pensions. The value of the pension according to the rules is approximately Rs. 67,000. The Maharanee has expressed her regret and disappointment that a more liberal reward for his services has not been given to Mr. Buskin.

The reasons by which Mr. Finucane justifies the munificent gift are :—

(1) It is reported that the late Maharaja wished to give Mr. Buskin a liberal pension.

(2) The Maharanee expressed her regret that the gift was so small as only Rs. 67,000.

(3) It was done according to the rules of Government service, relating to commutation of pension.

"It is reported"—is it not? What grounds had Mr. Finucane for supposing that the report was correct? The Maharanee is brought under requisition. What grounds are there for supposing that she is a free agent and that she expressed any regret at all? And what justification had she to dispose of the money in this manner, which belongs to the minor and not to herself, the minor being a ward of the Government? The custom is that mothers of wards, who are under the charge of Government, are allowed no voice in the administration of their estates. Why was then an exception made in the present case? Then, Mr. Finucane is ominously silent on the nature of the valuable services which Mr. Buskin had done, and which entitled him to the magnificent gift. Mr. Finucane also does not mention the amount of salary which used to be paid to Mr. Buskin during the life-time of the late Maharaja. As we mentioned the other day he held only a subordinate post and had no voice whatever in the administration of the estate as long as the Maharaja lived. As for following the practice of the Government, public servants accept employment on the understanding that they will get pension after a meritorious service of a certain number of years. Did Mr. Buskin enter the Raj service on that understanding? Apparently not. Pensions are never paid to their servants by private parties, except under special conditions. The Government practice, therefore, cannot be a precedent in dealing with the servants of zemindars. Could Mr. Buskin sue the Raj for his pension? Apparently not. It was a favour—this princely gift—pure and simple. Then, is Mr. Finucane absolutely sure that the rules of Government service allow its servants to commute their pensions into lump sum? Of course, when he says so we are bound to take him at his word; but, if this be the rule, why do Government servants accept pensions and do not insist upon getting a lump sum? A pension-holder of, say, Rs. 600 per mensem, may die after enjoying the pension for only one year. But he would leave a handsome fortune to his heirs if he were allowed to commute it to, say, Rs. 67,000, as in the case of Mr. Buskin. By a judicious investment of this sum, he might also derive an income of Rs. 500 a month. A lump sum is thus more advantageous by far than a pension; and we should think, every one would prefer it to the latter. But can Mr. Finucane show one instance in which a Government servant was allowed to commute his pension into a lump sum? Considering the helpless condition of the Maharanee and the minor, and the fact that the authorities hold the property of the latter in sacred trust, the whole business looks ugly. Nor was this all. While Mr. Buskin was made to retire with a bonus of Rs. 67,000, another European, Mr. Markham, was appointed in his place on a salary of something like Rs. 2,500 a month, though it was the wish of the late Maharaja that one of his old and trusted Indian servants, who could be had for one-fourth the above salary, should be put in charge of the estate. Of course, it was Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and not Sir John Woodburn, who was responsible for the scandal alluded to above; but, now that Mr. Markham is going on leave, the present Lieutenant-Governor may ask the Board of Revenue to appoint a competent native gentleman to take his place, and thus remove to a certain extent the evils of the long minority into which Hutwa has passed, and which His Honor so much depores.

"WAR against War" is a penny paper, published under the auspices of Mr. Stead, who came back, after his interview with the Czar, a firm believer in the latter's peace project. Is the Czar sincere? How will he manage with his conquered subjects? How can he keep them under control unless he employs force? Is he willing to give them autonomy? So, to declare "war against war" is a little premature. Perhaps what the Czar means is a reduction of armaments. That is to say, the Czar wants to make a selfish arrangement for his benefit, and not from any high principle of morality. Let us, all the great Powers of the Continent, reduce our armaments for our mutual benefit—this is what the Czar says. If this is what the Czar means, Mr Stead has no reason to go mad over the project. But if the Czar means a declaration of war against war itself, how does he mean to keep his conquered subjects loyal? Let us not cut each other's throats, but let us have the fullest freedom of cutting the throats of the Asiatics and Africans! Is not this what the Czar means? This is not declaring war against war, but making the Powers stronger than before to lord it over the weak. Mr. Stead has collected the opinions of a good many leading men of his country. Many of them have given their opinion on this crusade against war which is very interesting, nay, amusing reading. Lord G. Hamilton takes the opportunity of saying that "there is room in Asia for Russia and Great Britain." So one can see how they are waging war against war!

THE more we write about Moulvi Fuzlal Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Munshigunj, the moredetermined is renappatly the attitude of indifference on the part of the Bengal Government. We have, however, a duty to perform in this connection, namely, to place all the facts, present and past, relating to the public conduct of the Moulvi, leaving the authorities to deal with him as they deem best. If the Government thinks that an officer, entrusted with the honour, liberties and properties of lakhs of people, should be allowed to continue at his post, even though specific and most serious allegations are made against him, not only in the Indian but also in the Anglo-Indian press—not only by hundreds of men in a public petition but also in judicial judgments,—they are welcome to do it; but then they must be prepared for the inevitable result of such a suicidal policy, which is, the public is likely to lose their confidence in the *ma bap* character of the Government. Rightly or wrongly, whenever the people feel themselves aggrieved at the conduct of a public officer, they approach the Government with a petition for their protection. If the Government refuses to grant this protection, the people cannot be blamed if they become sulky and discontented. What an amount of discontent might have been removed from this country if the authorities had only taken some notice of the official vagaries which are daily and weekly brought to their notice by the Indian press! Of course, Government must protect the officials when they are unjustly attacked by unscrupulous persons; but its other equally imperative duty is to protect the people against the oppressions of the former.

With regard to Moulvi Fuzlal Karim, the case stands thus. Almost wherever he has been placed as Sub-divisional Officer, he has managed to come into collision with the people entrusted to his charge. In this way, we find him figuring in criminal courts in Netrokona, Madaripore and Munshigunj. Some of the cases brought against him were very dirty; and though they were dismissed or struck off, yet the very fact that such serious charges were preferred against him shows that he is not fit to be put in charge of a Sub-division. There are hundreds of Sub-divisional Officers in the country. Whoever has heard of any of them being charged with abduction or kidnapping? One of the remarkable features of these cases is that they were brought not by Hindus but almost invariably by Mussalmans—the co-religionists of the Moulvi himself! This ought to remove the impression from the mind of Government about the so-called Hindu conspiracy against the Moulvi in Munshigunj.

INDEED, it is this impression, that the Hindus of Munshigunj have combined against a Mussalman Sub-divisional Officer, that has, we hear, prevented Government from taking any serious action with reference to the numerously signed petition against the Moulvi. This impression has naturally been somewhat strengthened by the alleged theft case brought against Moulvi Fuzlal Karim by the mohurir of a Hindu Muktear at Munshigunj. We do not know how to remove this impression from the mind of Government; but as our Dacca correspondent pointed out the other day, Moulvi Fuzlal Karim is not the only Mussalman official at Munshigunj. The Sub-Registrar of the place, who is also a Magistrate with independeut powers as well as the second officer in the Sub-division are Mussalmans and they are on excellent terms with the Hindus. Then, the theft case was brought against the Moulvi long after the submission of the petition. The petition, again, contains reference to cases in most of which the Mussalmans, and not the Hindus, have serious complaints against the Moulvi. If in the face of these facts, Government would yet ignore the petition on the ground of an alleged Hindu conspiracy, all that we can say is that it is impossible to argue the matter with them.

The rumour is that the petition has at last been placed in the hands of Sir John Woodburn, with a report from the Commissioner of the Dacca Division. It is said that the Commissioner has based his report upon the alleged Hindu conspiracy, and thus found no difficulty in proving that the Moulvi is a victim of the Hindus, some of whom have gone to the length of charging him with theft. This theft case, we are told, has been presented to the Lieutenant-Governor to divert His Honor's attention from the real point at issue, which is that a public enquiry into the conduct of the Moulvi is absolutely needed both in his own interests and in those of the public. Yes, that is the point before Sir John Woodburn; he has nothing to do with the theft case which is pending before a court. His Honor has been petitioned by about seven hundred people of Munshigunj to institute an enquiry into certain definite charges against the Moulvi, some of which they undertake to prove by documentary evidence. If the petition is really before His Honor, Sir John Woodburn, we submit, should not dispose of it in an off-hand manner on the report of the local authorities, who have openly espoused the cause of the Moulvi, but order an open enquiry at Munshigunj, after transferring Moulvi Fuzlal Karim to another district, or divesting him as long as the enquiry lasts, of all his powers as Sub-divisional Officer. It is by this imeans only that the real truth can be elicited and the public satisfied. In our next issue, we hope to notice a most serious charge against Moulvi Fuzlal Karim, published in a recent issue of the *Bengal Times*, which is edited by an Anglo-Indian gentleman who can possibly have no prejudice against him.

OUR Berhampore correspondent, whose letter is published in another column, says that the Magistrate of Moorshidabad, who sent Dr. Khudiram Ghose to three months' mprisonment and fined him Rs. 500, was found loitering in the High Court on the day the rule was heard! This reminds us of Mr. Magistrate Phillips, who had a notion that he understood law and could interpret it better than all the Judges of the High Court put together. While Magistrate of Rajshaye, he managed to quarrel with Raja Jogendra Nath, one of the most spirited Zemindars in Bengal, and the outcome was a case. The High Court was moved to set aside his proceedings and Mr. Phillips took leave, engaged a counsel, and appeared in the High Court with bundles of paper in his hands. The sight caused much merriment in the Court, and he had to leave it in utter disgust. Our correspondent does not inform us whether or not like Mr. Phillips Mr. Egerton came with the object of convincing the Judges of the High Court that they were wrong and he was right. The other point raised by our correspondent is important. It is to examine the bill of the Government Pleader of Berhampore during the last few months. We are told that, the Magistrate employed the Government Pleader not only in petty cases but also in opposing the motion for bail. This means not only loss to the public exchequer, but a sort of terrorism.

A CORRESPONDENT at Colombo informs us that Mr. Tilak went there from Madras and was to have come to Calcutta, but owing to his presence being urgently needed at Poona, he had to leave for his native city on the 3rd instant. He is expected in Calcutta next month.

THEY seem to manage things in a strange way in the N.-W. P! Pundit Sidh Gopal Misra, observes the *Indian Standard* of Cawnpore, has been a Municipal Commissioner there for twelve long years and the general impression there is that he has performed his duties ably and consicentiously. It is said that the Collector has now proposed to the Government that the Pundit should be deprived of his Hony. Magistrateship and also be disqualified to sit as Municipal Commissioner for the next 5 years. And why think you? Because the Collector thinks that the Pundit is a babbler and has been telling pretty tales to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. P. regarding municipal affairs of Cawnpore. This is what the *Indian Standard* gives out and our readers may take it at its worth. Let us hope that Dame Rumour is lying this time.

FOR years now has the question of tapping the industrial centre at Kotechandpur and the country around been before the Government and the public, but yet a satisfactory decision is as far off as ever. Two rival schemes have been put forward by the Bengal Central Railway Co., and the Eastern Bengal State Railway—the one for a line from Bongong to Kotechandpur, and the other for one from Shivnibash (Kissengunge that was) to the same destination. During the visit of of the Lieutenant-Governor to Jessore the subject was placed before His Honour with the result that Sir John declared that he, for one, would accept the easier reach and shorter route. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has now approached the Government with its opinion on the question which carries great weight. We are glad to find that the Chamber favours the Bongong-Kotechandpur scheme after a full consideration of the relative advantages of the two projects for two very cogent reasons;—First, it opens up rather more country between Bongong and Kotechandpur than the proposed line from Kishengunge to Kotechandpur; secondly, it gives a shorter mileage to Calcutta from the districts to be served than is given by the Eastern Bengal State Railway route. The Chamber concludes its opinion with the following: "It seems to the Committee, however, that if there were nothing in question beyond two proposals for lines to Kotechandpur, then the Eastern Bengal State Railway's claims would have been the strongest, but looking to the extension beyond that point, the committee consider that the Bengal Central Railway having been allowed to be constructed, has established strong claims to the traffic of the Jessore District. The committee notice that the Eastern Bengal State Railway estimate per mile is considerably lower than that submitted by the Bengal Central Railway. They do not, however, attach much importance to this, as the description of country traversed is according to the reports very much the same, and for either line constructed on a like standard, the mileage cost would in the end closely approximate to that of the other." We believe that the Government cannot do better than accept this authoritative expression of opinion from such an influential body as the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, in a question which affects commerce more than anything else.

ON the 24th January last, at a sitting of the N.-W. P. Legislative Council, Mr. Evans introduced a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The changes in the law which would be effected if the Bill becomes law fall generally into two cles—(a) those that affect the scope of the act of the Court of Wards, and (b) those that re ate the custody of the person and the ma ement of the property placed under the sup tendence of that Court. With regard t (a) the main changes sought to be introduce are—(1) In addition to those classes o persons who come within the definition persons held to be disqualified to manag heir property contained in the ex sting la here have been included persons declared the Local Government to be incapable o managing their own property, owing to any ental defect or infirmity. This provision, w apprehend, will rouse some opposition in e public mind. Under the existing law very Zamindar, declared to be of unsou mind by the Civil Court, can be relie of the management of his estate. W the powers which can be exercised un the general law or Civil Court should be nsferred to the Collectors, apparently to be ercised without any appeal, is not quite clear us. Then, again, it is not impossible that dis ct authorities might declare any person to be owing signs of mental infirmity, who is rely not so in the eyes o professional men co etent to pass an opinnon. It is, therefore, to b hoped that the Select Committee who he to shape the Bill will remove this rovision altogether or at any rate give the right to the Zamindars to quesn the decision of the Local Governnnt in Civil Courts. (2) The second chang made is as follows:—As the law at present stds, a person may, on his own applicat on, be eclared by the Local Government disqualified from manag ng his estate. The present law ll enable the Local Government on the applation of a proprietor to direct that h s property hall be managed by the Court of Wards when its satisfied that it is expedient in the public iterests that such a course should be taken. Th seems to us to be a just and reasonable provisin. A proprietor who is not disabled by any cirumstance beyond his control from managing s own property cannot be justified in looking to Government to arrange for its management unless, of course, there is reason to believe that it is to the interests of th public that he should receive that assistnce. (3) To avoid any danger of injury to property coming, by reason of the death of a proprietor, into the hands of one who will probably be disqualified, the Bill enables the Collector to take charge of the property and if the heir be a minor, of the person of the heir, until all the formalities prescribed by the law for assumption of superintendence by the Court of Wards have been carried out. We do not think any reasonable objection can be taken to this provision of the Bill either. With regard to (b)—the provisions dealing with the question of management,—there are in the first place the formalities under which the assumption of superintendence should take place. Then the Bill makes arrangement for the appointment of guardians and managers and prescribes their powers, duties and responsibilities. There is also an important provision rendering a ward, generally incompetent, while the superintendence of the Court of Wards continues, to enter into any contract affecting his estate or which may involve him in pecuniary liability. The provision that the *whole* of movable and immovable property which a disqualified proprietor may possess at the date of assumption of superintendence shall be deemed to be under the Court of Wards, would, we fear, prove in certain cases to be a source of much trouble. Let us suppose that a proprietor leaves behind him a widow who is in possession of valuables—the gifts of her father. What an amount of mischief and heart-burning and discontent the action of the Collector will cause if he were to remove from her custody the *who e* of her property, can be better imagined than described. The Bill is in the hands of a strong Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr Hooper, the Hon'ble Pandit Bishumber Nath, the Hon'ble Mr Conlan, the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Protab Narain Singh, the Hon'ble Mr. Macleod and the Hon'ble Mr. Evans; and let us hope that it will be recast in a way which will meet with general approval.

VIRJI IBRAHIM, a Mahomedan, was tried at the Bombay Criminal Sessions on Thursday last, for having on the 10th of January voluntarily caused grievous hurt to his wife, Munabai, by biting off her nose and ear, and by setting fire to her hair. From the evidence it appeared that the accused returned home at about 7 A. M. on the date men ioned, threw his wife on the floor, and bit off her nose and ear. He then took a bottle of kerosine oil and a wick out of his pocket, and with it set fire to his wife's hair. The woman's cries attracted the attention of some neighbours, who finding they could not get into the prisoner's room sent for the police, who arrested the accused. The accused alleged that his wife had been unfaithful, and had attempted to poison his food. The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty of causing grievous hurt by having bitten off the woman's nose and ear. Mr. Justice Russel sentenced the accused to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

A TREMENDOUS crowd of people were attracted to the Queen's Statue, Sydney, to witness an open-air exhibition of strength by Sampson, the athlete, who had announced that he would forfeit £500 if he failed to break, with the muscles of his arm a chain used by two horses to draw a 5-ton load. He also offered to give £500 if the horses broke the chain in drawing the load. A chain was affixed to the swingle-bar of the lorry, the horses were hitched up, and they pulled at the load several times without breaking the links. Then about fifty people made a dash at the lorry, to which they added their weight. Amid cries of "Give him fair play," Sampson jumped to the ground and shouted. "The chain is not broken." I'll hook it together, and show you I can do my part of the bargain." He then took off his coat and rolled up his sleeves, after which the links were fastened over the muscle of his right arm. He then bent his arm, but the chain withstood the pressure. A second and a third essay were no more successful, though he turned purple with the exertion, and beads of perspiration stood out on his face. Again adjusting the links he bent almost double, forced his wrist shoulder, and succeeded in snapping the chain. This effort, however, was so severe that, directly the feat was accomplished, he fainted and only recovered after he had been removed to the Tivoli Hotel and put to bed.

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This book, of which only the first volume has ye appeared, gives a very intersting account of the life of Lord Gauranga, or Sir Krishna Chaitanya who lived in India in the fifteenth century. The playful way wardness, the entrancing beauty and sweetness of the child Gauranga, with the occational wise sayings that fell from his lips making those round him wonder if he were Sri Kishna come again to earth, the strange experience at his investitute with the sacred thread, when he was for a time glorified and all present felt that he was indeed Sri Krishna ; the change that then came over him causing him to develop into the intellectual giant who showed so little religious devotion his youth spent in the midst of those who flocked to his *tole*, attracted by his great learning and his loving unselfish disposition ; all these are described with a simplicity and sympathy that cannot fail to arract the reader. But the chief interests of the book is centred in the latter part which begins by describing the pilgrimage to Gaya, where his experience when invested with the safred thiread was repeated, leaving him as remarkable for his *bhakti* as he had before been for his intellectual power. The steps by which Sri Krishna gradully gained the control of the personality of Gauranga, are told with an understanding and precision which show that the author knows something of the working of occult laws ; while the descriptions of the various occasions on which Sri Krishna manifested Himself in Gauranga in all His glory, well illustrate the tenderness, love and beauty of the Lord, another marked feature in the book is the description of thet effects of *bhakti* in purifying and ennobling the lives and character of the devotees. The greatness of the theme is sufficient to make any writer feel the uter inadequacy of words ; but it has here been treated with reverence, and love, and an evident appreciation of the importance of making the one object of life the finding of Sri Krishna. This, together with the tolerance to other faiths that is expressed throughout, gives the book a pur, healthy tone and it would be impossible for any one who understands what *bhakit* is, to read it without being the better for it.

Indian Sketches
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Shishir Kumar Ghose
WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY
W. S. Caine
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To be had at the *Patrika* Office.

HAILSTORM AT BHAGULPUR.—There was a storm with rain and hailstones as big as marbles at Bhagulpur on the 7th instant, at mid-day.

EARTHQUAKE IN ASSAM.—A smart shock of earthquake occurred at Goalpara during the night of the 7th instant, but fortunately did little or no damage.

FATAL ASSAULT.—Six villagers of Basirha are undergoing trial at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Handley, on a charge of having killed the collecting chaprasee of a local Zemindar in course of a family quarrel.

IMPORTS.—The total imports of merchandise, bullion, and specie from foreign ports into Calcutta, for the month of January 1899, represent a gross value of nearly three millions of rupees, being an increase in value of twenty and-a-quarter lakhs over that for the previous year. British piece-goods took the lead to the time of close upon eighty-nine lakhs.

POSTAL.—The following substantive appoinnments have been made, *viz*:—Mr. E.C. O'Brier to be Inspector-General of Railway Mail Service; Mr. E. A. Dorran to be First Assistan Director-General of Post Offices; Mr. W. L. Cockrell to be Second Assistant Director-General of the Post Offices for India, and Mr. G. F. Bennett to be Third Assistant Director-General of the Post Offices for India.

HUGHLI SESSIONS.—At the Hughli Criminal Sessions, a middle-aged woman was convicted on a charge of murdering another woman, by hacking her to pieces with a *katari*, and sentenced to transportation for life. The most noteworthy feature in the case was that the District and Sessions Judge permitted the accused to execute the necessary deeds of gift making over her rights to her nearest relatives.

BAGGED AT LAST.—Having heard of the fearful depredations made by a man-eater in the Shahnagar Pergana of his State, His Highness the Mahendra Maharaja Sahi Bahadoor Madava Singh of Punna came through Sutna and Gukehi Railway stations to this place, a hamlet in the midst of a jungle most frequented by the tiger. The jungle was driven on the 2nd instant and the tiger, hard pressed by elephants, came before His Highness, who shot and killed him on the spot. The monoster measured 10 feet 1½ inches, and a man named Bhure, resident of a village close by, who had once narrowly escaped being the tiger's victim by hiding himself among the branches of a lofty tree and observed him closely, identified him to be the self same man-eater which had for some time been the scourge of the Pergana.

A RAILWAY SURVEY.—A survey will shortly be made by the East Indian Railway Company between Gya and Kutrasgarh on the Jherriah branch, a distance of 112 miles.

READY FOR TRAFFIC.—The second section of the Faridpur Branch from Sibrampur to Faridpur, a distance of 7½ miles ; and the first section of the Brahamaputra-Sultanpore Branch Railway from Sultanpore to Bogra, a distance of 23 miles, have been offered for inspection prior to opening.

KILLED BY TIGER.—A Murshidabad correspondent reports two cases of suspicious death from the Imambara of the late Zibunnesa Begum at Nowchak. On inquiry, it turned out that the deceased were killed by a tiger, as the bodies bore marks of the teeth and claws of the brute.

EDUCATIONAL.—Consequent on the deputation of Mr. W. Booth to Assam as Director of Public Instruction, Mr. A. C. Edwards will be appointed to officiate as Principal of the Presidency College and Registrar of the University. Mr. C. R. Wilson succeeds Mr. Edwards as Principal of the Patna College.

THE CENTRAL HINDU COLLEGE.—Mr. Bertram Keightley (M.A. Cantab) has returned from a visit to Comm'lla where he was the guest of Rajcoomar Navadwip Deb Varma, Rai Bahadur. During his stay Mr. Keightley twice addressed the Comm'lla public upon the need for religion in education in connection with the Central Hindu College and he was much gratified at the cordial reception accorded to the scheme and the numerous promises of support and sympathy he received.

MR. COTTON'S TOUR.—The Chief Commissioner of Assam accompanied by Mrs. Cotton and Mr. A. L. Cotton, arrived at Dhubri on Monday afternoon. No inspection of the station was made, as Mr. Cotton had already visited Dhubri in December last. Early on the following morning, the Chief Commissioner left for Goalpara, where great preparations had been made for his reception. Mr. Cotton landed there the next morning, and held a formal inspection of the buildings at the Sub-divisional head-quarters.

WIFE MURDER.—The Criminal Sessions of Tippera has just come to a close. There was one in which a Mahomedan husband was charged with having killed his wife, as the latter polluted a seat upon which the former used to sit while repeating his prayers. The husband and the wife were before this sad occurrence on the best of terms. The assessors were of opinion that the murder was committed while the husband was temporarily insane, but the Sessions Judge, Mr. Geidt, was of opinion that the crime was committed under religious frenzy, and sentenced the accused to transportation for life.

COTTON CROP.—The total area under cotton was 75,400 acres against 73,500 acres. A crop above the normal (115 per cent.) is reported from Patna only. Normal crops of 100 per cent. are estimated for Muzuffarpur, Durbhanga, Bhagalpur, Cuttack, Angul and Khondmals and Singhbhum. In Bankura, Midnapore, Champaran, Monghyr, Balasore and Puri, the estimates vary from 70 to 87 per cent. In Saran, which is the most important late cotton-growing district of these provinces, the crop suffered from floods, and the outturn in consequence is estimated as only half of a normal crop. The outturn for the province may be taken at 74 per cent. of a normal crop as against an outturn of 84 per cent. last year. Taking the above percentages, the gross outturn for the present year may be estimated at 3,463,000 lbs. as against an estimate of 3,787,000 lbs. for 1897-98. The average yield of the four preceding years, *i. e.*, 1893 94 to 1896-97, amounts to 4,029,500 lbs.

CROCODILE CAPTURE.—A little girl was killed by a crocodile during Christmas week, near Alleppey. The girl aged about ten, came in the evening, out of her house, which stood on the brink of the back waters near Alleppey, whereupon a crocodile seeing the child alone, came out of the water and pounced upon her. In the morning the anxious parents of the girl, together with the neighbours, made a search for the lost little one and the dead body was found. The next consideration of the neighbours was the capture of the miscreant animal. They forthwith killed a cat and put it on a hook attached to one end of a stout coir rope and the other end they tied to a cocoanut tree close by. The crocodile ere long appeared and swallowed the cat, hook and all, but the crocodile struggled hard when the people pulled at the rope and the rope gave way. They next procured the intestines of a goat, taking care this time to use a much stouter rope. The crocodile after a couple of hours, came again and ere long was caught. The animal, a big fellow, was taken to Alleppey and dragged from house to house.

LAGHU-BHAGABATAMRITA.—Srijut Bolai Chand Gosain and Atul Krishna Gosain have laid the Hindus under a deep debt of gratitude by issuing a very carefully edited edition of that systematic dissertation on Vaishnava philosophy—the Laghu-bhagabatamrita, compiled by Sri Rup Gosain, one of the most learned disciples of Lord Gauranga and annotated by Baladev Bidyabhusan. The editors, who are both well-known members of the Vaishnava community, of high culture and vast erudition, have spared no pains to render the book as valuable and interesting as possible. It contains the faithful translation and clear elucidation by Pundit Modan Gopal Gosain of the original Sanskrit text, which is justly deemed to be the key-note to the Bhagabat Geeta without which the real spirit of that sacred book is hardly intelligible. Those who desire to have any insight into the Vaishnava philosophy should not lose this opportunity. The editors have not only arranged the matter in the best way possible but they have presented a really valuable book to the world in the most acceptable form. The paper and get up of the book before us leave nothing to desire, and we hope to see a copy in every Hindu household.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT : CRIMINAL BENCH —FEB. 9

(*Before Justices Prinsep and Stanley.*)

THE DACCA MURDER CASE.

JUDGMENT.

THEIR Lordships delivered judgment to-day in the case of Empress *vs.* Akhali Molla which came up before them simultaneously on appeal and for confirmation of the death sentence passed upon the prisoner by the Sessions Judge of Dacca in concurrence with the verdict of the jury.

Prinsep, J.—Two persons were tried together in this case, one Akhali Molla on a charge of murder and one Jearuddin who is not before us and who has not appealed to this court, on charges under section 201 and 202 for not having given information of the commission of the murder by Akhali Molla and for having assisted in causing the disappearance of the evidence of that crime. First of all, we have no doubt that the prisoners should have been tried separately, the offence with which they were charged not coming within the the terms of section 239 Cr. P. C. as forming part of the same transaction. No objection, however, was taken at any stage of the proceedings until the case has come before us after the conviction of Akhali Molla of murder, and the reference made by the Sessions Judge for confirmation of the sentence of death passed upon him. We cannot therefore allow the objection to be taken. We think that it cannot have affected the prisoner in any of the courses of proceedings taken, so as to cause a failure of justice within the terms of section 537 Cr.P.C. The case against Akhali Molla is, in our opinion, clearly established by the evidence —both by the evidence of witnesses as well as by his own confession made to an Honorary Magistrate shortly after the commission of the offence and again repeated to the Magistrate who held the judicial proceedings shortly before the commitment to the Court of Sessions. The case came on before another Divisional Bench of this Court and further evidence was called for under section 533, because in the opinion of the learned Judges, the confession had not been recorded strictly within the terms of section 364. In this respect I wish to state that I express no opinion, as the matter may at some future time come before me in some case in which it will be necessary for me to express an opinion regarding the terms of that section. Our attention has been drawn to the charge of the Sessions Judge in which he lays before the jury the confessions of both the prisoners who were under trial. Now, as I have already pointed out, the prisoner Jearuddin should not have been tried in this case together with Akhali Molla, and therefore it was specially incumbent upon the Sessions Judge in laying the case before the jury to caution them that the confession of each prisoner was evidence against him alone and should be considered by the jury carefully in that manner only. A misdirection in this respect, however, has not, in our opinion, caused a failure of justice. The case has been, from its nature, considered by us on the evidence and we have come to a finding on the facts on which the jury delivered their verdict. We have no doubt as to the correctness of the jury and as there are no extenuating circumstances in the case, we confirm the sentence of death passed by the Sessions Judge.

Stanley, J :—I quite concur in the judgment which has been passed by my learned colleague.

THE dudwa fair-weather branch of the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway, and the Hathras City Branch, East Indian Railway six miles long, were opened for passenger traffic last month.

SENTENCE was pronounced on Tuesday last at Bagalore, on the two remaining batches of prisoners in the station riot case. The ringleader got one month's simple imprisonment and Rs. 200 fine, in default, another one month, and sixteen others were fined Rs. 100 each, or one month's rigorous imprisonment. In the third batch of 15, two were acquitted, and the rest fined Rs. 100, or one month's imprisonment each. Most of the fines were paid.

WITH a view to arresting numerous outlaws, and in the hopes of recovering ten rifles stolen from the Barganatu Border Military Post the other day, a force, consisting of portions of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, 1st Punjab Infantry, 2nd Sikhs, and two guns of the Mountain Battery, each commanded by a European officer, and the whole under the command of Colonel Batten, accompanied by Messrs. Gunter, Spencer, and Macpherson, as Political Officers, left Bannu at 10 o'clock on Sunday night for Gumatti—the nest of the outlaws. Greatest secrecy having been observed, the force was successful informing a cordon round Gumatti by daybreak. The surprise was perfect, but the outlaws, who almost all happened to be at home, refused absolutely to give themselves up, and being joined by other daring spirits, some 30 men, elected to fight, and having ascended two towers of the village, opened fire on the troops. The peacefully inclined and women and children having been permitted to live the village the attack commenced. The guns failed to dislodge the occupants of the towers, so the Infantry were directed to occupy the village at the point of the bayonet. This was done brilliantly under a withering fire from the towers by the 2nd Sikhs. The leading village was occupied; but it was found impossible to dislodge those holding the towers. The guns again came into action at one hundred yards, but failed to clear the towers, and as it was getting late the force was obliged to start homewards. On the return journey, the force was followed actually into British territory, and greatly harrassed, owing to the road being an exceedingly difficult one, through a nullah with deep water in places. All troops were back before sunset. Our losses have been very severe, and two British officers, Major Davidson and Lieutenant Houston, were wounded though not dangerously. The Infantry lost about 20 men chiefly of the 2nd Sikhs. The troops covered some thirty miles altogether. The number of outlaws killed and wounded in yesterday's action on the Tochi Borders is not yet ascertained.

INDIAN NEWS.

SIR LOUIS KERSHAW, Chief Justice of Bombay, was slightly better on Tuesday, but his condition is grave in the extreme.

GOVINDASAMI PILLAY, Village Munsif of Govindakkudi, says a Kumbakonam correspondent, who was tried on a charge of attempting to commit rape on a woman was acquitted last week for want of evidence.

THE Railway to Kashmir is about to be started. It will be a metre guage and the route chosen is from Jammu *via* the Banihal Pass. The line will probably be finished within two years.

SURGEON-GENERAL W. TAYLOR, C. B., is expected to arrive in India early in March, to take up his appointment of Principal Medical Officer Her Majesty's Forces in India.

A GANG of dacoits have raided a village near Hazru, nine miles from Lawrencepore, killing a sergeant and constable of the District Police. The dacoits have escaped and have not been traced.

IT is understood that frequent friendly communications are passing between Lord Curzon and the Amir of Cabul, since the former's arrival in India, in continuation of the correspondents kept up since his visit to Afghanistan.

MR. J. G. SMITH, practising Barrister, High Court, Madras, has been selected to act as Chief Judge, Small Cause Court, Madras, when Mr. Michiell succeeds to the High Court on Mr. Justice Shephard's departure on furlough.

THE Nawab of Dir is to pay a visit to India this month after the Id is passed, or about the 18th instant. He will travel about the country seeing some big cities and cantonments. Major W. H. M. Stewart will be placed in charge of the Nawab, Mr. Bosanquet now, in the Foreign Office, succeeding him as Political Agent in Bhopawar.

THE District Judge of Fyzabad has sentenced Babu Hari Singh, a Naib Tehsildar, to twenty-seven months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 300 for extensive bribery and corruption in his capacity as an income-tax officer. The low assessment of men of reputed wealth first led to inquiries, and the evidence principally relied on were the account books of various bunniahs showing transactions with the accused.

THE charges of adultery and enticing away preferred against the Mahant of Tirupati by Srinivasulu Naidu, of Trichinopoly, were withdrawn on Tuesday last, by the complainant, on the ground that he had no the means to proceed further with the case. Mr. Chester, Presidency Magistrate of Madras, who tried the case, allowed the complaint to be withdrawn.

A STRANGE accident occurred at Multan the other day. A Mahomedan lad being indisposed to do his duty shut the door on the upper story of his house and confined himself in a large box in order to escape the eye of his guardian, whereby, through some unlucky accident, the lid of the box was shut when he got in. His voice being inaudiable the poor boy died of suffocation.

THE Improvement Trust has proposed to borrow two millions sterling in the London market for the purpose of carrying on their work of remodelling and re-building Bombay. The Government of India, has, however, refused to sanction this and has decided to come to the assistance of the Trust with a loan of seventy five lakhs, at 4 per cent. As under present conditions of the local money market it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the Trust to obtain any considerable sum at 4 per cent., this loan will enable active operations to begin in a month or six weeks.

A SINGULAR marriage is about to take place in a French town, the *Christian World* says. The local mayor has received the usual official notices from the intending bride and bridegroom that a widow, Madame Ernest Wlame, is about to unite herself in matrimony with her eldest step-son. He was only eight years old when she married his father ; so almost the whole of his education has been conducted under her eye.

THE editor of the *Jananukulan*, a Tanjore Tamil weekly, filed on the 30th ultimo in the Deputy Magistrate's Court, at Tanjore, criminal complaint charging the editor of the *Indhia Mitran*, a Trivady Tamil weekly, under section 500 I. P. C. for the latter having defamed the former by publishing recently a supplement to the *Mitran* stating that the editor of the *Jananukulan* absented himself from the place in which his father died and so was not there for cremating his body.

ACCORDING to the telegram from our Bombay correspondent, some startling developments appear to be impending at Muscat. The Sultan of Oman is said to have leased a coaling station on the Muscat coast to France, and it is stated that Russia proposes to send a Consul to the same place, although there is no hint of any Russian trade being done there. We understand that Great Britain has lodged a protest against the conduct of France, and that Admiral Douglas sailed yesterday from Bombay in his flagship for Muscat.

THE demarcation of the Burma-Chinese frontier, ays the *Pioneer*, along the Shweli River has been completed. A glance at the map published with the Agreement in the Parliamentary Blue-book will show that the line was drawn-along the southern channel. This looked well on paper, but was objectionable, and some twenty villages given to China by the Agreement have now been given back in the so-called "Triangle." No difficulty has been experienced though it was thought that the work here would take up considerable time. Unless something unexpected crops up the whole section will be completely demarcated his season. Liu, the Chinese Commissioner, s now reported to be rendering every assistance possible.

An Editor's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

DURING the early part of October, 1896, I contracted a bad cold which settled on my lungs and was neglected until I feared that consumption had appeared in an incipient state. I was constantly coughing and trying to expel something which I could not. I became alarmed and after giving the local doctor a trial bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the result was immediate improvement, and after I had used three bottles my lungs were restored to their healthy state.—B. S. EDWARDS, Publisher of The Review, Wyant, Ill. For sale by*

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
B. K. PAUL & CO.,

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

(*From a correspondent.*)

ANOTHER POONA TRAGEDY

DOUBLE MURDER.

POONA, FEB. 10.

Ganesh Shanker Dravid and his brother Ramchandra, who gave information regarding the late Poona murders, were shot in the public street. The brothers were playing cards, when between 9 and 10 on Wednesday night they were suddenly called out by two persons dressed as Punjabis, who said Mr. Brewin wanted to see Ganesh and Ramchander. Ganesh said : "Come up, we are playing cards ; as soon as we have finished the game we will come." The two men, whose faces were covered, were standing in the shadow of a wall. The men eventually went downstairs waiting for them. The mother of the two brothers saw them. Then both brothers went downstairs, and had not gone far, when the report of a gun was heard. The mother cried out "My sons are shot," shouting for help and the police. Two younger brothers, who were inside the house, went to their assistance. The eldest who was shot told his younger brother to run back towards the house formerly occupied by Chapekar to see if there was anybody there. He came back having seen nobody. A large crowd very soon collected, and found the two brothers lying wounded on the road. Ganesh died soon after and Ramchandra died the next day. Their dying declarations have been taken by the City Mamlatdar.

THE DRAVID BROTHERS.

Gonesh was the person who supplied clue to Damodhar Chaphekar's arrest, and his third brother Nilkanth gave evidence against Damodhar. Ganesh and Ramchandra got Rs. 10,000 as reward according to a Government proclamation, but recently after Balkrishna's arrest claimed the other half of Rs. 10,000 in a letter published in the Bombay dailies two days before these murders. Ganesh and his brothers had quarrel with Brewin Sahib, who had gone to Ganesh to induce him to ask his brother Nilkanth to give evidence against Balkrishana, which Dravid brothers seem to have refused to do.

A CONSTABLE SHOT.

Rama Pandoo, the Chief Police Constable, was, a few days ago, fired at by unknown hand, but escaped unhurt. Yesterday the Police were busy in making enquiries about the murderers. Few persons were examined ; amongst them was Vasudeo Chapeker, younger brother of Damodher and Balkrishna. While at the Police Station, Vasudeo twice called for Rama Pandoo ; but the latter not confronting him, Vasudeo went into his room and fired at him with a revolver The shot missed, but others present disarmed him immediately and took him into custody.

THE CONFESSION.

Vasudeo thereupon confessed that he murdered Dravid brothers to avenge the death of his eldest brother. Another man named Ranade has also been arrested and said to have confessed that he was Vasudeo's accomplice. Ranade also pointed out the place where his revolver was concealed. The Police have kept the men in custody, and are now engaged in finding out how and who could have supplied Vasudeo and Ranade with weapons powder and shot.

Balkrishna's trial has been adjourned to 22nd instant. Great sensation prevails owing to these murders.

Ranade is a young man of about twenty and a student in the Government Workshop Science College, Poona.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMES.)

LONDON, FEB. 8.

Aguinaldo has formally declared war against the Americans. The Washington Cabined has decided upon a vigorous offensive attack on Iloilo, and will endeavour to capture the members of the Filipino Government at Malolos.

LONDON, FEB. 8.

It is reported that an Indian from Bombay has been attacked with plague at Middlebury n the Transvaal.

LONDON, FEB. 8.

Mr. John Dillon, M. P., has resigned the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary party.'

LONDON, FEB. 8.

General Otis reports that the Filipino army is disintegrated.

Aguinaldo has requested a Conference, which General Otis refused.

LONDON, FEB. 8.

A party of American reconnoiters had a sharp skirmish yesterday evening outside Caloocan, in which eight Americans were killed and wounded.

The steamship Oroya brings to India £105,079 in Australian gold.

LONDON, FEB 9.

Last reports state that Manila is quiet, but the Filipinos are reconcentrating their forces between Caloocan and Malaban. The total American casualties hitherto number 268.

LONDON, FEB. 10.

Replying to a question in she House of Commons last night Mr. Brodrick said discussions were proceeding to settle the delimitation of the French and Anglo-Egyptian spheres in the Bahr-el-Gazel.

LONDON, FEB. 10.

The Version communicated yesterday of the Committee's report on the charges brought by M. Beaurepaire is confirmed. Neverthless the French Government insists upon passing the bill to refer the Dreyfus case to the united. sections of the Court of Cassation.

LONDON, FEB. 10.

An amendment to the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech moved by Mr. Samuel Smith, Member for Flintshire, demanding egislation to secure the obedience of the Ritualists to the law was rejected by 221 votes against 89. Mr. Balfour admitted certain excesses in the Church, but urged the House to leave the matter in the hands of the Bishops until their importance was proved.

In the course of a debate in the House of Lords on Retualistic practices in the Church the Archbishop of Canterbury said he belived the Bishops were perfectly capable of dealing with the difficulty, and he was convinced by careful enquary that the most advanced Ritualists were free from Romanizing tendencies.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE LATE MAHARAJA OF DURBHANGA.

A MEMORIAL MEETING.

THE spacious hall of the Dalhousie Institute was crowded last evening by a most representative and influential gathering in response to an invitation issued by the Sheriff of Calcutta convening a public meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta and the suburbs with a view to consider what steps should be taken to perpetuate the memory of the late Maharaja Sir Lakshmiswara Singh of Durbhanga. His Honour Sir John Woodburn took the chair, and there were present among others Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, the Maharaja of Dinajpur, the Hon'ble Raja Sasisekhareswar Ray, Sir Griffith Evans, the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton, the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, Rai Bahadur Dr. Lalmadhub Mookerjee, Sir Patrick Playfair, Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, Babu Rama Nath Ghose, the Hon'ble Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Nawab Fazluddin Mahomed, Prince Bukhtyar Shah, Mr. J. T. Woodroffe, Mr. Grimley, Mr. H. M. Rustomjee, Rai Manmatha Nath Mitra Bahadur, Rai Baikunta Nath Bose Bahadur, Raja Shew Bux Bogla, Raja Rameswar Malia, Father Lafont, and several others.

His Honor on taking the chair addressed the assembly as fol ows :—Gentlemen, I thank you for asking me to take the chair at this meeting this afternoon. As the Maharaja has just said I think it is fitting that the head of the administration in Bengal should take a prominent part in recognising and acknowledging the character and services of so prominent a man as the late Maharaja of Durbhanga. There are many in this hall who had the advantage of a much longer acquaintance and a much more intimate association with him than I had the good fortune to have. I shall leave it to those who will speak this afternoon to make an eulogy, to him which people at all times and among all nations make to their noble men. There was a time when the Maharaja and myself had worked together and that was enough to make me acquainted with his great capacity. The Maharaja possessed all those qualities which make men valued to those who sought for his advice—those sterling qualities, the straightforwardness of the mind which are valued in every country. He gained my perfect confidence and respect, and his death was to me a loss of a counsellor and a friend whose soundness of counsel and sincerity of purpose I equally value. Perhaps I have said more of his qualities than of his charity. The munificence of his charity and the generous administration of his property were very well known. I can only say that it is a melancholy satisfaction to me to repeat here what I said the other day at Durbhanga to his successor. The Province and the Government have lost a great man; but it is not in vain, as the Maharaja has said, that men die even in their prime of life. They leave a noble example of their lives for others to follow.

His Honor then announed that letters had been received from Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, the Lord Bishop, Sir Francis Maclean and others expressing their regret for their inability to attend the meeting. His Honor also announced that the Agricultural Society of Rajshahi had sent a telegram announcing their sympathy with the object of the meeting and subscribing Rs. 1,000 towards the Momorial Fund.

The following resolutions were then duly proposed, seconded and carried :—

"That this meeting desires to place on record its sense of deep regret at the great loss which the country has sustained by the untimely death of Maharaja Sir Lakshmiswara Singh Bahadur, G. C. I. E., of Durbhanga, whose distinguished public career and munificence won for him the esteem of all classes of the community and of the Government."

Proposed by Sir Patrick Playfair, Kt., C.I.E., seconded by Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K.C.I.E., and supported by the Hon'ble Mr. Pheroze Shah M. Mehta, C. I. E. and the Hon'ble Prince M. Bukhtyar Shah, C.I.E.

"That with a view to commemorate the eminent services which the Maharaja Bahadur has rendered to the country, both as a Zamindar and as a Member of the Legisiative Councils of His Excellency the Viceroy and of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, this meeting resolves that a suitable memorial be raised in his honor and that public subscriptions be invited for the purpose.

Proposed by the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans, K.C.I.E., seconded by the Hon'ble Surendranath Banerjea and supported by the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur and the Hon'ble Mr. G. M. Chitnavis, C.I.E.

In supporting the resolution Mr. Chitnavis spoke as follows:—

Your Honour,—So much has already been said in favour of the resolution I have been asked to support that I intend confining myself to only a few words. I had the pleasure of personal acquaintance and friendship with the late Maharaja Bahadur and had been associated with him for upwards of 3 years as member of the Legislative Council. I have thus had sufficient opportunities to speak from personal experience of the many virtues with which he was endowed. Great landholder as he was, the Maharaja never forgot that he had responsible duties to discharge and nowhere were these duties more honestly performed than in the Council Chamber and towards all those whose interests were committed to his charge. He knew that the best way to satisfy a Government like ours was by a conscientious discharge of his duties, and the able manner in which he performed these duties received approbation both from Government and the public. He never stood back whenever his help was most needed, and the important services he renderd in times of famine go to shew that landholders are not, as is now supposed in certain quarters, mere unnecessary appendages and excrescences but that they are useful and necessary adjuncts of society. It is thus meet that we mourn the premature loss of one who, by the position Providence had assigned to him, might have rendered us still more essential services, by the weight of his abilities, the splendour of his talents and the purity of his virtues. For me it is a special satisfaction to be allowed this day to contribute my humble mite towards the respect for the memory of one, with whom to associate was a pleasure and who by the great and good work he had done in life showed that the gifts of nature were in him improved, matured and refined by Grace. The Maharaja's death has been mourned throughout the country. A multitude of mourners, however, proves with sufficient distinctness that the man was worthy of being mourned, that his death is being felt as a great loss and that his presence was, indeed, a benefit of blessing.

"That a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen (about 200), with power to add to their number, be formed to give effect to the above resolution."

Proposed by Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C. S. I., seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, C.,I. E. and supported by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu, C. I. E., the Hon'ble Nawab Mumtaz-ud Daula M. Faiyaz Ali Khan and Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesha Chandra Nyayaratna, C. I. E.

"That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Rameswara Singh under the signature of the President."

Proposed by the Hon'ble Babu Saligram Singh, seconded by Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman and supported by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, C.I.E., Babu Sitanath Ray and H. M. Rustomjee, Esq.

With a vote of thanks to the chair the proceedings came to a close. Before the meeting dispersed His Honor announced that already Rs. 15,000 had been subscribed towards the Memorial Fund.

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held yesterday at Government House. There were present: His Excellency Baron Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, presiding, His Honour Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Excellency General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, Commander-in-Chief in India, the Hon'ble Sir J. Westland, the Hon'ble Mr. M. D. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collen, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble Mr. C. M. Rivaz, the Hon'ble M. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Mr. J. J. D. LaTouche, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Nawab Mumtaz-ud-daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr J. K. Spence, the Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, and the Hon'ble Maharaja Rameshwara Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga.

INLAND STEAM-VESSELS BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to fur her amend the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1884.

CURRENCY-NOTE FORGERY BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland also moved that the Bill to amend the law relating to the forgery of currency-notes and bank-notes be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz, the Hon'ble Mr. La Touche, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta and the mover. The Hon'ble Member said that the Bill dealt with questions of purely legal nature. There was a special law in England on the subject and this Bill would be in conformity with that.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE EVIDENCE LAW.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to further amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, be taken into consideration. He said that in making this motion he would say very little. The honourable members were aware that many crimes had been detected by identifying the finger-impressions. There was, however, a great difficulty felt in classifying or indexing the large number of finger-impressions taken. This difficulty had at last been overcome by Mr. Henry, Inspector-General of Police, Bengal. The Government now thought that it should have a legal recognition. It was therefore proposed to give the Courts the same power in dealing with the question of finger-impressions as they already had with regard to handwritings.

The Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee observed that as in the Bill the term "finger-impression" was used instead of the term "thumb-impression" there might be some difficulty in understanding what it really meant. The Courts might interpret that the expression did not include "thumb-impression." He would therefore suggest that with a view to avoid any possible mistake in the matter the term "thumb-impression" be also mentioned after "finger-impression."

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers pointed out that the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee had already been suggested to the Select Committee and considered by them. The Select Committee thought that such objections would not be entertained by any Court. The terms, "finger-impressions" always included "thumb-impression", and the term "finger" always included "thumb." A similar interpretation was given in Murray's Dictionary. In its restricted sense it might exclude "thumb," but otherwise it always included "thumb." In Oriental languages the word "finger" always included the "great finger," that is "thumb." The word "toes" always included the great toe. The hon'ble member did not think there would be any difficulty in the matter. In England the word "finger" always included "thumb."

His Excellency the President observed that the explanation given by the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers was very satisfactory. By the expression "that a man is clever with his fingers" no body ever meant that he was clever with his forefinger. His Excellency would be disposed to think that after the explanation given by the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers no change in the wording was required.

The motion was then put and agreed to. The Bill, as amended, was then passed.

GLANDERS AND FARCY BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz moved that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Glanders and Farcy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. Collen, the Hon'ble Mr. Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Spence and the mover.

The motion was agreed to.

THE CARRIERS BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved that the Bill to amend the law relating to Carriers be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga and the mover.

The motion was agreed to and the Council adjourned for a week.

REMBRANDT, THE MAN AND THE MASTER.

THE Rembrandt exhibition in Amsterdam, opened while the eyes of the world were still on that little northern country that had just celebrated the coronation of its girl queen, has now closed its doors, and the pictures have gone back to their owners. But the interest thus re-centred on the greatest of Dutch masters is still fresh and curious. Although a number of his master-pieces were not available for the exhibition, those that could be brought together were insured for four million pounds sterling. This gives some idea of the value of a Rembrandt on the financial side.

Mr. William Sharp contributes to *Cosmopolis* a timely and interesting study of the artist and his work. Mr. Sharp would not have us forget the indebtedness of genius to the great formative forces of racial temperament and national character. If we find in Holland to-day a living art which we trace back to Rembrandt, the master-spirit we must not fail to recognise, behind Rembrandt, the genius of Hals, of Ravesteyn, of Lastman; nor can we ignore behind these again, the noble burghers who struggled and conquered for liberty; nor the shepherds and fishers who fought unceasingly against men, beasts, and the elements; nor the tameless Northerners who defied omnipotent Rome. "For out of all these did Rembrandt, the most individual and independent of Dutch artists, come." Thus Mr. Sharp regards the individual genius as a development of the national genius, and holds that because Rembrandt is so supremely ypical, he is strong enough to be also universal.

Speaking of the absence of what is commonly understood as beautiful from much of Rembrandt's work, Mr. Sharp suggests the explanation that the only dominant appeal to him in a face was that of the mystery of colour, the value of tones, and the indices of character, and, painted only what he saw and knew. Yet Rembrandt's imagination is the greater and not the less because it is so deeply dyed in actuality. This is wonderf lly illustrated in his portraits of old men and old women. Never before had there been such tender and reverend portrayal of old age. And it is significant to note that it was through the study of the head and face of an old man that he discovered "that secret of focused light, that excelling power and beauty of light, which at its highest manifestation won for him a supreme place among the artists of Europe." But Rembrandt's absolute supremacy, Mr. Sharp goes on to say, is by common consent in the field of etching. Yet it is here that he has occasionally been most repellent in his disregard for beauty.

An anatomist, a psychologist, and a profound student of human nature, Rembrandt was quick to catch whatever of spiritual life dwelt in the sitter, whatever of spiritual suggestion in the subject. The wonderful use and control of light in his pictures have deeply influenced the work of some of the greatest painters since his day. After an analysis of some individual masterpieces and a reference to his later work in landscape, Mr. Sharp turns to a consideration of the man himself. He says:

"No artist ever made so many portraits of himself even than those frankly admitted as such, while there are scores of instances wherein Rembrandt Harmensz van Ryn poses as disguised model. The great painter has been taken to task for this, as though vanity had led him into an egregious display. It is quite clear from what we know of him, both as man and painter, that vanity had little or nothing to do with these multiplications of himself. He had from his youth a passionate interest in character, and the marked changes in his own face could not but strongly appeal to him. Whenever he was without a sitter, he turned to himself, or to his wife Saskia, or to his old mother: three ever near personalities in whom he was ceaselessly interested. Wherever he looked, he could have seen no more striking face than his own with its massive contours, its dauntless expressian, and its large, laughing, keenly observant dark eyes. At all ages, and in divers modes, he portrayed himself, though as he advanced in years, it is noticeable how little the garb or pose mattered to him, but only the living face, the outward expression of the inward self.

"In these portraits we have Rembrandt's personal record, his autobiography. Possibly he painted them with something of the self-consciousness of those writers who oblige posterity with a systematically compiled autobiography, possibly, as has been suggested, he painted them in the belief that a study of himself would lead, for himself and others, to a deeper knowledge than he could otherwise obtain, but most probably he began to portray himself out of a natural and passionate curiosity that was yet more of an impersonal than a personal kind. These—I do not know exactly how many, acknowledged and indirect—are scattered broadcast over Europe. As a series, the accepted portraits are of the utmost importance, for not only do they demonstrate the growth and development of the artist as observer, craftsman, colorist, in a word as a master painter, but they are convincing life-chapters which contemporary and later records can serve only to illustrate. Even the nine pictures at the Amsterdam exhibition afforded a fair purview of the different phases of Rembrandt's life, both as painter and as individual. Therein was to be traced the development his genius underwent, for therein were depicted his several stages of prosperity, happiness, and clouded fortunes; from the youth with dancing eyes and unruffled brow, to the thoughtful man, to the prosperous artist who has 'arrived,' to the "insouciant viveur" who finds life the rarest of the arts, and to the strangely and swiftly aging master whose nature has deepened as he has passed through suffering and adversity, who has lost wife and fortune, but to the end never wavers in steadfast devotion to his work—revealed to us, at the last, in the well-known portrait belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch in the lined, rugged features with hair now white, with tired mouth and furrowed brow, and with strong hands patiently folded, yet still with the same great, clear, bright eyes. The man and his work and his genius are closely wrought. In Rembrandt there was till the day of his death an eager, dauntless, and insatiable spirit of life. In the last painting that left his easel there is the power and promise of assured and unexhausted mastery. And to-day, to this hour, his influence is that of the only 'younger generation' which long prevail—the eternal younger generation, the enduring youth of genius.

"It is characterstic of the man, of the superb artist, of the great and vital persuasive influence that in the latest portrait which Rembrandt painted of himself, he looks out with the laughing eyes and genial smile of one who, after all, has found life well and the end not ill. It is thus; we have the most inspiring as well as the final sense of him, brave, strong, and laughing across the years."

For the Babies.

THERE is no better medicine for the babies than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Its pleasant taste and prompt and effectual cures make it a favorite with mothers and small children. It quickly cures their coughs and colds, preventing pneumonia or other serious consequences. It also cures croup and has been used in tens of thousands of cases without a single failure so far as we have been able to learn. It not only cures croup, but when given as soon as the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. In cases of whooping cough it liquefies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, and lessens the severity and frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, thus depriving that disease of all dangerous consequences. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
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FIGHTING ON THE FRONTIER.

ON Monday afternoon a gang of Shinghi Mahsuds raided five flocks of sheep, each in charge of one grazier belonging to Suliman Khel Powindahs, grazing at about five miles from Nasran and two miles from the mouth of the Shuza Pass. A pursuit party of the Suliman Khels truned out, following the raiders, and overtook them at a place two miles up the pass. In the fight which took place there, five Suliman Khels were killed, one being Sultan Mahomed, a leading Sultan Khel Malk. Inquiries are being made and steps taken to arrest some of the leading Shinghis. Acting under telegraphic instruction from the Commissioner of Derajat, the Officer Commanding at Jandala moved out with sixty rifles and twelve sowars, early on Tuesday morning, and arrived at daybreak. He surrounded a Shinghi village known as Fatch Khan's Kot, and brought back twelve men and over four hundred head of cattle.

THE troops left Bannu at half-past four on Thursday morning for Goomatti, to blow up the towers. The most recent reports show that the outlaws have not dispersed, but, assisted by some of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood are holding the pass. Resistance is expected both in the march to Goomatti and on the return journey. Slow penetrating rain is falling, The force has a stiff day's work before it, as it must return by nightfall.

SILENT FOR SIX YEARS.

THE most extraordinary man who ever languished within prison walls is Edward J. Cunningham, who a few days ago, was released from San Quentin Gaol, San Francisco.

Cunningham was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for burglary, and when he entered the gaol gates he took a solemn oath that no word would escape his lips during the period of his incarceration. Cunningham stood by his oath through the long, weary years of his sentence, and his tongue never loosened until he stepped without the prison walls a free man.

Whenever it became necessary for Cunningham to communicate his needs or wants to others, he did so in writing or by motions. After being confined in the prison a short time he was thought to be insane and was sent to the Ukiah Asylum.

Here he was confined but a short time, for it was soon ascertained he was in his right mind and merely acting in a stubborn manner. Word was sent to the prison officials and a guard was sent to the asylum to bring the prisoner back.

When near Santa Rosa he jumped through a car window, but was captured after a hard chase. After his return he still preserved an inviolable silence and was put into what is known as crank alley. Here all kinds of influence were brought to bear upon him to cause him sto peak, but without avail.

COUNT KARNOSTI, a member of the Austrian Legation, visited Landi Kotal on Friday last.

A NOTIFICATION having been received by the Commission which in inquiring into the charges against Raja Chitpal Singh, that Government on further consideration is prepared to pay the expenses of all witnesses for the defence, the Commission met on Thursday last to consider what course should be adopted. The Raja, it appears, refused to call many of his witnesses when he found himself responsible for their expenses.

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following to the *Advocate of India*, the correctness of which our contemporary vouches for: Soon after the arrival of a certain Volunteer Battalion at the place of their annual Camp, four Europeans determined to take a bath in the river near, where they had been in the habit of bathing in previous years. They went down in uniform, taking their towels, bathing drawers, and soap. While in the water immediately beneath the railway bridge, a man in Hindoo costume ordered them out of the water, saying in an offensive manner, that, if they did not come out at once, he would fetch more men and bring them out, and that the place they were in belonged to the Police Superintendent. He was playfully splashed with water, and some balls of wet sand were thrown at him. He then fetched a stick and talked very big about using it. Upon this one of the Europeans left the water and pushed him away, when he raised the stick above his head with both hands, evidently with the intention of using it. He was then promptly knocked down. Six or eight more men then appeared with long bamboos, and it was only with difficulty that one of the Europeans, who had captured the big stick before alluded to kept them off by threatening to use it upon the first man who advanced. The Police Superintendent then arrived, and started kicking about the clothes of the men, and trying generally to provoke a riot. He ordered the men away, but they were unable to comply with his request for the simple reason that some of their clothes and boots had been removed However, they were subsequently returned from the direction of the Police Superintendent's bungalow, and the men cleared off as soon as they were dressed, thinking little more of the matter. But next morning to their astonishment the Police Superintendent appeared at the camp attended by two European constables and about half-a-dozen sepoys, and told the Adjutant and Commanding Officer that he had come to arrest the four men whose names had been given him (three sergeants and a corporal). The men were given up, and marched to his office, where to their astonishment they were charged with breaking open and entering his duck-house and attempting to steal his ducks, and a charge of criminal house-breaking framed against them. They were taken before a Magistrate who released them on bail of a thousand rupees each, to appear before the District Judge, when called upon. The case duly came on, and the policeman actually produced four sepoys who swore they had seen one of the accused break off the padlock and the others enter the duck-house and attempt to capture the ducks. Their tale was so evidently a concoction, and the men charged in such responsible positions, that the Judge promptly dismissed the case without calling any evidence for the defence.

The Best Medicine For Rheumatism.

"I THINK I would go crazy with pain were it not for Chamberlain's Pain Balm," writes Mr. W. H. Stapleton, Herminie, Pa. "I have been afflicted with rheumatism for several years and ave tried remedies without number, but Pain Balm his the best medicine I hav got hold of." One application relieves the pain. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
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WHITE MEN AS SLAVES.

STEPHEN VARKONYI, the leader of the peasantf revolution which convulsed Hungary during the early months of last year, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for high treason.

The movement which was inaugurated by Varkonyi was a revolt against the remnants of serfdom which still exist in some parts of Hungary. In these districts each peasant is compelled to work fifty days in the year for the landowner without pay.

These fifty days of compulsory labour are not successive, or at fixed intervals, but when the landowner has work to be done he sends a drummer through the village, and every male inhabitant is obliged to respond to the summons.

Thereupon so many men are selected as are required. The landowner almost invariably exacts this labour in the summer when the peasant's time is most valuable to him.

In summer the peasant can earn as much as one shilling a day; in winter not more than fourpence or sixpence. In winter the peasants are compelled to act as beaters in the magnates' hunts for a wage o twopence a day. The occupation is a dangerous one, and the time is not counted in the annual fifty days' compulsory labour.

The wives of the peasants are required to sweep and scrub the local manor house once a week without pay. Finally, many landowners use the peasants as beasts of burden, harnessing four men to the plough instead of two oxen.

Stephen Varkonyi, who instigated the revolt against these degrading conditions of labour, is a sort of Hungarian Wat Tyler. He is the son of poor peasants, was educated in the farmyard, and graduated in the fields.

He is quite a typical horny-handed son of toil, is physically tall, stoutly built, with plenty of character in his shaggy head, and small eyes with their suggestion of the Mongolian slit, and has that rough kind of natural humour which appeals to the simple peasant mind.

Varkonyi, whose power over the agricultural population of his country is unbounded, is one of the most interesting figures in modern Hungarian life.

Plague News.

KARACHI plague returns from the 3rd instant to the 9th, show fourteen new cases and thirteen deaths. To prevent the further spread of plague, no change of quarters is permitted, except on a pass. Pneumonic plague is the prevailing form.

THURSDAY'S Bombay plague figures show 124 new cases and eighty-seven deaths, the mortality from all causes being 257; against 185 seizures and 202 deaths from plague, and 348 deaths from all causes on the same date last year. The week's mortality from all causes was 1,612 being equivalent to a death-rate of 99·98, per mille per annum.

REPORTS are current in Rangoon that the plague has appeared in Meiktila among a party of military police recently arrived from the Punjab, who have been sent into the segregation camp five miles from the station, several deaths having occurred.

A DELHI correspondent writes that it is understood that a number of Kanjars who were sentenced to transportation for life on the charge of dacoity have been acquitted by the Chief Court on appeal.

THE case against Balchrishna Chapekar is again postponed to 22nd instant, owing to the indisposition of Mr. Carvalho, City Magistrate. The prisoner, when placed before the *Mamalatdar* on Thursday for remand, asked the Court how many more adjournments he would have to contend with.

A VERY large Khafila, consigned to the Ameer, passed through the Khyber Pass last week bearing chiefly wrought iron and cases, which appear to contain ammunition material of sorts, to Cabul. Great activity is reported in the arms Factory in the Afghan capital, and it is stated that the armament of Fort Dacca and other places has recently been increased.

A CORRESPONDENT tells us a pretty little incident which happened at the Assault-at Arms at Mian Mir on Tuesday afternoon. A group of soldiers' children with empty pockets were gathered round a fruit-seller's basket looking with longing eyes on the dates and plantains which it contained. One of the rank and file came along, noticed the situation, and, with what must have been a heavy drain on his resources, rose to the occasion. Tommy bought up the whole stock in trade at his own valuation—the sum of one rupee, distributed it, and produced a perfect picture of juvenile happiness.—*Civil and Military Gazette.*

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"We are in a position to state that the *London Illustrated News*, *Sketch*, the *Penny Illustrated Paper*, and other publications belonging to the Ingram group are about to be purchased by a Syndicate which will shortly be floated as a limited Company. When it is remembered that the Company will acquire the extensive printing works and plant belonging to the present owners of these journals, there will be no need for surprise at the statement that the capital is expected to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of a million. Sir William Ingram will be the Chairman of the Company, but it is not correct that the Company will be known by his name. It will be called. *The Illustrated London News*, (*Limited*). The issue will probably be made in the course of a very few weeks."

BULLION MARKET.

Calcutta, 10th February 1899.

GOLD.—				
English Bar—(100 touch)	per tollah Rs.	24	0	6
Do Small portion	" "	24	1	6
Australian Bar (100 touch)	" "	24	1	0
China Leaf 3 Brand	" "	24	12	0
Do 2 do	" "	24	11	0
China Bar	" "	Nominal		
CalcuttaBar (100 touch Mint Assay)	" "	24	0	6
Sovereign Victoria Sheild	per piece "	15	1	0
Do Jubilee	" "	15	0	9
SILVER.				
Englsh (Silver Bar of 17 1-2 dwt. better	per 100 tollah	73	10	0
Do Bsamll portion		73	14	0

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THE ENGLISHMAN IN INDIA.

IMPRESSIONS OF A WORLD WANDERER.

WE extract from the *Contemporaey Review* the portion relating to India of an article with the above heading written by Mr. John Foster Fraser :—

I am only a vagabond. I have roamed the world in the garb of a cyclist. Were I not a plebeian I might glory in the fact that I have talked with kings and eaten at the tables of Prime Ministers. Being a vagabond and a wearer of flannel shirts, I have nurtured a contempt for people who are not vagabonds and who sniff at the man who sits down to dinner in jaeger. I recall lunching one day at Maiden's Hotel in Delhi. It was April and the heat was torrid. I was in a flannel shirt ; a lady and gentleman arrived at the Hotel. They were Anglo-Indians, an embodyment of all that was inflexible. starchy, and impregnable in superiority. They dropped an eye of cursory scorn on poor meek-mannered me ; then they turned on their heels and left. "I hope nothing has offended you ?" I heard the landlord ask, "There's a man having lunch there," answered the gentleman "who is wearing a flannel shirt. I could not possibly sit at the table with a man in a flannel shirt ; we will go elsewhere." He was wearing a four inch deep, high, hard-as-steel sort of collar. He seemed uncomfortable ; I was comfortable. He preferred starch ; I preferred flannel. Indeed a subsidiary title to this article might be starch, and flannel." It is flannel criticising starch. And t e witty man of a chance to say something nasty about flannel. I could say it myself ; only it should really come from my enemies.

SOCIAL STILT-WALKING.

Here in London one can find people passably clever striding over the rest of humanity on social stilts. But social stilt walking is only pursued as an art in India. Yet it is not artistic. I fancy it must be disagreeable, and that is why after a limited study of the Anglo-Indian, I give thanks to Heaven that there is no room for me to be ambitious. I saw different kinds of stilts in India. The military stills are tall and unbending. The civil stilts are not so tall, but are very jealous of the military stilts. Then there are the common stilts, made by folks commercially engaged, rather rickety, and the cause of many a fall. If ever I go to India, it will have to be as Viceroy or Commander-in-Chief of the Forces. I'm a dour, sullen beggar, and were I only a Major, I know the Colonel's wife would have something womanly to say about my wife? If I were only a "damned doctor in the civil lines," how could I expect to play billiard with the young lions of the army? If I were a merchant, say a dealer in cotton—an ordinary chap may be, managing to pay my debts and refraining from making love to my neighbour's wife—mere negative virtue, I own—how should I dare aspire to belong to the Local Club ? Have I not in my mind an instance where a Lieutenant Colonel resented meeting a Magistrate at dinner? Don't I know a case where the wife of an Assistant-Commissioner ordered her carriage because the wife of a Collector had been given a higher seat at table?

As a casual looker-on, the impression I got in India was that everyb dy was anxious to dazzle everyone else with his own magnificent dignity. So the rambling Philistine like myself may be pardoned the snigger that flutters in the sleeve. There is no cohesion among Englishmen in India except caste cohesion, In the social air there hovers a suspicion that your neighbours are conspiring to dethr one you. That is why the Englishmen sits grim and straight-backed. This grimness and straight-baekedness produces in time a demeanour of cold, lofty scorn, that at first makes you personally feel a poor incompetent worm, but afterwards, when you recover your shaken equilibrium, moves you to mirth.

Of course, I am ready to be told I am writing about things I don't understand, that I was only in India a few months, that although I have eyes and ears I didn't see straight, that my hearing was defective, and altogether that I am an ignorant person and know nothing about anything. But let that pass.

ANGLO-INDIAN CLIQUES.

Every Indian station on the hills or in the plains has its dozen or more cliques. If you are an easy-going new landed traveller, and you unsuspectingly take tea with any one belonging to the civel clique, it is likely you will be tabooed by the military clique. At home your inclinations may have run in a literary grove. Your acquaintances were "literary gents," and you dearly loved to talk "literary shop." But you can't talk literature in India. To play polo and talk scandal is what is required. One felt among one's own countrymen and country-women in India that their life was made up of fripperies, that they knew it and had a smouldering fear you happened to know it too. One began to suspect a latent dread that they were afraid of being laughed at just as the laughed at one another; and so they endeavoured to overawe with an avalanche of pretensions that were calculated to snuff out any puny presumption you might have to walk the same social earth as themselves. The stranger is conscious of this before he has been in India a week. And if he has doubts he has only to listen to B's fretting because—owing to the snobbishness of A—he had been black-balled at the club, and then C's rancour against B, being the salt of the earth, considers it beneath his dignity to be courteous to C's wife.

All this charges the social atmosphere of Anglo-India with narrow-mindedness. It is a repellant atmosphere, but one that is soon accepted and in time, even defended ; for though B may be snubbed by A, he has the consolation that he can snub C and D. and all the rest. The dignity of a gentleman is nothing in India ; the dignity of an official is all. The best men, who at home would spurn and scorn the social stilt-walking and high-horse riding officealdom—especially of the feminine adjuncts of officialdom,—are affected in time even against their will. I got to know a man in India with whom I could talk "literary shop." He was a man who had studied the natives : informing, genial and well-bred. He invited me to spend an evening at his house. That night I was dining with a friend holding the principal official position in the station. Casually I mentioned that I was going to the residence of Mr. So-and-So.

"My dear fellow," said my host, "you must not do anything of the kind." "I dare say he's all right." "He's all right as far as I know.. But you don't know India. If you mix with people like him, I tell you candidly you'll find yourself cut by a lot of people you expect to meet." "But," I replied, "when you are in London you like going to the club dinners where there are only artists and novelists and Bohemians, with not an Assistant Commissioner or a man who owns a carriage among them." "I know, I know," said my friend, "and I don't defend the position. But if you lived in India as long as I have, you would see the necessity for very hard lines of social distinction." And from the day I arrived in India till the day I felt I always got the same answer. "It can be helped ; we are obliged to keep on our stilts to hold any position ; everybody else does it, and we must."

ANGLO-INDIAN SUPERCILLIOUSNESS.

When a genial Britisher arrives in India from home and sees the cold supercilliousness with which the fifty other Britishers in the station regard each other, he hits upon the happy idea of starting a club. He goes round, and finds everybody is willing to help and to join. Then there suddenly comes a hitch, "you know, I can't have anything to do with it if so-and-so belongs," says one resident. "It would be absurd to expect me to have my dinner at the same table as Thingamyjig," says another. "Why, I draw Rs. 2,000 a month, and how can I meet—what's his name who only draws Rs. 1,200 ?" remarks a third. Result : no club. In the big stations, however, you find a Gymkhana you would expect all English folk interested in sport or good fellowship would go there. But mark, How can Miss Smith, the daughter of the Commissioner, play tennis when that Miss Brown, the daughter of the Civil Surgeon, is having her tea on the verandah ? It is manifestly impossible any Anglo-Indian can see that. Therefore only Miss Smith and Miss Smith's clique belong to the Gymkhana. And the envy and heartache of those outside the pale makes the daughter of the Commissioner exceedingly proud. Miss Brown has her tea and plays her tennis elsewhere.

But here comes a situation that amuses the mere roving vagabond. The social barrier regarding admittance to the Gymkhana is a movable obstruction, and its exact point of obstruction is different in different stations. In a big military station the Collector will hardly be tolerated, and the Collector, being human, says nasty things about, the uppishness of the military. In a small station, however, where the Collector is the principal official, the Surgeon will be admitted to the Gymkhana ; but black-balled will be, says the professor of history, at a neighbouring college, should he be so presumptuous as to seek a place where he can play tennis in the evening.

BARELY IN TIME.

WHEN Cardinal Montalto became Sixtus V. he speedily threw off the disguise which had enveloped his former life, and made the astounding Conclave know that, in place of a docile instrument, they had elected an inflexible master.

It had been the custom of nobles coming to Rome to be escorted, whenever they went out, by a "following" more like an army than an escort; and it frequently happened that, when two such parties met in a narrow street, a violent struggle for precedence would take place, and blood be freely shed.

Sixtus V. resolved to put down this practice, and sent an official notice prohibiting every noble without exception from being followed by more than twenty attendants. Everyone, also, of whatever degree, who should carry any sort of firearms (pocket pistols being especially mentioned) should thereby incur the penalty of death. At this notice Pasquin jested, and the nobles laughed, but no one dared to indulge in bravado, until the following incident occurred:—

Just after the promulgation of the Pope's orders, Ranuccio Farnese, the only son of the Duke of Parma, arrived in Rome. His first care was to wait on the new Pontiff ; and being presented by his uncle, Cardinal Farnese, the young prince met the reception due to his rank and to his merit. On the evening after his arrival he was invited by Prince Cesarino to a magnificent banquet. Wine flowed freely, and the night waxed late when the gay guests began to discuss the edict of His Holiness. Several wild young spirits, and among them Ranuccio, declared themselves ready to brave it openly. Next morning, however, when sobered by sleep, they all, with one exception, judged it expedient to forego their bravado. Ranuccio alone felt a strong desire to try conclusions with the Pope; it was not every day that one could enjoy the pleasure of braving a Pope. Ranuccio, in short, went to the Vatican, and asked an audience of His Holiness. It was immediately granted, and the prince, after having, according to custom, knelt three times, managed audibly to let fall at the very feet of Sixtus a pair of pistols, loaded to the muzzle. Such audacity could not go unpunished. Without a moment's hesitation the Pope summoned his guards, and ordered them to arrest, and convey to Fort St. Angelo, the son of the Duke of Parma, who had just condemned himself to death.

The news spread rapidly. Cardinal Farnese hastened to the Vatican, and falling at the feet of the Pope, with tears in his eyes, pleaded his nephew's cause. He spoke of the culprit's youth, his rank, and, finally, his close relation by blood to the late Pope, Paul III., but all to no purpose.

The Pope's reply was cruelly decisive.

"The law," he said, "makes no distinction ; a criminal is a criminal, and nothing more. The Viceregent of God on earth, my justice, like His, must be impartial ; nor dare I exercise clemency, which would be nothing but weakness." The Cardinal bent his head, and retired.

The Governor of the Castle received notice that Ranuccio should be executed precisely at twenty-four o'clock (in Italy the hours are reckoned from one to twenty-four, commencing at sunset). Angeli (the governor) signified to Ranuccio that he had but two hours to live. The announcement of his doom was greeted with laughter by the reckless prisoner, as he could not think that the Pope would strike off a head that was almost crowned. But who can describe his dismay when his room was entered by a monk, who came to administer the last rites of the Church, followed by the executioner, asking for his last orders.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Farnese was not idle. He consulted with his friend Count Olivares, the Spanish ambassador, and they resolved to obtain by stratagem what had been refused to their prayers.

"Our only plan," said the Cardinal, "is to stop all the clocks in Rome. Meanwhile do you occupy Angeli's attention."

His Eminence possessed great influence in the city, and at the appointed hour, Time changed his noisy course, as if by magic, into a silent flight. Two clocks, those of St. Peter and St. Angelo, were put back twenty minutes, their proximity to the prison requiring this change. The execution was to be in private ; but Olivares, as ambassador, was permitted to remain with the Governor. A single glance showed him that the clock was going right, that is to say, that it was quite wrong.

Olivares, in order to gain time, began to converse on every imaginable subject, but the Governor would not listen.

"My orders," he said, "are imperative. At the first stroke of the clock all will be over." He called, "is all prepared ?"

All was prepared. The attendants, like their master, were only awaiting the hour.

"Tis strange," muttered the Governor ; "I should have thought—"

"At least, if you will not delay, do not anticipate," interrupted Olivares.

Despite the delay, it only wanted ten minutes to the fatal hour.

Meanwhile the Cardinal repaired to the Pope. As he entered, Sixtus drew out his watch, and his eyes sparkled with revengeful joy. On the testimony of that unerring timepiece, Ranuccio was already executed.

"What seek you ?" asked the Pope.

"The body of my nephew, that I may convey it to Parma."

Sixtus traced the following words: "We order our Governor to deliver to His Eminence the body of Ranuccio Farnese,

The Cardinal : rushed towards the Castle, and just in time. His nephew had his neck bared, his hands tied, and he was repeating what seemed his last prayer.

"A pardon ! a pardon !" shouted Olivares.

The executioner began to unloose his victim, when a sign from Angeli made him pause.

"The body of Ranuccio Farnese," the Governor read and re-read. "Why these words, 'the body of— ?"

"Is that all ?" said the Cardinal, at that perilous moment, looking paler than his nephew. "Look at the clock it still wants two minutes to the time, and I received that paper a quarter of an hour since."

The Governor bowed ; the argument was irresistible. Ranuccio was given to his deliverers. A carriage with four fleet horses, waited outside the prison, and in a few moments the Cardinal and the young Prince were galloping on the road to Parma. Just then the clocks of Rome pealed forth in unison, as if rejoicing that by their judicous silence they had gained their master's cause.

THE ENGLISHMAN IN INDIA.

IMPRESSIONS OF A WORLD WANDERER.

(Concluded.)

ANGLO INDIAN TREATMENT OF HINDUS.

THE Britisher abroad is an arrogant person, and the arrogance of the Anglo-Indian is stupendous. As I am a Britisher, I suppose I am arrogant, and I dare say if I were a well-trained Anglo-Indian, my arrogance would be insufferable. The only humerous thing, however, about it all is that every Ang o-In lian readily concedes the arrogance, indeed deplores it to your face, but says it is the other Anglo-Indians who are to blame.

Hindus are not necessarily vulgar animals. I believe some of them have English degrees, and may be said to be more cultured than a good many of their English rulers. Some of them I would even call gentlemen. But I have heard subalterns deliberately make objectionable remarks about niggers in a Hindu's presence. Then I have heard wonder expressed that the natives of India do not love the British. I have heard a clergyman preach that all men, of whatever race and whatever colour—and he pressed the point—are equal in the sight of God. And I have heard this same clergyman argue quite seriously that natives should be prevented from wearing European shoes, because they could not readily be removed when a native entered the presence of an Englishman.

"Caste is the curse of India," says the Anglo-Indian. And thereupon he sets about to jealously guard his own caste. Most folks, I suppose, have a cold shiver down the back when they hear of marriages between English and Hindu. But the mental attitude of the Anglo-Indian on this question is like the ways of the heathen Chinee—peculiar. Let me give an instance. A Hindu came to England to study. He was wealthy, had a distinguished carreer, was called to the Bar, and but for his colour would be taken as a highly educated European. He married the daughter of a well-known public man in London. The husband took his wife to India and devoted nearly all his time and much of his wealth to philanthropic work. When the plague was raging, this man and his wife gave their entire energies to attending the sick. Were they on friendly visiting terms with the English in that station ? No. I am not arguing for one moment that an Englishman should fall on the neck of a Hindu, invite him to his house and give him whisky and soda, as he would treat a fellow countryman. But what in my untutored mind I could not conceive was that chivalrous Englishmen should sneer, and well-bred English women turn up their noses at the lady, except by first believing that instead of being neither chivalrous or well-bred they were just a pack of snobbish barbarians. This lady, despite her intellectual charm, is not invited to Engl sh houses. The most gnorant doll of a woman, if only she is wife of a fifth-rate official, would think herself contaminated did she condescend to speak to her. Why?

WHAT THEY DO IN BURMA.

Another phase of the same question. In India and Burma, more especially in Burma, many an official is well-known to keep one or two native girls as concubines. There is no hiding the fact ; no attempt is made to keep it secret ; his chief's wife knows perfectly well all about the *menage*, never a door is closed to him. He dines out, flirts with young English girls from home, may be marries one of them. All is in strict order. But let him fall in love with a native woman, honourably, sincerely. Let him be so foolish as to marry her, instead of making her his concubine—what happens ? Go to Burma, particularly, and find out. Is not every door slammed in his face and his name wiped from every visiting list ? Why ? Stil another phase of the same question—the blackest phase. In the old times, before quick communication between England and India, when a man who went to India usually went for the best slice of his life, it was common, and even natural, that there should be frequent marriages with natives. To-day the children and grand-children and the great-grand-children of those marriages are numbered by hundreds of thousands. They constitute the Great Eurasian population of Ind a, a poputation rapidly ncreasing, and which will, one of these days, present a hard problem for some statesman to solve. By intermarriage and re-intermarriage with English people the children's children of the mixed alliance have, in numerous instances, lost all except the slighest trace of their Eastern blood. A man whose grand-father was English, whose mother was English, and who is married to an English woman, has got some reason In his desire to be called an Englishman. But that name is refused to him. He may be fair of countenance; yet he is called a nigger, and his children will be called niggers. He finds himself the pariah of India Sneered at, called to his face "a damned half-bred," given low wages because of his birth, he feels the iron heel of caste driven savagely into his soul.

EARTH'S SUPREMEST SNOB.

You see I am getting rather objectionable in recounting impressions of India I might now veer right round and say just as many nice things as I have been saying wicked things about the Anglo-Indian. Indeed, as I write, I keep thinking of a score of fine, glorious fellows I knew in india, men of whom every word I have written, if applied to them, would be a lie. And there are others, I could find innumerable instances to confute my own assertions. But I have written, not to bring out instances and exceptions, but to state what are bold and general facts, which every Anglo-Indian knows to be true, which he will admit to corroborate in detail over a cigar, but which he will deny in public as grossly exaggerated, if not absolutely false. Such is human nature.

Now we all know, even the most vagabond of us, that special circumstances bring out dormant qualities in our characters. And the quality I am drumming on just at present is that the Englishman, when he gets away from his own shores is inclined to develop with an extraordinary rapidity into the earth's supremest snob. It is a sad confession. Our overbearing manner on the continent has passed into a proverb : we seem to have been suckled on national egotism. And the bad side of this egotism comes out more particularly when we have to deal with eastern nations. The mere fact of coming in contact with natives deteriorates the man, and especially the woman, and they cloak themselves in a robe of wooden dignity that would be ridiculous in England, and is only kept from being ridiculous in the East because very body is in the same case.

ANIMAL FRIENDSHIP.

A COLLECTION OF TRUE STORIES.

PERHAPS the most entertaining article with which the *Strand Magazine* starts the new year is one by Mr. Albert H. Broadwell on the subject of animal friendship. It is illustrated with some excellent reproductions from photographs, which serve to lend an atmosphere of reality to some of the strange stories the writer tells. "I cannot refrain" (says the writer) "from telling the following story which is vouched for by my most intimate friend. On paying a visit to his uncle, who is a farmer in Scotland, he noticed a handsome young collie and a goose with a broken wing constantly about together; indeed, they were well-nigh inseparable On inquiry he elicited the act that, when a puppy, the dog had flown at a gosling and had broken its wing ; ever since it was noticed that the dog was not only cognixant of the mischief he had done, but became so repentant that from that time forward he had taken that one bird under his special protection, though his feeling rowards geese in general remained unchanged ; and now, wherever the dog goes, there follows the goose, and vice versa. It is a pretty instance of contrition, and may be recommended as a useful example "

THE CAT AND THE DUCKLINGS.

A New Zealand correspondent writes:—"Every one knows how deficient in sense of maternal responsibility are mother ducks, and some duckings of mine, appearing neglected, were put into a small box, with flannel, to add to their comfort As one of our cats happened to be present, and inspected them with some interest, my wife said to her, 'Here are some kittens for you, Minna,' without more ado Minna jumped into the box, and there and then adopted them as her very own. When they fell out of the box she very tenderly picked them up in her mouth and replaced them. When they pecked at her after the mannef of their kind she very gently reproached them with her paw, and seemed to try and tell them in her own language that she had never seen well-behaved kittens behave In that way before. Altogether they become a very happy family. On another occasion, however", adds the owner of the ducklings, "I was standing one even ing watching my Aylesburys waddling home to supper and bed after 'a happy day at the seaside, when I noticed a little black-and-white duckling evidently not theirs, which to my surprise was with them. It stopped and looked at me as the others passed, and seemed to ask, 'What are you going ao do with me?' I picked it up and called the old cat. Putting the ducking in a box I said, 'There is another kitten for you, Minna.' Without a moments hesitation she once more undertook her strange maternal duty, and took charge of the mite for some days, till she thought the little one old enough to face a haid and cruel world by itself. The duckling, which was called Kitty after its foster-mother, used to follow her about the gaiden and up and down the veranda stairs. At last, however, some boys—for there are cruel and thoughtless boys even in New Zealand—killed it with a stone."

THE PIGS AND THE COWS.

Of foster-mothers we have, indeed, some extraordinary instances. They show the truthful confidence with which little suckling animals will approach, and segard as their mother beasts of quite a different rpecies. We have two instances of suckling pigs. In the one case we have an a nusing picture showing how the little porker was caught in the act of stealing milk from a cow, whose yield in consequence fell noticeably short. Another correspondent sends a striking confirmation of the preceding incident, with the difference that instead of one thief only we have three. Another peculiar pair hail from the States. They live in Walsenburg, Colorado. The mother is an ass in this case. Her ordinary occupation is that of a wood carrier She also has to nurse an exuberant little lamb, who robbed the little donkey foal of its natural right. The three animals belong to an old Mexican, and the lamb was reared entirely on the milk of the mother ass. A pretty terrier was once the happy mother of an even happier family. Unfortunately, the puppies all died soon after birth, leaving the mother broken-hearted. For a long while the dog was inconsolable. It refused its food, moped, and grew thin. One day, however, a tiny motherless kitten was given to it. The gift turned out to be the dog's salvation; it took the greatest care of the little creature, and woe betide the unfortunate stranger who ventured too near her precious charge. Mr. Edward T. Williams, of Tedworthsquare, Chelsea, owns a dove and a dog. There is nothing very fresh in this item of news, but wait a moment; that dog will carry the dove on his head for more than a-quarter-of-a-mile! They are the staunchest of friends, and as soon as the door of the cage is opened out hurries the dove. It searches for the dog, if the latter should not already happen to be waiting for his rider in the immediate neighbourhood ; and the dog seems to consider it as an absolute duty to carry his friend about in this comical fashion.

THE HEN AND THE KITTENS.

From Covinton, U. S. A., comes a remarkable instance. Mr. E. E. Cone, of that town, has a hen that displays a remarkably perverted maternal instinct. One of the neighbours has a cat with four small kittens. The cat would be faithful to her offspring were she not prevented by the following circumtsance. This particular hen had been sitting for some time when she suddenly conceived the idea that the care of the kittens was more to her liking. She, therefore, promptly drove the mother cat away and took possession of the kits. No hen-mother ever watched over her brood with greater care than has this one over her mewing, squirming litter of kittens. The kittens offer no objection, and, with the exception of the old cat, who looks on at a safe distance, all is serene in this anomalous family. The hen endeavours to cover the four kittens with her wings, but it is not a very easy task.

THE CAGING OF MR. "SPOTS."

WE have had some leopards prowling around our way lately. Disappearances of sundry dogs and goats, wild howls of frightened deer—"deer standing still in the forest," as the old song puts it—shrill cries at night time and distinct pugs during the day, all told the one story, a tale dear to our sporting instincts—he must be caught. Now, as every good huntsman knows, there is more than one way of securing a leopard. You may either sit up for him on a *machan* (bamboo platform) over the kill, and a leopard bagged under these circumstances furnishes even more excellent sport than a tiger, or you may trap him, catch him alive, and then cage him or shoot him at your pleasure. We chose the latter course. A long, strong narrow trap was manufactured and placed at a spot where the animal had been known to pass. A wonderful erection it was, with its two chambers, a but and a ben; and its ingenious arrangement of trap doors between them. At one end was tethered a goat. The other end was left open for the nocturnal visitant. But it is so arranged that as soon as the beast enters the trap, two doors, one behind him to prevent his egress, and the other in front of him to prevent him reaching the goat, immediately close fast upon him and leave him a prisoner. The natives, from selfish and superstitious reasons, are only too eager to enter into the spirit of the affair : and before long the necessary bait is offered. Poor animal ! tied up there in mortal terror of its enemy and ignorant of the fact that its fears are groundless, for its life is perfectly safe.

For six weeks every evening this unfortunate goat spent thus the weary hours. We had almost lost hope, when at last all our strategy and expectation were rewarded. *Khubbur* was brought that the leopard was safe in the trap. Now came the time of rejoicing. From far and wide the coolies gathered to poke fun, and very material fun, at the prisoner. Greater still the rejoicing when it was known that he was not to be killed but to be caged and sent off alive across the *kāla pani*. Their joy knew no bounds, and one and all vied with each other to show their pleasure. Ere long a huge procession was formed and in triumph the trap and its living contents were carried up to the bungalow. The ceremony with which it was all done was a revelation even to an old Anglo-Indian, affording one more illustration of the tremendous power which superstition still exerts upon our Aryan subjects. The man whose goat had passed these miserable nights for six weeks appointed himself master of the ceremonies, and, of course, receiver of the revenues. Every one who could approach near enough jostled one another to be allowed to push their figures through the bars just to touch his recumbene majesty. There is supposed to be a potent influence in the touch. It will, like the old English superstition of the King's touch, only *vie versa*, cure sickness, ward off trouble, and abolish the power of the evil eye. No wonder then that these ignorant coolies, at imminent risk to their own limbs, took every advantage of their fallen, crouching enemy. Little recked they that a turn of the foot, and Mr. "Spots" might have broken the intruder's hand. Little cared they for the warnings of the Sahiblog, for was not here the victory, and here the chance for their victor ? One woman was almost hurt. Luckily she was pulled back in time, for even sulking leopards have tempers, teeth and strength of limb.

All the road up, the procession was joined by hundreds more eager to deposit their pice and claim their indemnity from trouble. At last the bungalow was reached. They specially made cage was opened, the door end of the trap fastened firmly against it, the door was opened, with a bound the captive entered into his new prison, the door was shut and the huge beast made fast. Still another part of the ceremony remained, not only on the leopard's part, though he, too, showed his teeth and his cage at being thus balked of his liberty, but also on the part of the crowd Mounting to the top of the cage, the master of the ceremonies took off the amulet which most of his class wear always round their necks to keep of evil spirits, and swung it round and round the prison in which the captive had been installed. Now at last there was no more fear of annoyance from this particular beast at least. His wife, no doubt, was still free and had come up, so the witnesses testified to sympathise with her lord and master in his captivity. But she, too, it was to be hoped would soon join him. Meantime there was at least one less marauder and his capture had given opportunity for thousands to gain a freedom, they thought, from almost every ill. Then came feeding time. But Mr. "Spots" continued to sulk with his nose between his paws and would not gratify the curiosity of an idle crowd. Since he could not feed in his own way, he refused to feed at their time. Next a railway journey to the capital, as month's sickness on the sea, and now the seven-foot captive is added to the numorous other specimens in a well-known Zoo.

ANIMAL ODDITIES.

ONE might very naturally imagine that an animal which, like the familiar oyster, spends its existence in more or less calm repose between two shells, would possess some quaint peculiarities of structure.

Economy of space is evidently well considered, for the beast literally drags through life with but one foot.

Nor does its sense of thrift pause here for this organ, in addition to being used for purposes of locomotion, is also used for the comfortable housing of its apology for a brain, or rather for two of these structures.

And yet, again, how many lovers of the bivalve are aware of the fact that it passes its intestine right through its heart ? Such is economy with a vengeance.

The lobster is another providential beast. From constantly living in cold water it evidently possesses a wholesome dread of tooth-ache; it accordingly keeps its teeth in its stomach. Scientifically it has no legs, but it makes up the deficiency with four pairs of ambulatory appendages, as they are termed.

The worm, being a humble animal in the scale of creation, is not be proud owner of a heart. This must be somewhat awkward, when he becomes matrimonially inclined ; he is, therefore, provided with six pairs of imitation, or "so called hearts." Evidently he is a believer in quantity.

The strangest creature of all is a little chap known as the "amœba." He is the lowest known form of animal life. Every part of his body performs every function indifferently. For instance, locomotion is accomplished by the protrusion of any portion of his substance, when the rest flows up to it.

Should he feel hungry, he simply turns himself inside out over the first morsel of food he comes across ; the process being reversed when the meal is complete. As for his residence he may be found in the gutter of any house-top in wet weather. He i a microscopic organism.

ON Wednesday last in full Durbar, Kumar Birendra Kisore Deb Barman, son of His Highness the Maharaja Radha Kishore Deb Barman, was formally installed Jubaraj or immediate successor to the Gadi of the Tippera State.

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	Rs.	As.	P.	Per	Mds.
Borax	13	6	0	,,	,,
Flour	4	0	0	,,	,,
Cotton fine	12	10	0	,,	,,
Do fully good	11	10	0	,,	,,
Cutch (Singapore)	9	10	0	,,	,,
Do (Rangoon) No. 1	12	2	0	,,	,,
Ginger (fair Bengal)	8	4	0	,,	,,
Jute Sikdar Naraingunge No. 2	31	0	0	,,	40oLbs.
Do Do No. 3	28	2	0	,,	,,
Do (Rejections ordy.	17	0	0	,,	,,
Castor Oil No. 1 Fine pale	15	8	0	,,	mds.
Do Thirds yellow	12		10	,,	,,
Rice Table or Seeta	4	12	0	,,	,,
Do Do (inferior)			0	,,	,,
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Do ,, o. 2	3	4	6	,,	,,
Do ,, ,, 3	3	2	0	,,	,,
Do Moongly ,, 1	3	4	0	,,	,,
Ghee (Buxar) 1	29	0	0	,,	,,
Do Matki	36	0	0	,,	,,
Saltpetre 5% crude	7	2	0	,,	,,
Do 15 Do	5	2	0	,,	,,
Sugar (Dulooah)	7	0	0	,,	,,
Do Chandpur ackra	6	8	0	,,	,,
Wheat club No. 2	3	0	0	,,	,,
Do Hard Red	0	0	0	,,	,,
Do Soft Red	0	0	0	,,	,,
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American Snowflake	5	0	0	per case.	
Do Chester	3	11	0	,,	
Do Tiger	3	11	0	,,	
Sumatra Crown	3	7	0	Two Tins.	
Rangoon Victoria	3	6	0	Per Case.	

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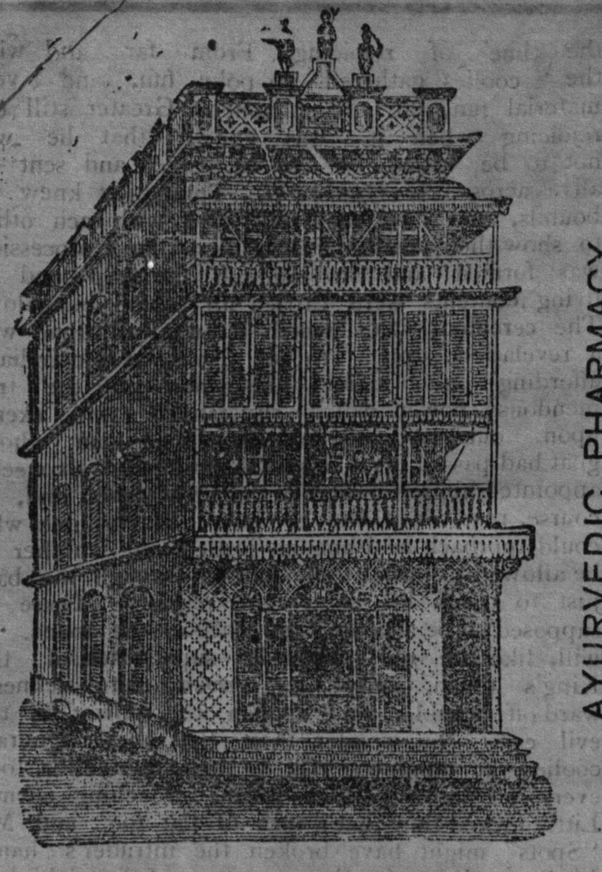

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