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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩৷৹ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

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

মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ অর্দ্ধ আনা।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

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অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

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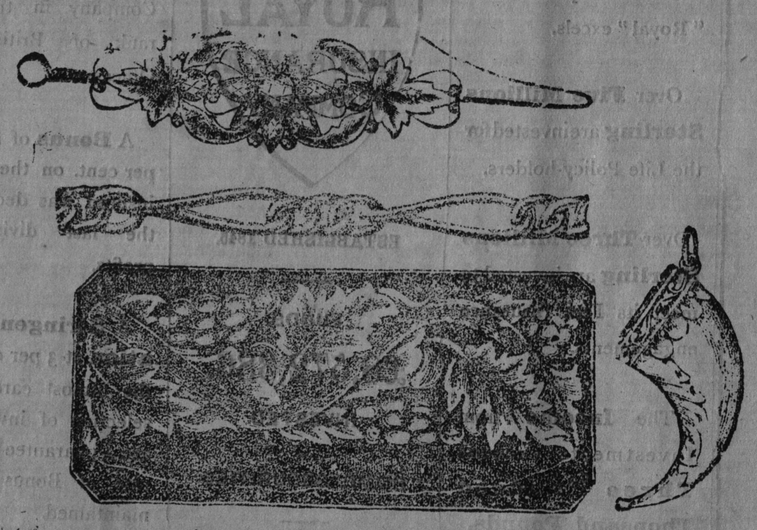

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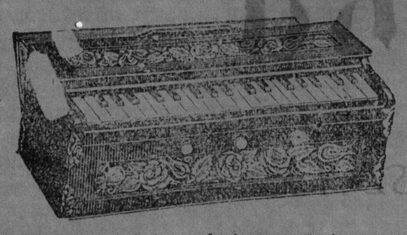

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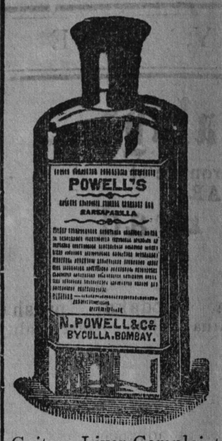

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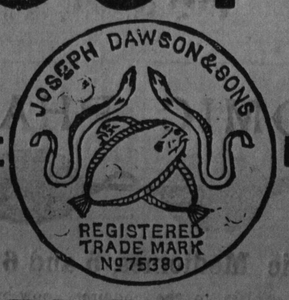
TRADE  MARK.

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA JUNE 9, 1898.

THE PLAN OF THE CAMPAIGN.

If the plague policy, advocated by the *Englishman*, had been adopted, Calcutta would have been by this time almost denuded of its inhabitants. On that memorable Friday, the day before the proclamation of the plague by the Government of Bengal, news was brought to us that on the following day Sir J. Woodburn would introduce the Bombay policy in the metropolis of India. The news flew from mouth to mouth, and the whole town was thrown into a paroxysm of dread and despair in the course of a few hours. People began to fly in all directions, as if the Russians had taken possession of the city. The bare possibility of the introduction of a rigorous policy in Calcutta created so much disastrous result; and the *Englishman* actually advocates that it should be introduced now! The exodus in the beginning caused immense loss both to Europeans and Indians. A second exodus is likely to prove ruinous.

This is what the *Indian Daily News* says :—

An extraordinary panic about rioting, insurrection and seditious writing seems to have gohold of the *Englishman*. Mr. James, whom we have every reason to believe, answers for order being kept ; and the town, as far as we can see, seems quieting down ; but the more quiet it gets, the more alarmist the *Englishman* gets. What the object of all this splendid frenzy is, we do not pretend to know, nor who inspires it. That it is being done with an object, we have no doubt.

The *Indian Daily News* says that the *Englishman* sees sedition and rioting all around him, though there is quiet in the town. Yes, we honestly believe, much of the unsettled state of affairs that prevailed in the town, was due to the inflammatory writings of the *Englishman*. And naturally enough, he accuses us of having inflamed the minds of the citizens against the Government. But our interest lies in quieting the minds of the people and not in creating a riotous mob in the town. It was thus when the policy of the Government was announced on Saturday, we immediately had the generous sentiments of Sir John Woodburn translated into Bengalee, and distributed them through printed slips all over the town. We have reasons to believe that the proceeding on our part was the means of doing a vast deal of good.

A greater panic-monger than the *Englishman* does not exist. When the riot at Talla occurred during the rule of Mr. Stevens, he was dissatisfied with the administration of the latter, because he had not telegraphed for military help. Mr. Stevens did not want any, as he had full confidence in the capacity of the Police Commissioner, Mr. James. We, who ought to know more about such matters than any Anglo-Indian paper, were surprised at the nervousness displayed by the *Englishman*, and laughed at the idea of importing a military force for the purpose of crushing a few rioters. Time shewed that Mr. Stevens was right; for, Mr. James accomplished all that was necessary without any help from the military authorities.

It is, however, a risky affair to meddle with the *Englishman*. He knows very well how to abuse people who do not agree with him. Then he has the infallible remedy of silencing native journalists by holding up the threat of "sedition" before their eyes. He speaks in a tone of authority as if he were the right-hand man of Sir J. Woodburn and the Hon'ble Mr. Risley! Indeed, it is this unwarrantable assumption of an authoritative tone that has done an infinite deal of mischief. He writes as if inspired by the authorities ; when, therefore, the *Englishman* suggested that a punitive police should be stationed in Calcutta or that the people be flogged publicly in the street, the citizens apprehended that he was only voicing the wishes of the Government.

But why should the *Englishman* interfere in these matters at all? Why does he not keep quiet like the *Pioneer*? It is a question in which the European residents are not so vitally interested as the Indians. The plague is a disease of the poor. The Europeans have very little to fear from it. Why should not then the management of the affairs be mainly left in the hands of the natives of the soil? It is altogether a non-political question ; racial interests or supremacy is not involved in it.

What we would, therefore, humbly suggest is to leave the matter entirely in the hands of local officers such as Messrs. Greer and James, the Principal of the Medical College and his colleagues, the Municipal Commissioners and the Vigilance Committees. Let Mr. Risley control this local force, and keep that imported from Bombay in reserve. The latter may be brought into requisition, if, which Heaven forbid, affairs assume an ugly aspect.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT DR. LAING'S CASE.

After having raised the cry of sedition, the *Englishman* was naturally anxious to secure witnesses to support him. But the adage is, "a burglar's witness is a pick-pocket". The adage is not savoury ; we utilize it because it is apt and ready at hand, and will very well explain the situation. We do not mean any offence by using it. Any Anglo-Indian journal, raising the cry of sedition, will readily find witnesses in its own ranks to support it. An Anglo-Indian journal, which can bring the charge of sedition against an Indian journalist, proves his own loyalty and confers a lasting obligation upon the authorities. Did not the *Times of India* and the *Bombay Gazette* secure their plaudits when they brought the charge of sedition against Mr. Tilak? There is no wonder that the *Englishman* has got *Capital* to echo its sentiments.

This latter journal makes it clear what we suspected before, namely, that our cause of offence lies in taking up the case of Dr. Laing. The *Indian Daily News* which does not approve of the "hysterical" cry raised by the *Englishman* and whose article is reproduced elsewhere, says the same thing in its opening sentence, which is quoted below :—

We see that there is great indignation, in certain quarters, with the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* for suggesting, as far as we can see, that Dr. Laing should be put on his trial.

Now we suspected as much, when noticing the case,—that our services would perhaps be not appreciated. We would have taken no more notice of the case, seeing that our action was giving offence ; but we have now to do it in self-defence. In noticing the case of Dr. Laing we thought that we were doing a real service to the Government. We shall explain why we thought so. The British Government in India has a bad name, namely, that it does not give adequate protection to the natives from the murderous assaults of low-class Europeans. This impression against the Government prevails throughout the country. Nay, it is not confined to the natives of the soil ; the Fuller Minute of Lord Lytton and other official documents indisputably shew that the Government itself suspected that the natives had a real grievance in this matter. We may also mention here that even the *Pioneer* has, on several occasions, testified to the existence of the complaint and the justice of the same.

But though the Government is blamed, as a matter of fact, it is not so blame-worthy as is generally believed. Whenever a native is killed by a European, either accidentally or deliberately, the Government puts the alleged culprit before a law-court for a judicial trial. The Government thus does its part of the duty. But yet the offender escapes because a European jury, as a rule, acquits him.

The European jury, generally speaking, has acquired a bad name in India. The European jury earned a bad name long before the so-called seditious journals came into existence. The nick-name of "Cossitola jury," applied to European juries, is of ancient date, as far back as the Mutiny.

Thus the Europen jury frequently acquit, and the Government is unjustly credited with the odium. We say unjustly, for, the Government does all it can, to procure the conviction of the culprit ; it hauls him up before a law-court and engages the Public Prosecuter to prosecute him. This the Government has invariably done ; we know of no instance of this kind, in which the Government had failed to do its duty.

That being the case, we thought there was no reason why the Government should not adopt its usual course in dealing with the case of Dr. Laing. Here were two men killed. Of course, they were killed in self-defence. But that is no reason why that fact should not be established by a court of law.

In a case like this, the Government cannot be too careful. The bereaved mother of the lad of 12, who was shot dead, is now a public character and an object of sympathy. We wish she had gone to the Editor of the *Englishman* as she was brought before us. We wish the *Englishman* had seen the sympathetic crowds that followed her, and heard what they said. It was thus we thought we were giving sound advice to the Government to put Dr. Laing before a court of justice, and thus enable him to prove his innocence in a regular manner.

We knew and said so, that any punishment of Dr. Laing would demoralize those engaged in plague-service. But as there was not the slightest chance of punishment, we thought there was no risk in putting the Doctor on his trial. Anyhow the procedure adopted in the case of Dr. Laing was novel ; and we pointed that out to Government with the best of motives.

The result is, the *Englishman*, not knowing how to meet our arguments, raises the cry of sedition! This is the way the *Englishman* guides public morals.

Lord George Hamilton was pleased to declare the other day, when replying to a question of a member of Parliament, that under the law the Committees of Press Censorship cannot be established in India. This is, no doubt, true ; but are not the authorities sometimes above all law in this country? While the Secretary of State denies the existence of these Committees, our Bombay correspondent informs us that they are being formed with great zeal, not only in the districts but in the city of Bombay itself. The reader is already aware that the task of organizing a Press Committee in Bombay is entrusted to the Police Commissioner who was to have begun his work from the 1st of June. In Poona, the duty is entrusted to Deputy Collectors ; but as they are a hard-worked lot, and as there are several papers in that town, the authorities have found it necessary to utilize non-official Honorary Magistrates for this purpose. The papers are divided amongst the members of the Press Committee, and the arrangement is to change by rotation after every two months. Each member of the Committee is to read the papers entrusted to him and report objectionable passages, with translations, to the Magistrate who may, if he likes, call upon the editor for explanation. What this means every one can easily understand. If the information supplied to us by our correspondent be correct, then the native papers in the Bombay Presidency have practically lost all their independence. They have been placed under the thumb of the executive officers ; and it will not be possible for them to please them and do their duties properly at the seme time. We hope, the leaders in that Presidency will immediately take up the subject in their hands, and represent to the authorities that, unless the press were left completely free, it will mean not only a disaster to the people but the Government also. Fettered with the above conditions, no journalist will be able to conduct his paper with independence; and how will the authorities feel the pulse of the people if the press be not allowed to express its views freely? Lord George Hamilton should be interpellated again on the subject, and requested to direct the Bombay authorities to abolish Press Committees, if they have been really started.

The serious riot at Multan shows that Hindu-Mahomedan riots have not altogether disappeared. These riots shew an exuberance of spirits ; probably, the plague has not as yet visited that quarter. The plague has done one great good, by healing up all internecine quarrels. We hope, this Multan riot between Hindus and Mussalmans would prove the last of its kind. The history of riots in India would be an interesting study. Two decades ago, riots in Bombay were directed against the sowcars or Mahajans ; and there was one at Surat, which was brought about by the imposition of the license tax. The biggest of the riots was, however, seen in Bengal, forty years ago, which was directed against the Indigo-planters, in which about 5 millions of men joined. Riots have, however, become very common throughout the country now-a-days ; and this is partly due to the mistaken policy adopted by some statesmen, of indirectly encouraging the Mussalmans to rise against the Hindus—a policy by which they sowed the wind to reap the whirlwind. Yes, these riots are getting very frequent ; and the authorities are day by day adopting more and more stringent methods to put them down. Of course, it is an admitted fact that the police should never be permitted to fire volleys on a mob on their own responsibility. A good many people were killed and wounded in the riot at Ghatal. We got the earliest information on the subject ; and while announcing it, we wanted further information in the matter. No doubt, a thorough enquiry has been made. Would the Government be pleased to let the public know the result?

The Government is apparently under the impression that if it can make the Indian newspapers give up criticizing it unfavourably, the people will gradually come to love it. An account appeared in our paper of the 13th May, how the sudden appearance of a huge bear in the midst of a peaceful village in Mymensing threw the inhabitants into a paroxysm of despair and fear. For, says our correspondent, "the whole village was searched, but not a single gun was to be found, thanks to the passing of the Arms Act!" But the villagers had either to leave their village or to kill the brute. So they attacked it with sticks, and so forth! The bear was an exceptionally large one ; and the result was that one man was mauled to death, and another dangerously wounded, who is even now lying in a precarious condition. Now fancy the disability of the Indian. The people have not a fire-arm! And why? Because the Government will not practically permit them to have it. Yet, only a few years ago there were no restrictions in the use of arms. It is such disabilities of the people which tell more against the Government than basketfuls of so-called seditious matters, circulated through the columns of Indian newspapers. The one way of stopping thefts, adopted in some barbarous countries, we are told, was to chop off the right arm of the offender. This had, no doubt, a deterrent effect ; but yet no sane Government, much less a British, would adopt it. A little consideration will show to our wise rulers that to deprive a man of his means of defence, is something like depriving him of his arm. Cannot the Government provide so that the people are not actually deprived of the means of defence from wild animals by the Arms Act?

The following paragraph appears in the *Englishman* of Saturday :—

At last we have got the true history of the plague in India! At any rate, the story is being spread about Calcutta as truth. But who spilt? Lord Elgin or the Yogee? That is a moot point. For our part we do not think Lord Elgin would be the informant. It must, therefore, be the Yogee ; and we trust that His Excellency will bring this man to book. Here is the real, unadulterated story. Lord Elgin was travelling in the Himalaya's beyond Simla, and on a particularly wild and lonely mountain-side, buried in primeval forests, he came upon an old Yogee. The man was seated under a tree so still and motionless that he seemed dead. Lord Elgin approached him, and addressed him, and the Yogee said he had something of very great importance to communicate to the Viceroy, but it was for His Excellency's ear alone. Accordingly the rest of the party withdrew. The Yogee then told Lord Elgin that the British Raj in India would cease at the end of 1898. Lord Elgin enquired how this great calamity was to be averted. The Yogee said that three lakhs of human beings must be sacrificed to Kali, or the end was inevitabie. There the communication ceased, and Lord Elgin cast about in his mind how this great sacrifice to Kali Mata was to be accomplished. At last, a happy idea struck His Excellency, and as the result, he sent Professor Haffkine to China to bring the plague to India. Professor Haffkine went to China, and he brought a ship-load of rats back, which he released at Bombay. Nothing could be simpler! The plague is the sacrifice to Kali, offered by Lord Elgin, to save India to Britain, on the suggestion of a Yogee, and through the instrumentality of Professor Haffkine! When people can believe such a story as this, surely it is time for Europeans to acknowledge that all our efforts at civilization, all our boasted education, have done nothing towards bringing the people of India out of their original darkness. It is most lamentable.

We don't know whence the *Englishman* got the above information. We can, however, testify to the fact that so far as the people, who are said to give currency and credit to the story alluded to above, are concerned, they knew nothing of it till it appeared in the *Englishman*. Did then the story originate from the fertile brains of the *Englishman*? If such an idle rumour existed anywhere at all, what object could the *Englishman* have in giving a prominent insertion to it, but to have a fling at the people and to inflame the minds of the authorities against them at the same time.

There is one feature of the alleged defamation case which Mr. Fraser Nash has brought against Mr. D. M. Gasper, Editor of the *Critic*, before Mr. T. A. Pearson, Chief Presidency Magistrate, which has great public importance. Mr. Cranenburgh, who appeared on behalf of the defence, said that he was instructed by his client to urge that the case should be transferred from the file of the Chief Presidency Magistrate to that of a Bench. Mr. Pearson replied that he had no objection to grant the prayer, but he would like to hear why Mr. Gasper wanted a transfer. Upon this Mr. Gasper said that, in the course of his duties as a journalist, he had occasions to comment in very adverse terms on his Worship's judgments in the Police Court, as well as the reversals of cases sent up to the High Court. These comments had extended over a space of three and a-half years. Many Magistrates would have under the circumstances taken the objection as a personal affront and refused to transfer the case. But Mr. Pearson took a dispassionate and very proper view of the question. He admitted that the accused had some reasonable apprehension of the case being tried by him, and he would therefore transfer it to the Northern Division Magistrate. We wish all Magistrates had acted on this principle. Indeed, there is a ruling of the High Court that when accused had a reasonable apprehension that he would not have an impartial hearing, the case should be transferred to another Magistrate. This rule is, unfortunately, more honoured in the breach than in the observance, as frequent motions in the High Court for transfer of cases show. That other day the Chief Justice strongly commented on the conduct of the City Magistrate of Patna for trying a case in which he himself was indirectly interested. One of the reasons which has rendered the administration of criminal justice unpopular, is the *zid* of many Magistrates not to transfer cases and the reluctance of several High Court Judges to interfere when they are moved in this connection. It is a thankless task to try cases. The trying Judge is not blessed if he does his duty, but is cursed if he fails. An honest and conscientious Judge thus feels the awful responsibility of his position. It is his sacred duty, not only to mete out impartial justice, but administer it in such a way as to leave no room for complaint. When, therefore, a party feels that he will not get an impartial hearing, the trying Magistrate should at once transfer it to another file, and thus relieve himself from a serious responsibility. Their Lordships of the High Court should also remember that, unless a party felt himself really aggrieved, he would never go the length of seeking their protection against a trying Magistrate, incurring expense and at the risk of provoking the displeasure of the latter. The Hon'ble Judges should, we think, transfer all cases when applications for the same are made to them, unless it were shown that the parties, making the applications, were actuated by malice.

The Anglo-Indian papers are so little acquainted with the important affairs of the country that it was only three or four days ago that the most enterprising amongst them came to know of such a serious riot as the one which had occurred at Ghatal, in Midnapore, on the 13th May, and published an inaccurate account of it. The event was remarkable, as those who took part in the disturbance were agriculturists and ryots, leading a most peaceful life and beyond the sphere of the *badmashes* in Calcutta. The particulars of the incident were published in these columns almost immediately after its occurrence ; and we were naturally shocked to learn that several men were killed and dozens severely wounded. What we deplored the most was the information that the police fired without authority. That the police fired in self-defence, is the version of our correspondents, and we are bound to accept it ; all the same, we regret this mowing down of unarmed men by buckshot without distinct instructions from higher authorities. After the riot, the usual rough expedient has been adopted : that is to say, the Local Government has caused a proclamation to be issued, declaring that the conduct of the inhabitants of the villages in the jurisdiction of the police station of Ghatal has rendered it expedient to increase the number of the police force by the appointment of an additional force, to be quartered therein at the cost of the inhabitants of the villages. This proclamation is to remain in force for a period of six months from the 1st of June. All this is very well ; they broke the law and they must pay penalty for it. But, we submit, justice and statesmanship requires that a fair, free, full and open enquiry should be held, and the matter sifted to the bottom. It was a most unique phenomenon—that several thousands of peaceful inhabitants of a quiet sub-division should suddenly so far lose the balance of their minds as to be overtaken by a murderous tendency. What created this dreadful change in them? The wave of the inoculation scare had, no doubt, reached the sub-division, and that was the cry taken up by the people ; but, who inoculated them with the poison of the scare, and how was it that so many peace-loving and law-abiding people were affected by it? In Calcutta, the cause of the scare was fastened upon the *badmashes* who reside in the city ; but, how to explain the phenomenon in an out-of-the-way place like Ghatal? In the interests of good government, the root of the evil should be reached, and measures adopted to eradicate it ; for, like Ghatal, any peaceful tract of the province might be similarly convulsed. An explanation is also needed as to why the Magistrate of the District, knowing the temper of the people, left an armed police amongst them, instead of trying to pacify them himself. Indeed, the proper remedy for stopping these riots in a peaceful country, is not to quarter a punitive police but to find out the cause or causes which bring them about, and then to remove them. An enquiry would also enable the authorities to detect the real culprits and mete out proper punishment to them. Under the present arrangement, both the guilty and the innocent are being punished. Indeed, it can be safely assumed that the larger number of the villagers, who have been saddled with the cost of the punitive police, are innocent. Is it not unjust and unfair to punish them for the faults of their neighbours? It is equally unjust and unfair to have the alleged rioters arrested by the same police with whom they quarrelled. A gentleman from Ghatal saw us on this subject at our office. The story he told is incredible, unless it is established by irrefutable evidence. We think, an open enquiry into the whole affair should be instituted and the real facts brought to light. It is in this way alone that mob rule can be suppressed ; for, there is no doubt that some cause or causes are at work, which are leading the populace to take the law into their own hands in this unprecedented manner. These must be found out and eradicated, and the popular discontent removed.

While on this subject, we notice in the Lahore *Tribune* that the police are having everything in their own way at Garhshanker. No enquiry into the recent riot in that town has been made, and the public knows nothing definitely as to the cause of the massacre which took place there. Our contemporary has received several letters, complaining of oppression of various kinds ; but he cannot use them for fear of putting his correspondents into trouble. If an open and independent enquiry were made, the *Tribune* would be most glad to help the Government with the information he has received on the subject. Of course, there is a vast difference between the Government of Bengal and that of the Punjab ; so we have not the slightest doubt that, if the people of Ghatal have real grievances, they will be attended to and removed in due course.

In the Darbar speech of Mr. Lamb in 1897, that official brought a most serious charge against the Brahmins of Poona, namely, that some of them had carefully formed a plot for the purpose of murdering British officials at a time when the murder would lead to the conversion of rejoicing into mourning. In the Darbar speech the following year, Mr. Crowe, the Sessions Judge, who tried Damodar Chapekar, said that no indication of any conspiracy on the part of any section of the Poona community was found! The withdrawal of the charge is, therefore, as distinct as the charge made at the spur of the moment. It would thus appear that a blunder was committed, not by the Poona Brahmins but the authorities. If any one thus deserved punishment, it was the authorities of Bombay who had committed the blunder. But no; the innocent people of the Bombay Presidency particularly, and those of India generally, were punished. "You know, it was only a blunder," says the penitent Government of Bombay now. Yes, that is true ; but why then, should the people of India be made to suffer, and suffer not temporarily but permanently? For, the laws that were conceived during these moments of passion and panic, and actually thrust upon the people, are to remain in the Statute-book. Some of the leaders of the people were thrust in jail, which served to frighten and demoralize the peo-

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The progress of the country was thrown back fifty years behind. Here, may we ask what provision has the Government made to protect the people from the mistakes of its own members? The rulers are independent of the people; that being so, unless some provisions are made for the protection of the latter from the former, the people will remain, as is shown in the present case, subject to the evils arising from the errors of the rulers. As soon as the Poona murders were committed, a case against the Brahmins suggested itself to the authorities. Had not the Brahmins opposed the enforcement of the plague rules? Had not their protests been treated with contempt? What is more natural, therefore, that they should select the Jubilee day for the commission of the atrocious deeds? The theory seemed plausible enough; and the minds of the authorities having just then lost their balance, they did not pause to consider whether their theory had any defect or not. Time showed that the theory had no basis whatever. The moral to be drawn from the Bombay proceedings is that, considering the enormous powers enjoyed by the Government, it should never start on any expedition in panic and haste.

BRITISH Judges are absolutely incorruptible, able and learned. They are themselves above law, and the sovereign has no power over them. When that intellectual but heartless giant, Sir James Stephen, showed signs of aberration, English people did not know what to do with him. Of course, he was given to understand that his brain was not at all right; but those suffering from any disease like that, could never be made to admit that they had it at all. Sir James, however, was at last persuaded to resign; and thus the British people were allowed to get rid of a difficulty for which apparently there was no remedy. Political considerations never sway British Judges: they are too high above such influences. Parnell, when he was exceedingly unpopular, was tried by a British Judge; but he had nothing to fear from the British dispenser of justice, as subsequent events showed. If, therefore, British Judges give any proofs of being swayed by political considerations, the event creates exceeding surprise. One was furnished by the proceedings which followed the departure of the Chief Justice of Allahabad from these shores. The Allahabad Governor gave him credit for having always accorded his support to the Executive officials, and the Chief Justice accepted the compliment with thankfulness. The retiring Chief Justice declared, without reserve, that he had always remembered that his countrymen, who had come to serve in a foreign country, deserved his support and sympathy in dealing with them! Now this, we think, is being swayed by political consideration. A British Judge has no business, when criticizing the action of subordinate judicial authorities, to be influenced in the slightest degree by the fact, that they were his countrymen who had come to a foreign country, &c.

We all remember how the Lord Chancellor went out of his way to take part in disposing of the appeal of Mr. Tilak. Usually the Lord Chancellor does not take part in such proceedings; but on that occasion he made it a point to come. The Liberal papers said that he had no business to attend the court, and thus give occasion to a scandal, as he was the member of the Cabinet which had sanctioned the pryceedings against Mr. Tilak. And, finallo we see the Lord Chancellor held up to public ridicule in Parliament. This is what the *Star* had said:—

One does not know whether Lord Halsbury heard Mr. Asquith or not. But if he was paying attention, his manner did him an injustice. Throughout the morning he was receiving and sending messages - reading and writing letters. An on-looker suggested that this ostentatious disregard of Mr. Asquith's arguments, was Lord Halsbury's revenge for Mr. Asquith's recent description of the Darling appointment as a most startling exercise of political patronage. Be this as it may, Lord Halsbury's demeanour contrasted curiously with the demeanour of Lord Hobhouse, who paid the closest attention to Mr. Asquith's speech from first to last, and industriously noted in the margin of the official report of the proceedings at Bombay the references which Mr. Asquith mentioned.

Never was the conduct of a Lord Chancellor so criticised in public newspaper and in Parliament within the memory of men of this century. If Englishman can be proud of anything, it is the incorruptibility of their Judges. In England no one is safe from public criticism,—even the Lord Chancellor. Judging from the speech of the successor of Sir John Edge, we are glad to find that he intends to maintain the full prestige of British Judges in the Allahabad High Court.

ONLY one person in fifteen has perfect eyes, the large percentage of defectiveness prevailing among fair-haired people.

THE 400th anniversary of the discovery of Trinidad by Columbus, which falls this year, is to be commemorated by the issue of a special postage stamp.

TINY shoes intended for dogs are made and sold in London. They are of chamois, with light leather soles. They are only worn indoors, and are to protect polished floors from scratches.

THE Deputy Magistrate of Agra has fined several Marwaries at the instance of the local police, Rs. 51 each for opium gambling, which has been practised there for a long time.

FROM the 1st of April to the 21st of May, 1898, the Indian Railway show an increase in the gross earnings over the same period of last year of 72 lakhs, Towards this extraordinary result the G. I. P. Railway contributes 21, the North-Western 19, the Rajputana-Malwa 9, and the Bombay-Baroda only seven lakhs.

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AN EXPERIMENT.—An experimental sowing of seed of the Australian salt bush is about to be made in the Punjab, under arrangements to be made by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture.

THE TIPPERA COOLIE CASE.—The case in which Messrs. Streel Chapman, and Wilson, tea planters of Assam, and some of their servants were charged with trespassing into the territories of the Maharaja of Tippera and seizing and confining certain coolies living in Brojobinodinipore, ended on Saturday before Mr. C. Allen, District Magistrate of Alipore, Messrs. Barrow and Cowie, who appeared for the defence, intimated to the Court that the case had been compromised, and submitted a writen apology. Babu Dwarka Nath Chuckerbutty, who appeared for the prosecution, raised no objection, and the accused were discharged.

"THE 13TH MAY."—The *Indian Daily News* says:—During the hearing of an application to transfer a case from the Sub-divisional Officer at Ghattal, it transpired that he, on the 13th May, issued a proclamation to the inhabitants "that plague had ceased in Calcutta." This is excellent evidence that it had, coming from an official of the eminence of a Sub-divisional Officer, who was in daily communication with his chief, the District Magistrate. Why, however, did the Government not placard this up in Calcutta on the 13th May? Perhaps they were too busy on that date to think about any thing except accusing the *Indian Daily News* of sedition. Still they might, we think, have given the news in Calcutta itself.

GREAT FIRE AT PESHWAR.—Nothing definite is known as to the cause of the great fire at Peshwar on the 31st ultimo, and it is believed that cakes were being made in a house where there was a marriage, and that in boiling them, the *ghee* caught fire and the flames ascended to the roof. The fire engines could not be brought into play, and so the fire could not be got under easily, which raged all day and night. The estimated loss is nearly a crore of rupees. The portion of the town known as Madeer Shahr has been totally gutted and destroyed. At least, 500 houses have been burnt down. The poorer classes are crowding into *serais*. It is said that a large number of bars of gold and silver are under the demolished buildings.

THE MONSOON FOREGAST.—According to Mr. Elliot's Note about the monsoon forecast the rainfall may be deficient to a slight or moderate extent depending chiefly upon the strength of the monsoon in Sind, Cutch, the North and West Punjab, and West Rajputana; that it will very probably be at least normal in amount in Central India and the northern half of the Peninsula, except, perhaps, in Berar, Khandesh and the West Deccan, and may be in moderate excess in the eastern half of the North-Western Provinces, Behar, the Central Provinces and the Eastern States of Central India and will probably be normal or in excess in Burma, Assam and, perhaps, in East and North Bengal, and may be in slight defect in West Bengal. It is too early to estimate the probability of a longish break in rains in July or August, but there are no indications at present of such an event.

A COMMON-SENSE TRIAL.—One Bhajan Sardar brought a case of theft of a she-goat against Sankar Uriya, a bearer in the canal rice factory at Chetla. It was urged on behalf of the defence that the goat belonged to Shambhoo Sing, the durwan of the factory, and not to the complainant, and that the owner, on calling the animal by her name, Budhia would follow him. The Police Magistrate, of Alipur ordered the complainant to produce the goat at once, which was let loose within the court-compound. Under orders of the Court the goat was called by name by the complainant and Shambhoo Sing, and she followed the latter. This was done in the presence of the Magistrate and a large gathering. The accused was thereupon discharged.

MEDICAL REFORM.—The Indian Medical Association has just forwarded to the Government of India a memorial in which the following reforms are urged on its attention:(1) A unified standard of preliminary examination in general education for admission to medical study for all Universities in India. As the F. A. of Calcutta and the Intermediate of Lahore are already accepted by two universities, the other academical bodies should be asked to raise their preliminary educational standard to this level. (2) That the medical degrees, granted by Indian Universities, be of one standard, and one nomenclature, namely,—(*a*) Licentiate of Medicine and Surgery or L. M. S. (*b*) Bachelor of Medicine or M. B. (*c*) Master of Surgery or C. M. (*d*) Doctor of Medicine or M. D. No imitations of these degrees should be permitted. (3) A unified standard of preliminary examination (the Entrance or Matriculation of Indian Universities or the High School Certificate) a full carriculum (5 years) and a unified diploma (Diplomate in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery or D. M. S. M.)for all Military Assistant Surgeons. (4) A unified standard of preliminary examination(the Middle School Examination of the Government European Code of its equivalentEntrance),a curriculum of four years' medical study, and a unified professional examination and certificate of qualification for all Hospital assistants, whether civil or military, and for all junior medical schools, whether State or private. Certificate in Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery (C. M. S. M.) (5) The formation of a General Medical Council for India (with powers similar to the General Medical Council of Great Britain) composed of an equal proportion of Government officials and independent medical practitioners.

PROF S. K. BANERJEE.—Professor Syamakanta Bannerjee is now at Berhampore, entertaining the people there with his wonderful feats especially the exhibition of two tigers.

SPECIAL LEAVE.—SPECIAL leave for six months has been granted to Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. Ranking, M. D., Secretary, Board of Examiners, with effect from 1st July next.

A SARAN MURDER CASE.—At the High Court yesterday before Justices Bannerjee and Stevens the case of Empress *versus* Jainandan Misra who had been sentenced to death for the murder of one Gokul Patra by the Sessions Judge of Saran disagreeing with the assessors. Mr. K N. Sen Gupta appeared for the appellant. The case is proceeding.

CURIOUS TORTOISE.—In the sacred tank to the north-east of the temple of Jagannath, called Indradumna, there are to be found several crocodiles and tortoises. These do not hurt anybody nor have they any fear of any body. If you call out 'Gopal,' an old tortoise will come to you and eat from your hand any food you offer. You may touch it, yet it will not be frightened.

EXAMINATION FOR SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.—The next divisional examination of candidates to fill vacancies in the rank of Sub-Inspectors of Police will be held on the 25th and 26th of July, 1898, at the following centres:—At Calcutta (Senate House) for the Presidency, Rajshahi, and Burdwan Divisions at Bankipur for the Patna, Bhagalpur, and Chota Nagpur Divisions; at Dacca for the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions; and at Cuttack for the Orissa Division.

A QUERY FOR NATURALISTS.—Mr. Daubney, Market Weston, Thetford, writes to *Nature Notes*: "A man engaged in ditching in this village has come across a quantity of hen's eggs hidden by rats in their holes in the side, and near the bottom of a ditch. The ditch was about a mile long and its nearest point to a farmyard two hundred yards. A few of the eggs were broken, the rest were whole. They were distributed singly along the ditch, here and there, none being less than half a dozen yards apart, and consequently the rats must have carried them half a mile in many cases." How, asks Mr. Daubney, did they do it?

A TIGER KILLED.—A correspondent wri es from Dhankalen, Orissa:—A big man-eater had been causing great havoc in the neighbourhood and had for a long time baffled all attempts on the part of *shikaris*. The brute had grown so bold and dexterous in its movements that it would follow the intended victim a long way watching opportunity, and would suddenly come upon its prey when least expected and carry him of even from the midst of a score of men. An offer of a reward of Rs 25 was made to have the terrible monster killed. On the 17th May, however, a native *shikari* brought the career of this formidable creature to a close after a fearful and exciting encounter. The tiger measured 12 feet in length.

ADVANCE OF THE MONSOON.—A Simla telegram, dated the 5th, says:—The mail steamer "Oriental," which arrived in Bombay yesterday, encountered a cyclonic storm of considerable intensity on the 2nd instant in about latitude 17 north and 64 east. She experienced on the 1st and 2nd a moderate to hard cyclonic gale with frequent furious squalls of hurricane force and heavy rain. Her lowest barometer was 29 and 28. This cyclonic storm had formed in front of the advancing monsoon which is hence now fully established over the western half of the Arablan Sea as far north as latitude 17 or 18. The Jask observations of the 3rd and 4th also indicate that a cyclonic storm has advanced north-westwards towards the north-east coast of Arabia, or the entrance of the Persian Gulf where the weather is now probably stormy.

THE OIL-SEEDS CROPS.—The final general memorandum of the oil-seeds crop for 1897-98, issued by the Statistical Bureau, shows that in the Punjab, the North-West Provinces, and Bengal, the yield is largely in excess of last year's, and considerably more than the average. The area sown, however, was less than the average, except in the Punjab, where the acreage, under rape-seed, was more than double that of last year and half as much again as the average for the last five years. The yield per acre in this province was also slightly above the average. The conditions in Central and Western India were generally unfavourable, and the area sown was greatly contracted. Over the greater part of this area, the acreage sown was rather less than half the average, and the yield was reduced by about the same proportion. The rape-seed crop, however, did better in Bombay and Sind. In the former province, the yield was 12 per cent. above the average, and, in the latter, 40 per cent.

THE INDIAN WHEAT CROP.—The final official memorandum on the Indian wheat crop, issued on Saturday, shows that the harvest in Northern India is better than was predicted in the second forecast. The crop in Sind has continued to do well, and the area sown in the Punjab is large by 368,400 acres than was estimated, and sixteen per cent above the decennial average. The yield is, on the whole, good, though it is feared that considerable damage has been done to the unthreshed grain by the storms in the third week of May. In the North-West Provinces the crop has also been exceptionally good, and the total yield the best known for several years. The crop in Bengal is also good. In Western and Central India, on the other hand, there is not much improvement, except in Bombay, where the yield has improved by an excellent harvest in Gujrat. Generally, however, in this part of the country, there has been contraction of the area under wheat. In the Central Provinces the yield is 27 per cent below the decennial average. In Berar, though more than double that of last year, it is still 74 per cent below the average. In Hyderabad the yield is estimated as 39 per cent below the average, and it anticipates that, owing to the failure of the rains, the actuals will be even less than this. The total yield for the whole of India to now is placed at 6,506, 820 tons, against 4,892,879 tons last year, and 6,065,520 tons, the average of the preceding five years.

A FAKIR.—The *Behar Times's* Laharia Serai correspondent writes:—"A very devoted fakir, inhabitant of Cawnpore, has been here for the last three months. It is said he is a very great Mahatma and professes Mahomedan faith. He is called Shah-Saheb. His fame as an expert curing all sorts of diseases and removing witchcraft got air a few days after his stay here. Persons of all caste creed and colour flock together at his lodging morning and evening carriages, ekkea, palanquins and seen all huddled together. The Shah-Saheb has no knowledge of medicine at all but he gives a "long" to some persons and to others water for drinking which satisfies the sufferers' wishes. It is said that a number of eye-disease, spleen disease, deafness, even dumbness has been cured. I have been personally to him for a number of times, but I can give no positive corroboration as to his merits of which I have not been able to form any idea for want of personal experiences. He was to stay here for month, but the people do not leave him gathering every time sound him. Though he professes Mahomedan faith his outward observances are all of Hinduism. He addresses in any language (either Ram or Allah) and does not take flesh or fish. He takes his food alone.

THE "ENGLISHMAN" AND OURSELVES.—The *Indian Nation* has the following: "Will the *Englishman* never mend, never attain the magnanimity of the name he bears? He is often more Royalist than the King himself, and now more than ever. The Government has its own counsel, its own solicitors, and must be presumed to have a due regard for its own safety and good name. Why then should the *Englishman* concern itself so much about "seditious" writings in the native press? It seems to have discovered "sedition" in the columns of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. Sedition is an offence not against the *Englishman*, and our contemporary might very well spare himself the trouble. Sedition we hold to be entirely an affair of the spirit. No one is seditious who is not disloyal in spirit, and as we read the *Patrika* we do not understand its spirit to be disloyal; we do not believe its purpose to be to excite disaffection. If it gives expression to any idea largely entertained, however, ill-founded, the information it gives to the public and the Government ought not to be received with resentment. Many wild, absurd, mischievous reports are afloat; and the position of the native journalist has thus become a delicate one. If he ignores them he does not give the Government that warning which it needs. If he brings them to light, must he be held to be disloyal? The times are critical, the air is surcharged with electricity; most minds are sensitive and suspicious; and we do hope the *Englishman* will not succeed like some of his confreres in Bombay in causing fresh excitement by appeals to Government for prosecution of native journals."

THE Sub-divisional Officer of Tangail ordered many mango and blackberry trees to be cut down as a plague preventive measure. A Tangail correspondent of a local paper says that the owners of many valuable trees are contemplating to institute civil suits, claiming due compensation.

THERE is no foundation in the statement that further disturbances are apprehended in Mekran. The detachment of Bombay Infantry which was left behind at Tamp, left the place on the 31st May, and arrived at Gwadur on the 5th June.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Darjeeling, under date the 4th June, that the Deputy Commissioner and Municipal Chairman has ordered that the Plague Hospital should not be built below the premises of the local High School and near the burning and burial grounds. This decision, we are told, has highly given satisfaction to the residents of the town.

PERHAPS there is no greater authority on the administration of land revenue in Madras than Dewan Bahadur Raghu Nath Rao; and this is what he says in regard to the remission of land tax in that Presidency: "The statement that the Government do not deprive the ryot of more than 8 per cent. of the yeas's produce of the land, is simply false; and I can prove before before any judicial tribunal that what Government takes is more than 50 per cent. of the produce of wet lands in most cases, if not in all.

SOMETIME ago, the British medical practitioners of Mussoorie memorialised the N. W. P. Government, seeking redress of their grievances on the ground of the Civil Surgeon competing with them in private practice. In reply, the N. W. P. Government said that it could not comply with the request of the memorialists, inasmuch as among other reasons, it held that the privilege of private practice to State-paid Surgeons should be continued because by such monetary inducement the best class of medical men are attracted to the Service. The Indian Medical Association has taken up the subject, and has forwarded a communication to the Government of India.

IT is to be regretted that complaints have reached us so often of the grievances of the third-class passengers. A vernacular paper of Benares has recently brought to light how these passengers have to suffer at the Mogul Sarai Station. We are told that the third-class waiting-room is a small *chabutta* capable of containing not more than two hundred passengers. It has a covering of corrugated iron, which has the effect of making it as uninviting as a glowing furnace in hot weather. It is, moreover, situated in unpleasant proximity to the privy. The hope, the railway authorities wil pay attention to the matter and remove the grievances complained of.

THE spectacle of two such high officials such as Sir Henry Prinsep and Sir James Westland fighting over a public matter, is evidently an edifying one. Their differences rose in this wise. When the Presidency Small Cause Court Act Amendment Bill came up for discussion in the Legislative Council, Mr. Allan Arthur contended that the salaries of the Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court should be increased, particularly as the income of the Court from stamps and court-fee leaves a sufficient margin for this being conveniently done, upon which Sir James Westland not only opposed the proposal but said some hard things against the members of the Judicial Service. Sir Henry Prinsep could say nothing at the Council meeting, out of deference to its rules: but he has since sought the columns of the *Times of India* not only to expose the fallacy Sir James' arguments, but has given him a tit for tat.

India and England.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, MAY. 20.

THE RECENT SEDITION LAW.

Mr. Herbert Roberts intends to make a strong effort (after the Whitsuntide holidays which begin next week and last a fortnight) to raise a thoroughly exhaustive debate on the new sedition law, based upon Lord George Hamilton's promised blue-book on the subject. On Monday he asked the Secretary of State for India whether authentic copies of the amended Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Post Office Act would be in the hands of members before the House rises for the Whitsuntide recess; and whether he would postpone for a reasonable time his decision on the question of disallowing these Acts, under section 21 of 24 and 25 Vict., c 67, until the House had had an opportunity of considering and discussing their provisions. In reply, Lord George Hamilton said: "I hope that the papers relating to the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Acts will be ready for presentation this week; those relating to the Post Office Act will be presented separately; but at the same time I have decided to leave these Acts to their operation; and copies of despatches informing the Government of India of my decision will be found in the collections which are about to be presented." Mr. Roberts is hopeful that if he moves the adjournment of the House soon after it assembles after the recess, Sir William Harcourt will speak on the subject and that he will be able to secure the support of the whole Opposition Front Bench. From the Secretary of State's reply, you may expect a trial prosecution or two shortly, though I have already expressed the opinion that the Government will not work them harshly, but, unless goaded to action by some blazing indiscretion on the part of some native journal, will be content to hold them in abeyance, but *in terrorem* also.

MRS. NATU'S PETITION.

I expect, and hope my expectation will be fulfilled, that Sir William Wedderburn will present Mrs. Natu's petition at an early date. It still holds good; for, the Natu brothers cannot be said to have obtained their freedom: their imprisonment is simply varied and made easier. If he decides to present it, the discussion, he is able to raise upon it, will give great publicity to the incident, which is greatly needed and would do much good. His task is, no doubt, rendered more difficult by their release from actual confinement in jail; but the grievance under which they suffer, is very great still.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Babu Tarini Kumar Ghose, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll., 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Dino Nath Dey, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll, is posted to Berhampur.

Maulvi Abdul Haq Abid, Sd. Master, Murshidabad Nawab's Madrasah, is appointed to act as Hd. Master of that Institution.

Babu Mathura Nath Chattopadhaya, Asst. Inspector of Schools, Dacca Dn., is allowed leave for three months under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Kumud Bandhu Bose, Asst. Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, on leave, is appointed to act as Ass't., Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division.

Babu Tara Prosanna Das, Munsif of Habiganj, has obtained leave of absence for one month, under article 306 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Maulvi Saad Abul Fazail, Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the Burdwan Division and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Babu Uma Charan Roy Chowdhury, Sub-Deputy Collector, Ulubaria, is transferred to Bagerhat Sub-division of the district of Khulna. Babu Suresh Chunder Chuckerbutty, Sub-Deputy Collector, acting for him. This cancels the order posting Babu Suresh Chunder Chuckerbutty to Bagerhat.

Maulvi Abdur Razzak Ansari, Jt. Sub-Registrar of Bageehat at Kachua, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar at Sahibgunge, Burdwan, Babu Srish Chandra Ghose acting for him.

Babu Ashutosh Chuckerbutty, Joint Sub-Registrar of Bhola at Doulatkhan, is transferred to Barhanuddin Havildar's Hat at Tajumuddin.

Babu Banamali Roy, Jt. Sub-Registrar of Barhanuddin Havildar's Hat at Tajumuddin acting of him.

Maulvi Mohammed Gholam Sobhan is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Krishtanagar.

Babu Taruk Nath Biswas, Rural Sub-Registrar of Jabanabad, is appointed to be Joint Sub-Registrar of Goghat at Shambazar, Babu Prosunno Kumar Sil, Joint Sub-Registrar of Goghat at Shambazar, acting for him.

Maulvi Abdus Salam, Deputy Magistrate, Purnea, is vested with powers under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Purno Chandra Bose, M. A., B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Contai, is transferred to Howrah.

Babu Mohini Mohan Ghose, B. L., is appointed to act as an Munsif of Jangipur.

Babu Jogendra Nath Deb, Munsif of Katwa, is transferred to Howrah.

Babu Chandra Nath Ghose, Munsif of Dacca, is transferred to Katwa.

Babu Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, Munsif of Sudharam, is transferred to Dacca.

Babu Upendra Chandra Mukerjee, Munsif of Atia is allowed leave for two months, under article 306 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Ashutosh Sircar, Addl. Munsif of Jangipur, is allowed leave for thirty-eight days, under article 306 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Kamini Kumar Mukerjee, Munsif of Contai, is allowed leave for six weeks, under article 306 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Nanda Lat Kundu, Munsif of Uluberia, is allowed leave for one month, under article 306 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations in extension of the leave granted to him.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PLAGUE AND THE CORPORATION.

AT a general meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta which was very largely attended. Babu Amulyadhone Addy asked the following question:—Instead of house-to-house visitation is it not advisable to have the dead bodies at the burning-ghats and burial grounds examined by competent medical men, and have the blood of the dead been bacteriologically examined in suspected cases of plague?

The Chairman in replying said as follows :—Before I answer this question I want to say with regard to the first part of it, that I have in my hands a petition signed by the Mahomedans of Wards Nos 1, 2 and 3 of the city, protesting against this examination.

The suggestions will be submitted for the consideration of Government. According to the Health Officer's report a bacteriological examination of the blood, does not always give positive results even in cases of undoubted plague.

Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose asked the following questions :—

(*a*) Did the Chairman consult the Commissioners about the appointment of the District Officers and Medical Officers?

(*b*) Has the Chairman appointed them under the Plague Regulations or in the exercise of his power under the Calcutta Municipal Act.?

(*c*) What are the pay and allowances of these officers and the conditions of their service?

(*d*) Is it true that the Chairman asked Government for the service of 3 Military Engineers, and that one of them has already come to Calcutta?

(*e*) Under what authority has the Chairman sanctioned the appointment of the Military Engineers: under the Plague Regulations, or the Municipal Act?

(*f*) Are these Engineers for strengthening the working of the Conservancy of the town?

(*g*) Is it not a fact that Dr. Simpson and Dr. Banks were both of opinion that the Conservancy Department required strengthening in the working staff rather than in the supervising-staff?

(*h*) Has the Conservancy Department been transferred from the supervision of the Health Officer to that of the Engineer?

(*i*) Was this done with the approval of the present Health Officer?

(*j*) Is it not a fact that the Engineer is overburdened with his own Department, and cannot properly supervise it?

(*k*) What are the pay and allowances of these Military Engineers, and is the Corporation at the present time able to afford them?

The Chairman replied as follows :—

(*a*) No.

(*b*) Under the plague regulations the Chairman acts under the instructions of Government. The District and medical officers have been appointed under the plague regulations.

(*c*) Medical officers under a contract with Government of India. Pay Rs. 500 a month plus the usual travelling allowance and a free passage to and from England, the minimum period of service in three months, which may be extended to nine months under the same conditions. *District Officers*—Military officers,—whose services have been lent to the Bengal Government by the Military Department. *Salary*—the departmental pay of their rank and plague allowance as sanctioned by the Government of India varying from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 a month.

(*d*) Yes, the officers are in Calcutta.

(*e*) Plague Regulation No. 9 of 1897.

(*f*) One has been posted as executive officer, in District No. IV, and two are engaged in assisting the Conservancy Department in the town area.

(*g*) Apparently Dr. Banks and Simpson considered the working staff to be specially weak. Arrangements have been made to import labourers from the labour districts and advances have been given to meet the costs of recruiting.

(*h*) Yes, according to the orders of the General Committee.

(*i*) No. The charge of the Conservancy Department entails the supervision of the details of an expenditure of upwards of Rs. 700,000 annually, and it was considered necessary to promptly relieve the Health Officer of the details in order that he might give his undivided attention to plague operations.

( ) If the hands of the engineer are strengthened in the manner he has asked for, he is able to undertake the supervision and organisation of the cleansing of the town in all its branches. He is not prepared to take charge of the Nuisance Department longer than necessary to assist the Commissioners at the present crisis.

(*k*) Departmental pay according to rank plus plague allowance as sanctioned by Government. This outlay appears to be necessary for the proper carrying out of the plague measures. The Corporation, in my opinion, can afford to pay for such operations as are required for the threatening danger.

CHOLERA is still raging at Manipur. There have been 1,285 cases and 1,043 deaths in Imphal, which is the congeries of villages surrounding the residence of the troops and Europeans, and has a population or about 30,000. The largest number of deaths in one day was 99 on the 4th June.

MISS KATE VOKINS, aged about forty-six years, a first-class passenger by the P. and O. steamer Oriental, was found dead in her cabin on the arrival of the steamer with the English mails, on Saturday morning last. The medical officer of the steamer, after examining the body, certified that death was due to heart-disease.

JIRGAHS consisting of 800 Zakkas, who went to Kabul to interview the Amir, have returned through the Bazar Valley to their homes. The Amir refused to see them on their stating that they had come to complain of road-making, through their country. He offered them *naukri* which they refused, and they left Kabul.

THE house known as "Fairlawn" at Mussoorie, lately used as a school, has been formed into a "Rest House" for all employes of the North-Western Railway. The building consists of five sets of rooms. One is reserved for casual visitors, and the other four are for more permanent residents, and will be let to employes at eight annas a day per set.

KUMERKELA MURDER CASE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE case in which Mr. Harry Ambler, Assistant Manager of H. Dear and Co., of Kumerkela in Singhbhum, was charged with having caused the death of his chaprasi, named Jugdeo Tewari, the particulars of which appeared in your issue of the 26th ult., came up before Mr. Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Chybassa, on 2nd June. The first witness was Bachoo, a plague chowkidar at Kumerkela. He said that he was present when the Shahib beat Jugdeo Tewari and that he saw the Shahib beating Jugdeo Tewari. At that time the Shahib had a pair of slippers on. The next witness was the a chowkidar attached to the Kumerkela Railway Station, who also said that he saw the Shahib beating Jugdeo Tewari, but that he was not sure whether the Shahib had slippers or boots on at the time. The third witness was Keshub Chunder Biswas. He said that he saw Jugdeo Tewari, while the latter was lying on the ground, all but dead. At that time Jugdeo Tewari was foaming out some undigested rice at the mouth. The witness called out several times, after which Jugdeo Tewari told him with considerable difficulty that he had been severely beaten by the Shahib, and that he was unable even to sit up from its effects. Jugdeo wanted to drink water, and expressed a desire that he might be removed to his lodgings in a *charpoy*. Witness gave him some water and went away, after informing the Station Master of all that he had seen and heard from Jugdeo Tewari. The next witnesss was Dr. Anderson, the Railway Doctor at Chakradharpore. He said that he examined the dead body on the third day after the death of the man. It was then in an advanced state of decomposition, and consequently he was not in a position to exactly ascertain the cause of death. This statement evidently did not satisfy the Deputy Commissioner who asked rather in a tone of dissatisfaction, if it was not the duty of the witness to examine the dead body as soon as it arrived. The witness thereupon replied that this was an omission on his part, the dead body arrived late at night, and he ordered his men to keep it exposed to the air, but they, instead of doing that, kept it in a close room, and that consepnently the decomposition took place.

Cross-examination was reserved.

The Station Master of Kumerkela, two pointsman and the man who supplies water to the passengers, were also to have given evidence in the case; but as they were not served with summonses and as they had none to relieve them during their absence, they could not come to court. Mr. S. S. Lovell, Engineer to the E. B. S. Railway, was also to have given evidence, but he was also absent; perhaps he also was not served with the summons.

The case stands adjourned to the 13th instant.

The accused was given a seat on a bench in the court. He was defended by Babu Rakhal Chunder Chatterjee, of the Chybassa bar, and Babu Rajani Kant Sarkar, of the Purulia bar. The prosecution was conducted by the Government Pleader of Chybassa.

THE withdrawal of the brigade from the Khyber is progressing rapidly.

THE *dhoby* strike since the 1st at Rangoon has slightly modified, it having been discovered that the Cantonment Committee closed their tanks, when the Municipality closed the *dhoby's* tanks in town; consequently the washhouse accommodation provided by the Municipality is insufficient and more free laundries, with an unlimited supply of hot and cold water, is being constructed immediately.

REGARDING the case in which some village boys were arrested and sent up for trial for having placed a stone on the rails of the Assam-Bengal Railway at Kataura on the 13th of March, their parents, in consideration of the minority of the juvenile offenders, were bound over in the sum of Rs. 50 each for their good behaviour for the next two years, under section 130 of the Railway Act of 1890.

IT is believed that the negotiations with the Afridis for the Khyber settlement will make such progress that the troops now detained at Peshawar and Jamrud will be able to move to other stations two or three weeks hence. One brigade at Laudi Kotal will be sufficient for all military purposes thereafter.

ACCORDING to news received in Bombay a new Governor has at length been appointed in the Persian Gulf, and has afforded a striking foretaste of his rule by swooping down on a Ta ngistani village while *en route* from Teharan to Bushire, and be heading all the men. King Log has reigned long in these parts, an now we shall probably see what King Stork can effect.

THE recent fire at Peshwar that raged unchecked for 36 hours, was most destructive in its character. It broke out in the richest and the handsomest quarter of the town, inhabited by all the Hindu merchants, bankers, etc, of the place. "It would be no exaggeration', says a Lahore paper, "that the well-to-do portion of the Hindu population of Peshwar is homeless to-day. Many rich people have been reduced to a penniless condition. Almost all the temples, dharmsalas, and places of business of better-class Hindus, are gone. No loss of life has yet been reported. The loss of property has been variously estimated from one to three crores.

AT the sitting of the Commissioners at Multan on Wednesday to enquire into the charges of bribery against Sardar Gurdayal Sing, the Sikh Civilian, the Government Advocate made an extraordinary application. He asked the court to take notice of an attempt on the part of the agents of the accused to interfere with the course of justice, by extorting a false statement from a prosecution witness. He further said that since the inquiry began, attempts had been made to tamper with various witnesses. Counsel for the defence objected, saying that the matter was not admissible under any section of the Indian Evidence Act. After some discussion, the Commissioners said that they were not prepared to decide the point off-hand, and reserved their decision.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, JUNE 7.

Some time ago, the *Indian Daily News* of Calcutta sent some telegrams to the Government of India, complaining of the plague administration in Bengal, especially in reference to the system inoculation. The Government of India's reply has not yet transpired.

Some Mahomedan merchants are trying to get up an address to His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, expressing their appreciation of His Highness' splendid services on the frontier, and congratulating His Highness on his new honour.

The Maharaja of Jhind came here yesterday. His Highness will interview the Viceroy regarding some State business; but the object of the visit is not known.

SIMLA, JUNE 8.

Referring to the Calcutta plague, I hear that the Health Officer of Calcutta, Dr. Cook, strongly protested against the policy of isolation and segregation, but that the Government of India told him to adhere to the plague regulations.

Symptoms of an outbreak of the monsoon are visible here.

Dr. Raye shortly proceeds to England, preparatory to retirement from the service.

General Collen, who had a nasty fall the other day, is much better.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS]

LONDON, JUNE 3.

The *Times* statement regarding a fresh British Brigade being sent to the Nile is correct, with the exception of the Warwickshire, who are already at the Atbara. The 21st Lancers, the Northuumber and Fusiliers, and the 32nd Field Battery of Artillery will also be included in the Brigade which is intended the Khartoum Expedition, and which will number twenty thousand men. The railway to the Atbara will be finished this month. It is expected Khartoum will be reached at the beginning of October.

It is reported that the Dervishes have evacuated Shublaka, which is the most defensible position between Berber and Khartoum. The Khalifa is concentrating his forces near Omdurman.

LONDON, JUNE 3.

One thousand natives have surprised a force of three hundred Russian troops, who were encamped at Audijan in Ferghana (Turkestan). Twenty Russians were killed and eighteen wounded. Such an occurrence has not been known for many years.

LONDON, JUNE 3.

Victoria and Tesmania have agreed to Australian Federation by large majorities, but have been defeoted in New South Wales

LONDON, JUNE 4.

The American fleet renewed the bombardment of Santiago for two hours yesterday morning. The ship *Merrimac*, which in the reports received, is variously described as an auxiliary cruiser and a big collier, entered the harbour and succeeded in passing the first line of torpedoes. The Spaniards then fired torpedoes, striking the *Merrimac* and sinking her instantly.

The American despatch on the action says the *Merrimac* was manned by volunteers, and was sent into the harbour for the express purpose of blocking the channel, and that none of her crew perished.

LONDON, JUNE 4

A despatch from Admiral Sampson, who is now commanding the American squadron at Santiago, confirms the previous despatch that the ship Merrimac was sent into the harbour to block the channel. Admiral Sampson's report, however, states that she was sunk by a volunteer crew, numbering eight, and not by the Spaniards, and that the crew are prisoners in the hands of the Spaniards.

LONDON, JUNE 4.

South Australia has carried the vote in favour of the federation of the Aurtralian colonies.

LONDON, JUNE 5.

The bombardment of Santiago forts by the American fleet was again renewed on Friday evening, the cannonade lasting over an hour, and damaging the batteries.

LONDON, JUNE 5.

The Washington Senate has passed the War Revenue Bill, with an amendment placing a tax of 10 cents per pound upon tea.

LONDON, JUNE 5.

It is reported that fighting was renewed today at Santiago, the Americans landing a strong force a few miles along the coast, the insurgents simultaneously closing in upon the town.

LONDON, JUNE 5.

Amin-ud-Dowlah, the Persian Vizier, has resigned office, and Musher-ud-Dowlah is forming a new cabinet.

LONDON, JUNE 5.

A reverent gathering, numbering several thousands, many in mourning dress, attended the open-air memorial service to Mr. Gladstone in Hyde Park this afternoon. The weather was splendid. The pastors of various denominations and members of the House of Commons spoke from six platforms. The favourite hymns of the deceased were sung, and an address of condolence to Mrs. Gladstone was voted.

LONDON, JUNE 6.

Detailed reports have now been received to the sinking of the ship Merrimac in the harbour of Santiago by Lieutenant Hobson and a volunteer crew of eight men from the American fleet. All accounts agree that the act was one of the most distinguished heroism. Lieutenant Hobson having steered the Merrimac athwart the channel at the entrance of the harbour under a tremendous fire from the Spanish guns, pressed the button which exploded a series of torpedoes. Hobson and his party then jumped into a small boat and tried to return to the American fleet. Admiral Cervera chivalrously ordered the Spanish guns to stop firing, and sent off a boat to pick up Hobson and his men. The Americans offered an exchange of prisoners in recognition of the Spanish Admiral's gallantry. The conduct of Admiral Cervera n this affair is most keenly appreciated hroughout America.

LONDON, JUNE 6.

Reports have reached New York stating that an American force of five thousand men landed near Santiago this morning under cover of fire from some of Admiral Sampson's ships, and were joined by three thousand insurgents under the leadership of Commandant Garcia. The rest of the American squadron simultaneously renewed the bombardment of Santiago forts.

LONDON, JUNE 6.

Admiral Deway has informed the Washington Navy Department that the insurgents in the province of Cavite have captured fifty Spanish officers and eighteen hundred men, also the Arsenal, and that Cavite is now prepared for occupation by the American troops.

LONDON, JUNE 6.

General Lockhart's leave has been extended, and he will not return to India until September.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

The evacuation of Thessaly by the Turkish troops has been completed.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

Serious riots have occurred in Belfast, where a mob of the Orangemen attacked a nationalist procession and overpowered the police, chasing the latter to the barracks and wounding fifty men; several of them grievously. The military were called out and cleared the streets.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

The native Spanish regiment in the Philippines which mutinied and shot its officers afterwards joined the rebels, who have been fighting furiously for several days past, and are driving in the Spaniards upon Manila.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

The Sugar Bounties Conference opened today, the Belgian Premier being appointed President.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

The Duke of York has gone to Portsmouth to take over command of the Crescent, and will leave on a three months' cruise.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

Rioting was renewed in Belfast to-day, and the constabulary were compelled to charge the mob with batons, many rioters being injured.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said the Indian Currency Committee has been specially requested to hear fully the representatives of the Ceylon planting interest.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

The House of Commons has adopted the Indian Loan resolution without a division.

Reuter, telegraphing from Hongkong, says that the insurgents are closing in round Manila, and fighting now takes place frequently. One of the Spanish regiments in the Philippines has mutinied and shot its officers. The British residents remain in Manila, but other foreignrs have taken refuge aboard ships in the harbour. The telegram further states that Admiral Dewey has refused to allow the insurgents to storm Manila until the American troops now on their way arrive there.

A TELEGRAM from Lahore states :—The Kumber Khel Jirgahs of one hundred men with 35 Government rifles left Chora on the 3rd under the Maliks Muhammad Amir Khan and Yar Muhammad Khan for Jamrud, to interview the Political Officer.

A heavy north-west squall, almost ape proaching a tornado in force, flew over Madras early on Friday morning, accompanied by a thunderstorm of considerable severity. Two steamers in the harbour broke their stern line and required assistance from the shore, while a lighter one was carried out to sea and lost.

IT seems that within the last few weeks a number of Afridi Jirgas have visited Kabul with the object, it is believed, of gaining the assistance and sympathy of the Amir in connection with the political and frontier settlement. The latest advices from Afghanistan state that the Jirgas have all returned very disheartened at the reception given them by the Amir.

EXTREME credulity is not confined to Calcutta natives. The villagers of Mirigama and Ambepuessa in Ceylon are in a state of great alarm, owing to a recent prophecy regarding the end of the world, and there is a general apprehension among them that Ceylon is to be submerged next year. This has led them to grow more devout than ever, and acts of charity (called *kusal*) are daily being practised, by way of atoning for past sins.

THE following troops marched in at Lundi Kotal on Monday from Peshawar and Jamrud :—One half squadron of the 12th Bengal Cavalry under a British officer; Nos. 5 and 34 Field Hospitals and the bend of the Khyber Rifles. The 2-1st Gurkhas march from here at 6 A. M. tomorrow for Peshawar and Dharmsala, and the 3-4th Gurkhas leave Ali Musjid on the 9th for Bakloh. The heat in the Khyber is now very great, but the health of the troops remains good.

THE Bombay Government was busy last week in conveying its thanks to those officials who helped to find out the perpetrator of the Poona murder, to conduct the case and ultimately to bring about his conviction. Thus Messrs. Guider, Brewin and Kennedy have all been thanked for their services in this connection. To be consistent, the Bombay authorities now ought to revoke all the extraordinary proceedings, which it instituted in a state of panic, as far as that is possible. In other words, it ought to release Mr. Tilak and other Poona editors, set the Natu brothers at full liberty and withdraw the punitive force from Poona.

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Mofussil News.

CONSTERNATION AT BENARES.

(*From our own correspondent*)

UTMOST consternation prevails at Benares. Ever since the appearance of plague at Calcutta the public mind here had begun to unsettle itself. The other day a notice over the signature of the Magistrate was seen fixed on the wall and posts; and this acted on the already unsettled mind of the public as a red rag works on a bull. Although the notice was in the vernacular as well as in English, the ignorant and illiterate classes received their information from other sources, and commenced to conceive all sorts of oppressions and tortures. It is a pity that the translation of the notice was not as clear as it should have been; neverthless it was not very ambiguous. It was to the effect that persons possessing gardens and houses should get them licensed in the Magistrate's office, so that in the event of an outbreak of plague they may not have to be removed to hospital. This simple notice, however, has worked wonders here. As a loyal subject of the Crown, I feel it my duty to unfold the state of the public mind to the authorities through the medium of your esteemed and largely-circulated paper, and beg them to accept it in the spirit it is given.

People are busy, thinking all sorts of nonsense; and although no disturbances are feared just now, the least move on the part of the authorities in the wrong direction is, I fear, likely to bring troubles on them. In such a state of public feeling, a very calm and cool-headed person is required who may neither be strong-headed nor easy-going. It is useless to expect any change of hands at the present moment: so the best thing for us is to make the best use of them. I therefore propose to the District Magistrate who is the *ex officio* Chairman of the Municipal Board, to send out criers throughout the city to proclaim by beat of drum that plague is yet far off, and that should it ever invade the city, he would see that no persons were forcibly inoculated. Further that all respect for the *zenana* and worship would be shown, and that all persons, high or low, who may be labouring under any wrong, real or imaginary, should approach him or any officer of the district in person or by letter, and that their grievances would be forthwith removed. Unless such a proclamation is made at once, public feeling is bound to go higher and have a demoralising effect on all. I am sorry that this simple way re-assuring the public has not suggested itself to those in power. My next proposal is to dismiss from the mind all idea of employing Europeans for the plague duties. I do not mean any disrespect to my European rulers when I say this; but I feel it is in their own interests that I am acquainting them with the true situation. My third suggestion is that medical officers should not be imported from outside to examine patients here. What the authorities should do is to make over the charge of plague to the present staff of Doctors who are already known to the people and who cannot, from the nature of things, be rude or unsympathetic towards the people. The new comers, if any, may be put in the places of the present Doctors. This arrangement, I make bold to say, will remove many false apprehensions from the public mind and will work miracles. Fourthly, I would suggest that respectable men from each mohalla or ward may be selected for removing plague patients to hospital and that the Police may have as little to do with this work as possible. A great deal of success will depend on the due performance of this unpleasant duty. Fifthly, I would suggest that the Health Officer may not be allowed to have everything in his own way. He may be associated with Dr. Ramchandra of the Secrole Dispensary, who is extremely popular here, in examining and hunting out plague cases. All these arrangements are absolutely necessary for the maintenance of order and for the smooth working of the rules. I hear that the District Magistrate is in conference with his advisers as to the best way of combating with the plague. I am sure, some of the above proposals have not been pointed out to him; and I have, therefore, sought your columns for the purpose of obtaining a hearing. As I have said above, I have no object in quarrelling with the present administrators: but I would at the same time respectfully suggest that all of them should be prepared to give up their food and sleep as soon as the dreaded monster appears in Benares.

It is greatly to be deplored that Dr. Sweeny should be going away on leave at this juncture. His presence and supervision would have been a healthy check to many vagaries. In my humble opinion no plague hospitals should be built just now, but the site and materials should be kept ready at hand to construct sheds at a moment's notice.

A MAN calling himself Williams was arrested at Moulmein by the police, who brought him to Rangoon and delivered him over to tht Military. The prisoner says his real name ie Underdale, and he was an army schools master.

A TELEGRAM from Poona on the 5th instant states :—The Chief of Ichalkaranjee was accidentally shot when out shooting in the Ambhe Jungle, near Kolhapore. It would appear that a loaded gun fell from the hands of a sepoy who accompanied him, and some shots penetrated the Chief's thigh. He was promptly removed to hospital for treatment. His injuries are reported to be not very serious.

THE *Indian Daily News* says :—We have not, it is clear yet heard the last of the Dehra-eNahan case, which is now rapidly assuming proportions that will soon bring it into the ront rank of Indian official scandals. After over two and-a-half years, matters appear to wear even a worse complexion than they did at the very outset; and marked dissatisfaction is generally expressed at the impolitic and extraordinary attitude adopted by the powers-that-be throughout this lengthy period: an attitude that has resulted in a considerable loss of prestige to the Government, and alienated from it the sympathy and goodwill of every patriotic and right-minded individual. If half the rumours afloat mean anything, we are evidently on the eve of some sensational disclosures that will undoubtedly give certain personages something more than a *mauvais quarte d' heure*. The whole episode promises to be of considerable interest to our volunteer army and to the non-official community generally.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THE RETURNS.

ON Friday there was one seizure and one death. On Saturday up to 7-30 P.M. two seizures were reported to the Health Office, one by the Medical College authorities and the other by Dr. Clemow, a District Medical Officer.

There was no seizurer or death reported up to 7 P. M. on Monday.

There were two seizures on Tuesday—Sarat Chunder Mukerjee, aged 13, living in Mirzapur Street, in front of the College Square took was removed to the Medical College Hospital. Joyram aged 45, living at 25, Singhee Bagan, was also removed there.

Mahomed Rajak, who was admitted into the Ward Hospital of Ward No. 14 on the 5th, died on Monday.

A PRIVATE PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

Dr. Hem Chandra Sen, of Delhi, has written to the Secretary of the Vigilance Committee of Ward No. 3, and has offered to place one of his houses in Grey Street at the disposal of the Committee for use as a private segregation hospital for his caste people—the Baidyas of the locality. The offer has been accepted.

SPECIAL PLAGUE INSPECTORS.

It is the intention of Government to employ, if the plague becomes epidemic in the city, special plague inspectors. The duties of these officers will be defined in a Government Notification which may be expected shortly.

SERVICE OF INTERCESSION.

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Calcutta have set apart Monday next as a special day of Intercession for prayer and thanks-giving that thus far the plague has not spread in Calcutta to any serious extent.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.

A general meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held Saturday evening at the Municipal Office, when there was a full attendance of members. At the instance of Babu Nolin Behari Sircar, a motion was carried requesting Drs. Sanders, Russell, Charles, and Sarbadhikary to form themselves into a visiting Committee to inspect cases at the Manicktollah Hospital and form an independent opinion on the cases therein.

THE CROSS CASE.

With reference to the children of Mr. Cross, the Telegraph Master of Karachi, whose wife and daughter died about ten days ago, the *Englishmans* reporter was informed by the Health Officer the other day that four of the children are at the segregation camp at Manicktollah well cared for and looked after, and that one of them, a boy, named Kenneth, who is reported to be suffering from plague, is getting on well. His elder sister and the two others are accommodated in a seperate room and expressed themselves pleased with all the attention paid them. The father of the children has been telegraphed for from Karachi.

THE POLICE AND THE PLAGUE.

Mr. James, the Commissioner of Police, received an overwhelming number of applications from the native constabulary force asking for leave just before the Moharrum. The Commissioner told the men that as the Moharrum was drawing near he could not accede to their request, but that after the festival he would consider their petitions. Agreeably to his promise, Mr. James has given about 150 constables, out of about 3,000, leave. He has now to fall back on the armed force of 140 men, besides recruiting about 80 men from the outlying districts. An increased number of recruits are shortly to be made.

THREATENED DISTURBANCE AT HOWRAH.

A large number of Mahomedan and Hindu ruffians collected Tuesday morning at the head of streets, leading to the Howrah *maidan*, with a view to prevent the Babus from attending office in Calcutta. There was a slight disturbance in the Grand Trunk Road at Ramkristopur, inasmuch as some of the Babus showed indications of disobeying the injunctions of the ruffians. Peace was restored at about noon when the police turned out in numbers.

AMBULANCE VANS *vs.* PALKIS.

DR. COOK, the Helth Officer, is said to prefer the ambulance van to an ordinary palki and refuses to discard the use of the former. Surely an ambulance van will be viewed with greater dread and despair by the patient than any ordinary vehicle. Perhaps Dr. Cook no longer fears disturbances, but the feelings of the patient are entitled to some consideration. The very sight of an ambulance will make the patient think that all is up with him, and this thought will we submit, hardly improve the prospects of his recovery. The Corporation may purchase a number of palki or the purpose, and it is necessary to keep faith with the public who have been assured that the use of the ambulance van is to be discontinued.—*Indian Daily News.*

FATAL CASE FROM TALTOLLAH.

THERE was another suspected case of plague in Ward No. 14. A Mahomedan boy, named Mahomed Razak, of about 8 years of age, residing at 35, Shureef Duftry's Lane, in this ward, was attacked with high fever accompanied by glandular swellings on his neck on Saturday last. The local Vigilance Committee on being informed of the case on Sunday morning acted with promptitude and removed him, with the consent of the guardian, to the ward hospital at No. 30, Marsden Street. In the eveing the members of the Ward Committee requested Dr. S. C. Pal of Taltollah to examine the case. The popular Doctor with his usual kindness went to the Hospital and examined the patient very carefully,but pronounced it to be a true plague case, which he thought would terminate fatally in a few hours. The boy died on Sunday night, as surmised by the Doctor.

A Simla telegram informs that the Viceroy's assent to the Bombay Improvements Bill has been deferred.

THE Famine Commission expect to finish their work early next month, as the report is now well in hand.

THIRTY out of sixty-two Pathans, charged with creating a disturbance at the Keamari Detention Camp, Karachi, have been discharged by the Magistrate. The case against the remaining thirty-two will be heard to day.

IT is said that the Afridi Jirgahs who went to Kabul, are daily becoming more disappointed and depressed at the want of notice taken of them by the Amir; and it is believed that the whole body will shortly leave the city.

THE BHOWANIPORE RIOT CASE.

ON Monday Mr. C. Allen, District Magistrate of Alipore, delivered judgment in the case in which eight persons were charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting and trespassing into the house of Babu Jogesh Chandra Rai on the morning of the 21st May last. Five accused were sentenced to two years each, and one man eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment, and another man, who is a blind, to two months' simple imprisonment, and others discharged.

IN delivering judgment Mr. Allen, observed that the main facts of the case were not disputed, and after briefly narrating the story, continued as follows :—

FINDING.

I find that the crowd formed an unlawful assembly, the common object of which was to commit criminal house-trespass in the house of Baboo Joges Chandra Rai and to assault Dr. Laing. I find that this unlawful assembly was formed at about 9-45 A. M., and remained an unlawful assembly until about 10-45 A. M. on the day of the occurrence I find, moreover, that force and violence were used by certain members of the said unlawful assembly, who threw stones at Jogesh Baboo's house, and burst open his doors. I find, therefore, that every member of the said unlawful assembly was guilty of the offence of rioting (section 146 of the Indian Penal Code). I find also that the offence of house breaking which is punishable under section 455 of the Indian Penal Code, was committed by some members of the said unlawful assembly in prosecution of its common object and that all the members of the said unlawful assembly who were members of it at the time, the offence was committed, are guilty of an offence punishable under sections 455 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code.

I find that accused No. 5 Barsati Mehter, is not guilty of the offences with which he has been charged, and I order him to be set at liberty. [Two witnesses deposed against this accused, but their evidence being very weak, the Magistrate gave him the benefit of the doubt.] I find that the remaining accused persons, viz, Iswar Singh, Nafar Chander Pal, Raghunandan Gwala, Sheo Ratan Mehter, Dewan Kurmi, Huri Charan Bose, and Sheik Abu, on the 21st May, 1898, at Bhowanipore, were members of the unlawful assembly. I find that Raghunundan and Sheo Ratan on the same day at the same place committed house-trespass. I find that Nafar Chunder Pal is not guilty under this head of the charge, but that he s guilty of the offence of criminal trespass. iI find that Hari Churan Bose is not guilty of the offence of attempting to commit house-trespass, having made preparation for causing hurt to and assaulting Dr. Laing. I find that the accused Iswari Singh, Nafar Chunder Pal, Raghunandan Gwala, Sheo Ratan on the same day, at the same place, were members of an unlawful assembly. I find that Dewan Kurmi and Shekh Abu are not guilty under this head of the charge. I find that all the accused, with the exception of Barsati Mehter, instigated and aided the members of the aforesaid unlawful assembly to attempt to trespass into the house 30, Chunder Nath Chatterjee's Street, which was in the occupation of Baboo Jogesh Chander Rai, having made preparations for causing hurt to and assaulting Dr. Laing, who had taken refuge in that house from an attack on him by the said assembly

In passing sentence it is necessary to remember that this riot was absolutely unprovoked, and that the temper of those who took part in it was such that they would undoubtedly have attempted to murder Dr. Laing had they caught him. Iswari Singh, accused No. 1, was especially prominent at all the stages of the riot; and on him rests the responsibility for inciting the mob to attack Dr. Laing. Nafar Chunder Pal, Raghunandan Gwala, and and Sheo Ratan Mehter were among those who broke into Jogesh Baboo's house. Hari Charan Bose, though there is no evidence that he took part in this attack, was especially forward at the latter stage of the riot. Dewan Kurmi apparently arrived on the scene after the boys had been shot and there is no evidence that he took part in the earlier attack. For this reason I pass a somewhat lighter sentence upon him. Sheikh Abu is partially blind, and was probably less dangerous than the others for this reason. His infirmity will also render him a troublesome inmate in the jail. For this reason I pass a lighter sentence upon him.

The Court sentences Iswari Singh, Nafar Chunder Pal, Raghunandan Gwala, Sheo Ratan Mehter, and Hari Charan Bose to be rigorously imprisoned for two years.

Dewan Kurmi is sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for eighteen months. The Court sentences Sheikh Abu to simple imprisonment for two months.

Barsuti Mehter is discharged.

Some of the accused contemplate appealing against their conviction.

THE people of Godavari deserve to be congratulated on the very successful District Conference they were able to hold at Ramachandrapuram. Our special correspondent informs us that there were 850 delegates and 500 visitors present at the Conference,—a number highly creditable to the public spirit of the district. The greatest enthusiasm appears to have prevailed throughout the proceedings, and a vote of thanks was passed to the Indian witnesses before the WelbyCommission to the British Committee of the Indian National Congress and to Messrs R. C. Dutt and A. M. Bose. We note with satisfaction the testimony borne by the Conference to the valuable services rendered by some gentle men and particularly by Mr. Ganjam Venkataratnam aud the Rev. Mr. Davis. We hope to hear that the District Social Conference was held there the other day with as much of enthusiasm, if not more.—*The Standard.*

MESSRS. TWEEDY and Johnstone, the Commissioner sitting at Multan, have heard the prosecution case in five of the seven bribery charges against Sirdar Gurdial Singh Man, a statutery Punjab Civilian. The case concluded on Wednesday was the allegation that the Sirdar took a bribe of Rs. 1,500, promising, as the favour, the reversion of a zaildark in the Muzaffargarh district. It was alleged by the prosecution that the Sirdar took bribes for the same favour from two persons, and that in order to meet the case he proposed that the *zail* should be split in two and two *zrilders* appointed instead of one. This proposal, however, was not approved by Mr. H. A. Anderson, acting Commissioner of the Derajat. The most important case, from the point of view of the amount of the alleged bribe, was to be heard on Thursday, when the prosecution propose to prove that Sirdar Khan, brother-in-law to the Nawab of Bhawalpore, gave Sirdar Gurdial Singh a bribe of twenty-two seers of gold, the equivalent of Rs. 45,000

THE PLAGUE

PLAGUE has appeared at Nilanga in the Bidar District. A boy of 12 died of it.

THE plague is rumoured to have broken out in the Mysore Province.

THE Nepal durbar is taking every precaution to keep out the plague. Strangers are never admitted into the country, and under the strict rule now in force admission has been further curtailed.

THE *Charu Mihir* of Mymensing says that one Modhudas Goala personated himself as a *ticcawalla* and was about to inoculate some people in a village near Muktagacha. The man had with him a knife and some greasy substance. He has been arrested. The same paper says that in the town of Mymensing some persons administered in oculation to a *bhoonawalla*. These people are yet at large.

IN Bombay there were only eight attacks from plague recorded on Monday including six old cases which had been under enquiry, and four deaths. The total mortality from all causes was 72 as against 84 on the same date last year and 68 the year before. The plague returns for Monday show 17 cases and 15 deaths in Karachi. The totals to date are 2,761 cases and 2,163 deaths.

AN order has been issued by the Government of India to the effect that, in case of the employment of coolies from districts, infected with plague, in the railway service, communication is to be sent to the Magistrate of the District within which they are to be employed, stating the number and the destination of the coolies by the Departments concerned in the matter.

A PLAGUE Committee, consisting of the following officers, is sitting at Simla :—Mr. J. P. Hewett, C. I. E., Secretary, Government of India, Home Department; Surgeon-Major-General Harvey, Director-General, Indian Medical Service; Mr. Impey, Secretary to Government, N. W. P. and Qudh; Mr. R. Clarke, Commissioner, Delhi; Surgeon-Colonel Rape, Inspector-General, Civil Hospitals, Punjab; and Mr. H. J. Maynard, Junior Secretary, Punjab Government.

AN account of a disturbance at Karachi on Wednesday last was telegraphed to Calcutta. It now turns out that it was all a myth, no disturbance, properly so-called, occurring. What happened, was this. A small section of fishermen objected to some plague measures, especially to be segregated in the camp. Thereupon the District Magistrate had a military cordon placed round their quarters, while the police removed its inhabitants to the segregation camp. The fishermen offered no opposition.

A PLAGUE PROSECUTION AT GHATAL.

MR. HILL, barrister-at-law, with Babu Harendra Narain Mookerjee appeared yesterday before the Criminal Bench of the High Court presided over by Justices Banerjee and Stevens and applied on behalf of Paresh Nath Bhuea and others for the transfer of the case against them pending in the Sub-divisional Court of Ghatal to some other competent court. The facts stated in the petition to the High Court briefly were that the Sub-divisional Officer of Ghatal after inspecting on the 5th May, a plot of land which was a portion of the holding of one Madhub Bera expressed an intention of erecting a plague hospital and a segregation camp, that on the 6th May the first petitioner was served with a notice to give up the land in favour of the Municipality within that very day, that on the 7th May the petitioner presented an application stating his inability to give up the land as he was only a part owner of it; that on the 8th May the Deputy Magistrate's peon came to the accused and told him that he was wanted by the Deputy Magistrate that the accused accordingly waited upon the Sub-divisional Officer who requested him to induce his tenants not to offer resistance to the erection of a plague hospital, and that on his communicating the result of his interview with his tenants which was not in accordance with the Deputy Magistrate's wishes, he was at once arrested by the order of the Deputy Magistrate, and charged under sections 107 and 144, Cr. P. C., that warrants were issued against the remaining accused; that at first the Deputy Magistrate wanted a bail of Rs. 10,000 from the first accused; that on the intercession of the local pleaders the Deputy Magistrate at last consented to release the first accused on bail on his depositing Rs. 2000 in cash. For these and various other reasons the petitioner did not expect a fair and impartial trial at the hands of the Deputy Magistrate.

Their Lordships, after hearing counsel, issued a rule on the Magistrate of the district to show cause why this case should not be transferred from the court of Sub-divisional Magistrate of Ghatal to that of any other competent Magistrate in the district. In the meantime and pending the disposal of this rule all further proceedings will be stayed.

ON her way to Brindisi, Mrs. Besant lectured in Rome—Where a Branch has lately been started. Her lecture was delivered in French, to a large audience, composed partly of materialists, partly of staunch Christians.

WITH a view to limiting the frequent transfer of young officers from one command to another, the Government of India has ruled that such transfers should not generally be sanctioned in cases of officers who have not completed at least one year with a native regiment, and four years from the date of first commission.

FROM a rough census taken of all the fighting men in Tirah, the Afridis lost actually killed slightly over four hundred, while their wounded amount to almost four out of ten of the entire fighting strength.

DURING Thursday and Friday the Fort of Colombo was, says the "Times of Ceylon," practically in possession of German sailors landed from the Darmstadt alleged to be on her way to Kiaou chao. We are very glad, says our contemporary, to see sailors of foreign nations, with whom we are at peace, come ashore, but we believe there is a rule that only a certain specified number shall come ashore at one time. If that is so the rule was not observed, for not less than 500 are said to have landed. Fortunately they were a well-behaved and orderly set of men. But if there is such a rule, it should be observed, and if there is not, there ought to be.

THE CHAMPATOLAH DISTURBANCE CASE.

THE case in which Hurry Churn Sadkhan (absconded), Hurry Churn Paira, Harendra Lall Dhur, Jogin Das, Sheik Budhoo, Harry Charn Burman, Mohendra Sadkhan and Upendra Nath Sadkhan, stood charged with rioting and causing mischief by setting fire to an ambulance car, on the 12th May last in College Street, was concluded this day. Mr. Hume appeared for the prosecution. Mr. Manuel appeared for the sixth defendant. Babus Amarendra Nath Chatterjee, vakil, Mr. Cranenburgh, Gonesh Chunder Mookherjee, and Khetra Mohun Gangoolly appeared for other defendants.

His Worship on taking his seat this morning delivered the following judgment :—

In this case sixteen witnesses have been examined on behalf of the prosecution and twenty-two witnesses for the defence. The facts of this case as disclosed by the evidence adduced on behalf of the prosecution are these :—On the 12th May, 1898, information was sent by the first witness Anucool Chander Dutt, a medical student, in the Medical College, to the Health Officer, that a boy named Bhooloo, residing in No. 42 Champatolah 1st lane, was suffering from suspected plague. Dr. Chambers, the then District Medical Officer, came to the house, examined the boy and found that it was a case of "pucka plague." Dr. Chambers interviewed the mother of the boy, who expressed her willingness to have the boy removed to the hospital at Manicktolah and said that she would accompany him. Dr. Chambers left the house and called again at the house with ambulance and the disinfecting requisites, accompanied by Inspectors Keer, Phelan and Bose and the staff of the coolies and peons. The mother of the child was still willing to the removal, but his uncle Hurry Churn Sadkhan (defendant No. 1 who has absconded) refused to allow the child to be removed and called a crowd of people to his assistance. Dr. Chambers and Dr. Bose left the house, leaving the two Inspectors and the staff in charge of the ambulance which was kept in College Street at the head of Champatolah lane. The crowd began to swell. The two Inspectors who left the spot for Colootolah Thanah and then the crowd began to make a row. They beat the medical student and the coolies and peons in charge of the ambulance, threw the ambulance up side down and set fire to it. The crowd were shouting and jumping around the burning car and some were feeding the fire by throwing the wheel and unburnt portions of the car into the flame. All this took place between 4 and 5 P. M. and when Messrs. Kerr and Phelan returned from Colootolah to the spot. At about 4-30 p. m, they saw some of the defendants feeding the fire and jumping and calling out "mar mar and jala dao." When Police came the whole thing was over and the crowd had disappeared.

The charge is proved satisfactorily against all the defendants at the bar except No.6(Hurry Churn Burman.) The only evidence against this man is that of Sookhoo, one of the Municipal peons. He says that the defendant had snatched two syringes from his hand also the two buckets and put them into the fire, but this witness is contradicted by Messrs. Kerr and Phelan who say respectively that it was the defendants Nos. 2 and 3 who had thrown the syringes into the fire. There is no other evidence on record that the defendant No. 6. took any part in the riot or in the burning of the cart. I must, therefore, acquit him.

The witnesses, Dr. Rakhal Das Ghose, Kerr, Phelan, Mahadeo Roy and Ameer Khan prove that the defendant No. 2 (Hurry Churn Paira) took an active part in the riot. The witnesses Kerr and Pholan also prove the case against defendant No. 3 (Harendra Lal Dhur) this accused pleads an *alibi*, and has examined. Mr. Durant, a Government officer in the Telegraph Department, who says that the accused was with him on the day in question from 1 to 5P.M. but the evidence against this defendant is so clear that I must hold without casting any reflection on the evidence of Mr. Durant, that he must have been mistaken as to the exact time when this defendant parted company with him. This accused was named with others by the defendant No. 5 (Shaik Budhoo) one of the ringleaders in this row, as soon as he (Budhoo) was arrested by the Police. I had some doubt as regards this defendant's complicity, but it has been removed on perusing the special diaries of the police. The witnesses Kerr and Phelan say that this defendant took an active part in the burning of the car and in feeding the fire. In the same manner it has been proved by the evidence of Messrs. Kerr and Phelan, Pritchard and Duliree that defendants No. 4 (Jogin) and No. 5 (Shaik Budhoo) also took an active part in the riot and in the burning of the ambulance.

The defendants Nos. 7 and 8 seem to have taken part in the riot only, but not in setting fire to the ambulance.

After the case for the prosecution had been closed on the 19th May, and charges under Sections 147 and 427 had been drawn by me against the defendants, the defendants had moved the High Court with the view to have the case committed to the Court of Sessions for the offence punishable under Section 435, I. P. C. The motion was made on the 26th of May, and it was summarily rejected by the High Court. In my opinion Section 435 I. P. C. does not apply to the offence which has been proved against the defendants, in asmuch as the damage done to the car amounts to less than Rs. 100 (*vide* the evidence of Dr. Cook and Mr. DeSouza). The defence has failed to adduce any evidence to prove that the damage done amounted to more than Rs. 100.

In awarding punishment to defendants, especially to the accused No. 2, 3, 4 and 5, I must say that the case seems to me the one demanding the award of the highest punishment in my power. The defendants were guilty of the most wanton and wicked lawlessness. They very well knew that Dr. Chambers and the ambulance had gone to take the child to the Isolation Hospital with the full consent of his mother, and that the uncle had no right to interfere in the matter. I convict the defendants Nos 2, 3, 4, and 5 under sections 147 and 427, I. P. C., and sentence each of them to two years' rigorous imprisonment. I convict defendants Nos. 7 and 8 underSection 147, I. P. C., and sentence each of them to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

THE recent news from Rangoon is that the Lieutenant-Governor returns to Rangoon at the end of the current month from Maymyo.

THE FIRST BATTLE.

(Special Dispatch to the *Inter-Ocean.*)

WITH the blockading squadron off Matanzas, April 27, *Via*, Key West, Fla. April 28.—The first battle of the war with Spain was fought this afternoon. It lasted less than twenty minutes, and resulted in a complete victory for Admiral Sampson's ships.

The scene of the fight was Matanzas, and the ships engaged on the American side were the flagship New York, the monitor Puritan, and the cruiser Cincinnati.

The battle began at 1 o'clock this afternoon, and at twenty minutes past 1 the Spanish batteries had been silenced. Probably 250 shells were dropped into the fortifications on shore in that space of time and every one was effective.

The Spanish gunners aimed poorly. Not a shot struck near the warships, and the only occasion when there was any cause for fear was when a shell from a masked battery exploded over the New York. It did little damage.

Admiral Sampson had heard that the Spaniards were strongly fortifying the harbour of Matanzas, and he determined to stop the work. The harbor is protected by a long strip of land on which a battery had been placed. When Sampson's officers reported this to him, he at once ordered the bombardment of the fort.

The New York led the way, followed by the Puritan, with the Cincinnati bringing up the rear. When the flagship came to a point about 4,000 yards from shore, with the Puritan about three-quarters of a mile behind, and the Cincinnati an equal distance behind the monitor, a battery on the shore sent a solid shot at the flagship.

Admiral Sampson lost no time in replying. The first mark at which one of the New York's large guns was aimed was a long earthwork on which men were observed to be moving about. The shot fell a few hundred yards short, and to the right of the embankment. The eight-inch gun was then trained upon the mark, and it fell at the edge of the strip of land, about 200 yards to the left of the fortification.

The next shot struck the mark, and a huge projectile, weighing nearly 300 pounds, tore through the embankment and landed in the centre of the fort. The air was full of debris, and the fortification was practically destroyed by that single shot.

Then the Spaniards began to fire in earnest and the battle waxed warm. A masked battery on the opposite side of the bay opened fire on the flagship, and guns in every part of the ship that could be trained upon the shore sent their load of steel to aid in the destruction of the Spaniards and their forts.

The smoke from the guns was so thick that the effect of many of the shots could not be noted. Only a few of the shots from the shore came anywhere near the warships.

Key West, Fla. April 29.—The news of the bombardment and reduction of the outer fortifications at Matanzas on Wednesday afternoon by Admiral Sampson's flagship New York, monitor Puritan, and the cruiser Cincinnati was received here this morning with unbounded joy. The officers of the navy here and the army officers all said when they talked of the remarkable eighteen-minute job: "That'll just give you an idea of what'll happen when they let us at Havana."

Two months ago the only protection of Matanzas consisted of two old-fashioned forts near the entrance to the harbor, and in these were old-fashioned guns that did not amount to a row of pins compared with the guns of to-day. The Spaniards, anticipating the trouble with this country, have been hard at work putting up modern defences. Since a few days before the war began hundreds of men have been employed on the works, and the place was rapidly becoming almost as formidable as Havana itself. In addition to building the fortifications, which were earthworks, the harbor had been completely mined.

The extent of the fortifications was not known to Admiral Sampson or the men on the blockading fleet, but it was known that whatever was being done was being rushed, and the Admiral wanted to know just how strong the place was. He started out Wednesday morning to find out, and he found a good deal more than he left.

The Puritan and Cincinnati were already in front of Matanzas, where they had been kept busy blockading. The New York signaled what she was going to do as she came along and there were answering signals on the Puritan and Cincinnati and these two ships fell in with the flagship.

Point Rubalcava fort is to the west of the harbor and out from the entrance about three miles. The next fort is Point Maya, which is four miles from Point Rubalcava, on the east side of the harbor and directly at the entrance, four miles from Matanzas, which is at the head of the bay. The New York ran provokingly close to the first of these fortifications and in a few minutes there was a puff of smoke from Point Rubalcava, followed by the roar of a heavy gun and the whistle of a shell. At the same time there was another puff of smoke to the east near Point Maya, and the roar of another gun.

If the guns had been aimed by women the shots could not have gone further from the mark. These two shots were the invitation that the men of Admiral Sampson's fleet had been looking for, and in less time than it takes to tell it the big eight-inch gun on the starboard side forward on the New York sent a shell directly into the fortification at Rubalcava. At the same time the Puritan steamed up behind the New York and to the east of her, and t Cincinnati which had remained a good ways out, saile directly toward the mouth of the harbor.

Before the Spaniards in Rubalcava had recovered from the surprise the first shell gave them the New York had planted three more in almost the same spot and the Puritan had unlimbered her guns on Point Maya. So had the Cincinnati. It was great markmanship on both of these boats. Every shot they fired struck the fortifications and tore them asunder. Great clouds of dust arose from the point and lumps of masonry went fying.

On the three warships went, nearer and nearer to each of the fortifications. Then the Spaniards recovered and let fly again, but their markmanship was no better. Before they fired a third time the New York had again planted three big shells directly in the fortification at Rubalcava. The Puritan and the Cincinnati paid all their attention to Point Maya, and the markmanship continued perfect.

When the firing began the New York was about 6,000 yards from Rubalcava. She reduced the distance gradually to less than 3,000 yards, and she increased the rapidity of her fire to three shots a minute, every shot telling. The Puritan did not fire quite so rapidly, but her shots were not more than a minute apart. She did not have as good a mark as the New York, for she was further away, but she didn't miss anything that she shot at. The Cincinnati fired broadsides with equal effectiveness.

The action had been going on about fifteen minutes and the firing at the fortifications had practically ceased when the flagship signalled to back away. At that moment Rubalcava fired her last shot. The Puritan was a long distance from her, but her marksman saw the smoke puff out and aimed for that spot with one of the big 12-inch guns.

IT is being contemplated to patrol and guard the chief railway lines as well as the more important railway bridges, whenever the country shows any signs of disturbance.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

THE BROTHERS NATU.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India whether at the time of the arrest of Sardar Shrimanta Balvant Ramchandra Natu on July 28, 1897, the whole of the family property was attached and taken possession of by the the collector of Poona and his wife and family left without means of support; and had any allowance to her been authorised since that date; if so, would he state whether the allowance had been regularly paid.

Lord G. Hamilton: The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the negative. As regards the second paragraph, I am informed that on Oct. 23, after inquiry into the value of the estate, a joint allowance of 550 rs. a month was fixed for the maintenance of the brothers and wives and families of the two sardars. The allowance was made payable to the brother Shiva Ramchandra Natu, but he declined to accept it until April 13.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.—Mr. Ascroft asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the statement attributed to Count Muravieff in Despatch No. 132, China Correspondence, that it was England alone that made difficulties and stood in the way of Russia, and that no other Government had questioned him officially on the subject or seemed to resent in any degree the proposed action of Russia, is correct; whether her Majesty's Government had approached any other European Government; and, if so, whether there was any objection to the correspondence being placed upon the table of the House?

Mr. Curzon: Her Majesty's Government are, of course, not in a position to know what communications have or have not passed between the Russian Government and other Governments. The attitude adopted by her Majesty's Government is made sufficiently clear by the papers which have been laid before Parliament. The answer to the second question is in the negative.

NOTICES OF MOTION, &.

Mr. Henniker Heaton.—To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General: Whether he is aware that a packet (F. B. 2620) posted at Cardross for transmission to a lady in India, and bearing a halfpenny stamp is detained at the Returned Letter Office, Clerkenwell, on the ground that it contains a small water-colour design or drawing, and that the postal official have written requiring the adressee to forward the sum of two pence, by a post-office order or British postage stamp, when the packet will be sent on to her as a letter; whether he can state the exact expenditure involved in forwarding two pence from India to England by post-office order, and if British home postage stamps are sold by the Indian post office; and whether, seeing that the official regulations permit engravings, photographs (plain or taken in colours,) designs, and drawing models to be posted to India as pointed papers at the rate of a half penny per two ounces, he will direct that sketches in colour shall in future be treated under these regulations as printed papers.

Mr. Herbert Roberts.—East India (Sedition and Control of the Press).—To call attention to the eecent alterations in the Indian laws relating to sedition and the control of the Press; and to move a resolution. [*An early day.*]

Mr. Cohen.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Indian Government have already taken decided steps for the establishment of a gold standard in India; and whether the assent of the Secretary of State in Council and of Parliament is necessary for the introduction of a loan in sterling in London for the establishment of such gold standard.

Mr. Drage.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether the southern section of the commission for delineating the Burmo Chinese frontier has dispersed whether any work was done by the section; and whether he can state what action her Majesty's Government propose to take in the matter in view of the constant disturbances among the Kachia tribes on the frontier.

Sir William Wedderburn.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to the notification in the Madras Government *Gazette* to the effect that the Legislative Council would meet at Ootacamund on May 13, and, whether it is proposed to proceed with the Madras Tenancy Bill at Ootacamund; and, if so, how the important agricultural interests affected will have an opportunity of representing their case at this distant hill station.

WEI-HAI-WEI.—Sir J. Colomb asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the efficient working of the Army system being dependent upon equality of the number of battalions at home and abroad, the nature and composition of any armed force which might be required for service at Wei-hai-wei had been, or would be referred to the Defence Committee of the Cabinet to decide whether the Army or the Marine forces would best provide for such requirements and whether that committee had considered the importance of placing at the disposal of the admirals on the China and otner distant stations, in war a force of Marines for operations on shore, irrespective of those forming part complement of her Majesty's ships; and if not, whether, having regard to the teachings of history, and to the experience afforded at Alexandria in 1882, and now by war operations at Manila, of the military requirements necessary to supplement the exercise of naval power, he could give an assurance that this imperial requirement would receive the most careful consideration of that committee.

Mr, Balfour: I can assure my hon. and gallant friend that all the problems which he has suggested in his question and any others that may arise, will receive the most careful consideration of her Majesty's Government. (Laughter and cheers.)

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—Mr. C. M'Arthur asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he could state what measures had been taken by her Majesty's Government for the protection of British life and property in the Philippine Islands, and especially at Iloilo, where, according to the latest advices, apprehensions were entertained by those concerned in the British mercantile establishments located there, owing to the progress of the insurrection and the absence of any force for the defence of that place.

Lord G. Hamilton, on behalf of Mr. Curzon, replied: H. M. S. *Immortalite* is already at the Philippine Islands, and, in consequence of representations made to me by several hon. members on behalf of the mercantile community with regard to the possibility of danger at Iloilo, instructions were sent on Saturday to send H.M.S. *Pique* from Hong Kong to that place.

INDIAN CURRENCY.—Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary for India whether the terms of reference to the Indian Currency Committee, authorising them to submit any modifications of the proposals of the Indian Government or any suggestion of their own, for the establishment of a satisfactory system of currency in India, left the Committee a free hand to deal with the question of the results that had followed the closing of the mints, and to recommend, if they thought fit, the reopening of the mints for the coinage of rupees; and, if not, what were the limitations imposed by the terms of reference on the scope of the Committee's inquiry.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am much obliged to my hon. friend for putting this question, because my answer will make clear a point on which there is no doubt whatever. The Currency Committee are a body of practical men assembled for a practical purpose, and they are empowered to inquire into any matter which they may think relevant to the subject which has been referred to them. If, therefore, they consider an inquiry into the policy of closing the Indian mints to be relevant to that subject; and if, having regard to the circumstances of the time and the practical possibilities of the case, they desire to make such inquiry and report upon its result, there is nothing in the terms of reference to prevent them from doing so. (Cheers.)

SALT IN INDIA.—Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India if any fresh arrangements had been made for the supply of salt to the tribes on the North-West frontier, the excessive dearness of the Kohat salt, which they could not do without, having been alleged by the Afridis as one of the chief grievances which led them to take up arms against the British Government.

Mr. Lewis asked the noble lord whether the duty on Kohat salt in 1883 was 4 as., whether it was then raised to 8 as., whether in 1896 it was raised to 2 rs., whether this was thirty-two times the natural price of salt, and whether the Government contemplated a reduction of the duty.

Lord G. Hamilton: As to the supplementary question of the hon. member for the Flint Boroughs, there is no doubt that in the last fifteen years there has been a great increase in the duty on Kohat salt to bring it up to the level of internal salt, but I cannot say off hand what the increased has been. As regards the question on the paper, I have to say that so far as I know at present, no fresh arrangements have yet been made respecting the duty on Kohat salt; but, as I stated in answer to a question on Feb. 11, the subject is engaging the attention of the Indian Government, and I expect to receive a further report upon the matter when trade has been for some time resumed.

HYSTERICS.

WE are that there is great indignation in certain quarters with the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* for suggesting as far as we can see that Dr. Laing should be put on his trial. We would, however, like to point out one fact in this connection. When Dr. Pearse shot a native or was said to have shot a native, at Diamond Harbour some years ago—*Consul* Sir Charles Elliott,—the Magistrate said the case was false. The Local Government of the day were so dis tressed at the thought of what the "Amrita Baza Patrika would say about it that Sir Charles Elliot ordered Mr. Collier to reopen the matter. The humbug of impartiality was spread very thick indeed. The matter was re-opened. It was seen, again to be an absolutely false charge but yet Dr. Pearse was sent to the Sessions. The District Magistrate disbelieved the evidence, but committed to the Sessions. That was what was so astonishing. At the Sessions the case was kicked out by the Chief Justice in five minutes, because it had been apparent to a European Joint-Magistrate and a District Magistrate, and was apparent to the Chief Justice and everyone else, that there was no case, and that every word of the evidence produced was absolutely false. The Standing Counsel admitted that to be so. Yet Dr. Pearse was worried, put to the great expense of three trials, which he could ill afford, all because Sir Charles Elliott wished to truckle to the native press. It was a gross act of injustice to Dr. Pearse, for which he received no compensation, and the European community resented it pretty loudly. Times, however, have changed, and what was then a cry for justice *Haro mon roi*—to be listened to obsequiously, is now severely ignored, and even made a reason for charging this native paper with sedition. There was absolutely no difference in the two cases. If anything, Dr. Laing's was the worse of the two cases. Dr. Pearse was not proved to have shot anyone. He was alleged to have shot a native through a crack in a door while invading a zenana, and the shot exhibited turned out never to have left a gun, and were of a different size to the shot put into the wounded man. And bogus shot marks were made in the walls of the hut, which gunmakers proved to be bogus. In Dr. Laing's case, at all events, there is no doubt he killed a man in self-defence, which is what, if Dr. Pearse had been proved to have shot a man, would have been his defence also. And yet in one case Dr. Pearse was made a victim, and, in the other, Dr. Laing is made a hero, or not made a victim. Can anyone tell us why this difference of treatment? Was not the treatment of Dr. Pearse a direct incentive to make the same shriek about Dr. Laing? That is, however, how we are governed—mainly by hysteria. We are bound to add that at present the Government have not taken the same hysterical view as the people, who, contrary to the very sound opinion of Mr. Blotton of Aldgate, think that every one can be put down by clamour and really we are rather glad that Mr. Bolton has come back.—*Indian Daily News.*

THE QUEEN AND THE SPIRIT WORLD.

THE Queen, as is well known, is a strong believer in the reality and near presence of the spirit world. A writer in the current number of the *Quiver* states that Mrs. Oilphant's "Little Pilgrim in the Unseen" was of great interest to the Queen, who, since the death of the Prince Consort, has had a special liking for writings dealing with the mystic and unseen.

She believes that it is given to our departed loved ones to watch over those who still struggle with the temptations and sorrows of the earthly life. It has been the great consolation of her bereaved years that she felt that the Prince was watching over the events of her life. During her retirement at Osborne, after the Prince Consort's death, the Queen found "her only comfort in the belief that her husband's spirit was close beside her—for he had promised that it should be so." This was told to Dean Stanley by Queen's half-sister, the Princess Hohenlohe. The belief that the spirits of the dead are hovering about those whom they loved on earth may be the reason for Her Majesty's dislike to second marriages, especially the remarriage of widows.

It might have been added that belief of this kind in the spiritual world was one of the links which bound together Her Majesty and the late poet laureate in affectionate sympathy. In one of his published letters to the Queen the poet wrote:—"If the dead, as I have often felt, though silent, be more living than the living;—and linger about the planet in which their earth-life was passed—then they, while we are lamenting that they are not at our side, may still be with us; and the husband, the daughter, and the son, lost by your Majesty, may rejoice when the people shout, the name of their Queen." Sentiments such as these were sure of arousing an echo in the heart of the Queen. Writing to Lord Tennyson on one of the anniversaries of her wedding day, the Queen described it as a day which she can never allow to be considered sad. "The reflected light of the sun which has set still remains! It is full of pathos, but also full of joyful gratitude, and he, who has left me nearly thirty years ago, surely blesses me still!"

CHAMBERLAIN'S Pain Balm has no equal as a household liniment. It is the best remedy known for rheumatism, lame back, neuralgia; while for sprains, cuts, bruises, burns, scalds and sore throat, it is invaluable. Wertz & Pike, merchants, Fernandina, Fla, write: "Everyone who buys a bottle of Chamberlain's Remedies, comes back and says it is the best medicine he has ever used."

THE INDIAN CURRENCY QUESTION.

ON Tuesday, at the Manchester Royal Exchange, a memorial was being signed by both monometallists and bimetallists praying that Lord George Hamilton would direct that the Commission of Inquiry may go into certain questions in regard to the currency. The memorialists of Manchester already include merchants, manufacturers, bankers, and others engaged in Indian trade. In the course of the memorial it says:—"In our opinion no treatment can be regarded as sufficient and complete that does not embrace the consideration of (1) the suitability of a gold standard for India in the peculiar economic circumstances of that country; (2) the practicability of introducing a gold standard currency into India under conditions there prevailing; (3) the wisdom of a return to a silver standard, with mints open to the free and unrestricted coinage of that metal."

The *Manchester Guardian* correspondent says:—The Indian Currency Committee is exciting great interest in high financial circles in the City. Lord George Hamilton's appointments to the Committee are severely criticised. The terms of reference are regarded as not affording scope for a sufficiently full inquiry into the policy of the Indian Government initiated in 1893 and the effects of the closed mints upon the finances and commerce of India. The proposals of the Indian Government for a gold standard are also condemned, and especially the clause which provides for raising large sterling loans in this country and shipping sovereigns to India. These points, have been set forth in a protest to be presented to the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary for India, which has already been signed by a number of the large joint-stock and private banks, by most of the directors of the Bank of England, and by other authorities on finance, as well as by leading firms in the Indian trade. As showing how profoundly the City is stirred on the subject, it may be mentioned that some of the banks and financial houses who have signed the protest are noted for never signing anything relating to public affairs, but they have made an exception to the rule in this instance.

Our Indian Parliamentary Report shows that Lord George Hamilton, in reply to Mr. Maclean, stated that the Committee may inquire into the uestion of the Silver Standard.

MEMORIAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON received the following memorial, numerously signed by bankers and others, in reference to the composition of the committee on the currency:—

To the Right Honourable Lord George Hamilton, M.P., Secretary of State for India;

The Right Honourable A. J. Balfour, M.P., First Lord of the Treasury; and

The Right Honourable Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bart., M. P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

We, the undersigned bankers, merchants, and traders of the City of London, desire to point out to you that great and general dissatisfaction exists in the City and elsewhere with regard to the composition of the committee to which the financial proposal of the Indian Government are to be referred.

It is felt that in view of the great commercial and financial importance of the matter the committee should have been composed to a larger extent of men with thorough practical knowledge of Indian trade and with the effect of movements of bullion on the commerce of this and that country.

We would add that it is not clear to what extent the terms of reference to the committee are limited; but we feel very strongly that no inquiry will be satisfactory that does not include an examination of the entire monetary policy of the Indian Government initiated in 1893, and a report as to the possibilty or advisability of maintaining it.

With regard to the projects of the Indian Government, we wish to point out to you the very great danger to commerce generally which may ensue, should a policy be adopted which may involve the raising of sterling loans here of large and indefinite amount for remittance in gold to India. A grave disturbance to trade would, in our opinion, be the immediate result.

We would also venture to point out that it is of the highest importance to the Government to enlist the confidence of the City and the country when inaugurating a financial policy of this importance, the more so in view of the enormous difficulty there would be in retracing a false step should such be taken.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON'S REPLY.

The Secretary of State for India has sent the following answer to the above:—

India Office, May 16, 1898.

SIR,—I have received a letter, signed by you and by certain other gentlemen of the highest standing in the City of London, and addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and myself, in which you refer to the composition of the committee now sitting to consider the currency proposals of the Government of India, and to the terms of reference which govern their deliberations.

I observe with regret your statement that dissatisfaction is felt on these points, and I cannot but think that such dissatisfaction must be founded on a misapprehension, firstly, as to the objects to be kept in view in forming a committee for such a purpose as this, and, secondly, as to the scope and extent of the terms of reference.

The composition of the committee was most carefully considered. The principle of its formation was not, as you appear to suppose, to secure representatives of all the various interests affected by the Government of India's proposals, inasmuch as the attainment of that object would have been wholly incompatible with the necessity for keeping the size of the committee within convenient limits. What I attempted was to find a small number of competent persons, with varied training and experience, who would be capable of comprehending the force of the arguments and evidence submitted to them, and who were not likely to be hindered, either by commercial interests or by previous public utterances of their own, from forming an unbiassed opinion on the very important questions now under consideration. In this attempt I hoped that I had succeeded. I believe that the committee, as constituted, is, as a judicial body, fully qualified to deal with these questions, and that the expert knowledge of special branches of commerce, to which your letter refers, will be thoroughly and adequately supplied by the examination of competent witnesses.

I stated a few days ago, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, that the constitution of the committee was already finally settled, and to that decision I must adhere.

As regards the terms of reference, I would call your attention to the fact that, in my letter to the Chairman, the committee has been invited to deliberate and report upon the proposals of the Government of India "and upon any other matter which they may regard as relevant thereto."

The object of the proposals of the Government of India is, as stated in the same letter, "to make effective the policy adopted by her Majesty's Government in 1893." It is therefore difficult to believe that the committee should consider themselves debarred from inquiring, if they wish to do so, into the merits of the policy which it is proposed to make effective, on the ground that such an inquiry would be irrelevant to the matter on which they are requested to report.

It is obviously impossible for me to say anything at present with regard to the specific proposals of the Government of India for securing a sound system of currency in that country and a stable exchange with the United Kingdom. But I may point out that I have expressly invited the committee to submit any modifications of those proposals, or any suggestions of their own, and that, if they should make any alternative recommendation, her Majesty's Government will be perfectly ready to give it their most careful consideration. And I will say further that, in the opinion of her Majesty's Government, the interests of India are so bound up with those of this country that no action which would have the effect of inflicting injury, or even serious and lasting disturbance on the London Money Market, is likely to be regarded as beneficial to India.

I will only add that the importance of enlisting the confidence, not only of the City but of the country at large, in the measures which may be adopted, can hardly appear greater to the signatories of your letter than it does to her Majesty's Government.—I am, &c.,

GEORGE HAMILTON.

Hugh Colin Smith, Esq., Governor of the Bank of England.

THE ELOPING PRINCESS.

PRINCESS Louise of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who recently created a European sensation by her elopement with a handsome lieutenant of Uhlans, named Mattacich, has been secretly brought here closely guarded, and immediately confined in a private asylum.

This erring princess is 40 years of age, and she lived in extravagant style in a grand house near Nice. When she ran away with her lover, she left behind her many debts, a lot of servants, twelve horses, and little else—to the chagrin of her creditors.

Two years ago the affair began; the Princess and her lover openly travelled about the Continent, putting up at the best hotels. Princess Louise always signed her name in the hotel registers, Mattacich, her lover, adding his as the Princess's Gentleman of the Bedchamber.

Persistent attempts were made by the royal relatives of the eloping lady to hush up the scandal, but their efforts were in no way seconded by the fugitives, who openly paraded their mode of life.

The end of the chapter has now come. The Princess is confined "for treatment."—The *Star*.

REMOVING RUST BY ELECTRICITY.

A VERY simple and effective way of cleaning rusted iron articles, no matter how badly they are rusted, consists according to Carl Hering, in attaching a piece of ordinary zinc to the articles, and then letting them lie in water to which a little sulphuric acid is added. They should be left immersed for several days, or a week, until the rust has entirely disappeared, the time depending on how deeply they were rusted. If there is much rust, a little sulphuric acid should be added occasionally. The essential part of the process is that the zinc must be in good electrical contact with the iron. A goodway is to twist an iron wire tightly round the object and connect this with the zinc, for which a remnant of a battery zinc is suitable, as it has a binding post. Besides the simplicity of this procecs, it has the great advantage that the iron itself is not attacked in the least as long as the zinc is in good electrical contact with it. When there is only a little rust, a galvanised iron wire, wrapped round the object, will take the place of zinc, provided the acid is not too strong. The articles will become a dark grey or black colour, and should then be washed thoroughly and oiled.

TRANSPLANTATION OF MUSCLES.

THE ingenious method of remedying loss of power and deformity from paralysis of certain muscles by attaching their tendons to those of others, is of recent growth. In the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of November 11, 1897, Dr. Joel E. Goldhurst describes an important advance on this method, made by American surgeons in the last few years—the dissection out of the muscles and their direct re-attachment to others. In a large number of cases of infantile paralysis, the sartorius escapes. Being a flexor of the knee, its action is useless or harmful when extension is lost from paralysis of the quadriceps. To improve the limb and restore extension, Dr. Goldhurst transplants the sartorius and attaches it to the quadriceps tendon just above the patella. He has operated on five patients with marked improvement in three and failure in two, which he attributes to imperfect methods of attaching the muscle. He operates as follows. A six-inch longitudinal incision is made on the inner side of the thigh with the middle opposite the top of the patella. The sartorius is dissected out, cut off at its insertion, brought forward and attached to the muscular fascia just above and a little to the inner side of the patella. The attachment must be made firmly by splitting the fascia and drawing the muscle through, so that it becomes adherent to both inner and outer surfaces. Kangaroo tendon is used for sutures, being the best material. The wouud is then closed and the whole thigh is bandaged, and finally a plaster of Paris bandage or a long splint is applied. The patient is kept recumbent for two weeks at least, gentle motion is commenced at the end of the three weeks, and the plaster is entirely omitted at the end of from five to six weeks. One case was that of a woman, aged twenty-two years, paralyzed from early childhood, who had no power of extension or of bearing weight on the limb unless the knee was fixed artificially, and who had a nail-like leg, flinging gait, and used a crutch constantly. After the operation, though still somewhat lame, chiefly from weakness of the foot and ankle, the mechanical difficulty at the knee and the gait were almost entirely corrected, the leg was extended normally, and she was able to do housework.—*Lancet.*

MR. NIGHTINGALE, Assam, is promoted to Chief Engineer, temporary rank.

BRIGADE-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham, C.I.E., retires from the service at the end of June.

THE "elephant beetle" of Venezuela is the largest insect in the world. A full grown one weights about half a pound.

MR. J. MCGOWAN to be Assistant Commisioner of North India Salt Revenue, and is posted in charge of the Kohat mines.

THE Amir's third son, Sardar Amin Ullah Jan, was recently married with much ceremony to the daughter of a leading Kabuli Sardar.

SUBADAR Jawas Khan, Khyber Rifles, is given the Order of Merit for conspicuous gallantry on the 25th of August last in defence of Landi Kotal.

DURING the summer of 1891, Mr. Chas, P. Johnson, a well-known attorney of Louisville. Ky., had a very severe attack of summer complaint Quite a number of different remedies were tried, but failed to afford any relief. A friend who knew what was needed procured him a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy, which quickly cured him and he thinks, saved his life. He says that there has not beeu a day since that time that he has not had this remedy in his household. He speaks of it in the highest praise and to be much pleasur in recommending it whenever imprtunity is offered. For sale by.

DOUBLE STARS.

SO far there have been discovered about 115,000 double stars, of which the orbits of but twenty-five have been calculated. The length of these orbits varies greatly. One of them takes but a little more than five of our years to complete its sidereal revolution. From this the orbits run up to nearly two centuries. There is in the constellation Andromeda, however, a star visible to the naked eye which the smallest telescopes show to be double. Seen through a powerful instrument, it is found to be triple. One of these suns turns around another in fifty-four years and these two turn about the third. This last revolution it has as yet been impossible to calculate, but if it proceeds at the same rate at which it has gone on since 1777, when the third sun was observed for the first time the revolution must extend to 360 centuries!

It would be a mistake to classify all double stars under one head and to consider them as a separate class of heavenly bodies. They are of various kinds. Some are two suns of the same mass, the same light, the same temperature, the same relative age, as, for instance, the star in Virgo, which has been described, and most of the stars whose orbit has been calculated. Others show us an enormous sun, around which gravitates, a much smaller star, as, for instance, Sirius. In other cases, we have a sun with an obscure star, the existence of which is known only by its eclipsing its companion, thus making the latter a variable star.

One of the most remarkable characteristics of the double stars is the admirable colours which as number of them disclose through the telescope. It is next to impossible to give any ideas of the beauty of these colours by any process of painting. To do that you would have to dip your brush in the rainbow and have for a canvas the celestial azure itself. It is to be remarked that the stars whose orbits are smallest, do not present the same fine complementary colour as those whose orbits are longer. In general, both of the stars of those which make the most rapid revolution, are yellow. Astronomers have inferred that in the systems with pale and analogous colours, the masses are the strongest. These have, as a general thing, a light of the same order as that of our sun. In the star in Andromeda to which allusion has been made as being resolved by the most powerful telescope into three stars, one of these is orange, another green, while the third is blue. What a splendid jewel in the celestial universe,—an orange, emerald and sapphire diamond! Another very beautiful coloured double star in the constellation Cygnus or the swan, is a star which the smallest instruments show to be double. The colours here are a golden yellow and lucid sapphire.

If the worlds of Mars, Venus, Jupiter or Saturn differ so considerably from the world we inhabit, although they are enlightened and fertilised by the same sun, how much more must these distant worlds in the depths of the sky differ from anything with which we are acquainted? In regard to these we can repeat, with even more truth than in any other case, the words of Shakespeare:

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamed of in your philosophy."

M. Camille Flammarion, in the *Bulleton de la Societe Astronomique de France.*

EXPERIMENTS have been made in photographic by the light of fireflies.

THERE are 11,000,000 Jews in the world, of whom nearly one-half are in Russia.

POSTAGE-stamps were first used in England in 1840; in the United States in 1847.

IF the streets of London were put end-to-end they would reach to St. Petersburg.

THE falling of a leaf is brought about by the formation of a thin layer of vegetable tissue at the point where the leaf-stem joins the branch of the tree. After the leaf ceases to make starch and sugar for tree, this tissue begins to grow and actually cuts the leaf. The falling of ripe fruit is dependent upon the same process.

A WELL-KNOWN scientist furnishes some information in regard to the ages of trees. He assigns to the pine tree 500 to 700 years as the maximum 425 years to the silver fir, 275 years to the larch, 245 years to the red beech, 210 to the aspen, 200 to the birch, 170 to the ash, 145 to the elder, and 130 to the elm.

THE *Gazette of India* contains a full return of all the casualties in the Tirah Field Force from October 12th to April 7th namely, killed, 287; wounded, 853; missing, 10: total, 1,150. No returns are given of followers killed or wounded.

THE annual report on the administraton of Indian railways for the past financial year will issue shortly. It shows that the returns were not as good as in 1896-97; the effect of famine and plague making itself seriously felt. There has been a great re-action in the current year.

THE tindal of betow named Pandoorung Luximon Jotoo, reports that about three o'clock on the morning of May 26th, while lying at anchor off the fishing stakes in Bombay harbour, the betow was run into by the steamer Clive, and was cut in two. A jolly boat was lowered immediately and he and saven of the crew were rescued and taken on board the Clive. One of the crew, named Jadoo Mularee, aged 35 years, was missing. The damage done to the betow is estimated at Rs. 1,900.

REGARDING the Mussorie case, the following telegram, dated the 2nd, appears in the 'Pioneer':—It now appears that only one arrest was made, and that not for seditious preeching. Owing to a slight friction with the police a man named Hussanadian was ordered to find security to keep the peace, and in default he was placed in custody for two days, when securities being forthcoming he was released. The 'tazia' procession was not forbidden by the Magistrate and the Mohomedans themselves voluntarily abandoned it.

IT is satisfactory to learn that the Governmen- of India have sanctioned the purchase in India of articles made up from imported iron and steel without any of the former restrictions, except that in the case of all large engineering projects the articles required will be supplied from England on indented at their commencement. The list is a varied one, ranging from a girder-bridge to a lamp-post. There are seven firms in Bengal, four in Bombay and Karachi, three in Madras, two in Burma and one in the North-Western Provinces, who at present enjoy the privilege of tendering; but doubtless this number will be largely increased when a fresh demand arises for manufactured articles of iron and steel. The conditions of quality and test will be much the same as in England; and as most of the Indian Engineering Colleges—Madras, Sibpur, Bombay and Rurki—have testing-machines and capable men to work them, there will be no difficulty experienced practically in applying the tests. Another stipulation is that the price and quality of the manufactured article is to be governed by that obtaining at home. The firms out here will now doubtless get a large number of orders, and it is hoped and believed that they will be satisfied with the important concession made. It has been a sore point with them for a very long time that they have practically been prevented by the Government rules from obtaining any work from the State except in extremely limited quantity and in exceptional cases. The large firms have again and again addressed the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the subject; but nothing was done until last year when the case was taken up in the Public Works Department. Now private enterprise in India will have a better chance of showing what can be done in one direction at least.—*Pioneer.*

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If we sell one bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, we seldom fail to sell the same person more, when it is again needed. Indeed, it has become the family medicine of this town, for coughs and colds, and we recommend it because of its established merits—Jos. E. HARNED, Prop, Oakland Pharmacy, Oakland, Md. Sold by *

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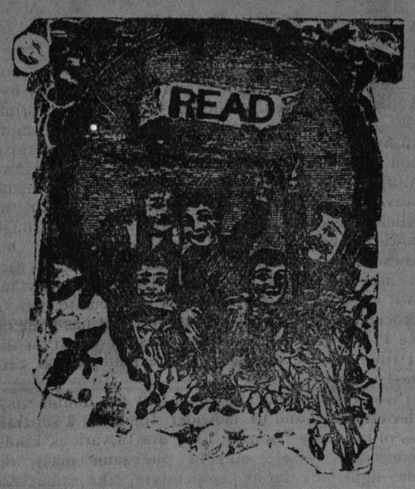

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The Amrita Bazar Patrika says regarding the book: If "the Hindu System of Moral Science," by Babu Kishori Lal Sarker, M. A., B. L., evoked admiration from many distinguished Hindus and such eminent Christians of world-wide celebrity as Professor Max Muller and Professor Cowell, his treatise, entitled "The Hindu System of Religious Science and Art" which has just been published, will, we doubt not, secure still greater admiration for his complete grasp of the difficult subject and the masterly way in which he has presented them to the world. * * * * This book may be regarded as a key to the understanding of the various phases of Hinduism on a rational basis.

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