

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA.

CALCUTTA :—THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1873.

We are glad to learn that Miss Carpenter has given a donation of Rs. 1,000 in aid of Miss Akroyd's proposed school for Bengali women.

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We have been requested to publish the following:—

"The Radical League will convene a Public Meeting in honor of the late Mr. Mill, at 7 P.M., on Saturday next, the 17th instant, at the Presidency College Theatre. The obligations of Humanity to the deceased philosopher are deep and manifold, and we are sure our educated countrymen will muster strong on that occasion, notwithstanding the uncertain state of the weather and season."

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THERE are two candidates for the Vice-Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality—Baboo Womesh Chunder Dutta and Mr. Sterndale. The claims of the former are so superior to that of his rival that we are really surprised at Mr. Sterndale's appearing as a candidate. Baboo Womesh Chunder has proved his efficiency by his twice officiating in the post, while the latter in his present capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Suburban Municipality is highly unpopular.

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THE Englishman thus compliments us:—

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which has some time taken to abusing everything and everybody in any way connected with Government, has now fallen foul of the High Court, and, after noticing the fact that in twelve out of seventeen appeals to the Privy Council the decisions of the High Court had been reversed, says: "In only very important cases appeal is made to the Privy Council, and it is probable that the Judges of the High Court take particular pains in such cases, with the fear of the Privy Council before them. If in heavy cases 12 out of 17 are reversed, it is highly probable that the percentage of reversals would be much higher if small cases could be appealed to that Council."—*Englishman May 9.*

We see no fallacy in our reasoning, nor do we see any abuse in the above except what the *Englishman* favors us with. The reasoning according to our humble opinion is sound and the language temperate and we are indeed very glad that our contemporary has given a specimen of our Billinggate propensities. We wish our contemporary had founded his charge against us upon as solid a basis as we did when we came to a certain conclusion regarding the decisions of the High Court.

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THE quarrel between Mr. Thwaytes and his pupils has resulted in the Principal's obtaining a signal victory over the latter. It is however very doubtful whether this victory has added anything to Mr. Thwaytes' popularity. Mr. Thwaytes triumphantly puts up the following notice for the information of the refractory boys:—

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and the Director of Public Instruction having requested the Principal to report what punishment he considered should be inflicted on the students who have absented themselves from their classes, the Principal will proceed to carry out the above orders, but previous to doing so, he will allow the students in question an opportunity of explaining their conduct. Accordingly he will be prepared to see them one by one in his office on Monday, the 12th instant, at 3 P.M. He has further to inform them that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and the Director of Public Instruction refuse to grant any inquiry or to receive any communication from the refractory students who will understand that their failure to appear before the Principal on Monday next, will not in any way delay the orders to be passed.

HOOGHLY COLLEGE,
10th May 1873.

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MR. CAMPBELL never loses an opportunity of showing his kindly feelings towards the prisoners of the jail. Yesterday's *Gazette* contains his resolution on the Culna lock up, wherein he falls foul of the Magistrate, Dy. Magistrate, the Police, the Supdt. of Jail and every body connected with the lock-up, because though there were as many as 14 convicted prisoners in the lock-up, there was absolutely no work, the prisoners remaining entirely idle. The Lieutenant Governor is surprised and highly indignant to hear that notwithstanding there being an oil-mill, it was not used at all on the ground that no one knew how to use it! It was a maddening thought for His Honor to contemplate that so many prisoners were fed at the expense of Government without their having to do anything in the shape of labor. The Lieutenant Governor is almost over-powered with a feeling of chagrin to know that one of the prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three weeks was kept 17 days in the lock-up without having been put to work at all! If Mr. Campbell thus perseveres in his love towards the prisoners, the jails of Bengal will ere long be converted into so many "charnel houses."

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THE Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal is a big salaried officer. He is the head of a respectable department and holds a very responsible post. His annual report ought to be therefore not only interesting but instructive as well. The Lieutenant Governor, however, is not satisfied either with the form or the method of Dr. Jackson's report for 1871-72. He condemns it as no better than trash. It is not sufficient for the Sanitary Commissioner, as Dr. Jackson has done after the manner of his predecessors, to present to Government a simple compilation of materials supplied to his office by the Civil Surgeon of the province. Something very much more complete than this is expected from him. The Sanitary Commissioner should in his general report condense and review the sanitary condition of the country as a whole and bring any remarkable facts in the sanitary history of the year into prominent notice. He should be the adviser of Government in all matters relating to public health. His report should place Government in possession of all known facts and of his views on points of sanitary importance. The returns furnished by Dr. Jackson are not only not complete but are extremely untrustworthy. In 1871 the mortality in Bengal, with a population of 66 millions is registered at 260,331 which is only a proportion of four in a thousand; in the Punjab, with a population of 17½ millions, the deaths recorded are 363,378, giving a death-rate of 21 per thousand; in the North Western Provinces, the deaths are 578,650, and the death-rate 19·5 per thousand; in England the average death-rate is 22·4 per thousand. Nothing could indeed prove the worthlessness of the returns more clearly than the figures displayed in the mortuary registration statements of different districts of Bengal. The figures for the district of Mymensing, showing a death-rate of 1 per 1,000 would be ridiculously wrong. The districts of Burdwan and Hooghly are being half depopulated by a fatal epidemic fever and yet the rate of mortality in those districts does not rise per thousand, while in the com-

paratively healthier districts of Nowgong and Goalparah the death-rate is higher than 10 per thousand. And this is the rubbish which a special Sanitary Commissioner is paid to furnish for the edification of the public and Government!

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THE following is from "a suffering accountant":—

Allow me thro' the medium of your valuable paper to bring to the notice of Govt. and of those concerned, the vagaries extant in the office of the Accountant General, Bengal:—

I. The pay of the ministerial officers of this establishment is *never* paid at the beginning of the month (on the plea of paying the public first) but the salaries of the Gazetted Officers are always sure to be paid of first, as if the poor clerks were not in as much need of money as the handsomely paid Gazetted Officers.

II. An annual increment is allowed to a European Officer, who does little more than put his initials on few hundred bills monthly but the same will not be granted to a hard-worked native clerk ("rascally nigger" that he is) as the case of the latter is considered "contrary to rule," though he is exactly like the European officer, except in complexion and in having to go through a much larger quantity of work.

III. If an incumbent who is on leave draws less than Rs. 200 per month he is not allowed to draw any pay whilst on leave, in fact, not until he rejoins, but an officer who is well-paid i.e. on the receipt of, say from Rs. 200 to 2,000 will be allowed to do so:—as if the more poorly paid Assistant were better able to do without funds for two or three months. Instances are known of unfortunate clerks preferring to take medical leave on half pay to privilege leave on full pay, as the in the former case leave allowances may be drawn during sick leave.

IV. An officer drawing less than Rs. 100 per month whilst on leave of any kind (even on privilege leave which carries full pay to Gazetted officers) is only granted so much of the pay of the post which is available after full payment to a substitute: it so happens nowadays, that the *locum-tenens* swallows up half, if not the entire pay of the post, so that, the ministerial officer (poorly paid and hard-worked) has always to suffer, if on leave, even when that very leave is granted after a great deal of humoring and hawing and as a special boon.

V. And in one of the most important departments under the despotic sway of an Uncovenanted Head, these poor clerks are not paid for some 3 or 4 weeks, and sometimes a month or two will elapse ere this tyrannical ruler condescends to pay them as a great favor. This compels them to borrow and such monetary transactions are directly opposed to Government Order.

In this Department officers are hardly promoted according to merit.

In case a new berth is created none of the office assistants are permitted to compete at a general competitive examination to which only outsiders are invited and if these very assistants, old in service, wish to go elsewhere, permission is obtained with the utmost difficulty.

This has been the state of affairs for the past six years.

From the few above-cited cases it will be apparent that there is or rather must be something rotten in this state of Denmark and I wonder that the hawk-eyed Mr. Campbell has not yet penetrated into the anarchy rampant in this office.

Even just now tho' a covenanted Inspector of Accounts is gliding o'er the surface of things, nothing short of an impartial Committee like the Fawcett, Fowler Co.'s will be able to cope with and bring to light the undisguised and unvarnished facts of this Augean Stable.

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SCOTLAND AND BENGAL.—The reader may wonder and inquire what connection there may be between two such countries as Scotland and Bengal. But in fact there is a connection between the countries, which is neither political, geographical nor physical but what may be termed, in lieu of a better word, philosophical. The same causes have different effects upon different individuals and communities, and it is altogether an interesting study to mark and analyze the effects. Both the countries placed themselves of their own accord under similar conditions, though at different periods, and both the countries have been affected profoundly, though very differently, by those circumstances. It is our purpose to-day to examine the conditions under which these two countries have voluntarily placed themselves and its effects upon them.

Scotland was virtually a separate and independent country before the reign of Queen Anne and it was in 1707 that the Scots after much deliberation entrusted the destiny of their country to the English. The Act of Union was passed by the English Parliament in 1707 and since then Scotland has lost its individuality and became a part and parcel of England. Nearly the same thing happened in Bengal only half a century later. Bengal was then an independent monarchy holding a nominal allegiance to the throne of Delhi. The nobles were disgusted with the Government under which they lived and they made over their country to the English. Before they took such a serious step they held several meetings among themselves and sought the counsel of the ablest men of the time. In Scotland too the matter was discussed for almost a whole year and after ten months' deliberation the nation at last consented to the union. There were patriots who were strenuously opposed to the measure and there were disturbances all over the country but happily the project was at last carried out. Amongst those who opposed the measure in the Scottish Parliament was the representative of the ancient and illustrious house of Belhaven. He delivered a speech on the occasion which made so powerful an impression on the house, that it had nearly gone the length of overturning the project entirely. In the speech he pictured to the imagination of his audience all the melancholy consequences which he thought would ensue from the union, in such strong colors that nobody felt equal to the task of replying to it. It was the Earl of Marchmont who neutralized the effect of the speech by this short reply. "Behold I dreamed; but when I awoke lo! I found it was all a dream." Events show that Marchmont was right and Lord Belhaven only dreamt. Scotland has gained in every way by the union and lost very little or nothing by it. Lord Belhaven delivered his speech in the spirit of prophecy and time has shewn that he was a false prophet; but curious to state how true and prophetic would have been the speech if it had come from one of the Bengalee and Mohamedan noblemen who conspired during the reign of Serajudowla to make over their country to the English! Many of our readers, we dare say, have read the speech of Belhaven on the occasion but we shall yet take the liberty of giving extracts from it only making certain changes to adapt it to the mouth of a Bengalee. We shall thus make one of the Bengalee noblemen deliver a speech before an assembly of Hindoos and Mahamedans who had been conspiring to invite the English, in the language of Lord Belhaven;—

"I think," said the Bengalee, "I see a free and independent kingdom delivering up that which all the world hath been fighting for since the days of Nimrod; yea, that for which most of all the empires, states, principalities, and dukedoms, of Europe are at this very time engaged in the most cruel wars that ever were, viz., a power to manage their own affairs by themselves, without the assistance and counsel of others."

"I think I see a national church founded upon a rock, hedged and fenced about by the profoundest moral philosophy that human mind could fathom and grasp, descending into a plain upon an equal level with the *mlechas*."

"I think I see the noble sovereign princes of Bengal, whose valiant predecessors led armies against their enemies upon their own proper charges and expences, now divested of their full orders and vassalages, and put upon such an equal footing with their vassals, that I think I see a petty English exciseman receive more homage and respect than was formerly paid to their Rajchuckrabarties."

"I think I see the present zemindars of Bengal, whose noble ancestors conquered provinces, overran countries, reduced and subjected towns and fortified places of England, now walking in the Court, like so many English attorneys, laying aside their walking swords when in company with the English peers, lest their self-defence should be found murder."

"I think I see the honourable estate of middlemen, the bold assertors of their nation's rights and liberties in the worst of times, now setting a watch upon their lips, and a guard upon their tongues, lest they be found guilty of *scandalum magnatum*.

"I think I see the rich merchants walking their desolate streets, hanging down their heads, wormed out of all the branches of their old trade, uncertain what hand to turn to, necessitated to become apprentices to their unkind neighbours, and yet after all

finding their trade so fortified by companies, and secured by prescription, that they despair of any success therein.

"I think I see our learned Pundits laying aside their profound speculations, studying the common law of England, gruelled with *certiorari*, *nisi prius*, writs of error, injunctions, demurrers, &c. and frightened with appeals and advocations, because of the heaps of new regulations and rectifications that they may meet with."

"I think I see the soldiers of Bengal either transported beyond the seas or confined in the country jails, their arms taken and the spirit of the nation broken and crushed, the people going down and down in the scales of nation, losing gradually their self-respect and confidence in themselves and forgetting altogether how to defend themselves and their families. Thus not only trembling before the ruling race but for want of arms falling themselves victims to wild animals."

"I think I see the honest industrious tradesman loaded with new taxes and imposition, disappointed of the equivalents, eating his saltless porridge, his manufactures destroyed, petitioning for encouragement to his manufactures, and answered by counter-petitions."

"In short, I think I see the laborious ploughman burdened with a heavy land revenue with his corn spoiling on his hands for want of fund, cursing the day of his birth, dreading the expense of his burial, and uncertain whether to marry or to do worse."

"But, above all, my Lord, I think I see our ancient mother Bengal, like Caesar, sitting in the midst of our senate, ruefully looking round about her, covering herself with her royal garment, waiting the fatal blow, and breathing out her last," "with an et tu quoque, mi fili!"

The above is an extract from the speech of Lord Belhaven with slight changes as said above. Was it that the noble Lord was actually inspired with the spirit of prophecy and spoke of Scotland when he should have spoken of Bengal, for it is generally known that prophecies are not understood till they are fulfilled? The picture drawn was no doubt false as regards Scotland but how faithful and true with reference to Bengal. Lord Belhaven first saw that the nation was for ever making over the management of their own affairs into the hands of the English; that vision has been fully realized herein Bengal. Under the Mahamedans the greater portion of Bengal was governed by petty Hindoo and sometimes Mahamedan princes, who enjoyed almost sovereign powers in their respective territories. Whether an English exciseman receives more homage or respect now-a-days than their descendants we do not know, but we know that one or two European Teachers exacted homage from the Rajah of Nuddea. As regards the vision of Lord Belhaven regarding the Zemindars there is no doubt a slight error, but the error is on the other side. It must be admitted for truth's sake that most of the Zemindars of Bengal are far worse off than your English Attorneys. The prediction of Lord Belhaven regarding the middlemen of Bengal referred no doubt to the Gagging Act of Mr. Stephen our deadliest enemy. His vision regarding the merchants and tradesmen have been strictly fulfilled. There is an allusion to the porridge (which is *dal* in Bengalee) being saltless; probably this referred to the monopoly of salt and the destruction of our home manufactures. The prophetic Lord also refers to heaps of regulations and rectifications and so forth, but it is unnecessary to explain and examine the vision further. This remarkable vision though perfectly true is yet incomplete for two reasons.

Firstly though Lord Belhaven saw many things he did not see the law of Draco introduced, an over-crowded jail, persons guilty of a lighter offence more heavily punished or in other words put to a slow death than those who committed serious crimes. He did not see the siphon which is continually working, the shorter end of which is in the heart of India and the longer end with innumerable mouths in England. And secondly he did not see the other side we mean the schools and colleges, the railways and telegraphs, roads and canals, in short he did not see the light which is streaming forth from the West to the East. May we inquire now why Scotland fared so well and India so ill under British sway? The answer that naturally comes to us is that Scotland was married to England but Bengal was seduced and deceived. We thankfully see distinct symptoms of an awakening sense of remorse in England for the wrongs that have been done to India, and we confidently h

erelong to see justice done to her, and to see her placed in a position which she deserved.

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WHY IS MR. CAMPBELL KNIGHTED?—Certainly for some meritorious works! But what are those meritorious works? The question is more easily asked than answered. We really find great difficulty to solve it. Mr. Campbell is decidedly the most unpopular and the best abused of all the rulers of Bengal. He never liked the people of Bengal, though their destiny has been placed in his hands. The Bengalees are the most conservative of all conservative nations, and Mr. Campbell the most thorough-going of all reformers, he and his people are therefore constantly at loggerheads with each other. Is Mr. Campbell then knighted because of his great unpopularity? The famine of Orrissa compelled Sir Cecil Beaton to resign his post; but two of the fairest districts of Bengal—Hugli and Burdwan—are being decimated by the fell epidemic fever, and is Mr. Campbell dubbed a Sir for the tardy manner in which he has sent succour to the fever-stricken districts? His Honor's road-cess act proves clearly, if it proves any thing, that he is a friend neither to the ryot nor the Zemindar. Like a two-edged instrument, it cuts both the ryot and the Zemindar and the former more cruelly. His earnest desire to increase the salt duty is another proof of his love towards the poor and the helpless. His municipality Bill, if passed into a law, would be a standing monument of his kindly feelings towards the tax-paying population of Bengal. Is he created a K. C. S. I., we ask, because he has thus placed himself in this not very enviable relation to all classes of people? His Native Civil Service scheme is a deliberate insult to the whole nation. The very name of the institution is a term of reproach and it is calculated to throw obstacles in the way of high education. His system of primary education is a profound farce and it has not a little injured the cause of high education. He is in short no friend to the educated natives and he seeks to repress their intellectual attainments by a retrograde educational policy. He has abolished the Krishnuggur and Berhampoor Colleges which have added so many jewels to the list of our educated countrymen. He attempted to abolish the Patna College because a few Bengalee boys took advantage of it. He was about to erase out Sanskrit from our colleges and schools. He has degraded the Director of Public Instruction to a mere Secretary and lowered the status of the education department by creating the post of Sub-Deputy Inspector of Schools. The native Deputy Magistrates are virtually deprived of their executive powers and reduced to the rank of mere clerks. The terrible Criminal Procedure Code is believed to have emanated from Mr. Campbell's fertile brain, at least he was an earnest co-operator of Mr. Stephen in framing the Code. He has made Magistrates heads of districts and invested them with unlimited powers, thus posting puny Campbells all over the country. His resolution on the jail administration is a monstrous one. He actually exults at the large death-rate in the Bengal jails and has introduced measures to increase the hardships of the wretched prisoners so that the rate of mortality might be still larger. Is it for these foolish, inconsiderate, harsh and cruel measures that Mr. Campbell is created a Knight? All the governors since Sir Haliday defended Bengal from the unjust encroachments of the Imperial Government, it is Mr. Campbell who has betrayed its interests. He is anxious to serve the interests of other Provinces of India at the sacrifice of his own. The great idea which possesses him is that it is his paramount duty to increase the burden of his people. Bengal, he thinks, is a lightly taxed Province and he must see it groaning under over-taxation. Such a governor then whose whole career is marked by shallowness, obstinacy, haste and a narrow-minded policy, is honored with one of the highest titles that a sovereign could confer on a subject. The people would have thanked Her Majesty most heartily if she had removed His Honor from amongst em and then rained down showers of titles.

In honoring Mr. Campbell with a knighthood of his wild career is to say the last down the opinion of the whole country encouraging a thoughtless reader with

