REG NO 59.

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BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY.

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Y ALFRED CHATTERTON, B. Sc

Professor of Engineering, on Special Duty, Madras.

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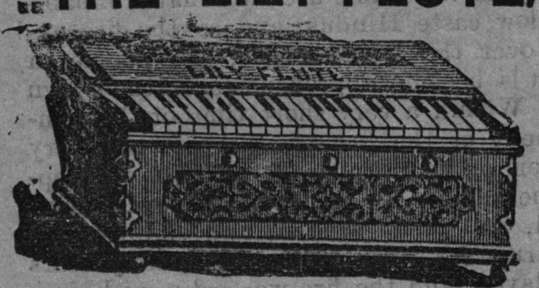

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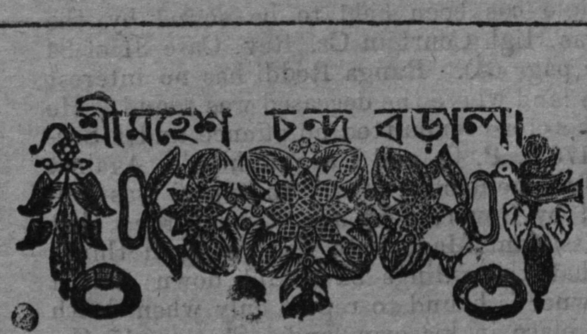

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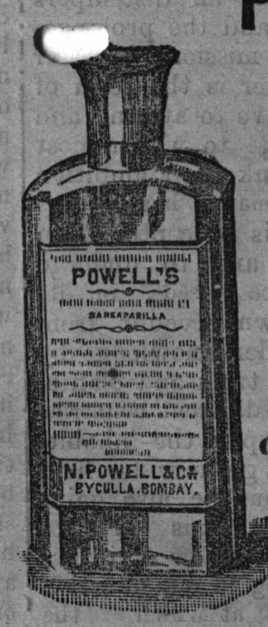

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It improves the system, gives strength and energy after a fortnight's use.

Acts as a charm, even in obstinate cases of Diabetes—which have taken away from us, our best geniuses and worthies.

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Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boaleah has executed my orders with great promptness, and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly careditable. He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and full deserves encouragement and patronage. He is trustworthy in his dealings with his customers.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Varieties.

A BIRD BANSHEE.

A doctor with whom I was dining showed me in a volume of the records of a medical society a story with which one of its members prefaced his lecture. "I was sent for," he said, "to see a man who was very ill, and was told upon my arrival that the Banshee was wailing his imminent death. I myself heard the noise which was taken for the wail of the Banshee, but soon ascertained myself and convinced them, that it came from the dying man's own throat. Before quitting the house I warned the patient's sister that her brother had not many minutes to live. "Oh," she replied, confidently, "he is certainly not going to die yet." "Of course," I said, "while there's life there's hope; but——" and I shook my head. "I assure you, doctor," she reiterated, still more confidently, "he is not going to die yet." "Why are you so sure?" I asked. "Because," she replied, "Before any death in our family a bird always kills itself against the window. Hardly had she uttered the words when a bird did dash itself to death against the window! It was an odd coincidence," added the doctor, "but it certainly occurred."—"I. P."

LORD ERKINE'S GHOST STORY.

"When I was a very young man," this great lawyer writer in Lady Morgan's "Book of the Boudoir," "I had been for some time absent from Scotland. On the morning of my arrival in Edinburgh, as I was coming out from a bookseller's shop, I met our old family butler. He looked greatly changed, pale, worn, and shadowy, as a ghost. 'Eh! old boy,' I said, 'what brings you here?' He replied, 'To meet your honour, and solicit your interference with my lord to recover a sum due to me, which the steward at the last settlement did not pay.' Struck by his looks and manner, I bade him follow me into the bookseller's into whose shop I stepped back; but when I turned round to speak to him he had vanished. I remembered that his wife carried on some little trade in the Old Town. I remembered even the house she occupied, which I had often visited in my boyhood. Having made it out I found the old woman in widow's mourning. Her husband had been dead for some months, and had told her on his death-bed that my father's steward had wronged him of some money, but that when Master Tom returned he would see her righted. This I promised to do, and shortly after I fulfilled my promise."

AN UNFINISHED GHOST STORY.

A friend of a near connection of mine told her this extraordinary story of which neither he nor she ever heard the appropriate end. While dressing for dinner in a house where he was a guest, he heard and saw the door flung violently open by a young girl in her agonised flight from a young man, who, before the guest of the house could interfere, threw her on the bed and strangled her. Before the guest had recovered from his shock of horror, the vision disappeared, leaving only the open door to convince him of its reality. He was so unnerved that he came down late to dinner, and, as he took his seat, he saw sitting together opposite him the very man and girl whose spectres had just acted upstairs that terrible tragedy! He could hardly take his eyes off them while he went through the form of eating his dinner, and when the ladies had retired he asked the host who was the girl that sat opposite him. "Oh, that's Miss ——," he replied; "but she is not open to competition, my boy," he added, jovially, "for she's engaged to——, who sat beside her." Further the deponent sayeth not; since the originals of the spectres passed out of the ken of both my connection and her friend.

GHOSTLY FEET.

Here is another weird story told to my mother-in-law by the man to whom it happened. Overtaken in the Indian jungle by a storm, he and his servant took refuge in a ruined indigo factory, where his men pitched their tents. While the master sat alone, smoking in his tent, he heard an odd jingling, which he took at first to be some of the tent fixtures that had probably worked loose in the storm. Presently, however, it struck him that the sound was at once too rhythmic and metallic to be what he at fisrt imagined it, and that it came not from wihout, but from within the tent. Looking round he saw the feet only of a nautch girl dancing, while the jingling of her anklets caused the sound! He sat staring at the dancing feet for some time, thinking them an optical illusion, and then shouted for his servant, an old man, who came in hastily. Before his master could utter a word the old man, at sight of the dancing feet, fell forward in a fit. Then the master seized his gun and fired at the feet, which, when the smoke had cleared away, were no longer visible. Nor did they reappear that night. Next morning on his return to the neighbouring town he asked cautiously about the history of the ruined indigo factory, and was told amongst other things that its last owner had murdered there a nautch girl!

A WARNING SPECTRE.

Here is one more spirit story, whose truth I can guarantee—so far, at least, as I can guarantee the truthfulness of the friend who told it to me. A young girl on her way to Cambridge to meet there her fiancee, started up at every station where the train stopped and looked so wildly out of the window that an old gentleman in the carriage at last asked her what was the matter. "Oh," she answered in great agitation, "I have seen at every station the friend I am going to meet at Cambridge on the platform, beckoning me to get out in a kind of agony of terror." "Then, take my advice," said the old gentleman, "and, if you see him at the next station still beckoning to you, get out at once." At the next station there still was the spectre beckoning to her in even wilder excitement than ever. She hesitated no longer, got out at once—as, indeed, did the old gentleman—and waited for the next train to take her to Cambridge. On her arrival she learned that an accident had happened to the proceeding train, and especially to the carriage in which she had been seated, and from which, indeed, she had only and barely escaped with her life. The odd thing was that her fiancee, when his spirit was appearing to warn her, was himself so sound asleep in the waiting-room at Cambridge that he had not even dreamed of anything of any sort.

A VISION OF BURIAL.

An extremely intelligent, or, rather, intellectual, lady with whom I stayed when on a lecturing tour, assured me of the truth of the following experience of near relatives of her own in their childhood. This little boy and girl were severely whipped by their mother for telling the following story in explanation of their arriving home one evening late for tea. They assured her that they could not resist following a funeral—a sight which in that secluded country district they had never seen before. When it came, they said, to the church, the clergyman, who stood surpliced at the church door, waved it away, and the two little coffins therefore which the hearse contained were taken direct to the grave, where they were buried under the shadow of the great sycamore tree. "Now," said their mother to the two little michers, "I know you are telling a lie. There could be no funeral in this place without my knowledge, and no one could be buried in that grave but one of our own family, since the vault belongs to us." Accordingly, the two little ones were soundly whipped for lying, and sent straight and supperless to bed. In bed they stayed till their deaths a fortnight later. Both died almost simultaneously from a virulent attack of scarlet fever, and the funeral they had seen was a vision of their own. Everything happened exactly as they had seen and told it to their mother. The clergyman stood surpliced at the church door and waved the two little coffins away, because he feared to infect the church with so virulent a fever, and they were taken direct to the vault under the shadow of the great sycamore tree.

DEVOTION OF INDIAN LADIES.

The devotion of Indian women to their husbands even after death has found expression in many a tale and verse popular for centuries in this country. This kind of love and devotion is by no means rare in present day life, but perhaps it is the commonness of the thing that does not bring individual instances into prominence. However we cannot but call special attention to the case of Maharani Gajapathi Row, who ever since the death of her lamented husband has been visiting one sacred shrine after another from Benares to Rameswaram in pious memory of her husband and in view to perform the monthly ceremonies for the satisfaction of the deceased's soul. The Maharani was in Madras last week on her way to Rameswaram and has already visited several other shrines. The same devotion may be said to be a special feature of the family, for it is well known that the Maharajah Gajapathi Row's daughter, the widow of a Rajput Prince of Wadwan, has been leading the life of a hermit devoting all her income to the maintenance of an orphanage ever since the death of her devoted husband.—"Hindu."

An Ootacamund correspondent writes:—In the case in which Alexander Dias, of this station, was ordered to stand his trial before the Sessions Judge of Coimbatore on a committal order by the Sub-Magistrate of Ootacamund, with the offence of attempted murder, the Sessions Judge discharged the accused since the only evidence against him was that of the woman whose life was said to have been attempted. Even this witness' evidence, when analyzed was no more than a surmise, and Mr. L. W. Schmidt, LL.B., when asking the Magistrate not to commit to the Sessions, pointed out in a most amusing speech that there was nothing on which a jury could frame a verdict, and that the evidence before the Court was not sufficient even for the hanging of a dog.

The Government of India has received the following from Somaliland:—G. O. C., Somaliland, reports that he advanced on the 10th instant towards Jidballi with the 1st and 2nd Brigades and 1,000 Irregulars. Jidballi was held by some 2,000 Dervishes. The infantry advanced to within 700 yards of the position, when the Dervishes advanced to charge, but could not face the frontal fire of the infantry and the flank attack of the mounted troops. The enemy broke and fled, and was pursued for 10 miles by the mounted troops. The Dervish killed is estimated at about 1,000; also many prisoners, 400 rifles taken, and more being collected. Killed—Lieutenant C. H. Bowden-Smith, Hants Regiment: and Lieutenant G. R. Welland, R. A. M. C. Wounded—Brevet-Major G. T. M. Bridges, R. A; Lieutenant H. E. Andrews, Hants Regiment and Captain G. C. Shakerly, King's Royal Rifles. Severely Wounded—Lieutenants H. H. R. White, King's Royal Rifles; H. E. Reinhold, 27th Punjabis; Captain (local Major) F. B. Young 2nd King's African Rifles; Captain E. H. Llewellyn, 2nd King's African Rifles. Slightly Wounded—Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. Forestier-Walker, R. A., and Captain G. R. Breading, King's African Rifles. Missing—Captain the Hon. T. Lister. D. S. O., 10th Hussars. British rank and file, killed "nil" and wounded 5. Native ranks, killed 7 and wounded 15. Irregulars, killed 2 and wounded 2.

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TAMBUL BIHAR,

AS IT IS GENUINE,

EFFICACIOUS AND HIGHLY SCENTED SPICES FO BETEL AND TOBACCO

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Dysentery.

OR nflammation of the bowel or large intestine is of more frequent occurrence during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is taken according to the printed directions with each bottle. Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is invaluable to all medicine chests. Get a bottle to day, it may save a life-

Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stainsreet and Co., Calcutta on receipt of an order Whole al. agents—B. K, Paul d Co., Abdool Rahmhn and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

A SANNYASI-ESCULAPIUS.

[*Special for the Patrika.*]

About two months ago, there came in Teota a Sannyasi, who is now stopping at the Atithisala or the Teota Zemindars. He distributes medicines amongst the poor. A stranger to the West, he was at first looked down upon as a mere quack, though not as a cheat, for he does not charge any body for the medicines he gives. Some of the cures recently effected by him, specially the operations of different sorts of cataracts attracted notice, and the doctors of the locality could not but admit that even a quack can sometimes possess skill enough to perform operations, which will tax highly the efficiency of a well-practised surgeon versed in the developed science of the West. Besides this special aptitude, he possesses a knowledge of the treatment of all sorts of diseases; and some of his medicines produce wonderful effects upon the patients. A case of eye disease, which he cured, was pronounced to be incurable according to the European method of treatment.

Thousands of years have pased since the sect to which the hero of my strong belongs was founded by its originator, who taught his disciples that nothing that was to last for centuries could be attained without self-denial. And for centuries have his disciples handed down the truths that they gathered by their untiring exertions and self-denying devotion to the cause. They are generally called Sannyasis for their renunciation of the world, but they differ much in their religious principles from the so-called ash-besmeared, "Sadhus" of the day. They have a very elevated and enlightened creed. While believing in the existence and omnipotence of God, they discard all forms of worship whatsoever and hold that no one can pleased God by mere empty words or signs, but the only way to please Him is to do His biddings. Benevolence is thus their motto, and the allevation of all distempers that human flesh is heir to, and the protection of human life are the missions of their life. A century and a quarter is the term of human life which they all strive to attain; and considering the good old age to which most of them live, no one can think their ambition to be vain and overdrawn. A man has thus to follow the foot-steps of his preceptor from the time of his conversion and to undergo some elementary training. Once versed in it, he has to travel on his own account from place to place to gain a wider knowledge by observation of the medicinal trees and plants, the custom and climate of different countries and to note their influence upon the inhabitants. Not only does he thus get a wider field of observation and study, but he also gains in experience by treating various sorts of diseases that he may come to know of in his travels. After thus travelling in one direction for twelve years, the interval at which the "Kumbha Mela" comes off, he returns to the place of the next Mela, where he meets with his brother disciples in a congregation not much unlike the Congresses of the scientific men of modern Europe to exchange his ideas and relate the experience he has gained in his travels. For forty-eight years he has thus to travel over the four quarters of the globe and meet four times his brother ascetics after each twelve years; and it is only after such a long term of "Bramhacharjya" that it is granted to him to settle whether he will pass the remainder of his life as a hermit, or enter the world to plod amidst his brethren. Lifeless and disintegrated as the state of our civilisation is, one can not but feel a glimmering ray of joy shoot up in his heart when, inspite of the ravages of time, he finds that India is still able to keep up and maintain a system of medical treatment that can, as regards the vastness of its organisation, be advantageously compared with that of the West. The "Shadhu" is still at Teota and will proceed to Kamakhya after a fortnight. Anybody who seeks his advice can see him at Teota Atithisala.

KUMAR SANKAR ROY.

THE "CANALS" OF MARS.

Mr. E. Walter Maunder, lectured at the London Institution on "Mars and its Canals." The lecturer commenced by describing the difficulties in the way of observing Mars, the small size and great distance of the planet, and the short time during which it was favourably placed. He next passed in review the chief drawings made of its surface from the time of the invention of the telescope up to the opposition of 1877, when the late Mr. N. E. Green, Drawing Master to Queen Victoria, made a superb set of sketches and constructed a chart of the planet. These drawings, extending over more than two centuries, had shown that the planet rotated on its exis, that the chief features of its surface were permanent, and that it possessed white caps surrounding its poles, which caps waxed and waned with the progress of its seasons. In the same opposition Professor Schiaparelli discovered a net-work of straight lines crossing the surface of the planet in all directions, lines which he termed "canali," a word since rendered into English as "canals." Year after year the number and complexity of these "canals" increased, Mr. Lowell, an American astronomer, in particular, showing a most complicated system of them. The old permanent features of the planet could still be made out, but this elaborate spider's web of "canals" covered everything. Lowell argued from the extreme symmetry and regularity of the "canals" that they were artificial, the work of intelligent beings. Later, Mr. Lowell discovered similar canals on Venus, Mercury, and the Satellites of Jupiter; but the canals on Venus were soon shown to be illusions, depending entirely on the way the planet was presented to the observer. Some years before this the lecturer had concluded that the canals were simply due to the tendency of the eye to run minute details, too small to be properly defined, into straight lines, and in 1902, Mr. Evans, the headmaster of the Royal Hospital School, Greenwich, and the lecturer had conducted together a great number of experiments on this point. It was found that if a class boys were arranged at different distances from a diagram of Mars, on which no canals had been drawn, but only irregular dots and wavy lines, the boys close to the diagram drew no canals, for they saw it too clearly; the boys farthest off drew none, for the small details produced no effect; but the boys at mid-distance drew canals exactly like those of Schiaparelli and Lowell, both in character and position. These astronomers had, therefore, drawn what they had, in a real sense, actually seen; but, none the less, the canals had no actual existence as a regular symmetrical system of straight lines. They had, therefore, to give up the idea that Mars was inhabited, and practically to go back to the chart of Mars made by Mr. Green in 1877.

Imaginary Ailments

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MRS. COOMBES' CASE.

In accordance with the notice issued by the Hon'ble the Resident's Court Mr. J. Evers, Advocate appeared to-day (9th Jan.) before Sir James Bourdillon, K.C.S.I., Bangalore to show cause why the sentence passed on his client, Mrs. Annie Coombes, of two months' rigorous imprisonment, for doing a rash and negligent act, and thereby causing the death of her new-born, babe, should not be enhanced.

Mr. John Lawrance, Public Prosecutor, said he had been instructed to appear for the Crown.

Mr. Evers began by stating that no application had been filed setting forth any reasons as to why the sentence passed by the Sessions Judge should be enhanced, but he referred to the last para in the judgment, which presumably gave the reasons. He said that both the Sessions Judge and the Lower Court considered the exposure undergone by Mrs. Coombes during her trial was a heavy punishment for her. In fact, when he asked the District Magistrate to trp the case in camera, that officer said he intended to try her in open Court, so that the exposure would be felt as a sort of punishment. When the case came up in appeal, before the learned Sessions Judge, he quashed the conviction under the minor offence, viz., concealing the birth of a child; but confirmed the conviction under Sec. 304-A. for causing the death of her child by neglecting to take proper measures for her accouchement. Mr. Evers submitted for the consideration of the Court that no offence had been committed under this Section. All the evidence in the case was that the accused pleaded she was unable to make proper arriangements and that she was in a very humiliated position at the time because her husband had discarded her and ceased sending her money; she was living with a widow, who was worse off than herself, and, as to applying to neighbours (not friends or acquaintances) as suggested by the prosecution, she did not seemingly think it would be right to do so when she had her husband, a d was expecting money from him at the time. As for saying she was guilty of any neglect by not going into hospital for her confinement, she had said she could not pay for a conveyance, besides, nobody was compelled to go to hospital, and the mere fact that she did not go to hospital or make needful preparations did not come within the scope of Sec. 304-A. and render her liable to punishsent for doing a rash and negligent act. Further, Mr. Evers submitted that this Section did not apply to the case, as there was nothing to show she was aware of the consequences of her act or acts. She was the only soul in the house at the time, and quite helpless. She did nothing to cause the death of the child, and if it was not a natural confinement she run quite as much risk of losing her life. It could not, under the circumstances, be said that she did a rash and negligent act, and he submitted the death of the child was quite unforeseen; therefore the Section did not apply, and his client was entitled to an acquittal under that charge.

The Public Prosecutor said he was directed to appear in this matter, but he did not know whether he was wanted to go into the merits of the case, or to say anything on the question as to whether the Court had jurisdiction or not to try the prisoner, which an important point.

His Honour, in answer to the Public Prosecutor, said he was expected to reply to Mr. Evers' arguments.

Mr. Lawrance then proceeded to reply. He began by submitting that the conviction under Sec. 304-A. could not stand, and he quoted numerous cases in support of his arguments, showing that if the offence can be located under any other Section Sec, 304-A. was no good. In this case he submitted that the offence came under Sec. 318 for concealing the body of the child, and he asked that the charge should be altered to one under Sec. 318, the punishment for which was two years imprisonment and a fine or both. The Sessions Judge had held that the object of the accused was to conceal the fact of her going to become a mother; but this, Mr. Lawrance submitted, was not so. She had stated before the Magistrate that she wanted to get rid of the baby, and he, therefore, argued that the conviction should stand under Sec. 318, the sentence for which, two months, was far too lenient. In case it might be said on the other side that the prisoner had been acquitted under Sec. 318, Mr. Lawrance pointed out that as a High Court his Honour had power on the revision side to alter the charge.

Mr. Evers, replying to the Public Prosecutor, said that it having been admitted that Sec. 304-A did not apply to the case, he would not trouble the Court further on that score. He then proceeded to discuss the ingredients of the offence laid down in Sec. 318, and argued that there was no mention on the part of accused to conceal the birth, but she laid the child, very foolishly, in the Nuns.' compound that they might see it and give it a burial. She fully expected the chid would be discovered; in fact, she courted discovery in the hope of its being given a decent burial by the kind and charitable Nuns of the Home for the Aged. It was very stupid for her, but she was a very young woman, only 23, and her only experience of maternity was one child, this being her second confinement. Quoting Mayne's Criminal Law on Sec. 318, Mr. Evers submitted that the act, which was criminal was secret disposal of the body after death Secrecy was the essence of the offence. When the body was left in an open place, where people not looking for it could see it, there could be no offence. The Sessions Judge had considered the matter thoroughly, and had arrived at the conclusion that Sec. 318 did not apply. If, instead of doing what she did, the accused had dug a hole in her compound and buried the child's body, then she would undoubtedly be guilty under the Section. Under the circumstances, Counsel hoped that instead of enhancing the sentence passed on Mrs. Coombes, the Court would be pleased to acquit her altogether.

His Honour reserved judgment till next week.

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Indian Notes.

THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF GANJAM TO BENGAL.

A Correspondent from Berhampore telegraphs:—The silkweavers and merchants of Berhampore, Ganjam, enter their humble and emphatic protest against the proposed transfer of Ganjam to Bengal as it will ruin the town of Berhampore and with it their trade and industry and as they are quite contented and happy under the Madras administration.

WANDERING TRIBES.

With reference to the Punjab Government suggestion to the Government of India, that selected men of the criminal tribe of Minas might advantageously be employed in the Camel Corps, the military authorities have been unable to give effect to the idea. As regards the Gilvi Baluchis, another restless predatory tribe, arrangements are being made for better provision for their livelihood. The matter of dealing with wandering tribes and gangs with no permanent residence is still under consideration.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

As a further measure towards the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis through milk and meat, the attention of Divisional District officers has been drawn in connection with the inspection of places for the sale of food and drink, and houses and sheds for cattle. The Municipal Act provides for by-laws to regulate the sale of milk under license, and the Punjab Government would probably be prepared to extend Section 137 to the hill station where Europeans congregate, and to Municipalities in the plains, so far as the civil lines are concerned.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN BOMBAY.

A fire, which resulted in the destruction of a large milch catotle stable and loss of about seventy-five buffaloes, broke out at Bombay in Girgaum Road. The stable was divided into eight stalls, each capable of holding 120 cattle. The fire was first discovered at about 6-30 p.m. at the extreme end of the shed on the west, which was found to be enveloped in flames. An alarm was immediately raised, but, before the fire engines arrived on the scene, the flames rapidly spread to the adjoining stalls owing to grass and other materials of an inflammable character in the stable. The consternation caused among the cattle in the stable was beyond description. A large number forced themselves free and rushed in different directions; still a greater number was rescued by "gowlies" from being caught in the flames, while a number of animals, roughly estimated at seventy-five, were burnt to death after suffering terrible agonies. While attempts were being made to save animal life, new cause of anxiety sprang up. In very close proximity to the stable are two chawls inhabited by low caste Hindus, and as the fire extended over the whole stable, the people in the chawls became apprehensive of their own safety. Within a very short time of the commencement of the fire there appeared every indication of the chawls being also enveloped in the flames. A scene of wild excitement followed, and men, women, and children began to run for their lives. Ultimately fears were allayed, and the fire was extinguished.

LIABILITY OF OWNER OR OCCUPIER OF LAND.

Early on the morning of the 2nd June last, one Krishna Reddi was found dead in the road with a wound on his forehead from which blood was oozing and a wound on his neck. Bodi Reddi Ranga Reddi was among those who saw the body in the morning in question. He was a relative of the deceased and accompanied the corpse to the place of cremation. He was ordered to be prosecuted under Section 176 I.P.C., for failing to give information as an owner or occupier of land under Section 45 Criminal Procedure Code of a sudden or unnatural death or a death under suspicious circumstances. The Assistant Magistrate of Nellore in acquitting the accused remarked:—"Section 176 I.P.C. lays stress in the intention to omit. A person can intend to omit anything only when he knows that he must legally do a thing. There is good evidence to show that the deceased was not a healthy man; hence, his sudden death may not have caused the accused to imagine it to fall under Section 45 Criminal Procedure Code. And if this is so, the intention of the accused to omit to giveinformation thereof does not exist. This point can be proved or presumed only from the evidence which in this case seems to be very contradictory. The prosecution cannot stand in any case. In M. Misser vs. Queen Empress I. L. R., Xi Cal. 619 the point is raised" as to who is the owner or occupier of land" as meant by the Section. All the Judges who heard the case agreed upon the point that the owner or occupier is the owner or occupier of the land in which death occurred. This principle has been held to be sound by the Madras High Court in Cr. Rev. Case 31 of 84 (Weir page 64). Ranga Reddi has no interest in the land where the deceased was found. He has therefore committed no offence under Section 176 I. P. C. and I acquit him." Against his Judgment of acquittal an appeal was preferred by Government and it was urged that the Assistant Magistrate was wrong in thinking that the rulings have laid down that a landowner is bound to report only when death takes place in his own land. Section 45 Cr. P. C. was perfectly clear and says that every owner of land shall report to the nearest Magistrate or officer in charge of the nearest Police Station the occurrence in or near such village of any sudden or unnatural death under suspicious circumstances. The High Court dismissed the appeal.—"Hindu."

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 17, 1904.

NON-OFFICIAL ENGLISH OPINION ABOUT THE DISMEMBERMENT QUESTION.

We quoted the other day the opinion of a high official on the above subject,—an official who holds a higher position than that of Mr. Risley, and who has a far greater experience of the country than the author of the dismemberment project can claim to. Let us quote it once again, for it expresses the real situation in one or two sentences very accurately:—

"This project of the Government means wanton waste of time, wanton waste of energy, wanton creation of needless misery and excitement. It means, from an administrative point of view, utter confusion."

The above expressions show that the project has not the approval of all the higher officials. We desire to-day to quote the views of another Englishman of a very distinguished position. He is a non-official and enjoys the confidence of his community. He was approached by some leading men of Western Bengal with the object of sounding him as to his views in regard to this all-important question. It was apprehended that he was a supporter of the Government scheme, at least, an indifferent spectator, of the whole thing. But it transpired soon after that he was neither the one nor the other. When the subject was introduced to him, he said he had given considerable thought to the question and had already embodied his ideas in a Note, which he read to the gentlemen who waited upon him. His visitors were agreeably surprised to find that he was as firmly opposed to the project on various grounds as the official whose opinion is quoted above.

At the outset he was asked to tell the reason why this revolutionary measure was thrust upon the people. The visitors thus explained their position. The people did not exactly know what had led the authorities to take this step; that there was surely something at the bottom, and this had not yet been disclosed; that he, as an Englishman, enjoying the friendship, at least the confidence, of the highest officials, was likely to be in possession of the great secret; and that he would confer a great obligation upon the people of Bengal by disclosing the real reason for this move. And what was his reply?

But before we proceed to disclose what he said, we beg permission to tell a story. It is an unsavoury one, but, surely, the Indian visitors, who occupy foremost places in the country, will not mind it, for it explains the position more clearly than any other story that we can lay our hands on just now. As the reader knows, the "Domes" generally are very low in intellect, as they are yet in a very primitive state of civilization. They naturally regard their priest, who is of Bramhinical origin though out-casted, with great reverence. The priest of the "Domes" of a certain village paid occasional visits to his flock, and, whenever he did this honor, he was surrounded by his disciples for instruction and information on divers topics. And he, though illiterate and ignorant, never hesitated to give them advoice with the greatest confidence even upon subjects about which he knew nothing. This he had to do to maintain his prestige.

Once upon a time, the priest found that the village was in a state of excitement, and, if the inhabitants had not come to blows with one another, it was only because they were expecting him who, they hoped, would settle their differences. The commotion was over an exceedingly knotty point. It was,—why do the swine wallow in the mire? Now being "Domes," that is to say, swine-herds by caste they were pork-eaters and therefore very much interested in the animal referred to. This question, why the swine wallow in the mire, was mooted by the leader of one party, for the village, like every other village in the world, was ruled by two opposite factions. Divers reasons were advanced to account for this proclivity of the swine, but they were all rejected. And when the priest came into the village, the matter was referred to him for final settlement.

He at first tried to treat the matter as a great joke, but when he found that he would not be let off so easily, he assumed a serious attitude and said that the reason, why the swine did wallow in the mire, was a great secret, which must not be disclosed, for it would offend Kallu Roy, the deity of the "domes". The villagers immediately agreed to pay the penalty to mollify Kallu Roy by a "pooja," and insisted on to know the reason. Thus cornered, the priest looked the picture of misery and despair, for he felt that he had to be sincere, and mere bullying would not extricate him from the difficulty. So he said humbly enough: "My good fellows, to tell you frankly, the reason you seek I do not know."

So, when the distinguished Englishman was requested by the distinguished Indian visitors to disclose the reason that has led the authorities to thrust this project upon the innocent people of Bengal, he looked for a time very much surprised. He said he had talks on the subject with some of the highest officials, but, neither he nor they knew the reason why, except what was to be found in Mr. Risley's letter, which is extremely unsatisfactory, the government have created this wave of excitement in the country.

So the project was launched first, and the reason for it is to be searched afterwards! This is the way this country is governed by our enlightened rulers.

Did the idea emanate from Lord Curzon?

No, for the question was mooted before His Lordship came to this country.

Is Sir Andrew Fraser the author of it? Not likely, for the same reason.

The distinguished non-official further told his visitors that the project was beyond the range of practical politics; that Mr. Risley's letter was "academical," that there were serious objections to the scheme and the authorities knew it; that the Government cannot hurry through the matter, beset as it is with immense difficulties; that the opinions of public bodies will be invited before adopting any definite course; and that the whole thing probably is the outcome of an impulse.

Is it possible that the present attempt owes its origin to Mr. Risley? That is to say, did he propose the transfer under the impression that it would not meet with opposition, at least strenuous opposition, and certainly no opposition from the West? Is it due to the mistaken idea of Mr. Risley, who has learnt from some wag that the West would not mind to be separated from the East; and that the West treats the East with contempt and calls them "bangals"? As we said, a way must have told him all this. The matter, however, it seems, rests entirely with Mr. Risley. Will he be so generous as to sacrifice his project for the peace of eleven millions of his fellow-beings who are in the greatest distress possible?

The matter would have been less difficult if it had emanated, let us say, from usual sources, and not from a particular individual. For, if Mr. Risley insists that his honour is at stake, then the Government will, without the least pity, throw overboard even fifty millions of people for his sake. It is for this we appeal to the generosity of the Home Secretary.

THE OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

We said yesterday that, the Select Committee on the Official Secrets Bill commences its sittings from to-day. We submit the following points for the consideration of the Hon'ble members of the Committee. First of all, as the reader is aware, the existing Act of 1889 is only a verbatim copy of the English Act. This was acknowledged by Mr. Scoble when introducing it at the Simla Session of the Legislature, and this can be at once seen by comparing the two Acts. As a matter of fact, the English Act applies to England as well as to India and other parts of the Empire. There was thus no necessity for an Indian Act at all. Mr. Scoble, however, justified his action by stating that, "in order to give it a greater publicity, and to bring its provisions into complete harmony with our own system of jurisprudence and administration," "it has been thought desirable to place it (the English Act) on the Indian Statute book."

The Hon'ble members should therefore enquire of the introducer of the present Bill that, as there is no proposal for amending the English Act before Parliament, why should the Government of India make such an unusual departure by undertaking to remodel the Act on altogether different lines? If the English Government could remain satisfied with the law as it is, why should not the subordinate Government of India do the same? Where is the necessity for this departure? What has suddenly cropped up in India to induce the Government to introduce this universally condemned Bill?

The Viceroy no doubt attempted to give an explanation; but, it amounts to this only, that as some amateur photographers were found taking a snap shot of the exterior of a fort and they could not be prevented or punished under the existing Act, so an altogether new law is to be forged whereby not only newspaper men but ordinary people also, though harmless, may be consigned to jail, if they happen to enter a Government office, and that they are to be presumed to be guilty of a crime unless they can prove that they are innocent. Surely, something more is needed than what the Viceroy said to justify the introduction of such a revolutionary measure. If there is no other explanation than what was offered by His Excellency, then the non-official members should insist on its withdrawal, and if their request is not listened to, they should record their protest in their notes of dissent.

The next point of importance is that, in discussing the provisions of the Bill, the Hon. members should follow the Parliamentary procedure of 1889 when the English Act was passed. They cannot get a better guide in this respect than the discussions in both Houses on the subject. The full text of these debates have already been published in our issue of December 17 last, for their convenience. What we find there is that, the English Act was introduced by the War Department, and no one even suggested that it related to the disclosure of civil secrets. Indeed, as Lord Chancellor pointed out, the Bill was intended to punish only such men as "made plans or sketches of fortresses, or disclosed official secrets." The very fact that the Bill had been prepared under the direction of the Secretary of State for War and the First Lord of the Admiralty shows conclusively that it was to protect the military secrets only that the measure was needed at all. The word "civil," which has been added most arbitrarily, should thus be expunged from the present Bill, or so defined as to make the publication of all bona fide civil information, relating to British India and Native States, non-penal.

This point was made very clear in the House of Lords, when the Lord Chancellor (Baron Halsbury) moved the second reading of the Bill on July 11, 1889. He said that the measure was intended for those who "facilitated the military operations of other countries by giving copies of official documents." "It provides," he went on to say, "for the punishment of those persons who either give information to the enemies of the country, or who make or communicate plans or sketches of fortresses and like places, or disclose official secrets."

He then explained the meaning of "official secrets" in these words: "Another class of offences is the disclosure of official secrets. Where a person who is holding, or has held, offices under Her Majesty or has in his possession or control any official document, should, in like manner ,communicate with those who may become the Queen's enemies, severe penalties are enacted."

As the term "official secrets" is nowhere defined in the present Bill and it will be open to the Government to consider any matter, however trivial or petty, as an official secret, it should be defined in the way it was done by no less an authority than Lord Halsbury, and all possible misconception on this score removed.

What the Lord Chancellor meant was this. Two classes of offenders would be brought under the operation of the Act. First those men, official or non-official, who would betray the interests of the State and the Country by helping the military operations of Her Majesty's enemies by supplying them with plans or sketches of fortresses and like places or by giving them information of official secrets, as explained above. The other class consists of officials only. If they disclose official documents to those "who may become the Queen's enemies," it is then that they are liable to severe punishment. One can see at once that in order to bring home an offence under this Act, even against an official, it is essential that the offender should communicate official secrets to "the Queen's enemies."

An explanatory note in the Bill. We shall now this point should also be made clear by an explanatory note in the Bill.

THE SAME.

The chief defect in the Bill, if passed as it is, lies in the prospect of "Indian editors being marched off to prison" and "the death-knell of the freedom of the Press being sounded," to quote the words of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale. The Viceroy, in his speech, no doubt ridiculed the idea, but, if His Excellency will go through official opinions on the subject, he will find that several officials view the matter in the same light and are glad that such an engine is going to be placed in their hands for the purpose of punishing the journalists who tamper with their so-called secrets. But it was made abundantly clear in the House of Lords, when the Committee (Standing Committee on Law) considered the Official Secrets Bill on August 6, 1889, that it was never the intention of the Legislature to make any journalist liable for the disclosure of any official secret. The following discussion will show it:—

"Lord Thring thought that the punishment of penal servitude for life proposed in the Bill was far too severe to meet even a case where information was conveyed directly or indirectly to a foreign State.

"The Chairman thought the clause would require some amendment in this respect, or it might be held to apply to the correspondent of a newspaper who supplied such information.

"Lord Thring felt that some punishment ought to attach to newspapers which published the information.

"The Chairman said he had no objection to deal with that question, but it was a very delicate matter (Laughter.)

"Viscount [illegible] red that if such a proposal were made there would be no chance of pa[illegible] the Bill. (Hear, hear.)

"The Lord Chancellor confessed that his sympathies were with Lord Thring, but he did not see how his lordship's suggestion could easily be carried out."

Thus, though Lord Thring sought to bring newspapers within the clutches of the Act, the idea was not entertained for a moment. Now, as a liberal-minded statesman and an avowed friend of the press, surely, the appeal of the non-official members to His Excellency Lord Curzon to make the same concession in regard to the Indian newspapers may not go in vain. Let every newspaper man disclosing a military secret to the enemy of the King for personal gain be severely punished, but, let it also be understood that, no journal, by merely publishing an official secret, will be brought within the operation of the Act.

And, lastly, we would draw the attention of the Hon'ble members to the word, "office," in the existing Act, which is retained in the Bill. Now, if the present Act has been rendered so vague and unworkable it is, to a large extent, owing to this expression, "office." Indeed, we believe, the difference of opinion amongst the highest legal authorities in Bengal as to whether the existing Act could prevent the disclosure of confidential civil documents and information, referred to by the Viceroy in his speech, was due to this word, "office." Sir C. Paul, the late Advocate-General of Bengal, was of opinion that it meant only a place like a fortress, arsenal etc. The late Sir Griffiths Evans, however, thought that it meant not only a place but also the business and transaction carried on there. Sir Griffiths' view seems to be more correct, for the word is explained as follows in the Act:—

"Office under Her Majesty" includes any department of the Government."

The "office" thus means all civil as well as military departments under the Government. And, under the provisions of Section 3 of the existing Act, if any person obtains any secret information,—naval, military, or civil—and communicates it to another, he is liable to be prosecuted, if the Government can show that he did it with a bad motive. Under the present Bill, his position is made still worse. That is to say, the meaning of "office" being any department of Government—the executive, the judicial, the railway, the finance, the postal, the telegraphic, in short, every branch of the administration from the highest to the lowest—any secret official information relating to any of these departments, if given publicity to, makes the publisher run the risk of being imprisoned.

Great danger, thus, lies in the word, "office" and it should, therefore, be omitted with its explanatory note, so that one of the principal stings of the measure may be taken out.

As regards the other objectionable features of the Bill, we need not say much, for, both the Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel and the Viceroy have, in a manner, given the assurance that they will all be expunged. As a matter of fact, it will be committing an outrage upon common sense if, as the Bill provides, the burden of proof of his innocence is thrown upon the accused person; or a man is to be presumed guilty of a crime simply because he happened to enter an office; or any ordinary policeman or a private person is to be empowered to arrest without a warrant and without reason any person, however highly-placed, on a charge of committing an offence under the Bill; or an arrested person must remain in jail until his trial; or the criminality of the alleged offences is to be made to depend less on the purpose with which they were done than on the fact that they were committed wihout lawful authority; or the prosecution can be instituted at the instance of any official, and not of the Government, as now; or that the acquitted person is to have no redress for his sufferings and pecuniary loss in this connection. Surely, the Government cannot disfigure the Indian Statute book by having an Act containing such barbarous and dangerous, nay, inhuman provisions.

Here is a further development of the dismemberment question. It shows in what utter confusion have the Government placed themselves; in short, they know not where they are and what they propose. Information reaches us from a very reliable source that the report to which we gave currency sometime ago, namely that the new province is to be composed, not only of Dacca, Mymensing, and the Chittagong Division with Assam, but also Barisal, Faridpur, Jessore, Khoolna and the Rajshahye Division, minus the districts of Darjiling Julpaguri and Cooch Behar, is well-founded. As a bait to the people of Dacca and Mymensingh, the capital of the new province is to be the town of Dacca. Just see how the Government are shifting their grounds. In 1892 the Chittagong Division alone was proposed to be annexed to Assam. In 1896, somebody proposed the addition of Dacca and Mymensingh the capital of the new province was not prepared to accept the proposal. In 1903 the Government came forward with the project of making over Dacca and Mymensingh along with the Chittagong Division to the Assam Administration. And now the Rajshahye Division and the remaining eastern districts are asked to share the fate of Dacca, Mymensingh and Chittagong. So, under this scheme, Bengal is to consist of only two Divisions and that not entirely, with Behar, Orissa, and a portion of Chota Nagpur, namely, the Burdwan Division and the Presidency Division minus Jessore and Khulna! And the Government expect the people of Eastern and Western Bengal to acquiesce in this fantastic arrangement! So it is now time for Western Bengal to bewail their fate, tear their hairs and beat their breasts.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has not only decided to invite the opinions of the important public Associations in the city on the dismemberment question, but he is also busily engaged in collecting information from individual European merchants of Calcutta as well as various other parties. This is as it should be, and it goes to show that Sir Andrew Fraser has yet kept his mind open. There is, however, one difficulty in the way. People yet know not why the Government is going to dismember Bengal. Unless the grounds of dismemberment are placed before them clearly, how is it possible for individuals or public bodies to help the Government with their opinion in the matter? What the Government should do, in our humble opinion, is to put its case in a more intelligible form before the public; for, then it will be possible for outside people to offer practical suggestions. Mr. Risley's letter is hazy, academical, inconclusive, and insufficient, and it has simply bewildered and not enlightened the people. And when His Honour chooses to ask the opinion of an outsider, he should select proper men. It will only confuse him, if he goes on, like one of his predecessors, Sir Richard Temple, interrogating every one he comes across.

Of course some reasons have been given by Mr. Risley in his letter to the Government of Bengal. But, as we have stated several times, either they are no reasons at all, or they are almost contradictory. One reason for the proposed dismemberment is that, Bengal is too large for one Lieutenant-Governor. Now if this be so, the remedy surely does not lie in the arbitrary transferrence of territory and the creation of confusion and chaos, by disturbing the existing arrangement of nearly two hundred years' standing, but in various other simpler methods. For instance, as Mr. Risley admits in his letter, that, it has been suggested on several previous occasions, by some of the highest Indian authorities, that the relief of the Bengal Government can be afforded by organic changes in the form of Government. One such organic change consists in converting the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal into a Governor, with an executive council, like that of Bombay and Madras, and bringing back Assam to Bengal. The so-called burden upon the ruler of the province will be then very much reduced, and what the Government complains of will be effectively removed. Of course this means some cost; but, so does the redistribution of territory mean. Here is another method. Let Orissa and Behar be each made a separate Province on the basis of language, and thereby lighten the work of the Lieutenant-Governor. Now these methods of reducing the strain upon the head of the Bengal Government must have surely occurred to Mr. Risley when he issued his famous letter; but, why has he not discussed them and pointed out their defects, if any? Instead of doing it, Mr. Risley has disposed of this matter in an off-hand manner in these few words:—

"In the opinion of the Government of India, the time has come when the relief of the Bengal Government must be regarded as an administrative necessity of the first order. And that relief can be afforded, not, as has been suggested on several previous occasions, by organic changes in the form of government, but only by acutual transferrence of territory."

And pray, why by transferrence of territory, and not by organic changes &c? An explanation on the point is urgently needed.

It is now proposed to add Jessore to the list of the doomed districts. The Bongong subdivision, which adjoins the 24-Parganahs, is about 30 miles from Calcutta and an hour's journey by rail from here. So the Bongong man, instead of coming to Calcutta, his present metropolis, will have to go to Dacca, which is 500 miles away from him, under the newly-proposed scheme. Why will the Jessore man agree to this arrangement? And what has he done to be thus punished? Perceiving that Dacca is in a terrible state of distress, the Government is anxious to console its people. Why grumble, take Faridpur, Barisal, or, if you like, Khulna and Jessore also,—nay, the whole of the Rajshahye Division, minus an unimportant district,—if it pleases you, my child. This is the way the Government is trying to soothe the outraged feelings of the Dacca people! But does it not occur to our bewildered rulers that by going to soothe Dacca, they are going to put Barisal, Faridpur, Khulna, Jessore, and the whole Rajshahye Division into distress? Eleven millions are now up against the scheme, and the latest proposal will only raise many more millions to join them. And hen, if, in their desire to soothe the people of Dacca, the Government mutilates Western Bengal, how can the latter bear it up? What will Bengal proper have if so many of its best districts are taken away from it! If the new project is carried out, Western Bengal will have only the Burdwan Division and the Presidency Division minus Jessore and Khulna. To such an arrangement, surely, Bengal proper can never agree. There is however one easy solution of the present difficulty of the Government. It is to add the two remaining divisions also, namely, the Presidency and the Burdwan, to the list of the districts to be added to Assam. If such an arrangement is crrried out, Dacca will be the carpital of the Bengali-speaking race. Granting that the Bengalees will agree to this sort of reconstruction, will the European merchants and traders agree to it? We don't think, they will.

The Kalacherna dacoity by the Kabulese shews the state of unmanliness to which the people of India have been reduced. About twenty-five men from Afghanistan, though without guns, kept an entire district in a state of terror. Why was this? It is because the Government has taken in its own hands the duty of defending them, and they have consequently forgotten to defend themselves. The Government has thought fit to disarm them, and they have become so helpless and timid that hundreds of them cannot face even twenty-five unarmed Afghans. Being treated like children and kept quiet under a rigid system of police rule, they have been emasculated. We, who have some knowledge of what India was fifty years ago, can testify to the fact that, physically, the people have suffered so terribly that they are past all hope of recovery from their deterioration. Our beneficent Government should bear in mind that the blessings of peace and education do not compensate for the loss of manliness.

The letter of our Barrisal correspondent published elsewhere, will show how the Magistrate of that district, in inviting the opinion of the people on the dismemberment question, has tried his best to thrust his own views down their unwilling throats. Like Mr. Risley he attaches no importance to the sentiment of the people, and goes a step further and says that, their opposition consists only in hysterical shrieks. It will be, however, seen that, in spite of this deliberate pronouncement on the part of the lord of the district, the inhabitants of Backergunj have been as upset as their brethren of Dacca, Mymensing and Chittagong, and they are going to enter an emphatic protest against the revolutionary measure.

The "Leicester Pioneer" has the following:—In a powerful and biting leading article, which found its way a week or so ago into the "Daily News," the writer says: "We suppose that it is impertinent to ask whether we propose to shed the blood of a singularly inoffensive and unwarlike people on worthless pleas of this character. The conscience of the nation has been so debauched and perverted, and the Churches have so completely abandoned the attempt to apply the principles of their faith to politics, that we suppose it is impertinent to recall Gladstone's saying, that the blood of an Afghan tribesman is as sacred as that of an Englishman. Certainly there never was a case where a violation of territory seemed less justifiable." These are strong words, no doubt, but are they one whit too strong? Does anybody know why or wherefore we should rudely invade the territory of an inoffensive and unwarlike people? Have we not had wars enough during the last few years; have we not spent sufficient of the hard-won earnings of the people? Is the burden of taxation too light; is our character as a war-loving people in danger of losing its peculiar lustre; or is it that home affairs are in such a mess and muddle that our leaders and statesmen are anxious to divert attention from the sorry condition of home affairs by turning our eyes once more to the other side of the globe? Thibet, it is said, does not take our Assam tea, and we are anxious that such stupidity should not be allowed to go any further. But when the rulers of a nation are bent on war almost any excuse is good enough. We went to war with South Africa for the sake of an adjective; or was it a comma? It does not matter in the least. We got our own way, and, like the boy in the advertisement picture, we were not happy until we got it—indeed, we are not quite happy now, while poor, desolated, bleeding South Africa is a hundred times worse off than before we began our holy enterprise.

The writer uses strong language. We agree so far that the great power of England should be utilized for the purpose of protecting the weak from the strong. We find in the "Midland Herald" to hand by the last mail, another passage in which equally strong language is used to denounce the Opium Trade. Says our noble-hearted contemporary:—

Among the many wicked things that are involved in Empire and "all that it means, as Mr. Chamberlain would say, not the least wicked, though perhaps not the most, is the Indian government's opium trade with China, I have for some weeks had on my table a letter from "the Christian Union for the Severance of the Connection of the British Empire with the Opium Traffic."

"The best land of India," says the letter, "to the extent of about 600,000 acres, is used by the Government for the cultivation of opium.

"The great bulk of the opium thus manufactured goes to China to the great injury of the people of that country."

The Chinese did object at one time, and many times, if I am not mistaken. But were not our arguments, in the shape of cannon, more weighty than theirs?

"The marvel is that Englishmen have not, long before this, declared with burning indignation that this thing shall not be." So writes one in "National Righteousness" which seems to be the organ of this Union. But though the fact is a marvel taken by itself, it loses its marvellous character when taken together wih the whole tangle of dreadful complications of which it is a little fraction.

What, for instance, do these agitators expect to get the Indian government to do? I believe that this opium brings in some 7 or 8 millions to the revenue. If they give it up, what do they expect them to do about it? The Indian population is already fleeced almost beyond bearing to keep up the British Indian bureaucracy and to pay British interest, pensions and other charges, so that they could hardly squeeze the extra millions out of them. There seem to remain, therefore only the two alternatives of cutting down the Indian government expenses or of getting the British people to pay the balance.

Does any one expect either of these to be adopted?

Dig deeper, my friends, dig deeper. Let us dig up by the roots the whole tree of grab and arrogance of which this opium trade is but a little branch.

The writer suggests two alternatives, none of which is likely to be adopted.

The State paper, explaining the scheme for the improvement of technical education in India, will be found in another columns. We all remember the fate of the State scholarships founded in the sixties of the last century. The Government offered the scholarships; the Indians availed themselves of them, and proved so successful in the Civil Service Examination that the authorities were frightened and the scholarships were withdrawn. Similarly, some agricultural scholarships were established by the Bengal Government in the

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

seventies to enable the people to learn agriculture in England, which, in a short time, were also withheld. The Government of Lord Curzon has this credit that it has, for the first time, after 20 years, reduced taxation. It has also this credit that it has, for the first time, after the withdrawal of the State scholarships noted above, created others for the improvement of technical education, entitled "State Technical Scholarships for the Natives of India." The exact number of such scholarships is not mentioned, though the Government promises "to give a small number of such scholarships." The value of the scholarships has been fixed at £150 a year, in addition to fees payable to the institutions where the scholars will study, and travelling expenses; but Government will consider proposals for increasing it in special cases. Each scholarship is tenable for an average period of two years, which may be increased or reduced in special cases. The scholarships may be held in any part of the world, excepting Japan,—why we do not know. There are some subjects which have been excluded from the present proposal. They are: Law, Medicine, Forestry, Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Engineering.

WILL some members of the Supreme Council be pleased to ask the Government to explain why cannot the scholarships be held in Japan, and why has agriculture been excluded from the subject of study? We are also anxious to know what are the subjects of study, besides mining, open to the scholarship-holders? It is quite possible that some special arrangement for teaching agriculture has been made in this country; but, as that art has almost been carried to perfection in America as well as in Holland, Belgium and Switzerland, we think, the Government should found some scholarships tenable in the United States as well as in those European countries for the study of agriculture. The following questions may be put to the Government:—

(1) Will the Government be pleased to state why the proposed technical scholarships are tenable everywhere in the world except in Japan?

(2) Will the Government state that, besides mining, what other subjects of study are open to the scholarship-holders?

(3) Considering that India is practically an agricultural country; and America, Holland, Belgium, etc., have made immense progress in the art and science of agriculture, will the Government be pleased to found some scholarships to enable Indian students to learn it in the United States as well as in the European countries named above?

IN the Tennevelly Missionary case, the father was convicted of rioting because he had carried away his daughter from the clutches of the Missionaries, and it was due to the strong sense of justice on the part of Sir V. Bhashyam Iyengar, C. I. E. that he was saved from being stigmatised as a criminal. In the Islampur Missionnary Case, the father with some of his friends, all respectable men, have all been subjected to the indignity of being converted into special constables because, they did not allow his widowed daughter, Ushangini, to be taken away by a Missionary lady, and brought her home. Indeed, the facts of this case, already noticed by our Ulubaria Correspondent, are extraordinary in the extreme. One day the father of Usangini, who is a Brahmin by caste, came to know that his widowed daughter had, in his absence, left his house in company of a Missionary lady. Only a Hindu can realise how the unfortunate father felt at the time,—he was simply paralyzed at the news! Some of his friends and relations volunteered for the rescue of the widow,—they surprised the Missionary lady at the Munshihat Station on the Howrah-Amta Railway, and took the widow away with them. And what followed? The poor Station Master was suspended for allowing the widow to be taken away by her relatives! Neither did the matter end here. The District Superintendent of Police was moved, and some officials with a number of constables went to the village and caused the widow to be handed over to the Missionaries! Next came an official order appointing the father and his friends as special constables for keeping the peace! Now, it is for the Missionaries to decide whether the cause of Christianity will suffer or benefit by such acts on their part. But, surely, they had no right to avail themselves of official help in this matter. We trust, a member of the local Council will bring the case to the notice of the Government and enquire whether or not the police were justified in helping the Missionaries in the way they did.

THE case of Abbas, who was sentenced to be hanged by the Sessions Judge of Tipperah and which sentence was reduced to two years' rigorous imprisonment by Justices Ghose and Stephens, shows clearly how some of our Judges are imbued with a spirit of unconscious ferocity. At the trial at Tipperah, the assessors had found him not guilty under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (murder) but the Judge, disagreeing with them, sentenced the man to be hanged. Surely this was a very bold step for the Sessions Judge of Tipperah to take considering that all men are frail beings, and the subsequent result shews that he had committed a great blunder; for, if the matter had not come before the High Court, an innocent man would have been hanged. That he is innocent admits of no doubt, inasmuch as he was found not guilty upon the evidence not only by two assessors but also by two Judges of the Court. Fancy the responsibility the Tipperah Judge had taken upon himself. What answer had he before the Great Judge—the Judge of Judges—if his sentence had been carried out, and the man had been sent to the gallows? He could not even plead ignorance, for the two assessors had pointed out his mistake. For the information of those Judges, who are prone to pass capital sentences upon unfortunate people placed before them for trial, we may tell them that the movement against this barbarous punishment is fast gaining ground in all the civilized countries. In England a society called the Society for the abolition of Capital Punishment" has been organised. Its present object is that "capital punishment should, so far as women are concerned, be totally abolished as being a needlessly barbarous penalty." At a meeting of the society held on the 15th December last it was resolved that every candidate should be urged to support a bill for the amendment of the criminal law so as to bring it into greater harmony with justice and humanity, and that such a bill should contain a clause providing for the gradual abolition of the death penalty. So, while attempts are being made in England to abolish capital sentence, the Judges here are getting rather more accustomed to pass it, and it indicates that they do not at all—at least apparently—feel the magnitude of their responsibility.

ARE the other planets inhabited? If so, are their inhabitants like men? To such questions many answers have been vouschafed by scientists and men of imagination. Of course, questions like these are beyond the range of writers of fiction; but, in a matter like this, where there is no data to base a theory on, men of imagination find themselves in the same level with men of science. In villages, where there are no regular physicians, when a man is stricken down by an unknown disease, he is surrounded by quacks of all sorts, every one coming forward with a specific in hand. The dismemberment question has, in the same manner, given a very good opportunity for statesmen, real and spurious, to come forward with suggestions. The opportunity is good, because a man can talk nonsense, without being held responsible for it. Some would add Dacca to Assam, some Assam to Dacca. Some would cut off two districts, some four, some six, from Bengal. Why should we not, therefore, advance a scheme of our own? Really we can suggest one which, if adopted, will not cost a pice to the Government, and which will put a stop to agitation at once. It will extricate the Government from an awkward position, and it will restore the quiet that has been so violently disturbed. Our suggestion is—to let things remain as they are at present.

THE paper, "Industrial Education in our Schools" by Babu Akshaya Kumar Ghose, Barat-law, published in the December number of the "Hindusthan Review" is a very thoughtful one. High class monthly magazines like the one in question cannot do better than secure the services of such able writers as Babu Akshaya Kumar and add to their usefulness. The writer not only displays much learning but shows that he took considerable pains in collecting all possible information on the subject. He observes that our conception of education needs enlargement and revision because of these facts.

I. Paupers are on the increase.

II. That our educational system and environment are not in harmony with our present needs.

III. Prosperous workmen have been reduced to beggary.

IV. The law of the survival of the shrewdest and the most unscrupulous must prevail.

He proposes that all education should be industrial in order to promote the welfare of mankind in India. He advocates that our schools should pave the way for a higher industrial education while their present function ought to be to foster an industrial instinct. They ought to recognise the nature and place of industrial education in the history of man. For this purpose a sound ground work must be prepared—of physical power, intellectual power, artistic power—and the finish must be given a "finesse." The workman should develop ... feeling and the instinct of an artist. He condemns the multiplication of subjects in our school curriculum. "All ages and all climes are pouring their accumulated treasure and filth upon the modern child" and "the multiplication of subjects of study in the schools of Ancient Greece brought about the decline of mental vigour and spontaniety of the Greeks." He considers that the "arithmetical teaching as a means of imparting solid industrial knowledge" has a great possibility. He expatiates upon the method and gives a clear idea of what he means.

I. The fundamental numerical operations.

II. The recognition of the useful words.

III. The recognition of the exact dimensions and proportions.

He recommends the fitting up of a working room when the elements of physical science, elementary chemistry, little carpentry, picture painting &c could be taught. He goes on to show what advantage could be got out of a single apparatus like the "lever." He ennumerates the special value of such an industrial course. It is imperative as a duty upon every citizen to promote such an education and others in order to make themselves good citizens should take advantage of it. In short, the paper is not only interesting but instructive, and it teems with several practical suggestions. It will amply repay perusal.

THE case of Babu Mano Mohan dukerjee is very hard indeed. He was appointed as a Sub-Deputy Magistrate, and then suddenly dismissed. The charge against him is that, he used the name of a purdanashin lady without her knowledge and consent in addressing four letters to the Lieutenant-Governor and one to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal for obtaining the appointment he was given. He not only denies the charge emphatically but undertakes to prove that he has been grossly misrepresented. He has therefore submitted a petition to the Government of Bengal for a judicial enquiry into the matter. In this petition he has stated in detail all the circumstances of the case, which create a strong impression in the mind that he is purely a victim of jealousy, and that gross injustice has been done to him. As the action of the Government has not only deprived him of a lucrative appointment but marred his future prospects and caused his civil death, it is but fair that his case should be judicially enquired into, and his guilt or innocence established beyond the least shade of doubt. He has mentioned a number of gentlemen, among whom, we find the name of Mr. K. P. Gupta, Commissioner of Orissa, who, he says, will bear testimony to the fact that he is incapable of deceiving Government in the way he is alleged to have done.

THE life of the Bengalee Kayestha, Purandar Khan, in Bengalee, by Babu Saroda Charan Mittra, is a disappointment in one sense; for it contains very few incidents of the life of that great reformer. Barring this defect, for which the writer is not to blame, as no contemporary history is available, the pamphlet is replete with valuable information bearing upon the great reform that he introduced. "A life of Rup and Sanatan" in Bengalee, compiled by a co-villoger of those two great saints contradicts some of Saroda Babu's statements. The latter says that Rup and Sanatan served under Purandar but the former says that the two saints had at first supplanted Purandar as the Premier of the King of Bengal, and were subsequently supplanted by Purandar. What happened, according to the writer of Rup and Sanatan's life, was this. When Rup and Sanatan flourished Purandar was in disgrace; but the former turned saints and refused to serve the King, and thereupon Purandar was reinstated as Premier by His Majesty.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, Dec 24.

AN INCONSISTENT NEWSPAPER PROPRIETOR.

Much amusement is being provided at the expense of Mr. Arthur C. Pearson, the proprietor of a London Halfpenny daily paper, numerous weeklies, and a monthly. He is the Chairman of Mr. Chamberlain's Tariff Reform League, and has made himself very prominent in his denunciation of the "dumping" of foreign manufactured goods in England. Just as his denunciations are of the strongest kind, it is discovered that "Pearson's Christmas Extra" was "printed in Holland"! Imagine the inconsistency of the man—loudly preaching one thing, insidiously practising the opposite. It was bad for him—his professions being what they are—to print his magazine, or a portion of it, in Holland; worse, however, was to follow. Some one in the office saw the inconsistency. Not all the copies had been issued to the trade when the discovery was made. At once the remaining copies were put in the cutting machine and the obligatory legal words "Printed in Holland" as nearly shaven off as possible, in some instances, all the words were wholly removed. Homeric laughter has greeted this exposure. I should suppose that the most mortified and self-angry man London has known for a long time is Mr. Arthur C. Pearson. In like manner with his Holland performance, the organisation he now rules over started its work of protecting British industry by using evelopes "make in Germany." When interviewers, sent by interested contemporaries, call at Mr. Pearson's office to give him an opportunity of explaining himself, the following message is given by the great man's secretary:

"Mr. Pearson does not wish to say anything."

The comical side of the "Dutch Dump", as the proceeding has been called, is not the only side. There is a very serious aspect of the matter. In obliterating the words indicating the place of printing, Mr. Pearson has proved himself guilty of law-breaking. The Merchandise Marks Act of 1887, the impolicy of which I have not infrequently remarked on in these Letters, provides (section I) that every person who applies "a false description to goods" or sells, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession for sale, or any purpose of trade or manufacture, any goods or things to which any forged trademark or false description is applied shall be guilty of an office, and liable to fine or imprisonment. Section 3 provides that a "trade description" under the Act means a statement, among other things as to the place or country in which the goods were produced. It further provides that a "false trade description" includes every alteration of a trade description "whether by way of addition, effacement, or otherwise." By the Merchandise Marks Amendment Act of 1891, the duty of prosecuting in these cases is laid upon the Board of Trade. This, however, is only one direction in which the law has been disregarded. The publication is absolutely without any imprint of any kind. Now by the Imprint Act of 1869 (32 and 33 Victoria, Chapter 24), it is provided that "every person who shall print any paper or book whatsoever which shall be meant to be published or dispersed" and does not put on it his imprint shall be liable to a fine of £5 per copy. In the case of Mr. Pearson the "Star" has been informed that it is for the Attorney-General to act. Unless there has recently been an alteration in the law, the Imprint Act should not need the intervntion of the Attorney-General. My own earliest recollection of printing, forty-two years ago, turns on this very question. A satirical handbill was printed in the office with which I was connected, relating to the volunteer movement of that time. The handbill had no imprint, and I well remember the very narrow escape the Master Printer had of being prosecuted, and how deeply interested we boys were as to the questions that would be asked of us if we were called up as witnesses. In that instance, proceedings were to have been taken locally and by private individuals. It will be interesting to see whether the Attorney-General and the Board of Trade dare proceed against the Chairman of Mr. Chamberlain's Executive.

THE AVERAGE NATURAL TERM OF LIFE—SEVENTY YEARS—TO BE DOUBLED.

There seems good reason for believing that the natural term of a man's life—reckoned at one hundred and forty years—will be attained, in many instances at least, before the end of this century. I have recently been reading a most fascinating book, entitled "The Nature of Man, Studies in Optimistic Philosophy", by Elie Metchnikoff, Professor at the Pasteur Institute, Paris. A most discerning review of the book appeared a few weeks ago in your contemporary "United India," of Madras, the review being written by that capable scientist and author, Mr. H. G. Wells. Dr. Metchnikoff makes it clear that hardly anyone, probably no one, of human kind has ever died a purely natural death: that is, has passed away as a tree, for example which, escaping all storms and mischances, lives its life right through to the end of all vitality in its very part. Why this is so he lucidly describes in his pages, and puts all the blame upon the bungling way in which Nature adapts, or fails to adapt, human beings to their environment. I am not, however, so desirous to discuss the learned Doctor's thesis as to record the fact that there is living at the present time in the State of Philadelphia a woman, who is certainly one hundred and thirty-four years old, and, probably, one hundred and thirty-seven, but the proof of the latter statement is not absolute. Mary MacDonald, on November 28 last, celebrated her birthday,—the 134th or the 137th. The written records, it is stated, show beyond all question that the woman was more than a mere infant at the time of the Revolutionary War, and all of her important statements as to historic happenings within her personal memory have been fully verified by the Daughters of the American Revolution. After carrying her history through the various phases of American national existence, the recorder concluded with this statement: "Mary MacDonald to-day weighs only 80 lbs., and is so frail that the nurses who look after her are afraid that she will break. She is blind, and her only joy in life is her pipe which she smokes incessantly. Her birthday parties are the only 'events' in her life." A life of mere vegetation such as this, is not the life Dr. Metchnikoff promises to those who receive the benefit of the changes he shows the human frame to need, but a life of vigour right on to the last dropping-off to sleep—the sleep of eternity. What is India's record in regard to old age? Where does the oldest inhabitant of your great Empire live?

ATROCIOUS CRUELTY BY GERMAN WOMEN.

When so much is said as to the superior enlightenment and goodness of Europe and Europeans as contrasted with Asia and Asiatics, it is well to remember that, whatsoever truth there may be in the assertion, some of the most abominable crimes against humanity are perpetrated in Europe. Here are two especially cruel and revolting incidents from Germany which are largely the outcome of the military spirit so seduously cultivated by the German Emperor and others who, at the best, are only surface-civilised and surface-Christianised.

1. The Criminal Court at Zweibruecken has sentenced a widow, named Anna Faerber, to ten years' penal servitude for torturing to death the four-year old daughter of her lodger, one Daniel Buchholz. Buchholz, a widower, entrusted his two children to Faerber's care. She liked the younger, aged two, but conceived an inexplicable hatred to the elder, whom she systematically mal-treated. She drove pins into her lips, pricked her lips, and compelled her to drink boiling liquids, which burned her throat. She constantly made the child drunk with brandy, causing alcoholic poisoning. After a year of prolonged agony, the child died, and a post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the entire body was covered with horrible sores caused by indescribable cruelty. The internal organs were eaten away with alcohol.

2. The Criminal Court at Mayence has sentenced Ella Grossmann to six months imprisonment for attempting to torture her own child to death. The inhuman mother beat her four-year old daughter till the body was covered with wounds, and put her naked out of doors at night when it was freezing hard. She repeated the exposure frequently for the avowed purpose of causing pheumonia. She tied the child tight, and burned her back by passing a candle all over her flesh. The Court regarded the desire to cause the death of the child proved.

Note the slightness of the punishment inflicted, especially as compared with the windictive sentences so often inflicted in Indian courts.

MRS. NALINE BLAIR ON INDIAN FAMINE.

At a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association, Waterloo, on Wednesday, December 9, In the best years it was possible to obtain a or the Liverpool Branch of the Indian Famine Union, gave an address on Indian famines. After reviewing the history of famines prior to and in the early years of British rule in India, Mrs. Blair said that it was clear that all the famines were local and not widespread, and that none approached in extent or intensity, the three great famines of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In former years famine, as a rule, only followed two years of drought or three years' deficient rainfall, but now one year's failure of rain was sufficient to cause famine. India was no longer a great manufacturing country; her industries had been crushed by the selfish policy of her English rulers, and the people were now largely engaged in agriculture. It was true that scarcity of rain in particular districts might cause inconvenience, but with abundant crops in other parts of the country there would not be famines, and death from famine, if the people had money for the purchase of food. Means of transport, irrigation and railways, had increased greatly and food could readily be conveyed to famine-stricken areas. It was evident that one must look beyond the failure of rains for the cause of the periodic starvation of vast numbers of the Indian people. It had been said that the rapid increase in population was a cause of famine, but the density of population and the birth-rate in India was less than in many prosperous European countries. One might also dismiss the charge of carelessness and improvidence, Englishmen with knowledge of the country had testified to the thrift and frugality of the people of India. The real cause of famine in India was the extreme poverty of the masses of the people. In the best years it was possible to obtain a bare existence and there was no chance of saving for bad times. The extreme poverty was due to India being a subject and, ruled by a foreign Power, which kept her tributary, politically, commercially, financially, and industrially—draining her wealth away in a steady stream. The British Government in India was the most costly in the world; the natives of the soil were almost excluded from the higher appointments in their Civil Service and large salaries and pensions of European members helped to swell the drain from India to England. Ever growing military expenditure and trans-frontier campaigns increased the burden of the Indian tax-payer. The country was growing poorer and poorer, and its condition would continue to decline unless expenditure was reduced and a more enlightened policy was pursued by the Government of India at the direction of the British people.

Samples of certain stones obtained in the Sambalpur district of the Central Provinces have been found, after expert examination, to be forms of jasper, with the one exception of a mica schist.

IN LITTLE JAPAN.

"THE CHILD OF THE WORLD'S OLD AGE."

Yokohama, Nov. 16, 1903.

In the comity of nations, Japan as young in years but old in wisdom.

Her elder statesmen play world politics serenely, confidently, and with a subtle craft that bears the palm away from the sophisticated diplomats of the Occident. Has not Japan, though buffled oft, yet won in the end practically every worthy thing she coveted, except Port Arthur, which it took three hood with the Powers, and alliance with England, nations to despoil her of. Treaty revision, sister-colonies, commerce, an Army and Navy, a merchant marine and manufactures, and all good things like these she has won for herself in a generation.

She is the infant prodigy among the principalities and Powers of the earth, and, as poor old China, who taught her so much, learned to her exceeding cost, Japan can be the infant terrible. Just now it is Russia who is wondering how much of a fight the Child of the World's Old Age could put up against a military nation.

SPY FEVER.

Not seeking but not averse to conflict, the warhawk of Japan is searing over the mountains of Nippon, keeping a sharp look-out on Korea. From the Kuriles to Formosa there is not a son of Ama who questions for a moment but that at its first swoop the battle bird of the Sun-rise Kingdom would tear the eyes from the Romanoff Bear. If you care to feel like a prodded bear in a cage, just conjure with the word Russia at present in Japan. Talk about the publicity of royalty! It is cloistered gloom to the searchlight of publicity that is thrown upon a Russian unfortunate enough to be in these islands now. The mere presence of a "ski" or "off" in your name is proof that you are a Russian spy, and the entire public resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole to take notes. From the number of spies reported weekly to the authorities, it would seem as if one-half of Russia is in Japan, preparing for the other half to invade.

I saw the Army manœuvres which closed this week in the presence of the Emperor, who is aging rapidly, his careworn air being generally remarked at the launching of a new third-class cruiser at Yokosuka, and at his birthday ball. Tenshisama has his troubles, and they are not all political. The new woman is not unknown even in the palace at Tokio, now a city of 1,800,000 souls.

But back to the manœuvres, which were impressive, showing a thoroughly disciplined body of intelligent men, filled with bursting charges of dash and initiative, and brilliantly led. Despite their stiff, jarring German step, they are able to cover remarkable distances in surprising time. Keen-eyed, hard-bitten, sturdy chaps they were; short and compact, with depth and breadth for long and heart plant. They were proud, and felt their oats; and why shouldn't they? being quartered on the helpless inhabitants of the district, under arbitrary and insolent rules that turned every householder into a military chambermaid. Like the Yankee bad man, they declared, in the vernacular, that they could 'whip their weight in wild cats."

CHINA TO FALL BACK ON.

The younger officers were not slow in saying that they wanted to pitch into Russia. Said a major of the great old clan of Satsuma, which, with Choshiu, rules Japan through the Sat-Cho combine:

"Japan is in no danger of race suicide. The mothers are not shirking maternity as in other lands, and the result is that we can spare half a million men a year for an indefinite number of years and not miss them. It is not conceivable that we should have to pay such a price in any possible war, but it is just as well, perhaps, that we are ready and willing to pay. This year the productive area of Japan has been increased from one-fourteenth of the total to one-twelfth. Barring Formosa and the Pescadores, we have less than 150,000 square miles of territory, of which eleven-twelfths is unproductive of food. But nevertheless, we have close to 50,000,000 folk to feed. Do you wonder that we are land-hungry—that we want elbow-room?

"We once dreamed of Siam, because the royal houses have a blood tie, but that vision was vain. We had many vague aspirations, but it has come to this: that in Asia, in our own latitudes, we must get what we want. If we are barred from Manchuria, and, after all we can do to avert it, lose Korea, we still have our last and greatest hope to fall back upon for the final stand. I mean China. She looks to us now for aid, comfort, sympathy, advice, and guidance, and she is getting all she asks and more. China does not call us 'dwarfs' any longer. We are 'little genii' now, and truly we are doing the work of genii in organising that hitherto inert mass.

THE YELLOW WHIRLWIND.

"You all know that the Chinaman excels in everything he undertakes, providing it seems worth while to him. He excels, too, for twenty hours a day on a minimum of food and comfort. Hitherto he has shunned war, because he fancied it was brute madness for men to slaughter one another; but the West has goaded him into thinking that war is sometimes a fine thing for its own sake. He needs little coaching now to desire war for revenge and defence. When the time comes Japan will guide the yellow whirlwind and direct the yellow storm, and I am prone to think that certain nations will find it a veritable sirocco. In that day, not so far distant as may be imagined by those who have not been through China of late, Japan will feed fat on territory."

So a renowned Satsuma graduate of a German University talked to the foreign attaches, who listened to him seriously, and discussed his startling statements for days thereafter. Through the length and breadth of Japan you hear the one tale that the Empire is putting all the strength of her kindred-race soul into the effort to forge China into a weapon for her handling. In China the clever Japanese turns up everywhere.

The spirit which won the world's great battles is the spirit with which modern Japan, the Child of the World's Old Age, will go into action on sea and land. "No surrender" is the Japanese motto, and they mean fit. God help any officer who quits in conflict, no matter what the odds. He had better go to Hades than back to Japan. Death is nothing to be feared, and it may be made glorious if the sacrifice is for the Son of Heaven and the Sun Flag. As the "Kokumin," a Tokio newspaper, declared a few days ago, "better for a Japanese the sorrows of a hundred hells than defeat or disgrace on field or flood."—By Stephen England the "Daily Mail."

Fifty-eight square miles in the Keonjhar Forests of Bengal have been surveyed on the 4-inch scale by the Forst Survey Department. The Survey was mainly for the purpose of locating the mica mines in that tract country.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE SENSATIONAL AMRITSAR KOTWAL CASE.

The Magistrate delivered judgment on Saturday in the sensational "Safdar Jan case at Amritsar. In this case, we nted not remind the reader, the Police Inspector (Kotwal) in charge of the Amritsar city was the complainant, and one Gama and the editors, etc., of two local newspapers—the "Public Gazette and Haq Pasand—were the accused. The charge was of repeated and persistent defamation. The hearing of the evidence and arguments took several weeks, Mr. Turner appearing for the prosecution and Lala Lajpat Rai and others for the defence. Intense excitement prevailed in the city during the hearing, and reached its climax on the eve of the day that decision was to be pronounced. As the court opened it was filled by a large crowd, a great concourse of citizens also occupying the Kutchery compound. Such was the eagerness of people who could not leave their business in town to get early news of the result of the case, that a system of dak was arranged for the rapid conveyance of intelligence. It will be learnt with joy and relief throughout the Province that the accused have been acquitted of the charges against them. The Editor of the "Haq Pasand" has been fined a hundred rupees, but not for the alleged libel. He had been led to apologise for one of the statements in his paper against the Kotwal, and the penalty, we are told, is meant as an admonition for this step. We heartily congratulate our contemporaries for not only emerging unscathed out of the fiery ordeal, but setting an admirable example of pluck and public spirit to their countrymen. They have displayed a steadfastness the contemplation of which makes us proud of the Punjab Vernacular Press. The Kotwal was all-powerful in Amritsar. His boldness, in trying to make things unfavourable to him favourable, was something phenomenal. In addition to the prestige and opportunities of his position he received official help. He secured supporters in a section of the Press even. Aye, the "Pioneer" made a hero of him. He was neither suspended nor transferred, but kept on at Amritsar and allowed to work his will in every way. In short, Safdar Jang had everything in his favour. And that in the face of all this the "Public Gazette and Haq Pasand" have succeeded in proving their statements to the hilt, is certainly a matter for happy reflection and congratulation. Government knows from experience how difficult it is to collect evidence against an influential official. How for months and months the keenest detectives and other police agents had to be employed, and thousands of rupees spent, to bring together the damaging proofs of a Judge's corruption, is a thing of recent memory. The gentlemen of the Press against whom the Kotwal proceeded had only to depend on the moral sense of justice of their fellow-citizens, while the powerful head of the local police could command the help of willing or unwilling witnesses. And still the latter have triumphed—all honour to them, and greater strength to their elbow!—Tribune."

Apropos of the improvement of cotton cultivation in India, of which so much is being heard nowadays, we learn that important experiments with the object of raising new varieties of cotton are in progress at the Government Farm at Nagpur in the Central Provinces. The experiments have in view the cultivation of improved hybrid cottons which will combine the hardiness and prolificness of the interior local varieties with the fine lint of the best indigenous and some foreign varieties. The scheme is believed to be a much more hopeful one than that of acclimatizing foreign exotics.

At the Mazagon Police Court, Bombay, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Superintendent Williamson charged Luxman Pandoo, a mochee, with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Police inquiries showed that the accused lived with his wife, Sakoobai, aged eighteen years, in a room on the first floor of a house in Arthur Road. The accused had brought Sakoobai to Bombay from her native country about twenty days ago, and on the 1st instant, owing to some disagreement, she left his protection and went to live with her brother at Null Bazar. Three days later the accused went to bring back his wife, but was only allowed to do so on his promising, in the presence of a punch, not to ill-treat her. On Thursday morning the accused taxed Sakoobai for not properly cooking his food. She pleaded indisposition but he declined to believe her word and beat her with a cane. In the evening the accused again beat her. He also knocked her down and kicked her on the sides and other parts of the body. A witness, who saw the assault, called a policeman, and when the latter went into the accused's house he found that Sakoobai was dead. Dr. Arthur Powell, Surgeon to the Coroner, subsequently held a "post-mortem" examination on the body of Sakoobai, and declared that her death was due to the bursting of a blood-vessel in the stomach and also of the spleen which was slightly diseased. On the application of Mr. Williamson, the accused was remanded in police custody. —The inquest on the body of the deceased Sakoobai was conducted at the Morgue, when the jury returned a verdict of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against her husband Luxman Pandoo.

A Colombo correspondent writes: It will be remembered that not long ago a gentleman from India started business in Colombo as a dealer in rice and local preacher. He was a man of most suave and insinuating manners, and though not successful as a dealer in rice, did capitally as a local preacher. Within a short time he managed to borrow from lawyers, doctors, clergymen and others large sums of money. He suddenly left one fine day, and nobody, not even his children, knew where he had gone to. Then the various creditors met, and their anger was great, not because they had lost their money—that was a minor consideration—but, to use a vulgarism, because they were done in the eye by this glib local preacher. He was a stranger, and he took them in. But they knew not his address, and were unable to go for him physically, "civilly" or criminally. By the purest accident, however, he was seen by some Ceylon people in the uppermost seat of a certain tabernacle, and on another occasion heard on a platform discussing the poor benighted heathen and asking the gathering to give liberally and freely. The hat went round, and a goodly sum was collected. The news of his whereabouts was quickly communicated to Ceylon, and an irate creditor in Colombo wrote to certain ecclesiastical authorities in England, exposing the doings of the rice dealer and giving full particulars as to how he was done out of a portion of his pile. The result so far has been an action for libel to be filed in England. The presence of the defendant at the trial will be necessary and also a commission will be sent out for the examination of witnesses here. The proceedings are expected to be of an enlivening and interesting nature.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Bank of Bengal rate of interest on demand loans remains at 6 per cent.

Plague and Vital Statistics.—There were four cases and the same number of deaths from plague in the city on Thursday, when the total mortality from all causes was 63 against a quinquennial average of 85.

A Retirement.—After a long and meritorious service in the Judicial Department the Hon'ble Dr. Gurudas Banerjee retires from the 31st instant. A farewell address will be given by the Vakils' Association the date of which has not yet been fixed.

Monetary.—The net imports of gold into India for the month of November, 1903, amounted to Rs. 1,09,48,121 and the silver to Rs. 1,30,70,482. The value of the silver received and coined at the Mint during the same month amounted to Rs. 1,55,73,046.

Alleged Assault by a European.—On Wednesday, before a bench of Honorary Presidency Magistrates, the case in which a European Inspector, E. B. S. Railway, stood charged with having assauted his dismissed servant named Abdul Rohman, was concluded. Evidence having been gone into, the Court dismissed the case and acquitted the defendant.

The Railway Prosecution Case.—This case in which the Station Master and the Signaller of the Bara Hapjan station were prosecuted by the A. R. and T. Co. Ld., for getting drunk and negligence of duty ended in the conviction of both the accused. Mr. Edward, A. C., who tried the case, convicted and sentenced both the accused to three months' rigorous imprisonment each.—"Times of Assam."

Managerial Department, N.-W.-R.—A very strong recommendation has reached the Government of India for the creation of a post of Native Assistant to the Manager, North-Western Railway, on a salary of Rs. 800 per mensem, to provide for Rai Sahib Bishen Dass, at present Personal Assistant to the Manager, on a salary of Rs. 500. The post of Assistant Manager has always been filled by an Engineer.—"Indian Engineering."

Weather and Crops in Bengal.—No rain reported. Rain is needed in Murshidabad, Hazaribagh and Palamau, and also in parts of Durbhanga and Bhagalpur. Prospects of "rabi" crops and poppy generally good. Harvesting of winter rice approaching completion. Cattle-disease reported from eight districts. Fodder and water sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in eleven districts, has fallen in three and is stationary in the remainder.

"Shiva-Churna."—This is a specific, prepared and patented by Kabiraj Jnanedra Nath Kabikankan of Muktaram Babu's Street, Calcutta, for Dyspepsia. The Kabiraj had for a time been distributing his "Churna" free, but, unable to cope with the demand, he has of late been forced to price it, nominally of course, at annas six only. The powder, so far as our information goes, can be used with advantage in cases of both acute and Chronic Dyspepsia.

Transfer of Jurisdiction.—The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in exercise of the powers vested in him by section 13, clause (1) of the Bengal North-Western Provinces and Assam Civil Courts Act, XII of 1887, is pleased to sanction the transfer of the civil jurisdiction of the Ghatail outpost subordinate to thana Kalihati in the district of Mymensingh from the local jurisdiction of the Pingna Munsifi to that of the Atia Munsifi in that district with effect from the 1st January, 1904.

Plague Mortality.—The statement showing the plague mortality in India for the week ending 9th January 1904 showed that the total stood at 17,344 against 16,503 for the previous week and 16,197 for the corresponding period of last year. The following were the details:—Bombay City 169, Bombay Presidency 6,605, Karachi 2, Madras 740, Calcutta 15, Bengal 938, United Provinces 3,291, Punjab 1,394, Central Provinces 1,474, Mysore 631, Hyderabad 972, Rajputana 135, Central India 855, Kashmir 21, Coorg 2.

Disturbance in a Hindu Temple.—On Wednesday, before Babu G. N. Paul, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore one Gonesh Chander Mookerjee and his two sons of Rakhitpore were charged with being members of an unlawful assembly and assault. The dispute arose between the accused and a priest over the possession of a temple which was in the actual possession of the latter. The accused in a body one day forcibly entered into the temple and after mercilessly assaulting the complainant, turned him out of the premises. They were sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment each.

A Circular.—The Chief Commissioner of Assam has, we learn, forwarded to the Secretary of the Assam Branch Indian Tea Association a circular dealing with the methods of applying for waste land grants. As there has been great delay in the past in the disposal of applications Mr. Fuller has drawn up a set of rules to facilitate future business. Survey fees are to be deposited with applications and failure to do so within one month of the date of applying will result in the application being struck off. Thirty days are to be allowed for objections to the application being lodged and the Government Surveyor is to ascertain by enquiry if any valid objections to the granting of the application exist. Applicants are required to put up permanent boundary marks within six months and any unreasonable delay in clearing boundaries or answering enquiries will result, after due warning, in the application becoming void.

The Opium Department.—The examination of European and Eurasian candidates for admission to the Opium Department will be held in Calcutta at the Bengal Secretariat (Writers' Buildings) on the 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th February, 1904. The subjects of examination will be taken in the order and at the times specified below: I.—Preliminary Subjects, Wednesday, the 17th February: (a) Dictation and English composition from 10-30 a. m. to 1 p. m., (b) Arithmetic, from 2 to 4-30 p. m. II.—Obligatory Subjects, Monday, the 22nd February: (a) English Literature, from 10-30 a. m. to 1 p. m.; (b) English History, from 2 to 4-30 p. m.; Tuesday, the 23rd February, (c) Algebra and Trigonometry from 10-30 a. m. to 1 p. m.; (d) Euclid from 2 to 4-30 p. m., Wednesday, the 24th February, (e) Hindustani from 10-30 a. m., to 1 p. m. (f) Indian History, from 2 to 4-30 p .m. III.—Optional Subjects, Thursday, the 25th February, (a) Latin or Botany from 10-30 a. m. to 1 p. m.; (b) French or Chemistry from 2 to 4-30 p. m.

Calcutta University Convocation.—A Convocation of the Senate of the University of Calcutta for conferring degrees will be held at the Senate House, College Square, on Saturday, the 13th February 1904, at 3 p. m. Graduates of the University in academic costume will be admitted to the Convocation on presenting themselves at the Senate House at 1 p. m.

Mr. Ghose's Congress Speech.—A writer in the "Indian Empire" of Calcutta says, that he saw "Mr. Ghose on the eve of his departure for Madras when there was a talk about the coming speech. Mr. Ghose complained that this was the first time in his life that he had to put down his undelivered speech in writing—a task quite uncongenial to him. Most of his phrases and expressions in his previous speeches came out spontaneously while speaking He would not be surprised if his present attempt fell short of his previous performances."

Griffith Memorial Prize.—The Griffith Memorial Prize, 1902, has been divided as follows:—Two-thirds, or Rs. 600, to Babu Krishnaprasad De, M.A., the author of the Essays on "Reciprocation" and "Double Refraction," and of the remaining one-third or Rs. 300, half, or Rs. 150, to Babu Gopal Chandra Chatterjee, M.B., the author of the essay on "Parasites in Anopheles," and half, or Rs. 150, to Babu Jatindranath Sen, M.A., the author of the essay on the "Decomposition of Mercuramonium Salts under the influence of Heat."

Mr. Ghose's Presidential Address.—There seems to be no little difference of opinion, says the "Indian Mirror," on the subject of Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose's Presidential address at the last Congress. Some have lauded the speech up to the skies, others have cried it down to the ground. For our part, we are of opinion that if ever there was a scholarly and statesmanlike speech made by any Congress President, that distinction preeminently belongs to Mr. Ghose's address. The "Bombay Gazette," however, has thought it necessary to open a broad[illegible] Mr. Ghose, and decry his address with no little virulence.

[illegible]an Financial Statement.—The usual returns and estimates are now being prepared for the Indian Financial Statement, and they will be sent in by the end of the month. It is quite certain there will be another handsome surplus, the opium and railway receipts especially having surpassed expectation, while the general reserves are very good. These more than compensate for the losses owing to the reduction of the salt revenue and income tax. There will be a considerable saving also on account of troops employed in Somaliland, as all their charges are borne by the Home Exchequer.

A sad Accident.—Babu Amrita Lall Seal of the National Bank of India Ld., Calcutta, writes:—There is a rifle range near the Kanchrapara station on the E. B. S. Railway. While the volunteers were engaged in 'target practice' there on Tuesday, some of the bullets accidentally shot three women, who were passing down the road close by. The injured women were instantly removed to the local Hospital for treatment, and I hear, one of them is lying there in a very precarious condition. The authorities should make a shifting enquiry into the matter and take immediate steps to prevent repetition of such painful cases in future.

A Notification.— The Lieutenant-Governor notifies, under section 134 of Act IX of 1890. [illegible]ne Indian Railways Act), the places at which persons committing any offence against the said Act, or any Rules thereunder, in the undermentioned localities, may be tried in the courts opposite their names:—Port Trust Railway line running from Cossipore Gun Foundry, along the easttrn bank of river Hooghly in Calcutta, dawn to Hastings bridge, and thence through the Port Commissioners' Dock lands up to its point of junction with the Southern section (Budge-Budge Branch) of Eastern Bengal State Railway, including all lands within the railway fencing, yards and compounds of the said line,—Court of Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta; and portion of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line on the eastern side of the river Hooghly, branching off from the Port Trust Railway line crossing the Circular Garden Reach Road and Garden Reach Road, and extending up to the river Hooghly, including all lands within the railway fencing, yards and compounds of the said line,—Court of Deputy Magistrate, Sealdah.

A Play Terminated in Blows.—On Friday, before Mr. Abdur Rohim, the Northern Division Presidency Magistrate, a case and a cross-case were heard which disclosed that friends came to blows at a game of bluff. The facts of the case are these. One Goberdhone Chackerbutty, Upendro Nath Roy and two others met together in the house of one Kusum "bariwalli" and began to play cards. In the midst of the play, Goberdhone showed a bluff ("binti") to Opendra. He on the other hand, showed bluff to Goberdhone. Thus an altercation ensued between the parties as to whose bluff would get the preference and eventually Opendra gave a hard push to Goberdhone, who fell down. Not being satisfied with this, Opendra picked up a shoe and when he was about to strike Goberdhone with it, the "bariwalli" and others interfered and prevented him from doing any further assault. The cross-case preferred by Opendra was that Goberdhone also struck him on the nose and he bled. Babu Sukumar Chatterji appeared for Goberdhone and Babu Gonesh Chander Mukerjee for Opendra. Both cases were tried one after the other. Opendra and Goberdhone were fined Rs. 5 each.

An Important Damage Suit.—For the last few days Rai Bhagobatty Charan Mitter, Bahadur, the second Sub-Judge of Alipore is engaged in hearing a suit in which Babu Dunialal Seal, a millionair of Jorasanko, Calcutta, is the plaintiff and Mr. Galstonn of the turf celebriety, is the defendant. The plaintiff's case is that he is the owner of a big pleasure garden in Manicktollah, and that the defendant has got a Shellac manufactory in the adjoining premises. The plaintiff further alleges that the water flowing out of the manufactory is so obnoxious and injurious to health that it has created a most serious nuisance in the neighbourhood. He also therefore claimed Rs. 6,000 as damages for this nuisance. Among others the plaintiff has examined Mr. Schulten, a great scientific expert, who has made statements in support of the plaintiff's case. The defendant's principal witnesses are Lt. Col. Grant I.M.S., Chemical Examiner to the Government of India and Dr. Cook, the Health Officer to the Corporation of Calcutta. The former deposed that the effluent or what he called "trade waste" is not in itself of obnoxious character, but in decomposed condition it may become so and for which the defendant is not responsible. The plaintiff is represented by Babus O. C. Ghose, R. T. Bannerjee and C. P. Bannerjee and defendant by Babu Saroda Charan Mitter Vakil High Court, Mr. McNair and Babu Kanialal Sen Pleader.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

FALL IN CONSOLS.

London, Jan. 12.

Consols fell ½ to-day, and now stand at 87-11/16.

THE JAPANESE TREATY.

London, Jan. 12.

Ratifications of the Japanese treaty, opening ports in Manchuria, have been exchanged at Peking.

INDIAN DEFENCE.

London, Jan. 12.

Mr. Balfour at Manchester to-day said, he anticipated that the new Committee of Imperial Defence would do much in the direction of a closer Imperial union and especially prove the bond of union between India and the rest of the Empire. The question of Indian defence was one affecting the whole Empire.

He subsequently received a joint deputation of Cotton Masters and men with reference to the gambling in cotton, and at Mr. Balfour's request, the proceedings were private.

THE BALKANS.

London, Jan. 12.

Advices from all the Balkan countries point to the certainty of a general conflagration in the spring. This is regarded as an important factor in the Far Eastern situation, because Russia is unlikely to desire to be engaged in both the Near and Far East.

A KOREAN PORT OPENED.

London, Jan. 13.

The Emperor of Korea has ordered the opening of the Port of Wiju subject to the acquiescence of China.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

London, Jan. 13.

The "Times" Peking correspondent says China is disposed to regard the Tibet expedition approvingly as a possible check to Russian intrigue.

INDIA AND THE TARIFF.

London, Jan. 13.

Replying to a letter from Mr. Beauchamp, Editor of the "Madras Mail," the Secretary of the Tariff Commission, writes that great attention has been devoted to the representation of India on the Commission which will probably include an able representative and doubtless also secure the best expert advice and assistance in connection with the trade of India.

The final list of the Commission published today includes the name of Sir Charles Elliott; otherwise the name of nobody connected with India.

RUSSIA AND THE POWERS.

London, Jan. 13.

It is confirmed that the Powers have received a Circular Note from Russia emphasizing her peculiar position in Manchuria in connection with the railway, and assuring them that all rights under Treaties will be respected. Ratifications of the Chino-American Treaty for the opening of Mukden and Antung have been exchanged at Washington.

The Russian battleship Aurora and the cruiser Dmitridonskoi, besides seven torpedoes, have arrived at Port Said. The Dmitridonskoi has entered the Canal, and the others follow on the arrival of the rest of the squadron under Admiral Wirennius.

For the first time since the Russo-Japanese crisis, German Government circles which, hitherto, have been consistently optimistic, to-day regard war as a proximate contingency.

JAPAN'S ATTITUDE.
THE U.S. AND MANCHURIA.

London, Jan. 13.

Baron Hayashi thinks that the phrase "resort to arms" used in The Times despatch from Peking is a misconstruction of Chinese characters. Japan, he says, is still striving to maintain peace, and hopes to succeed. The Chinese declaration of neutrality was due to the urgent advice of Japan.

A telegram from St. Petersburg says the Japanese reply is expected in two or three days.

A long conference was held between the Emperor and the statesmen yesterday, when it is stated the reply to Russia was approved.

Reuter telegraphing from Tokio says the Japanese in their answer to Russia, will probably ask for a reply from Russia within a fixed period.

China has assented to Mr. Conger's request for immediate signature of the protocol at Washington to be equivalent to an exchange of ratifications.

SOMALILAND.
A TELEGRAM FROM THE KING.

London, Jan. 13.

The King has telegraphed to General Egerton his great satisfaction at the successful action with the Dervishes and his regret at our losses.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ARBITRATION.

London, Jan. 13.

An influential conference of representatives from all parts of the country is being held at Washington to promote the conclusion of an Anglo-American arbitration treaty.

CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST.

London, Jan. 14.

Reuters Correspondent at Tokio says that Japan's reply has been handed to Baron Rosen, and contains no time-limit.

The Japanese Cruiser Kusuya has arrived at Port Said from Genoa.

President Roosevelt has already selected Consuls for Mukden and Autung, and sends their names to the Senate as soon as Congress provides salaries.

GERMANY AND CANADA.

London, Jan. 14.

PresidentRoosevelt, when receiving the resolutions of the Anglo-American Arbitration Conference, heartily agreed with the efforts to secure International Arbitration.

INDIAN TEA IN LONDON.

London Jan. 14.

Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, of 13, Rood Lane, telegraph:—

The market generally is steady.

The market for Medium Liquoring Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady.

The market for Common Pekoes and Broken Pekoes is steady.

The average price of Assam Tea sold on Garden Account this week is 7⅝ d.

The average price of Indian Tea sold on Garden Account this week is 7¼ d.—"I.D.N."

DEATH OF CAPTAIN LISTER.

London Jan. 14.

Captain Lister of the 10th Hussars, missing since the action at Jidballi has been killed.

A DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT.

London Jan. 14.

Mr. Townley, Secretary of the Legation at Peking is transferred to Constantinople.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

JAPAN'S REPLY TO RUSSIA.

London Jan. 14.

Baron Hayashi has received the text of Japan's reply and says it is in nowise an ultimatum. It is pacific but perfectly firm. Japan's position is unchanged. The reply repeats her original coditions regarding Manchuria and Korea, and especially insists upon Chinese sovereignity over Manchuria.

The "King Alfred" and "Dmitri Donskoi" are coaling at Suez. The Japanese cruisers "Kassuga" and "Nisshin" are passing the Canal. The Russian battleship "Oslyabia has arrived at Port Said.

An official communique published at Washington says that the establishment of foreign consulates at Mukden, Autung, and Tatangyau will powerfully contribute to ensuring the open door to which America is irrevocably committed, and also to the integrity of China and its administrative control over Manchuria.

MR. BRODRICK AND THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

London Jan. 14.

Mr. Brodrick presiding at a distinguished assemblage of the Society of Arts to hear a paper by Sir W. Lee-Warner on the Bombay Presidency, said that Englishmen did not pay sufficient attention to the devotion of those giving years of their lives to the carrying out of a system of government which was a pattern to the world. He paid a high tribute to Lord Curzon.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

London, Jan. 15.

Two large vessels of the Russian Volunteer fleet have passed the Bosphorus with troops for the Far East.

Reuter's Peking correspondent says the expectation of war has greatly increased in diplomatic circles there.

At the New Year's reception at St. Petersburg, the Tsar said: "I desire and intend to do all in my power to maintain peace in the Far East."

The Japanese Minister at Washington has informed Secretary Hay that the Japanese reply amounts to a denial of all the important Russian proposals, while Japan's counter preposals are of such a nature as almost certainly to make them unacceptable.

The Standard correspondent and Odessa says the Porte has refused Russia's urgent applicat on for the passage of the Black Sea Squaroron through the Besphorus and the Dardanells.

FURIHER DEFAILS.

London, Jan. 15.

Reuter's special correspondent in a despatch from Jabaill says the enemy charged advancing on the British square only once. Three hundred fell under the withering fire of the 2nd Sikhs, the whole affair lasting barely ten menutes.

Colonel Kenna pursued the survivors for two hours until the ammunition was exhausted slaying six hundred. The Mullah may make a further determined resistance but not in the open.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

FATAL FIGHT WITH CHINESE DACOITS.
DEATH OF CAPTAIN F. A. WYLLIE.

Allahabad, JaJn. 13.

News has been received from Rangoon of a fatal fight between a party of military police and some Chinese dacoits in the Mongsi Circle of the North Hsenwi State. Early on the morning of the 7th instant an attack was made by fifteen military policemen under Captain A. Wyllie, Assistant political officer accompanied by the Superintendent of the Northern Shan States upon a notorious Chinese dacoit long harboured, there. Captain Wyllie shot the dacoit leader dead, but being simultaneously fired at by the dacoit was mortally wounded and died the same evening. Captain Wyllie's body was brought into Kutkai and buried with Military honours.

THE CRISIS.

Allahabad, Jan. 15.

THE FAR EAST.

The "Indian Daily Telegraph" correspondent at Colombo wires on the 15th: The Russian steamer "Kazan" arrived here yesterday with two thousand troops and a large cargo of smokeless powder in transit for the Far East and sailed again to-day.

TIBET MISSION.

The "Daily Telegraph" special correspondent telegraphs from Chumbi on December 15th: Chumbi Camp lies a shallow basin formed in a sharp south ward bend of the Ammo Chu. It is flanked by brown firclad hills that rise fifteen hundred feet above the river bed and preclude a view of the mountains which are on all sides scanty strips of arable land terraced and enclosed by stone walls. Stone-built Tibetan houses with low overhanging eaves and wooden tiles, each weighed down by a grey boulder, give Chumbi the appearance of a Swiss Valley. The lofty praying flags alone remove the deception. The sun rests on the camp of the Mission for only six hours in the day. There is a precipitous water course frozen to a Ladder of Ice. Milk, ink and everything in the camp is frozen. The officers wear yellow Cashmere poshteans, black woollen caps with flaps meeting under the chin and nobody yellow Gilgit boots lined with wool. Nobody shaves the length of service with the Mission if instantly recognised by the length of the beard with all its discomforts. The climate is eminently healthy and bracing.

A CONGRATULATORY MEETING.

Bhagalpur, Jan. 15.

An enthusiastic meeting of the members of the Bar, presided over by Babu Kirti Chandra Chatterjee, was held to congratulate the Hon. Saligram Singh, upon his election to the Bengal Council. Several members spoke eulogistically on the occasion. The members were entertained with light refreshments by the Hon. Rai Tarini Prosad Bahadur.

THE CRISIS.

Colombo, Jan. 15.

The Japanese steamship line, the N. Y. K., has issued orders stopping the sailing of their steamers. The fleet consist of eighty steamer which can be used as transport or supply boats but not as armoured cruisers. In the case of the China war a similar course was followed but then only after the declaration of war. It is decided that the regular sailings are not interrupted excepting that VBritish chartered steamers will replace Japanese steamers. The N. Y. K. steamers at present on the way to Europe beyond Colombo continue their journey, afterwards returning to Japan for orders.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

High Court.—Jan. 15.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Ghose and Stephen)

ALLEGED MISCHIEF.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal obtained a Rule on behalf of one Gongadhur Mukerjee and five others, who had been convicted by the Sub-Divisional officer of Banka, calling upon the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur to show cause why the conviction and sentence against the petitioners should not be set aside. The case for the prosecution was as follows: On the 15th September last, the petitioners with a number of others, armed with "lathis" came down in a body and forcibly filled up a small channel depriving several others of drawing water. A complaint to this effect was laid before the Sub-Divisional officer of Banka by one Gaibi Nath Chowdhury. The petitioners were thereafter convicted under Section 430 and 143 of the Penal Code and each of them was sentenced to undergo imprisonment till the rising of the Court and to pay a fine of Rs. 20. On appeal to the Sessions Judge the conviction was confirmed.

GAMBLING.

Mr. Jackson with abu Dwarka Nath Mitter moved on behalf of Durga Prasad and 23 others for a rule on the District Magistrate of Saran to show cause why the conviction of the petitioners under Sec 11 of Act II of 1867 (B. C.) viz., the Gambling Act by the Joint Magistrate of the District should not be set aside. The facts of the case are briefly these. On the night of the last Dewali festival, the petitioners were arrested in the shop of one Mahabir Shah in the town of Chapra where they were found gambling with "couries," coins, etc. The petitioners were put on their trial with the result that they were convicted as stated above and sentenced to pay sums of fine varying from Rupees 25 to 10.

Learned counsel contended that the "osara" or "verandah" of a shop was not a "public place" within the meaning of Sec. 11 of Act II of 1867, and that "public place" did not include shop of a private person to which the public has access only by permission and not as of right and it was quite open to the owner of the shop to prevent any one of the public from entering his shop Mr. Jackson further contended that the occurrence took place at midnight and no articles or wares were exposed for sale so that the shop may then be taken to have been closed for all ordinary purposes; and if the place in question was not a public place within the meaning of the Act the conviction cannot stand.

His Lordship granted a rule on the ground urged.

ORIGINAL SIDE.

(Before Mr. Justice Henderson)

ALLEGED DEFAMATION.

His Lordship Mr. Justice Henderson delivered a very lengthy judgment in the case of Amrita Nath Mittra vs. Abhoy Charun Ghose and another. The case was instituted by the plaintiff for an alleged libel contained in a letter dated the 4th May, 1901. The circumstances under which the alleged libel was made are as follow:—The defendant, who were the attorneys both for the plaintiff and Mr. S. N. Tagore, negotiated a loan of Rs. 70,000 on the mortgage of the houses No. 226-1 Lower Circular Road and No. 19, Store Road, Ballygunge, the plaintiff advancing the money at 7½ per cent interest. After this Mr. Tagore left Calcutta and the Government revenue of No. 19, Store Road was left unpaid and the house was therefore sold at a revenue sale, and the proprietor of Messrs. Child and Co. purchased it for Rs. 12,000. The defendants coming to know of this, immediatedly wrote to the plaintiff about the sale. The plaintiff thereupon asked that Mr. Tagore should either pay up the mortgage debt or give additional securities. In the meanwhile Mr. Tagore was negotiating with the auction purchaser to take back the house. Mr. Tagore considered the plaintiff's proposal to give additional securities unreasonable and said that he would much rather pay up the mortgage debt. Upon this plaintiff said that he wanted three months' interest, as Mr. Tagore, he alleged, was bound to do, under the terms of the mortgage. Mr. Tagore replied that the demand for payment of interest having gone, he was not entitled to three months' interest, but only interest up to date. P. C. Ker of the defendants' firm thereupon communicated the proposal of Mr. Tagore to the plaintiff, who thereupon said that he had never authorised P. C. Ker to make the demand and therefore Ker had betrayed his interest for that of Mr. Tagore, as the latter was Ker's personal friend. Ker said that he had written to Mr. Tagore to pay up under the express instructions of the plaintiff and it was too late for the plaintiff to deny that. The plaintiff had said nothing about the three months' additional interest and therefore Mr. Tagore was entitled to pay up. The plaintiff thereupon wrote a letter to the defendants saying that they had acted without his instruction in demanding money and that Ker had acted as broker and attorney in the transaction and betrayed his interest, and he (plaintiff) would being Ker's conduct to the notice of the Court for improper and unprofessional conduct. Ker, thereupon, replied in a letter dated the 4th of May that it was false and false to the knowledge of the plaintiff, that instructions were not given to him by the plaintiff to demand the money and that he treated the threat of his conduct being reported to the Court with contempt and that he would like the matter to come up before the Court and that it would give him an opportunity to show up some traits of plaintiff's character to the world. These two allegations were alleged to belibellous and plaintiff claimed Rs. 10,000 as damages. The case was heard for five days and Mr. Justice Henderson in delivering judgment said that the two alleged statements were made in self-defence. The first was absolutely privileged as it was made in defending the defendants' character as a professional man, but the second statement went a little more than was necessary to defend his character but it was provoked by the threat of the plaintiff and it was not proved that the plaintiff had suffered any substantial damage. But the charge that was made against the defendants by the plaintiff was a very serious one. His Lordship dismissed the suit with costs in scale No. 2.

CIVIL BENCH.

(Before Mr. Justice Rampini and Pratt.)

AN APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER.

Babu Saroda Charan Mittra with Babu Hemendra Nath Sen moved on behalf of Babu Syam Lal Chatterjee, father of Babu Girindra Mohon Roy Chowdhury, the minor proprietor of the Tooshbbander Estate in the District of Rungpur, for the transfer of a case, from the file of Mr. K. N. Roy, the District Judge, which is going on between the said petitioner and Srimati Sarajini Dasi, the adoptive mother of the said minor. The District Judge, it appears, had called for the inventory and accounts of the Estate from Srimati Sarajini Dasi, who had been appointed guardian of the person and property of the minor, and appointed a commissioner for the examination of the same. The report of the said Commissioner was to the effect that the inventory was not correct, that some valuable moveables were missing, that the accounts were not properly kept, that a sum of Rs. 50,000 and odd have been kept unaccounted for and that the account books have been tampered with. Thereupon the father of the minor moved the Hon'ble Board of Revenue for taking over charge of the estate, and applied before the District Judge for the removal of the guardian. The adoptive mother applied for the custody of the minor who had all along been living with his father at Burdwan. The District Judge directed the father of the minor to produce the boy. The boy being too ill to go to Rungpur a certificate was submitted from the Civil Surgeon of Burdwan, but Mr. K. N. Roy not being satisfied with that commissioned Mr. N. Sinha, Surgeon Major, Rungpur, for examining the boy at Burdwan, and a sum of Rs. 300 was paid for his fee and travelling charges. In the meantime the boy was brought to Calcutta, and the father asked Mr. Sinha to examine the boy there but Mr. Sinha declined to do so. The father was then fined Rs. 100 by the District Judge and a daily fine of Rs. 10 aggregating up to Rs. 500. Against this order an appeal was preferred to this Hon'ble Court which is now pending. It was contened that one Gobindo Chundra Roy, who was one of the sureties for the gurdian adoptive mother, was a causin of the District Judge Mr. K. N. Roy and that he held influence over his causin, the District Judge.

Their Lordships issued a Rule on the District Judge of Rungpur to show cause why the case should not be transferred from his file to the file of some other Judge.

A JEHU'S VICTORY.

On Friday, before Mr. Abdur Rohim the Northern Division Presidency Magistrate, a ticca gharry driver named Sheik Sidhu charged Mr. A. D. Cohen, with having assaulted him by giving cuts with a whip, in Canning Street on the 24th December last. As the case was called on, Babu Kristo Lall Dutt for the defence intended to the Court that "the assault is admitted but there was provocation." Babu Debendra Nath Ghosh for the prosecution submitted that there was no provocation. The defendant gave 5 or 6 cuts with a whip on the back of the complainant. The defendant came out of a lane and seeing a gharry asked the driver to hire out the gharry. The driver said that the gharry had been engaged by a gentleman and he was waiting for him. On this, the defendant assaulted him with the whip. The man was in Hospital. Here the driver showed the marks, which were still visible, to the Court. Mr. Jacob who had engaged the complainant, was examined and after this the Court framed a charge under section 323 I. P. Code. Accused pleaded guilty to the charge. His Worship then remarked "it is very bad to assault people in the Street" and accordingly sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 20. Out of the fine, if realized, Rs. 15 was ordered to be paid to the complainant by way of compensation.

A DOG'S WAR RECORD.

Unusual interest centred in a case heard in the Dublin Police Court the other day, in which the leading figure was a bulldog that formerly belonged to General Philip Botha, and went through a good portion of the South African War. Ernest Warmingham, canteen manager for the contractors was summoned for cruelty to the animal, which has been stationed for some time past with the Royal Irish Rifles at Richmond Barracks.

The bulldog, which now belongs to Colour-Sergeant Edwards, Royal Irish Rifles, was accommodated with a seat in the witness box, from which point he seemed to take a languid interest in the proceedings. He was dressed in a coat with green facings, and wore several South African Medals with clasps. The animal's record is an eventful one. During the Boer War he was captured by the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles' Mounted Infantry from Commandant Philip Botha's farm in the Doornberg, in September, 1900. From that time until the end of the war he trekked with the Rifles' mounted force from Griqualand in the West to Basutoland in the East, and he still bear the scar of a wound received in action. Later he was with General French's column in Cape Colony. For his service, the bulldog now wears the Queen's South African Medal with three clasps, and the King's South African Medal with two clasps. Mr. Drury remarked, when the case was called, that this was the most distinguished dog in this country, as he had Medals.

Colour-Sergeant Edwards gave evidence that on the 2nd ultimo he missed the dog from barracks, and after making a search found the animal in a very bad state, bleeding from wounds in his legs and also in the head. There was other evidence that defendant was seen thrashing the dog with a stick outside the canteen, and when the stick broke he kicked the animal in the throat. Defendant declared that the bulldog attacked a small Irish terrier in the canteen, and in order to separate them he had to use his stick, but he denied having kicked the animal. The dog, he asserted, had been twice sentenced to be shot for worrying other dogs; but this its owner indignantly denied. The Bench considered that gross and unnecessary evidence had been used, and fined the defendant £1 with costs.

A BOAR ON THE VERANDAH.

At this festive season we are accustomed to receive visits from friends and acquaintances of the genus homo, but when wild animals of the porcine family also take to paying unexpected and forcible calls, without due notice or the usual pasteboard, it is rather embarrassing and starting to say the least, and such unwelcome guests should receive an emphatic "durwaza bund" folowed with an ounce of lead. I regret that in the following narrative the former was given without the latter. About 5-30 p.m., during the afternoon of the 6th instant at Dabeepore Factory the Misses C. and two children Miss D. and Master C. were quietly enjoying a cup of tea in the front verandah of the bungalow, when to their astonishment the kitmatgar rushed up and breathlessly asked for a gun, saying a wild boar was coming along west of the house. To secure the gun was the work of a moment and thus armed, he with two other servants ran down the back verandah steps on deeds of valour intent—but during his short absence the wily brute, to avoid the unpleasant proximity of the shikaries behind, swam across the dhar obviding the bungalow from the road, and deliberately came up the bank towards them. At this particular moment had the valiant kitmatgar fired, he might have bagged the game, but losing their heads all three servants took to their heels and ran back up the verandah steps, only to find themselves followed by the infuriated beast, who avoiding the steps took a flying leap and also landed straight on the verandah, a height of four feet from the ground. Here we shall leave him for the present and return to the ladies and children. At the first alarm the two ladies rushed into their bedroom calling out to the children to follow, but they preferring to "see the fun" as they called it, remained in the adjoining dining-room and stood at the doorway leading into the back verandah—suddenly they were terrified to see the huge beast appear on the verandah within a few feet and on a level with them. Although speechless with fright they had sufficient presence of mind to slam the door in the boar's face and make a dash into the next room where their aunties had already barricaded themselves in. Their feelings can better be imagined than described. Sticking out of the boar's back was the end of a barbed headed spear to which was attached a long string and broken bamboo—while a stream of blood running from the raw wound sufficiently accounted for the brute's mad fury.

To return to the scene on the back verandah which had now reached an acute stage. The savage beast on mischief bent completely bowled over and ripped the klomatgar in two placesand the gun went off in the melee, though fortunately no one was shot. He then turned his attentions to the other two unfortunates, who thinking their last moments had arrived, were frantically banging at the ladies room door, but as the ladies inside were under the impression the boar himself was knocking for admittance they naturally refused to admit them. They then in their desperate plight endeavoured to squeeze their bodies behind an almirah alongside and in doing so brought the whole thing down with a mighty crash almost on top of the enraged beast. Only then did he think proper to "make tracks" down the opposite end of the verandah and jumping off again passed between a tent and the bungalow, out on to the open country beyond, followed by a yelling crowd of natives. Mr. and Mrs. C. having driven out to see the repairs to a road, were at that particular time shooting partridges, and puite oblivious of the exciting scenes being enacted at home. It makes one pause to think of th narrow escape of those at the bungalow, and thankful a possible tragedy did not occur.—R. I. C. in the "Englishman."

JAPAN'S MINERAL WEALTH.

Among the many other resemblances of Japan to Britain is, says "Engineering," the amount of its mineral resources. Those of Japan, indeed, are much more varied. Gold, silver, and copper, as well as other scarcer metals, are found in considerable quantities, and there are deposits of iron ore which will serve for some time; but probably Japan, like Britain, will depend largely on the neighbouring continent for her chief supplies of this important ore; indeed, considerable quantities are already being imported from China. Fortunately, there are abundant supplies of coal, not only in the northern island, but also in the southern parts of the Empire.

THE THIBET MISSION.

The latest news of the Tibet Mission states that Colonel Younghusband and the headquarters of the Mission having been safely conducted and settled with supplies at Tuna, Colonel Macdonald has returned to Phari, and when more supplies have been pushed up another advance will be made. Tuna is described as a small village of some dozen houses, and its residents have proved quite friendly and have given all available supplies. Colonel Younghusband by the way is believed to be accompanied by several Chinese officials. The climb over the Tangla was fairly easy, but the march was long and transport animals suffered rather severely at the height of 15,000 feet. Luckily, however, there were no causalties. So far there is no sign of any opposition, the advance has been made in strict accord with the programme which Colonel Younghusband laid down, and the Government of India are believed to be quite satisfied with the progress which has been made.

Tidal observations are now conducted by the Survey of India Department at 13 stations in the country, and the number is likely to be increased in due time.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hewett, Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, has recently installed the Raja of Kanker, and is now working back to Headquarters.

The Chiefs of the Feudatory States of Nandgaon and Khairagarh in the Central Provinces are introducing the cultivation of cotton into their territories and have so far been successful in inducing a large number of cultivators to take up the crop. Under the assistance and advice of the Provincial authorities the experiment promises well.

THINGS STRANGE AND WONDERFUL.

ABOUT GIANTS.

That very few of the giants who have ever lived have been healthy or well formed recent researches prove beyond a doubt. All we know about Goliath is that he was very tall, but in the second Book of Kings we read about another giant, who had more fingers than an ordinary human being, and, according to modern scientists, this is invariably a token of degeneracy. Marcel Donnal saw at Milan a giant who was so tall that his body filled two beds at night, but whose legs were so weak that he could hardly stand upright. William Evans, the gigantic porter of Charles I., had little strength, and Cromwell's porter, another giant, ended his days in a lunatic asylum. Finally, O'Brien, the Irish giant, has been described as "an enormous sick child who grew up too fast."

NOVEL LIFEBOAT.

Once more an ingenious lifeboat has been invented. It consists of an outer rotatable shell, an inner hanging carriage and a centre-board, which is longitudinally attached to the shell in such a manner that it can be opened or closed.

At each end of the shell are a pair of transverse bulkheads, forming an inner compartment between them, and, furthermore, there is a mechanism, by means of which the carriage can be locked to the shell in any desired position with relation to the centre-board when the latter is open.

In a few other respects this boat differs from those now in use, and it is said by those who have examined it to possess some notable advantages over them.

A MUSICAL HEART.

Professor Reitter, of Vienna, recently astonished the Medical Society of that city by saying that one of his patients had a musical heart. She is a woman, and ever since her fourth year she has suffered from palpitations. While still very young she noticed that a harmonious and thrilling sound came from her chest whenever she breathed, and a year or two later this music became so distinct that any one who was in the same room with her could hear it.

As she grew older it became more shrill and closely resembled a human voice. At present this curious music consists of only two notes, which are described as being very sweet and clear. Professor Reitter and the other members of the Medical Society are now studying this singular phenomenon, and the result of their investigations is awaited with interest by physicians throughout Europe.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN ASIA.

The well-known traveller M. Gabriel Bonvalot contributes to the "Echo de Paris" an article entitled "Russians and English in Asia," in which he reviews the situation from a French point of view. He maintains that none can foresee anything which will arrest the expansion of Russia, whose sources of energy and power of action increase each day with the number of her population, her confidence in her strength, and her knowledge of how best to make use of it. The sons of Old England from beyond the seas cannot have the same native confidence in the future, the same carelessness of the morrow, as the Slavs, who are still in "the serenity of youth." They force themselves to draw back the moment they are compelled to play a game the stakes of which are of a very unequal value. A defeat suffered by the Russians would be easily repaired, for enormous reserves of fighting men are massed behind Turkestan. A serious defeat of the English on the frontiers of India would be almost irremediable. Consequently the English must make no mistakes, and those at the helm are always wide awake and listening intently; the merest trifle disquiets them. They display admirable will, intelligence, and activity. They are a few picked men harnessed to a difficult task of government and exploitation. They acquit themselves of their duties as it is desired that they should do, and enjoy the advantages due to so much labour. I "must repeat to my fellow-countrymen, who will perhaps some day end by understanding it, the English are convinced that "tout se fait avec des hommes," and they take care to confide the destinies of India to the ablest hands and the most capable brains."

The strategy of Great Britain, says M. Bonvalot, consists in erecting obstacles all round India which shall arrest the march of the adversary. At the same time she hastens to secure the good ports and their vast Hinterlands. She foresees that the Russians are destined to become a great maritime Power and desires to close the only doors by which the Russians, escaping from their "Continental prison," may have free access to the seas and oceans.

In the Far East the English harass the Russians through the petulant Japanese, who proclaim their pretensions over Corea, China, and all Asia in general. In the Persian Gulf the English endeavour to extend their influence by missions, by cruisers, and, when necessary, by cannonades, as at Bahrein; and as at present they have placed in India perhaps the two best men in England, Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener, a redoubled activity is perceptible. After referring to the expedition into Thibet, M. Bonvalot says that if the Russians have made a treaty with the Thibetans, as it said, they may perhaps intervene. It is to their interest to do so if they wish to preserve their prestige in the eyes of their numerous subjects for whom Lhassa is what Rome is for the Catholics. If they do nothing they will shortly see the English at Lhassa. Then the turn of Afghanistan will come, for the Afghan Question cannot fail to have a lively interest for Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener; two men of their temperament will not fail to attempt to regulate it.

A WEALTHY BHATTIA'S WILL.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Chandavarkar and the Hon. Mr. Justice Batty of the Bombay High Court delivered judgment on appeal in the case of Bai Gangabai and others against Bhagwandas Walji. This was an appeal filed by the defendant from a decree of Mr. Justice Russell, passed in June last, dismissing with costs the caveat of the defendant, and directing probate to issue to the executor named in the will of the late Mr Gordhandas Sundardas, a wealthy Bhatia merchant and mill owner of Bombay. The Hon. Mr. Scott, Mr. Raikes and Mr. Lowndes, instructed by Messrs. Mansukhlal, Jamsetji and Hirjibhai, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. D. D. Davar and the Hon. Mr. Sitalvad, instructed by Messrs. Dikshit, Dhanjishah and Sunderdas, for the defendant and appellant. Their ordships, in delivering a lengthy judgment, held that the will was the ast will and testament of the deceased with the exception of clause 26th of the will, and the clause in reference to the deed-poll. The costs were ordered to come out of the estate.

SWAMI RAMTIRATH IN UNITED STATES.

HINDU PHILOSOPHER EXPLAINS NEW CREED TO INTERESTED AUDIENCE.

"To save our neighbors from a static spiritual stagnation, and help them to enjoy dynamic freedom in religion is the duty of those who tread the Vedantic Common Path."

The Common Path is the name given a new line of religious and psychological thought and research by Swami Ram, the visiting high priest and philosopher of India.

Swami Ram delivered the first lecture in Portland to a large and representative audience in the Alisky building the other day morning. He has been well received and the interest his teachings and learning have awakened among scholars and thinkers is most gratifying to this propounder of new truths.

In his lecture, "What Are You?" he gave as the object of the Common Path the regulation of the conduct of life. He advocated minimizing the waste or energy, the reduction of the wear and tear of the body and mind, and all kinds of dissipation due to envy or jealousy, the cure of mental dyspepsia, the removal of intellectual pauperism and the abandoment of spiritual slavery. The harmonious development of both mind and body, love, happiness and the beautiful in nature were all cited as helpful and necessary in this regulation of the conduct of life.

The individual is the keynote of this new cult—the expansion of one's own soul and mind is accountable for the manner in which the love of God helps him or is accepted by him. The individual against conventionality and precedent if the strong man casts off conventionality, suggestion and authority as guides to conduct, he must guard himself against hereditary impulse. "To escape from human control only to be ruled by the animal passions, calling it 'neutral life,' is no liberty. That freedom which is thraldom brings destruction. To be free from the control of others one should be wise enough to control himself."

Swami Ram dwelt at length upon conforming and conceding to reason and truth. He claimed that lack of openness, docility, aversions to study, antagonism to truth if not served in one'sown "baby dish" or traditional form is prejudice and superstition or actual stubbornness. He said:

"There can be no alleviation of the suffering of mankind except in absolute veracity of thought and action and a resolute facing of the world as it is. This requires one to live by the sweat of his brow, to labor and live a life of action, and to make one's interests identical with the love of humanity."

The will to act, and something to do, were advocated as remedies for all sorts of social or personal discontent. The healings taught by the Common Path are claimed by him to be the result of all science and practical investigation.

"On these points alone I want to lay before you the teachings of different religions and show their remarkable identity."

A series of classes will be taught by Swami Ram during his stay in Portland, notice of which will be given later.

CLERGYMEN DISCUSS RELIGION WITH APOSTLE OF SELF-CULTURE AND HIGH BRAHMIN.

"Worship by prostrating myself or bowing down, I know not.

"Prayer by begging or beseeching for what I desire I know not.

"I believe in communion with God and I feel for him an indescribable tender love.

"Jesus Christ I revere for his wonderful teaching to mankind, but I do not believe that he died on the cross; I believe it was only suspended animation that was thought to be death, and not being dead he could not be resurrected from the dead."

Swami Ram, B. A., M. A., is a high priest of Upper India, and graduate of Punjab University. The organization of societies of co-operative self-culture and religious research is his mission in America, his new line of thought in regard to Christianity being called the "common path."

Those who have met Swami Ram agree that he is a most remarkable man. He belongs to the highest of the Brahmin caste, or rather was born so, but is not a believer in caste himself.

After graduating with highest honors from the Punjab University, he was appointed professor of mathematics, natural science and Vedic philosophy, and served in this capacity for five years. During this time he heard a call to the spiritual life, and with the object of carrying on independent research in religion and philosophy, he resigned his chair in the university and spent three years in the solitude of the Himalayas studying divine truths and writing books of philosophy and poetry, the fame of which has spread throughout all India.

He came to America about a year ago, but a great part of his stay here has been spent in seclusion and study. This young philosopher intends to spend all his time during the coming year travelling throughout America, lecturing to the people, searching for religious truths and educating himself by so doing. He is sent by no one—he is no one's follower; he simply expounds philosophical and religious problems as they appear to him. He says that the main question to be considered in Christianity is what one can get out of his religion—what it will do for him.

During his stay in Portland his address will be 375 Sixteenth street, corner of Montgomery, where he will be pleased to have any one interested in his ideas or new line of thought on religious matters, cal and discuss them with him or receive his teaching.

There are five Base stations now working in connection with the scheme for the Magnetic Survey of India. These are located at Colaba (Western India), Dehra Dun (Upper India), Kodaikanal (Southern India), Rangoon (for Burma), and Barrackpore (for Bengal). The Barrackpore Observatory is a new one.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A MEDICAL MAN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Faridpur, Jan. 10.

Several months ago there lived in Faridpur a medical man, whose name I suppress for various reasons. He quarrelled with a police official in a disreputable quarter and received a beating. The police man was fined by the Magistrate; but since then the local Police, it is said, have been thirsting for vengeance. A few days ago such an opportunity presented itself. The Doctor's version is that one day at dead of night he went out to satisfy a call of nature, when two constables of the local thanah seized him. The Doctor resisted and received a bad wound on his head. He was taken to the thanah and was challaned on the next day to the Magistrate as a thief, who had stolen a box of the said constables who were then living in a hotel. The case was made over to Babu Chander Sekhar Kar, Deputy Magistrate, for trial. Babu Mathura Nath Dhar, B. L., was retained for the defence, who stood surety for the Doctor, and the latter released on a bail of Rs. 200. Next day the Doctor attended Court and wanted to lodge a complaint against the Police. But since that evening he is nowhere to be found. According to the pleader's version, he was last seen talking to a police Sub-Inspector. The Deputy Magistrate called upon the pleader to shew cause why his surety-bond should not be forfeited. The pleader urged that the Police caused the Doctor's disappearance with a view to hush up not only the false case of theft, which they had brought against him, but also to prevent the institution of a case of wrongful confinement and causing hurt by the Doctor. A day or two after the disappearance of the Doctor the Towjinobish of the Faridpur Collectorate when going home in a steamer found the doctor on board a steamer bound for Naraingunj. The Doctor had a wound on his head and was under the escort of two constables, who informed the Towji-nobish that they would leave the steamer at Bhagyakool and take the Doctor to Faridpur. The Towji-nobish saw them going down stairs when the steamer halted at Bhagyakool. The Towji-nobish after his returned to Faridpur disclosed what he had seen on the steamer. He also succeeded in identifying the constables in whose custody the doctor was. But the strangest part of the story is that the Doctor is still "non est." I wonder that such strange conspiracy on the part of the Police could happen under the discipline and careful supervision of an experienced District Superintendent like Mr. Rash Behari Biswas. I hope the authorities will take due notice of the case.

SUIT AGAINST THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

At the High Court, before Mr. Justice Sale the suit of Srinibash and another vs. the Secretary of State was called on for hearing.

This was a suit to recover the sum of Rs. 8,034-9-4 from the Secretary of State under the following circumstances:—At an auction sale held by the defendant on the 19th of November, 1900, through the Commissariat Storekeeper-General the plaintiff bought two lots of crushed gram, the first lot consisting of 3,521 maunds 39 seers and two chittaks at Rs. 2-5-9 per maund, and the second lot consisting of 3,820 maunds three seers and seven chittaks at Rs. 2-4-6 per maund. According to the conditions upon which the auction was held the defendant contracted to deliver the lots on the 20th of December, 1900, in bags free, and the plaintiffs paid the price in full. It appeared that up to the 15th of December 1900, the defendant delivered in diverse lots to the plaintiffs against their purchases 2,340 maunds 31 seers and eight chittaks of crushed gram. The defendant notwithstanding demands made in that behalf did not, it is alleged, deliver to the plaintiffs the balance of their purchases, to wit, 5,071 maunds 4 seers and one chittak and the plaintiff in consequence had suffered damage to the extent of Rs. 19,353-14-0. The defendant, it was alleged, agreed to pay certain charges leviable upon the revoval of the gram from the place where it was then stored. The plaintiffs had paid in respect of the said charges the sum of Rs. 48-13-6, which they now claimed to recover from the defendant. The plaintiffs demanded payment of the two sums of Rs.19,353-14-0 and Rs. 48-13-6, aggregating the sum of Rs 19,402-11-6, together with interest from the defendant, and the defendant had paid on account the sum of Rs. 11,742-9-6 and Rs. 44-2-8 but he had not paid the balance, namely, Rs 7,615-15-4, nor any part thereof, nor anything on account of interest to the plaintiff and the claim now amounts to Rs. 9,034-7-4 including interest. Z

The defendant in his written statement stated that by a notice dated the 3rd of November 1900 the Commissariat Store-keeper General, Calcutta, gave notice that certain surplus Commissariat stores then lying at the Kidderpur Docks would be sold by public auction to the highest bidder on the 7th November 1900. Among the surplus stores was a quantity of crushed gram, erroneously stated in the notice as 8,231 maunds, and the plaintiff bid for two lots at rates which was accepted by the Commissariat Store-keeper General. The plaintiffs paid the purchase money for the two lots of gram, and between the 30th of November and the 17th of December 1900, the Commissariat Store-keeper General delivered to the plaintiffs certain quantities of crushed gram aggregating 2,38[illegible] maunds 9 seers 15 chittaks, and then it was discovered that the quantities so delivered to the plaintiff comprised the whole of the crushed gram among the surplus Commissariat stores at the Docks after the date of the notice. On the 15th of January 1901 the Commissariat Store-keeper-General returned to the plaintiffs the sum of Rs. 11,742-9-6 in respect of 5,026 maunds 33 seers 1 chittak which was found to be non-existent. The Commissariat Store-keeper-General also paid to the plaintiffs the sum of Rs. 44-2-8 on account of Dack fee paid by the plaintiffs for removing gram purchased by them. The defendant stated further that neither the seller nor the buyers of the lots were aware that the quantity 5,026 maunds 33 seers 1 chittak was not in existence, and the seller and buyers believed at that time that such quantity was in existence, and was part of the surplus Commissariat stores then lying at the Kidderpur Docks. Under the circumstances set forth the defendant submitted that he was not liable in any way to the plaintiffs in respect of the non-delivery of 5,026 maunds 33 seers 1 chittak of crushed gram. The defendant denied that the plaintiffs had sustained any damage for which he was liable, and he stated that in any event the damages claimed were excessive.

The case is proceeding.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENT.

A DACCA MAN.—Please write on one side of the paper.

THE REFORMATION OF POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I am glad to read in your issue of the 5th instant, an extract from Lord Macaulay's notes on the draft Penal Code. Last year, in my evidence before the Police Commission at Dacca, I suggested that Section 109 of the Indian Penal Code should be amended by omitting the illustration 'A' (A offers a bribe to B, a public servant, as a reward for showing A some favour in the exercise of B's official functions. B accepts the bribe. A has abetted offence defined in Section 161) from it. I did not know at that time that I was only repeating the words of that eminent statesman. This provision of punishing the giver of bribe is the sheet anchor of those who are corrupt amongst the Police. If this is done away with, the Police will be reformed in a day without an additional expense of a single pice of the public money.

I ask our leading men and the press to draw the attention of the Government to this point.

Teota. HARA SANKAR ROY.

AN UNCALLED-FOR SUGGESTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—A great alarm has been caused here by the publication in the "Patrika" of the 8th instant of the opinion of Mr. Beatson-Bell in favour of the transfer of the district of Faridpur from Bengal to Assam. The letter of Mr. Risley to the Government of Bengal did not contain any such proposal. But it seems that Mr. Beatson-Bell has benevolently come to the help of Mr. Risley with a suggestion which is not only uncalled for but also highly objectionable. The consternation of the public knows no bound. Public meetings will soon be held under the auspices of the Faridpur Peoples' Association for the purpose of protesting against the transfer of this district and of adopting memorials to the Government. Meanwhile the public will be thankful to Mr. Bell, and for the matter of that to any other Magistrate if instead of elucidating such alarming proposals he would give his individual opinion as regards the proposed partition of Bengal as suggested by Mr. Risley in his letter dated the 3rd December.

Faridpur. VOX POPULI.

THE BENGAL EXCISE BILL.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I send you some observations on the above Bill, which I hope you will kindly publish in your widely-circulated and much esteemed paper for the consideration of the authorities and the public concerned.

1. Under Section 18 (2) (c) (f) (g), a person can possess "Tari which has not been obtained from a licensed vendor of the same."

The clause "Tari which has not been obtained from a licensed vendor of the same" may mean "Tari obtained by manufacture without a license."

If it mean so, should not a person be liable to a penalty under section 66 (2) (ii) read with section 3 (i) (d)? For there is nothing in the Excise Act to show that a person can manufacture "Tari" without a license from the Collector.

11. As no place of arrest has been mentioned in Section 49, it is, therefore, apparent that no Excise officer has power under Section 49 to arrest a person at any place, whether the place be an enclosed place (house etc.) or not. It is therefore necessary that the Excise officer should also have power under Section 53.

If Section 49 mean that the Excise officer has no power under the Section to enter and arrest a person in an enclosed place (house etc.) there will then be necessity for a Section empowering an Excise officer to enter house etc. and arrest a person engaged in the unlawful sale of exciseable article or in the cultivation or collection of any plants from which an intoxicating drug can be produced.

For there is nothing in the Excise Act to show that an Excise officer can enter a house and arrest a person engaged in the unlawful sale of exciseable article.

111. In Section 49 the expression "engaged in the sale" or "engaged in the cultivation or collection" is not clear. Does it mean that the Excise officer should arrest a person only during the period the person is under the surview of the Act of sale or cultivation or collection, and not after he has sold or cultivated or collected?

If a person "engaged in the sale" is arrested, it is doubtful whether the person has committed any offence under Section 68. "Engaged in the sale" means "about to sell." A person can not commit any offence until he sells and the moment he has sold, he is no longer engaged in the sale.

IV. If the clause (ii) of Section 66 (2) be put as (a) of Section 66 (i) omitting the portion "not herein before specified" there will then be no necessity for a new clause (b) in Section 67 (i).

As no limit of area is given in Section 66, it applies to all places in Bengal whether that place be within any limits fixed under Section 4 (d) or not. A person who commits offence under Section 67 (i) (b) may be punished under Section 66 for possessing or using a still or for manufacturing exciseable articles. The word "contents" may be added before or after "uses" in clause 66 (i) (c).

JOTINDRA BHUSAN ACHERJEE.

Ambagh.

SUPERSESSION OF THE COMMISIONERS OF THE NADIA MUNICIPALITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The people of Nadia has been greatly alarmed, nay, shocked to learn that, just at a time when all our public men and the press are too much occupied with the dismemberment question, the local Government should think it fit to deal a deadly blow to the Nadia Municipality by bringing into requisition the Section 65 of the Bengal Municipal Act! The Bengal Government letter to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, which has just been published over the signature of the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres, concludes as follows:—

"His Honour therefore declares by this order, issued under section 65 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, that the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality are incompetent to perform and persistently make default in the performance of their duties, and he directs that they be superseded for the period of one year with effect from the date of the publication of this resolution in the "Calcutta Gazette." In exercise of the powers conferred by section 66 of the Act, the Lieutenant-Governor further directs that all the powers and duties of the Commissioners shall, during the period of supersession, be exercised and performed by Babu Baroda Das Basu, Deputy Magistrate incharge of the Lodging-house Department of the office of the Magistrate of Nadia."

And why? Because they did not think it necessary to abolish the well-latrines within the limits of their Municipality, and to enforec Part IX of the Municipal Act there! And what are the objections to having well-privies? Mr. Shirres says:—

"In accordance with these instructions, Captain Anderson, I.M.S., Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, visited Nadia in company with the Magistrate of the district. Four samples of water which were taken from the wells adjacent to the well-privies of the town in the course of their visit were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to the Professor of Pathology, Medical College, Calcutta. Captain Deare, I.M.S., the Sanitary Commissioner, in submitting the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's report made remarks to the following effect:—"The results of the bacteriological examination prove that the water-supply is so polluted as to be unfit for human consumption, as it contains large numbers of colon bacilli. Even the sample of river water taken from the [illegible] from which the people obtain their supply of drinking water is found to be bacteriologically impure. Seeing that there are about 700 well-privies dotted about the town, the contents of which can percolate freely through the sandy soil of Nadia into the sources of water-supply, one cannot be surprised at the extent of contamination of well-water which these reports prove to have taken place and I cannot view without horror the continued use of these foci for the dissemination of disease."

Now, in the above the Government admits that the contents of the privies even where they percolate through sandy soil into the river, will prove dangerous—so dangerous as to justify the Government to practically abolish a Municipality for having allowed such a state of things! Why then the Government is allowing the effluents of the septic tank latrines to be thrown into the same river by the European proprietors of Jute Mills? Is it not equally—if not far more—dangerous than the percolated night soil of the well-privies? In fact, now a days, the Government moulds its arguments as they suit its objects. We earnestly implore our public men and the press to devote a little of their kind attention to this most arbitrary action of the Bengal Government. We thought, during the regime of our present Lieutenant-Governor we will enjoy life in peace, but alas! our hope has proved but too fond and futile.

K. P. BISWAS.

FIRE ON THE B. B. AND C. I. RAILWAY.

A stack of wooden sleepers on the west side of the down line, at mileage seventeen, between Andheri and Borivli stations, on the B. B. and C. I. Railway, was found to be on fire. The fire was noticed by an employe of the railway, named Bhicca Hurry, who at once ran to the Andheri station and informed the Station-master, but before any assistance could be rendered the whole stack, consisting of about three hundred sleepers was enveloped in flames, and the fire extended to the sleepers on the down line under the rails. The sleepers along the track for about a hundred and forty feet in length were burnt, rendering the running of trains on the down line unsafe. The up and the down trains were consequently worked on the single line. The interruption was removed at about 9 p. m., when the work of replacing the damaged sleepers by new ones was completed. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained, but is supposed to be due to a spark from a passing engine dropping on the stack of sleepers and igniting it.

NOTES FROM ULUBARIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A SAD ACCIDENT.

Ulubaria, Jan. 6.

Our Sub-divisional Magistrate, Babu Pramatha Nath Dutt, had a fall from a carriage known as "tonga" in which he was being carried by some men up a hall near Giridih during the last X'mas holidays. He sustained such severe injuries that he was obliged to apply for leave. He has been granted seven days' leave. The executive administration of the sub-division is now in the hands of our good Sub-Deputy Magistrate Babu Nisi Kanto Chatterjee. He is equal to the task and is discharging his duties to the satisfaction of the public.

A SENSATIONAL CASE.

There is now pending in the court of the Sub-divisional Magistrate the case in which one of the B.-N. Railway employes stands charged with having outraged the modesty of a woman named Kiran Sashi. The facts of the case are simply startling:—The woman was travelling some days ago in a female carriage attached to a train which was running from Panskurah towards Howrah on the B. N. Ry. line; one of the railway employes who was on duty in that train finding her alone in the female carriage committed criminal outrage on her while the train was in motion. The woman complained before the Railway Police at Howrah, and they have submitted their report. The public is awaiting the result anxiously.

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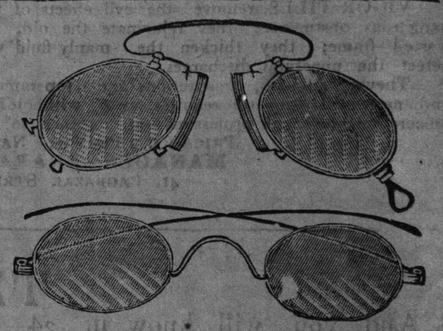

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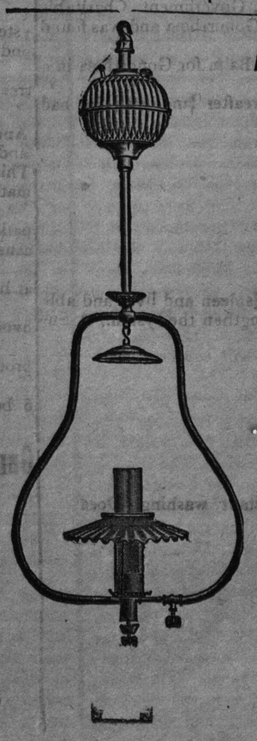

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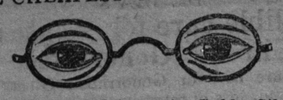

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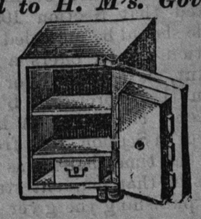

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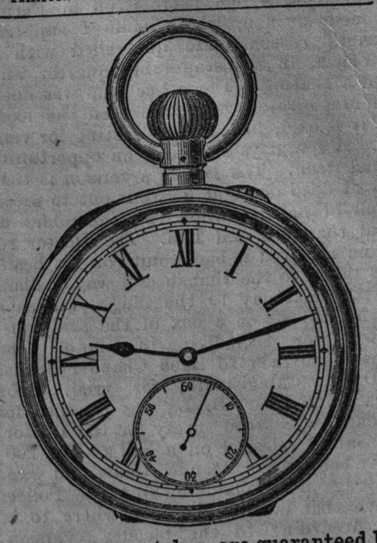

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BARISAL AND THE PARTITION QUESTIONS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BARISAL, JAN. 10.

THE following communication have been received by the President of the Barisal Bar Library:—

From W. C. Macpherson Esqr. C. S. I.
Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

To the Commissioner of the Dacca Division.

Date, Calcutta, the 30th December, 1904.

Jurisdiction.

SIR,

I am directed to forward to you for your information copy of a letter No. 3678 dated 3rd instant, from the Secretary of the Government of India, in the Home Department, setting forth certain proposals of the Government of India with regard to the redistribution of Districts between Assam, Bengal, the central provinces and Madras, and I am to invite an expression of your opinion on these proposals more specially as they affect your own division.

2. If, however, you consider that your knowledge of parts of the province is such as to enable you to give the Lieutenant-Governor an opinion on the proposals affecting any other division, I am, to say, that he would be very glad to receive an expression of your views.

3. In regard to the proposals about the transfer of the districts of Dacca and Mymensing to Assam, I am further to say that it has been suggested by several of those who have been consulted that the whole division of Dacca and not two districts only, should be transferred, or rather that the whole division of Dacca should be treated as a whole either to remain with Bengal or to be transferred to Assam, and that the Division should not be broken up by the separation of two districts. I am to invite you to consider this aspect of the question also.

4. I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor would like to receive from you an expression of opinion as to the feelings of the people in regard to these proposals, and also an expression of your own opinion as to the effect which they are likely to have upon the administration of the districts concerned. You will also consider the case in the broader aspects set forth by the Government of India.

I am to request that you will submit your opinion without fail so as to reach this office not later than the 15th of February.

No. 6 J.

Copy with enclosure forwarded to the Magistrate-Collector of Backergunge for the favour of expression of his opinion by the end of January.

Dacca Commissioner's Office.
The 4th January, 1904.

(Sd) Ganga N. Roy,
Personal Asst. for Commissioner.

No. 2048 L. R.

Copy with my note dated 7th instant forwarded to President Bar Library, Barisal, for favour of an expression of his opinion by the 20th of January.

Backergunge Collectorate
The 7th January, 1904.

(Sd.) H. C. Streatfeild,
Collector.

NOTE.

1. I have only till the end of the month to report on the proposed redistribution of the territories now administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. I am therefore only consulting Sub-division Officers, Chairman of the Municipalities and the Barisal Bar Library on the point but I shall be glad to receive any expression of opinion from any responsible gentleman.

2. I have myself an open mind on the subject; but I have been struck by the fact that, as far as I have seen, the opposition hitherto has been almost entirely confined to wild statements that caste, nationality, social customs, and even language will be affected by the proposed transfer. This of course is not the case. The contemplated change is simply and solely one of the centre of Government, and the Dacca Division will be no more affected in its customs by the transfer than it would be if the Province of Lower Bengal was simply cut in two and a special Lieutenant-Governor appointed for the Eastern portion of the Province with Head Quarters at Calcutta.

3. Where the change is likely to affect residents in Eastern Bengal is in the change of the old channels of communication on, social, official, and commercial—and I can quite sympathise with the dislike that this change at first sight inspires. The breach of official connection with the metropolis of Calcutta is also a matter on which I can well understand that the public may feel strongly—objection on these grounds seems however so far to have been mostly based on sentimental grounds; and though sentiment is entitled to sympathetic consideration, it can not be expected to have the same weight as arguments of a practical nature. We all naturally dislike change, but a change which brings practical advantages very rapidly overcomes this dislike and we soon wonder what we were ever afraid of. Unless therefore Government is convinced that real practical hardship will be inflicted on the inhabitants of these districts, it can hardly be expected to modify its proposals. In this connection there is no getting away from the following facts:—

(1) Bengal is undoubtedly too large for one administration. This is a fact that nothing can alter and some change must and almost certainly will be made.

(2) Eastern Bengal will not cease to be Bengali because its centre may be transferred to Dacca or Chittagong. Even the name can doubtless (with some prefix) be retained if it is considered of serious importance.

(3) Not a law or custom will be affected by the change by one jot or one title.

(4) Any change that may be made is solely in the interests of the governed, not of the governing classes.

(5) If Dacca become the Head Quarters of a Province, there is no doubt that every district round would reap substantial advantages.

4. These facts being so, it is for those who object to the proposed transfer, not to shout "outrage" where there is no outrage, not to accuse the Government of criminality because in the interests of efficient administration it proposes some, for the present, unpalatable changes, not to shriek hysterically that a social cataclysm is impending, because certain business will, if the proposals be carried out, be performed in Dacca or Chittagong and Shillong instead of in Calcutta and Darjeeling; but to soberly think over the probable practical effects of the proposals, to soberly point out where the effect of these is likely to be prejudicial to their interests, social, official or commercial and if possible to suggest a preferable scheme for meeting the obvious needs of the Bengal province. Sober argument of the question on these lines will carry weight, whereas hysterical outcry can not be expected to effect tht decisions of Government, and serves to obscure and conceal whatever of solid reason there may be at the back of it. It is specially necessary to consider carefully and at once whether it is to the interests of this district to stick to Dacca for better or for worse, or to remain in Bengal whatever may happen to Dacca and Mymensing.

(Sd.) H. C. Streatfeild,
Collector.
4-1-04.

It is needless to say that the above communication has come upon the Barisal public as a bombshell causing consternation all around. A consultation meeting was held to-day (10th instant) at the residence of Babu Rajani Kanta Das, Pleader and Chairman of the local Municipality. A Committee has been formed with Ray Dwarka Nath Dutt Bahadur as president and Babus Tarini Kanta Gupta and Aswani Kumar Dutt as Secretaries to do the needful in the matter. Public subscriptions are being raised for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses. A mass meeting will be held on the 20th instant. Arrangements are being made to send delegates to the interior villages to explain the position and some 40 persons have volunteered their services up-to-date for the purpose. Indeed, it is difficult to describe the great alarm and excitement which are convulsing the public mind.

The note of Mr. Streatfield is insteresting in its own way. Like His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Streatfield too assures the public, that, he himself has an "open mind" on the subject, while he supports almost every word of Mr. Risley's arguments. He also thinks the present agitation against the proposed transfer as artificial and sentimental, and condemns the statements made by the people that, "caste, nationality, social customs and even language will be affected by the proposed transfer" as "wild" and humbug. He characterises the promise of Dacca being made the capital of the new province as a "substantial advantage." But pray, Sir, who wants this charity? Indeed, all the sound arguments advanced by the people seem to have produced no impression on the Government and for the matter of that upon our District Magistrate; and instances of "real and practical hardship" are necessary to convince it, otherwise "the Government can hardly be expected to modify its proposal"! We do not think there was any need for Mr. Streatfield take the trouble of penning such a lengthy Note. He could have easily done it in three short sentences. (1) Mr. Risley's proposals are sound; (2) The peoples' arguments are foolish and (3) The Government is not prepared to modify its proposals.

In fact the Note has been introduced simply to pacify the public as it is an open secret that in the muffasil there are very few, who dare to make head against the expressed views of the head of the District. Barisal, however, "expects" to carry into effect the memorable words of the Great British General Nelson "Every man (in the district) to do his duty."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Professor Himstedt, of Freiburg, has discovered, in all water and mineral oil sources examined by himself, traces of a specifically heavy gas acting like radium and giving emanations very similar to, if not identical with, those of radium. From this it is inferred either that radium is very widely diffused in the soil, or that other substances have the faculty of sending forth rays which are retained by water and oil coming into contact with them. According to the "Standard's" Berlin correspondent, the professor is of opinion that a far larger number of substances than has hitherto been believed possess the faculty of giving out some kind of Becquerel rays. He holds that, just as all substances are magnetic, although iron is so to a greater degree than others, so radium shows a greater capability of giving out rays than other substances, but that probably all substances possess some power of radiation.

"Reuter's Agency" is informed that an interesting scientific expedition, which has been organised by the anthropological section of the St. Louis Exhibition, is about to leave England for Central Africa under the direction of Mr. S. P. Verner, who landed a few days ago from New York. Since his arrival in this country Mr. Verner has been to Brussels to consult with the authorities there regarding his expedition. With reference to his journey Mr. Verner says:—

In order to get at the aboriginal life as little changed as possible by the inroads of civilisation it is desired to go entirely out of the track of previous explorers, as well as of all settlers, and to enter the most untouched region to which access can be obtained. One of these regions is that between the Congo and Zambesi valleys, to the north of Livingstone's and the south of Stanley's journeys. This territory embraces, among others, the vast Lunda Plateau. It is into this and contiguous territories that the expedition is proceeding. The region is 1,500 miles from the West Coast. The fact that the enterprise leads into a country of cannibals and savages, and that the attainment of our object requires diplomacy and tact in dealing with the natives, makes the mission one of difficulty and hazard. The time at its disposal also will make it, if successful, a notable exploit. To secure the permission and co-operation of the European Governments controlling the territories in question representations are being made by the Government of the United States. Our base of operations will be from the capital of Chief Ndombe, paramount chieftain of the Lunda tribes at the head of navigation on of the Kasai River, the largest southern tributary of the Congo, from which place an effort will be made to penetrate the interior. Ndombe is one of the most remarkable of living African rulers. He is peculiar for being of a bright copper colour, as are his family, although there has been no known white blood in his ancestry. He is also a firm friend of the white man, having signified his assent to white suzerainty over his domain, and having instructed his people to recognise the authority of the foreigners. His general jurisdiction is very extensive, and, including, federated and associated tribes, may be said to include several million people, over a territory of several hundred thousand square miles. His own immediate family and their blood relations are known as the Bakwampesh, a word almost exactly equivalent to "aristocracy." In his territory are tribes of pygmies, of cannibals, and the last remnant of the once powerful transcontinental slave traders, the Bimbadi. The scientific interest attaching to this expedition arises from the fact that it has lately become strongly suspected that the most primitive forms of the human race are to be found in remote Africa, the oldest region known where the native life has been longest undisturbed by outside influences. It is desirable to record the conditions now existent there and to obtain specimens of the arts and products of the people before they have changed their aboriginal ways for the innovations of rapidly approaching civilsation.

TIBET MISSION.

THE MEN WHO DO THE WORK.

Silliguri, Jan. 9.

It is hardly realised in these days when men saunter on board steamers with their wraps and buy their railway tickets between meals, that once out of the beaten track travel becomes a business, demanding forethought, both instant and enduring and a continued attention which leaves no scope for the extra vocations which one is able to exercise on the highways of intercommunication. The subject of provisions for the march, of the capacities of transport animals, of one's own physical condition assumes an importance which seems altogether out of proportion with the results to be achieved. For instance, one can come all the way from Calcutta to Silliguri with no more trouble than is to be found in seeing that the booking clerk has given you your [illegible] change. But to go from Silliguri to Sivok, only ten miles further, demands a whole day given up to debating with owners of animals expostulating with coolies who first will and then will not hire themselves, apportioning and cutting down baggage, starting and then returning for some forgotten but essential article, laying in stocks of food for man and fodder for beast, and the like. You start work at dawn and are lucky if by dusk you have moved a couple of yards in the right direction.

A WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION.

In these circumstances more and more the wonder grows of how the Mission with its large escort has been able to get under way and keep itself supplied in a region the resources of which it would seem a single traveller taxes to the uttermost. And yet the miracle has been worked, not by supernatural means, but simply through the agency of the Supply and Transport Corps, an organization which seems to meet in the most extraordinary way all the demands that are put upon it. And not only is the miracle worked, but it is worked without any signs of the strenuous activity that one would naturally expect. Silliguri as a station is as dull and as quiet as it ever was in its historical career. There are a few more tents on the maidan, a great heap of what are called "supplies" in the station yards, houses and transport carts in the distance, a few new keen soldierly faces at meal-times in the refreshment rooms, and that is all. And yet it is the "Base" which controls the movements of the Mission beyond that snowline seen dimly in the far distance. It is on the capacity of the men at the Base that the Mission depends for its life. A break-down here and the escort and the political officers would be floundering, as helpless as a steamer with a broken shaft. If Colonel Younghusband is the Captain, the Base commandant, and his assistants, and the resourceful conductor are the engine-room staff.

MATERIEL AND PERSONNEL.

It ought to be noted that the business of supplying the necessary transport and provisions both of food and clothing to the Mission has been rendered doubly difficulty by the fact that the people of this part of the country are gifted, if one might use the word, with a kind of childlike independence, which it requires the greatest tact to understand and manage. However stubborn he may be, one can always appeal to the Pathan through his cupidity. But these hill men are not to bebribed. They are for ever changing their minds, one moment they will sell you an animal, another moment they will only hire it, and another moment they will have mounted its back and galloped frantically away, not from any love for the beast, like the Arab of romance, but just because the fancy has taken them. It was upon such material that the supply and Transport Corps had to begin its work. By the exercise of infinite patience and great judgment, by slow degrees the animals and their drivers were collected and drilled into some sort of discipline. It is the rule of the Supply and Transport Corps to hire transport whenever possible, not because it is easier, but because it is cheaper.

Not all the transport on the route between here and Chumbi is hired, but a great portion of it is, and, at the present moment possibly the whole of it would have been, but for a disaster which in another army would have meant dire calamity. Disease broke out among the animals. The promptest methods of isolation and disinfection were adopted, and in the higher altitudes mules from the Punjab were sent to replace the yaks, obtained with so much difficulty from Nepal. The Punjabi mule is an evil beast, but its endurance seems to have no limit. It has turned out that these animals are bearing the cold even better than the yaks. The rarified air does not even affect their breathing.

THE RAILWAY STAFF.

It would be unfair when mentioning the hard work that is being done without any fuss at Silliguri to overlook the devotion to duty that is being displayed by the railway staff there. On the North-Western Railway, of course, the business of handling troops and supplies has almost come to be an every-day matter. In the Punjab and Frontier Provinces there is a trained railway staff, containing several military officers and numbers of ex-soldiers in all kinds of grades. But it is a different matter here, and if the Station-master at Silliguri can now claim to be an expert in dealing with military stores and trains of mules and the like, it is not because he has had a continual experience for years, but because he has worked night and day for months His duties have just begun, and not ended as some passengers seem to imagine, when that early morning toy-train has puffed away on its noisy climb to Darjiling.

Other departments which are quietly helping the Mission with the least possible fuss and to the greatest possible advantage are the Field Post and Telegraph Offices, who are following the advance. It is hardly realised what a deal of service and adventure Indian postal and telegraph officials can boast of. Where an army, or an escort, or a mission goes, they go.

ABDUL GUFFUR.

Then there is Abdul Guffer, the Kurseong contractor, who is one of the most notable persons here. He is helping the Supply and Transport Corps. Being a Mahomedan of much character and determination, he has come to acquire a most extraordinary influence over the simple people of these parts. When he tells a Pahariah or a Nepalese that a thing has to be done there is an end of the matter. When the Mission honours come to be distributed he should be made something more than a Khan Bahadur. He deserves to be a Nawab.

Already, you will see, before I have left the Base, I have found the men who do the work for which they draw the pay.—H. N. in the "Englishman."

TEH DHENDAI COOLIE CASE.

COMMITTED TO THE SESSIONS.

The following is the full text of the committal orders against Mr. Thom and Mr. Reid, the manager and assistant manager of the Dhendai Tea Estate, Tezpur. On the application of Mr. Keays, the counsel for the defendants, the cases were taken separately:—

KING EMPEROR vs. W. P. REID.
Section 323 I. P. Code.

The evidence on the record is so full of absurd statements that no charge or murder, which is the accusation made against the accused, can possibly stand. The witnesses for the prosecution have given detailed accounts of several continued and severe beatings each of which would of itself have killed the boy in a very short time. The witnesses for the prosecution would have it believed that after each of the three beatings, which the boy is supposed to havereceived near the tea house, he walked to the lines being beaten all the way and was able to receive more beatings at the lines. In the first place no reliance can be placed on such evidence as this which even if founded on truth is so full of absurd exaggerations that it is impossible to pick out the true from the false. In the next place the evidence for the prosecution shows that the boy was in the tea house for about two hours before he died; and that before he was put in the tea house he was conscious. The medical evidence, however, regarding the truth of which there can be no possible doubt, shows that the boy had received an injury in the head which must have rendered him insensible immediately. This injury as the medical evidence shows was of itself sufficient to cause death; and as the boy was conscious when Mr. Reid had according to the prosecution story, ceased beating him, this injury at least was not caused by Mr. Reid. Again as the medical evidence shows the flesh of the buttocks had been reduced to a pulp. It is not to be believed that the boy could possibly have been conscious while his flesh was being reduced to apulp. The organs of the body were healthy except the spleen which, though enlarged, was not ruptured. The death was due to the injuries on the body and as these injuries could not have been caused by Mr. Reid the charge of murder falls entirely to the ground. The witnesses for the prosecution make no mention of instructions having been given to the chowkidars to beat the boy; and although in the ordinary course of things a garden manager might expect that the chowkidar would give a few slaps to the boy to try and get a confession out of him regarding the theft of the silver knives and forks, still the manager cannot be held legally responsible for the murder of the boy which without distinct proof he cannot be held to have in any way contemplated. It is certain as I have shown above that the boy was killed after he had been placed in the tea house while the Police were being sent for. The attempt to recover the property without the intervention of the Police had been given up, and the manager Mr. Thom had drawn up a telegram which was to have been despatched to Bugali post and telegraph office that afternoon by the dakwallah. It is natural to believe that under the circumstances no further violence would be used or ordered to be used by the manager or Mr. Reid. Therefore, the murder appears to have been committed by some person either through frenzied zeal or from what unfortunately can be the case—a desire to institute a false charge of murder against the manager and his assistant. In the reasons stated above I cannot charge the accused with anything more serious than simple hurt, but as a charge of murder has been made I think it would be better that a jury should pass a verdict on the matter. I accordingly commit the case to the Court of Sessions, under section 323 I.P.C.

(Sd.) P. E. CAMMIADE,
A. C. and J. P.

KING EMPEROR vs. A. B. THOM.

The circumstances of this case are the same as those in the case against Mr. Reid, but the witnesses generally accuse Mr. Thom of having taken a very small part in the beating of the boy Joylall. In fact, three of the witnesses have said that Mr. Thom used only his hand or his fist. In a case such as this where there has been plenty of exaggeration there can be no doubt that the witnesses who have said that Mr. Thom used his hand have not understated what Mr. Thom did. I am committing Mr. Reid's case to the Court of Sessions and as it would be better that both these cases should go before a jury, I commit this case also to the Court of Sessions under section 352, I.P.C.

(Sd.) P. E. CAMMIADE,
A. C. and J. P.

Section 352 I.P.C.

The Sessions will be held in the middle of February.

In his report on the Uganda Protectorate, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Hayes-Sadler is very severe in his condemnation of the hippopotamus. He declares that it has "more original sin" in its nature than it has ever been given credit for, and advocates that it should be destroyed wherever it is found without the slightest compunction. It is a source of real peril in the narrow passages of the Nile, wantonly attacking men and canoes. During 1902 56 of these bad-natured beasts were destroyed in the Protectorate. It is recorded that during 1902 only three lions and four elephants were killed in Uganda.

"OWNER'S RISK."

The subject of "Owner's Risk" rates continues to cause dissatisfaction both in this country and in the United Kingdom, where somewhat similar conditions obtain and where a great agitation is now going on with a view to securing more equitable treatment at the hands of the Railway Companies. Sooner or later the various associations and chambers of commerce will take up the matter in India, but it would be better if the Railway Companies would voluntarily consider this important question which seems to find no place in the Railway conferences at which nearly every other subject is thoroughly discussed and dealt with.

The conditions that traders are obliged to accept when they elect to despatch their goods "at Owner's Risk" are scarcely equitable, especially in these modern times when all lines are, or should be, fully equipped with a sufficiency of rollying-stock and when Traffic Managers are so anxious to offer all reasonable facilities to the trade, recognising as they do that the Railways were made for the traders and not the latter for the Railways. It is surprising to find that whereas in nearly every other question of Railway management immense improvements have been introduced, this one of "Owner's Risk" is exactly where it was twenty years ago.

According to the Risk Notes which the trader signs, the Railway is exempted from all liability for loss, damage, mis-delivery, delay and detention even though such may arise from want of care, negligence of even wilful misconduct on the part of the Railway servants. In the United Kingdom the arrangement seemed so one-sided that some Railway Companies so far relaxed the application of the terms of the Risk Notes as to undertake to treat each case of claim on its merits and to accept liability when the loss, damage, delay, etc., could be traced to the "wilful misconduct of the Railway servants, but in actual practice, owing to the difficulty—almost impossibility—of proving such charges against the staff things are very much where they were and the "concession," so far, has proved of small benefit to the trading community.

There is much to be said in favour of both the Railways and the traders: for the former it may be urged that the trader with his eyes open readily accepts crtain conditions and signs a "Risk Note" in token thereof, but notwithstanding he prefers a claim which naturally is repudiated on the strength of the exemption given by the execution of the Risk Note. On the other hand though he has signed himself away it seems scarcely fair to the trader to refuse him compensation for loss, damage, etc., traceable to such causes as gross mismanagement, neglect and even theft on the part of the Railway servants. Traders also demur at the number of articles for which an Owner's Risk and Railway Risk rates are quoted (Form B), and perhaps rightly ask that at least half of them, by re-adjustment of rates might be carried at Railway Risk without appreciable loss to the Company. As regards Form C they urge that the execution of Risk Notes "for goods carried in open stock when no covered vehicles are available" was perhaps necessary in the early day of Railways in India when lines were hurriedly opened and badly equipped with rolling-stock, but that the condition of things is so different now that such a practice ought not to be permitted. On behalf of the trader it is further urged that the Railway staff, knowing certain goods to be despatched at Owner's Risk take no pains to prevent loss, damage, delay, etc., and that they sometimes even pilfer and rob them, knowing full well that in case of a claim it will be repudiated and that they will not have to stand a debit for compensation.

For the Railways it may be contended that it cannot foresee and provide for abnormal rain, floods, wash-outs, strikes, cholera scares or fires in goodsheds or on running trains and that consequently it is only fair that it should protect itself against loss, damage, delays, etc., arising from such causes beyond its control; that but for the trader's acceptance on the conditions entered in the Risk Note the carriage of the goods at the "lower rate" would prove unremunerative if it did not involve the Railway in actual loss, and that as regards the despatch of goods in open stock the trader himself is partly responsible as he declines to despatch his goods when the market falls (in consequence of which the covered stock of the line remains idle for days or weeks), but rushes them down to the sea port or emporium immediately prices are favourable, floods the Railways with his goods and obliges it to requisition every available vehicle on the line to be used in order to ensure delivery within a certain period. It is also urged on behalf of the Railway that its staff is the best available but that the "material" is poor in quality, forgetful, careless, negligent and sometimes unscrupulous and that it has to provide against these shortcomings; also that at the same time traders themselves are not always as scrupulous as they might be.

No doubt both the Railway Companies and the traders have many reasonable arguments to urge in support of their respective sides of the question, but the solution of the difficulty rests with the former. As a rule their readiness to remedy the reasonable grievances of the trading community is only too well known, and it is hoped that this important question of "Owner's Risk" will receive the consideration that it deserves.—"Railway."

There were 197 deaths registered in Rangoon during the week ending January 2nd which is at the rate of 28·56 per thousand per annum. Of these eighty deaths were due to fevers, 24 to diarrhoea and dysentery, 22 to respiratory diseases, 2 to injuries, and 69 to "all other causes."

Baby Cough Must Never Linger.

NOTHING is more distressing than to see a helpless little infant suffering with a cough and to be fearful of using a remedy which may contain some harmful ingredient. The makers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy positivealy guaiantee the this preparation does not contain opium in any form, or any of her harmful substance Mothers may confidently give this remedy to their little ones. It gives prompt relief and is perfectly safe. It always cures, and cures quickly.

Price Re. 1. and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Calcutta an receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B K Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kreem Calcutta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

TIBET MISSION.

OBJECTS OF THE MISSION.

The following interesting article regarding the objects of the Tibet Mision is taken from the "Englishman."

Before starting for the wilds of Tibet, I have thought it worth while to set down briefly the ostensible aims and objects of the Tibet Mission in order to explain and illuminate the narratives which will follow hereafter.

It is not necessary for my purpose to go back further than 1884. In that year it was announced that an arrangement had been come to between the Chinese and British Governments to allow an Anglo-Indian official to enter Tibet by way of Sikhim and visit Lhassa with a view to invigorating the trade in tea and wool that languished over the Jeylap Pass. The official selected was Mr. Colman Macaulay, and I am old enough to remember that the same talk (about the Sacred City of the Lamas, untrodden by any living European foot, and the like) which is now afloat was then current, though only in the more romantic and less informed circles. Mr. Macaulay went up as far as Khambajong where he and his escort nearly perished amidst the snow and ice. Although Mr. Macaulay was not allowed to publish his report, he obtained the permission of the Government to issue a heroic poem, entitled. "The Lay of Lachen." From the "Lay" I gather that he was well received by "Khamba's lordly chief"—in other words the Jongpen, the Chinese District officer, but difficulties of kinds were put in his way, and before he could overcome them he was ordered back to India by the Government and sent on by sea to Pekin to remonstrate direct with the Chinese Government. He came back armed with fuller powers, and great preparations were made at Darjiling for a pucca mission this time to meet. Costly presents were collected for the Dalai Lama, the Chinese Resident at Lhasa, and other important folk, and arrangements made for the necessary transport. But meanwhile Pekin communicated furiously with London, and as the Indian Government had other matters on hand at the time, notably the settlement of Upper Burma, the Mission was abandoned.

THE SIKHIM WAR.

The abandonment of the Mission was considered a triumph by the Tibetans, who had really not been considered in the matter at all. They happened at the time to have considerable influence over the then Raja of Sikhim, and presently reports came down to Darjiling that the Raja was neglecting his country, and had even abandoned his capital in order to go and live in Chumbi. More than that Tibetan officials were being appointed in Sikhim and were ill-treating the Lepchas, the aboriginal inhabitants. To the remonstrances of the Indian Government the Raja paid no heed, and finally the Tibetans went to the length of putting an armed forced across the Jeylap La and actually erecting a fort at Singtao, which is hardly a day's march from Darjiling. Of course this could not be tolerated, although we gave the Tibetans several months to consider before, in March, 1888, we finally despatched the expedition under General Graram which drove the Tibetans headlong down the Chumbi Valley. It is incorrect to say that the Tibetans showed no fight. They stood up to us on three separate occasions, and if our loss was small their's was severe.

The most striking event of this little war, however, was not the fighting, but the erection by the enemy of a breast-high well many hundreds of yards in length in a single night at the spot where they made their last stand. How the thing was done remains a mystery. Our pickets watching the enemy heard no sound nor saw any signs of activity in the hostile camp, but in the morning to the amazement of the British troops there was the wall, with Tibetans sitting triumphantly astride of it and jeering. However, the wall did not prove much of a defence when the Derbyshires advanced to the attack.

THE SIKHIM CONVENTION.

The expedition was followed by a period of protracted negotiation with China. Regard to Chinese susceptibilities prevented our pursuing the Tibetans into Chumbi, and a similar regard kept us from insisting on an immediate settlement both of the questions opened up by the little war and of those held over from the time of the abandonment of the Macaulay Mission. However, ultimately the Chinese Government sent down to Calcutta a duly authorised official and in March 1890, what is known as the Sikhim Convention was signed. There are in existence many photographs of the Chinese Amban and his suite who formed the most attractive feature of the winter season that year in Calcutta.

The Convention merely outlined the lines on which subsequent arrangements were to be made and it was not till December, 1893, that a final agreement was come to. The Chinese Government then agreed (1) to provide a trade mart at Yatung to which British subjects were to have free access and the right to rent houses and godowns and (2) to give special facilities to trade between Sikhim and Tibet. Both these promises have been broken, either in the spirit or letter. The Yatung "trade mart" has become a bye-word. As the Chinese, or Tibetans, could not prevent British traders getting access to it, they have prevented. Tibetan traders making use of it. They have even built a wall across the road on the other side, as a kind of concrete reminder to Tibetan money-makers of the official view.

THE YOUNGHUSBAND MISSION.

For ten years the Government of India has waited patiently for the Chinese, or Tibetans to keep their word, but the former have always thrown the blame on the latter and vice versa, and the time now seems to have come for a definite understanding, supported by sufficient guarantees. Early last year it came to be known that Lord Curzon had decided on steps to place the relations between India and Tibet on the footing contemplated in the Sikhim Convention, but it was not till October 3rd that it was definitely announced that a Mission under Colonel Younghusband would enter Tibet and make for Gyantse, which is on the road to Lhassa and the second town in Tibet. On December 13th the Mission crossed the frontier, and is at the moment of writing said to be at Phari-jong, a few miles from the Tang Pass. We also know that the Mission has an escort, consisting of the 23rd and 32nd Pioneers, the 8th Gurkhas, two companies of the Sappers and Miners, and the Maxim section of the Norfolks.

But we know very little else for certain.

HENRY NEWMAN.

POONA EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

In the Report on the Poona Experimental Farm for the past official year, some experiments with wheat hybirds are recorded, the object having been to, if possible, evolve a plant that would resist rust. The Khapli and Kala Kusal wheat were crossed, but unsuccessfully apparently as all the varieties on the farm were affected. The following comments on wheat rust in India by Dr. Butler, Chryptogomic Botanist to the Government of India, is of interest in connection with this subject: "There are from my own observations at least three species of rust affecting wheat in India, and according to Drs. Prain and Cunningham four. Experience in other countries has shown that resistance to one rust does not necesarilly mean resistance to others. Until it is known more certainly which rust is responsible for the greater part of the damage in India, if any one is so more than others, it is premature to attach significance to the fact of Khapli wheat having rusted. It appears to have escaped "Puccinia graminis," I believe the most severe rust in Bengal and the United Provinces is not Paccinia oraminis, but either the rust which Khapli shows, and which I, may call for want of a better name 'Orange rust,' or another which is severe here (Cawnpore) 'Lemon rust.' These rusts usually appear much earlier than Puccinia graminis, and hence are able to produce more injury to the grain. Puccini Graminis ordinarily damages the straw more than the grain. I understand that the conditions at Poona this year were very favourable to rust. Under these circumstances the appearance of a few sori of orange rust on the Khapli wheat does not show lack of resistance, as no wheat has ever yet been bred that was entirely unsusceptible to rust." Some experiments were also carried out with new varieties of cattle fodder, prickly pear and aloes being both tried, but in neither case were they found to be good forage, as the cattle experimented upon lost condition and showed a distaste for this species of food even when mixed with bran and supplemented by a ration of hay.

THE BALUCHI MISSION.

There is no reason to doubt the correctness of the story published in Calcutta as to the so-called Baluchi Mission to Askabad, though "the denouement" is somewhat lacking in dramatic interest. Some time ago the Russian Press were at pains to inform us that eight Khans from Baluchistan had solicited Russian protection against British oppression, and we were led to believe that they had entertained the hope that they "might be of utility to Russia in a combatant capacity." When, therefore, they were reported to have left Askabad, the "Novoe Vremya" drew consolation from the thought that they might settle in Persian Baluchistan and "prove a thorn in the side of the English." At the same time it could not refrain from pointing a moral to adorn the tale. "At the present time the fate of Baluchistan is sealed; it is matter for regret, but to do anything to change the situation would be extremely difficult. But without doubt we have the right to stop British advances to the west of Baluchistan—that is, to the southeast of Persia. We ought to have prevented the English expedition to Seistan, or, at any rate, nominated a Russian Commissioner to work with them in defining the Afghan-Persian frontiers. But our cool acceptance of the long, the endless, stay of the British there shows that we have learned nothing by the story of Baluchistan. If something is not done in this matter it will be a sad day for our dominion in Central Asia." It is something that Russia should realise the inevitable in Baluchistan even without the aid of Lord Curzon's guidance: in the face, however, of two "trading caravans" sent by Russia to Seistan, the "Novoe Vremya's great show of alarm for Russian interests in S. E. Persia was a trifle forced. As a representative of the "forward" school of Rusian foreign politics, it is bound to exert itself to keep its countrymen awake to the importance of Seistan, and its conclusions will not be affected by the fact that no Khans or Baluchis made their way to Askabad or that in the present instance there could be no question of British encroachment.

As for confusing Brahuis with Baluchis, the mistake was, after all, somewhat natural. Both come from Baluchistan, and Russian officials could hardly be expected to appreciate nice distinctions which often puzzle the British expert. Baluchistan, one must confess, is a land of anomalies. The race from whom the territory takes its name is by no means the largest section of its inhabitants. There are only some 80,000 Baluchis in Baluchistan as against 300,000 Brahuis and 200,000 Afghans, while in Sind and the Punjab they number no less than 935,027 souls. Besides the three main races already mentioned there are many others, such as the Lasis, Khetrans, Chhuttas, Chhanals, Saiads and Makranis, so that the Province comprises many tongues; but affinity of race is no criterion as to language. All Afghans do not talk Pushto, nor all Brahuis Brauu. The head of the Brahui confederacy, the Khan of Khelat, speaks Baluchi with his own family. In the Bangalzais tribe of Brahuis, to which Afzal Khan and his three relations belong, there is one clan which speaks only Baluchi, while in the Bizanjos we have a whole Brahui tribe using the Baluchi language. On the other hand, the Afghan Panis round Sibi talk Jatki or Siraiki, while in the Nahars among the Khetrans we have an instance of Afghans, who have entirely lost their original language. The same is the case with the Quasmains who came from Baluchi-speaking Bugtis, but now speak Kherani. Two reasons are given for this curious intermixture of language, the first being the practice of incorporating aliens in days when numerical strength was all-important, and secondly that the language of the children almost invariably follows that of the mother. As matters stand, therefore, it is not so very easy to pick out a Brahui from a Baluchi; and if it so happened that Afzal Khan or any of his following belonged to the Garrani section of his tribe, an error in racial identification was almost inevitable.—"Pioneer."

It is reported that a G. I. P. Railway Guard, named Mascarenhas, and his wife and three children were found dead in their Railway quarters at Dhond. Death is said to have been caused by poisoning with carbonic acid gas, in consequence of going to bed at night with a fire burning in their house, which was entirely closed. Enquiries are being made.

THE DISMEMBERMENT OF BENGAL.

In a recent criticism of the proposals put forward by the Government of India regarding Bengal, we endeavoured to show that the scheme was really one to establish a Province administered by the Government of Assam as a new Province, and that the relief to the administration of Bengal itself—admittedly beyond the capacity of a single officer as Lieutenant-Governor—could be better afforded by appointing a Council of two members as in Madras and Bombay. We have still to consider the scheme in respect of the transfer of territory and to show how the wholesale assignment of portions of Bengal to non-Regulation Provinces are undesirable and inappropriate.

A study of the Government letter reveals many inconsistencies in the reasoning advanced to justify each particular change. Arguments that are taken as carrying great weight in one instance are ignored altogether in another later one. This can best be made clear by quotations from the official letter. Thus the first relief to Bengal is to be by the lopping off practically of the whole of Chota Nagpur. As an argument in favour of this it is stated at the outset that "in character and state of development the people of Chota Nagpur correspond more closely with those of the Central Provinces than with the population of Bengali"; and next that "the Bengal form of administration is too highly developed, too legalised and too impersonal for backward tracts and primitive hill-tracts." But it is at the same time proposed to transfer to the elaborate system of administration of Bengal the district of Sambalpur, now part of the Central Provinces. Surely the same arguments would apply against its transfer and the same arguments should have some weight in respect of the transfers of the Agencies of Ganjam and Vizagapatam from Madras to Bengal. But such patent objections here are overlooked, the more potent reason (the union of the Uriya-speaking races having obscured them). Nor does the fact that Chota Nagpur, ever since its acquisition by the British Government more than a century ago, has formed part of the Government of Bengal receive consideration or even notice. People long accustomed to one form of government naturally would not be inclined to any change. The objection on account of distance from the seat of Goevrnment at Nagpur compared with that at Calcutta is lightly dismissed, notwithstanding that the advantages afforded by the Bengal and Nagpur Railway on one side and the extension of the East Indian Railway to the south on the other have materially opened out Chota Nagpur so as to make communication throughout comparatively easy with Calcutta, whereas it is unapproachable towards the Central Provinces. It seems to us that the statement that "Chota Nagpur is more or less inaccessible from most directions" does not accurately represent the situation. This objection is, however, disposed of by the announcement that "the Government of India are concerned with the relief of its administrative rather than its physical isolation," and that "if the people cannot be brought more to Government it is at least desirable to bring Government nearer to them." If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain, is a trite and well-known saying. But has it ever been suggested that the Government of the Central Provinces shall be removed from Nagpur so as to be nearer to Chota Nagpur? How, then, is this remark relevant? The similarity of names between Nagpur and Chota Nagpur would furnish a more appropriate argument. Ethnologically there is no tie. We may add that Chota Nagpur has its own Code of revenue law, in some respects based on that of Bengal, but this is in no respect especially cognate to the law or system in force in the Central Provinces. Moreover, nothing is said in regard to any transfer of jurisdiction from the Calcutta High Court, though this is paraded to meet any objection on this account to the transfers of the Eastern Bengal districts to Assam. Nor is the burden to the Bengal administration from business arising out of Chota Nagpur appreciable or in any way indicated by the area or population of the territory which it is proposed to transfer.

Next in regard to the changes in respect of Orissa. Here considerations from race and language are predominant. But how does this argument apply to the extensive transfers of Bengali-speaking districts to Assam That has not been considered in connection with these transfers. The pendulum is not kept evenly balanced; the weights of argument are not fairly adjusted. The difficulties of language are made much of in the case of Orissa. But is it intended that the services of the officers under the Government of Bengal in Orissa shall be distinct from those in the rest of that Province Weighty arguments against this could easily be advanced. As a matter of fact the officers in Orissa are rarely acquainted with Uriya, and they are liable to be transferred to other and more favourite districts in Bengal. A knowledge of Bengali to which Uriya is in many respects similar is generally found to be sufficient for service in Orissa, and to isolate Orissa from Bengal on this account would amount to a serious impediment in promotion and affect the general usefulness of a considerable number of its officers.

We are not surprised to learn that the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces is desirous to be rid of the district of Sambalpur. It has always had the unenviable reputation of being one of the most unhealthy and jungly parts of India, and it still maintains the character that it acquired from the great mortality amongst the troops in the Kol War in the early part of the last century. But as it is desired to relieve the administration of Bengal, why we would ask, should parts of the Presidency of Madras be added to it? The Madras Government have long dealt with matters arising in the Agencies of Ganjam and Vizagapatam whose affairs are, we believe, intricate and peculiar. To transfer these tracts to Bengal would necessarily be to raise new difficulties and enhance the labours of that Government. The desire to bring together all the Uriya-speaking races seems to be founded too much on ethnological sentiment. But these additions to Bengal are not in the direction of giving relief to its administration, and consequently they afford additional ground for depriving it of its Eastern districts. And here we see that the formation of a new North-Eastern Province is unquestionably the primary object before the Government of India. If there had been any doubt on this point it must have been removed by the official correspondence so hurriedly published between the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Government of India, as a rider to the first letter on the subject. The consideration of the arguments for and against this part of the general scheme must be left over for the moment. Our object so far has been to show that there is a lack of consistency in the reasoning as regards Chota Nagpur and Orissa. To use a homely phrase, sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander, whereas in this instance the sauce is applied or withheld just as it suits the official chef in his endeavours to flavour the dish according to his instructions.—The "Pioneer."

PROPHETS OF EVIL.

In every age there has been an abundance of prophets, and the things they have foretold have generally been of a disastrous character. Yet still this old world of ours wags on more or less merrily, and supports a larger number of people in a greater degree of comfort than at any former period.

Now here is a prophet of evil who discourses of that sleeping sickness which first appeared on the west coast of this continent, and is spreading in all directions—a dreadful malady, truly, one which to the present has defeated the world's science—speculating as to the probability of it being the appointed means for the extinction of mankind.

Seeing that this new and mysterious disease has so far attacked only Negroes, and has killed only a few hundreds of that race, whereas smallpox has killed hundreds of thousands of every race, it is difficult to appreciate this gloomy prophet's opinion. Perhaps the prophet suffers from indigestion; in which case he would do better to cure himself, by taking a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup, than disseminating his gloomy ideas. Indigestion not only prevents food from nourishing us; it converts it into poison which contaminates the whole system, depressing the mind, constipating the bowels, impoverishing the blood, and punishing the unfortunate patient with severe pain at the chest after eating, headache, drowsiness, and other symptoms which complete his misery.

Among the many people who know these facts from experience is Mr. H. Henegan, of Crawford Street, Port Elizabeth, who, in writing to Messrs. A. J. White (Colonial), Ltd., corner of Princes and Diesel Streets, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony (proprietors in South Africa of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup), says: "It is now two years since I first used Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and I rejoice to tell you (as I have told my friends ever since) of the good it has done for me. I can never forget the pain and distress I suffered and my wretched condition when a friend persuaded me to try your Syrup. I had consulted several doctors and taken their medicines without obtaining any relief from the pains in my chest and back. Often I was compelled to neglect my work, being weak and quite without energy. To my friend's earnestness in recommending Seigel's Syrup I owe my present good health. I am now a strong, healthy man; but I always keep a supply of the Syrup at hand, and whenever I need any medicine never fail to resort to it."

These favourable opinions, based upon actual benefits received, expressed by Mr. Henegan on 8th July, 1903, closely resembles numerous other testimonials which constantly reach Messrs. A. J. White from various parts of the country. Mr. Henegan's complaint was chronic indigestion, a very prevalent malady, in itself sufficient to destroy all joy in life, but which when neglected leads to all sorts of dangerous complications. Mother Seigel's Syrup is its only sure cure. It is a perfectly natural remedy, made from fruits, roots, and herbs, containing no noxious drugs whatever. The essential qualities of the plants are extracted by a scientific process known only to the proprietors, and the result is a specific which for thirty-five years has been acknowledge as an unrivalled remedy for indigestion and all bilious diseases by the people of the sixteen principal countries of the world.

Mr. W. Sly, of 12, Darlow Buildings, Parliament Street, Port Elizabeth, in a letter dated 8th August, 1903, expresses himself in terms similar to those of Mr. Henegan. "I had a severe attack of indigestion while staying at Port Said, in Egypt," writes Mr. Sly, "and tried numerous so-called remedies without deriving the least benefit from any of them. But when I came to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup it was different. The very first dose did me good, and shortly after the indigestion left me."

Prophets of evil are never welcome. Prophets of gladness are sometimes mistaken. Proved facts, such as we have been reading of, are independent of all prophecy.

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