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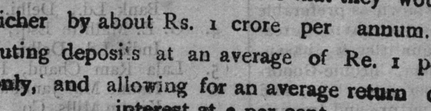
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS. 5,

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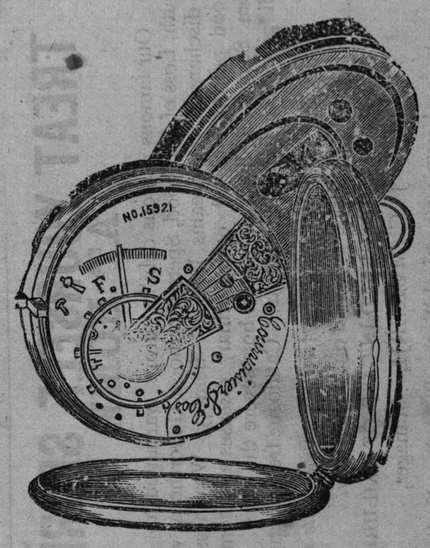

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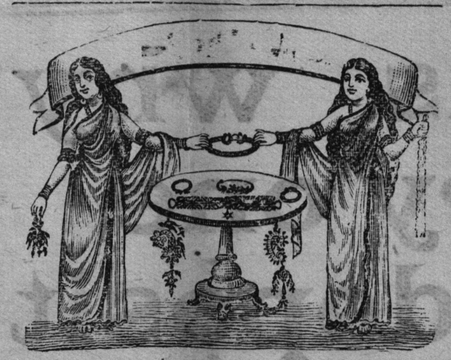

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CALCUTTA, MARCH 6, 1898.

SECTION 108 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE BILL.

SECTION 109 of the present Criminal Procedure Code is generally known as the *budmash* section. It is enforced in the case of *budmashes* or bad characters who misbehave themselves, and who are bound over and required to find sureties to be of good behaviour for a term of six months. Mr Chalmers' new section 108 of the Procedure Code Bill is framed upon the lines noted above, and meant for, as an Anglo-Indian paper euphemiously put it, "another class of *budmashes*," that is to say, political agitators. The terrible character of the provision will be plain to the meanest apprehension, from even a mere glance of the section, which is given below:—

Security for good behaviour from persons disseminating seditious matter.

108. Whenever a Chief Presidency or District Magistrate, or a Presidency Magistrate or Magistrate of the first class specially empowered by the Local Government in this behalf, has information that there is within the limits of his jurisdiction any person who, within or without such limits, either orally or in writing, disseminates or attempts to disseminate, or in anywise abets the dissemination of,—

(*a*) any seditious matter, that is to say, any matter the publication of which is punishable under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, or

(*b*) any matter the publication of which is punishable under section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, or

(*c*) any matter concerning a Judge which amounts to criminal intimidation or defamation under the Indian Penal Code,

such Magistrate may (in manner hereinafter provided) require such person to shew cause why he should not be ordered to execute a bond, with or without sureties, for his good behaviour for such period, not exceeding one year, as the Magistrate thinks fit to fix.

Just ponder on the situation. The Magistrate is empowered to punish not only one who disseminates, but who attempts to disseminate, nay more, who in anywise abets the dissemination of, any seditious matter. But who is to decide whether the matter is seditious or not? Why, the same Magistrate. And who is to decide whether any prosecution should be instituted under the section or not? Why, the same Magistrate again! So, the District or Presidency Magistrate is the originator of the prosecution; he is also the prosecutor; and he is the final Judge!

But the beauty of the arrangement has not yet been half explained. When any sedition case is brought against any person under section 124A. of the Penal Code, the sanction of the Local Government is required. But this safeguard is taken away with regard to prosecutions under section 108 of the new Criminal Procedure Code. One has simply to inform a District Magistrate or a Presidency Magistrate that there is a man within his jurisdiction who talks sedition, and the Officer will be justified, under the proposed law, to haul, him up and punish him. The informant of the Magistrate might be anybody—from a detective to a beggar in the street,—and the Magistrate would be quite within his powers to proceed upon the information hus supplied to him.

Now we put it to the Government, where would be the safety of the Indians, if the section were really made a law of the land? Would not then society be turned *topsy turvy*, if only a few over-zealous detectives or unscrupulous men were to take it into their heads to hunt out sedition in the country and inform the Magistrates of it?

There is scarcely a social gathering or an assemblage of persons where the acts or the measures of Government are not freely criticised. There, the conduct of particular rulers is either censured or praised; and the District Magistrate or the Presidency Magistrate, within whose jurisdiction the party live, may also come in for his share of abuse. A detective in plain cloth, happens to join the company. He hears all, and at once runs to the Magistrate and informs him that so and so were speaking rank sedition. We need not describe the rest. Some leading men of the town are at once called upon to show cause why they should not execute a bond for good behaviour. They cannot deny that they had freely condemned certain measures of Government, or that they had used unparliamentary language against certain officers. They thus stand self-condemned, according to the Magistrate, and a whole town is emasculated.

In the above, we have not exaggerated the real position in the least. If the section be passed, it is not mere journalist or public speaker who will be in danger of being pounced upon by the executive, but every educated Indian who takes interest in the political welfare of his country. Either the people of this country must, therefore, cease to talk about politics, or they must render themselves constantly liable to be dragged before the Magistrate and bound down in heavy securities like *budmashes*.

But we have not yet told all. No appeal lies against the decision of the Magistrate! His order is final! The Select Committee have been good enough to recommend that the High Court, of its own motion as well as on the petition of the aggrieved, should be empowered to revise the orders of the Magistrate. But, this means very little, as High Courts do not generally exercise their revisional powers; and when they do so, they do not enter into questions of appreciation of the weight of evidence.

We again put it to Government what have the Indians done to deserve such a drastic law? Have our good rulers taken note of the fact that if such a law were really fastened upon them, they would gradually forget to talk about the affairs of their country, and that in their own parlours they would feel as if "the walls had ears?"

We will now draw the attention of the reader to sub-section (c) of section 108. This part of the clause is, so to speak, even more dangerous than sub-section (a) which deals with seditious matter. It provides that a person, who disseminates any matter concerning a "Judge", which amounts to criminal intimidation or defamation under the Penal Code, is liable to be prosecuted under section 108. A "Judge" is thus defined in the Penal Code:—

19. The word "Judge" denotes not only every person who is officially designated as a Judge, but also every person who is empowered by law to give in any legal proceeding, civil or criminal, a definitive judgment, or a judgment which, if not appealed against, would be definitive, or a judgment which, if confirmed by some other authority, would be definitive, or who is one of a body of persons, which body of persons is empowered by law to give such a judgment.

Illustrations.

(*a*) A Collector exercising jurisdiction in a suit under Act X of 1859, is a Judge.

(*b*) A Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in respect of a charge on which he has power to sentence to fine or imprisonment, with or without appeal, is a Judge.

(*c*) A member of a Panchayat which has power, under Regulation VII, of 1816, (*b*) of the Madras Code, to try and determine suits, is a Judge.

(*d*) A Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in respect of a charge on which he has power only to commit for trial to another Court, is not a Judge.

So, almost every officer is a Judge except the policeman. And whoever will speak against a Magistrate or a Collector, may be hauled up and punished as a *budmash*! Of course, it must be criminal intimidation or defamation under the Penal Code. But as it is the Magistrate who will decide, and as there is no appeal against his order, it is not absolutely necessary that the criminal intimidation or the defamation, with which one is charged, should exactly amount to what is laid down in the Penal Code. "I intend exposing the high-handed proceedings of such and such officer in newspapers", says a man. He can be at once charged with criminal intimidation under section 108, and punished.

We do not know; but is there any country in the world where such a law prevails? Granting it does, do we not live under the enlightened rule of the British people? Surely, there is no such law in England, or in any of its dependencies. Why should the Indians, who are so loyal and law-abiding, be singled out and subjected to this cruel treatment? Why should this disability be voted to them? We implore Lord Elgin to take stock of the measures already passed for purposes of repression, and then to proceed with this additional innovation.

THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

THE Famine Commission, which is now sitting in the Bombay Presidency, is engaged in a very agreeable work. It is to record the evidence of officials, or, of persons put forward by them, in support of the famine administration of the Government. These witnesses come, one after the other, and declare the same thing, namely, that no man died of starvation, that everything was done to alleviate the sufferings of the affected people, and that there was no hardship of any kind imposed upon the wretches who sought Government help. This is all right, so far as it goes; but, would it not have been more satisfactory if all this praise had come from independent parties?

Those who administer the affairs of this conntry, are certainly very intelligent men; but, some of the methods of their work are simply amazing. What is the value of this official or semi-official testimony about a matter which is viewed in another light by the general public?

According to official estimate, no man or very few men died of starvation. They are right from their stand-point of view. But the question should be judged from a different standard also. For instance, the official view is that, unless a man is reduced to a skeleton for want of food and dies without showing any symptom of a disease he can not be said to have died of starvation. Even if he is reduced to the last stage of exhaustion for want of nourishment and gets a stool before he breathes his last, his death, according to the official notion, is to be credited to diarrhoea and not to famine.

If you look upon the subject in the above light, then, of course, very little fault is to be found with the administration of famine in any Province of India. But is that the proper way to approach the question, in which the lives of millions are concerned. and then to arrive at a conclusion?

As we said, the popular view of the question is different. In the opinion of the general public, the authorities should have commenced to feed the people as soon as there were the first signs of starvation. This was, however, not done, as a rule. Government help was offered in many cases, only when people had actually commenced to die or reached a state of exhaustion when no amount of nourishment could save them. At least, this was the case in the Central Provinces; but as the same policy was adopted, more or less strictly, everywhere, other Provinces might have fared in the same way, though perhaps not to the same extent as the Central Provinces.

The pittance which was allowed to the famine-stricken, was, then, not sufficient to keep their body and soul together, specially when they were made to work for 7 or 8 hours daily, under the burning sun of April, May and June. In some districts of Bombay, we believe, the emaciated starvelings were even made to break stones. Now, it is a miracle if the people did not die under these circumstances. Perhaps many died, and, as stated above, their deaths were attributed to cholera, fever or diarrhoea, which resulted from starvation.

There is no doubt of it that the Indians are deeply grateful to the Government for all that it has done in this connection. It is equally true that none but an enlightened Government like that of the English could have coped successfully with the gigantic famine with which the country was overtaken. But, what we contend for is that, as no human organization is perfect, so there were a good many defects in the management of the last famine. The duty of the Commission ought to be, therefore, to discover these defects through independent sources, and not to secure only praise for the different Governments through official witnesses.

The most important questions before the Commission are, (1) whether or not the pittance doled out to the famine-stricken were sufficient to keep human beings in health; (2) whether or not the tasks imposed upon them were not beyond the capacity of people in their circumstances; (3) whether or not gratuitous relief should have been given to them as soon as the first symptoms of starvation had appeared in their midst.

The other important question before them is the improvement of the condition of the agricultural classes who have been totally or partially ruined by the famine. We think, the 80 lakhs of rupees, saved from the Charitable Funds, ought to be entirely devoted to their benefit. But we shall return to the subject in a futnre issue.

THE *Pioneer* has published a most important document. It is the Minute of dissent which was signed by Sir Antony MacDonnell as Home Member, Sir J. (then Mr. J) Westland as Finance Minister, and Sir Charles Pritchard as the Public Works Member, and appended to the despatch of the Government of India, relating to the Frontier policy of India in 1894. The dissent, with the remarks of the *Pioneer* upon it, are published elsewhere. The perusal of the Minute will strike even the most indifferent reader that, apart from the facts that Lord Elgin was only three months in India when the Despatch was sent, that Sir Alexander Miller was as incompetent to pass any opinion on the subject as the newly-arrived Viceroy, and that the two military members of the Executive Council, Sir George White and Sir H. Brackenbury, were bound to support a policy of military advance, the position assumed by the minority was unassailable, and the arguments advanced by them, simply unanswerable. And the minority, in the present case, was merely in name, for, it was by his casting vote that Lord Elgin carried the despatch. What Sir A. P. MacDonnell and two of his colleagues urged, was nothing more or less than the adoption of the non-intervention policy of Lord Lawrence.. It will be remembered that the latter laid it down as his deliberate opinion that it would be an act of folly to attempt to establish British influence beyond the natural boundary of India. But his advice was not heeded, and now we find British jurisdiction extending to regions, hundreds of miles north and northwest from the northernmost limit of the Punjab, though at the almost total financial ruin of India. What Sir Antony and the two other dissentient members submitted, was that we must stop where we were and should not go further. For, if we were to go on establishing military post after post in a mountainous country, inhabited by warlike races, we would invite their wrath and find ourselves in an interminable and ruinous warfare with them. What they specially objected to, was the establishment of military posts inside Waziristan and thus give offence to the Waziris. Both they and Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, urged that, all that was necessary to be done was to 'keep within our present frontier line" and "moderate the ardour of those of our civil and military officers who are eager for an advance." In the concluding paragraph of their dissent, Sir Antony and his colleagues give a graphic description of the disastrous results likely to follow from a policy of aggressive activity. "The need for a policy of unaggressive watchfulness over the frontiers", they say, "is indicated as much by the feeling of unrest which is perceptible in India as by an overwhelming need for economy in all branches of expenditure. No expenditure would be more distasteful to the public in this country, or in our opinion more unjustifiable, than expenditure incurred in attempts to subjugate those independent frontier tribes." But all these arguments and earnest appeals were completely lost upon the Secretary of State for India. He sided with the so-called majority and sanctioned further advance. And the inevitable result has followed. Hundreds of officers and soldiers, both English and Indian, have been sacrificed and crores of rupees expended, and yet almost all the independent tribes beyond the frontier are up against us. And Heaven knows when this interminable warfare will be brought to a termination.

THE other day we quoted a letter from the *Englishman* over the signature of "An Englishman," who complained that non-official Europeans in India had absolutely no voice in the administration of the country, and suggested that a public meeting should be held for protesting against the new Sedition Act and the manner in which it was passed. We understand that some prominent Englishmen of Calcutta, belonging to the commercial line, fully shared the views expressed by us in this connection; and they deplored the fact that there was not one European in Calcutta like the late Mr. Clarke, to bring about the movement. In another column, we reproduce a letter from the *Pioneer*, signed by "M," who also ridicules the so-called debate on the Sedition Bill. The writer says that non-official Europeans know more about the state of the country than the rulers of Provinces and the members of the Government, and that the latter only show their ignorance and render the administration of justice more unpopular when they "sneer at" European Associations as irresponsible nobodies, and pass such a law as the Sedition Act. If the Indians show apathy and want of pluck when their rights and privileges are taken away from them, it is because they have absolutely no control over the deliberations of the irresistible authorities of the land, armed, as they are, with irresponsible powers from head to foot. But why should non-official Europeans tolerate this state of things when they are not helpless? In the interests of the Empire, they should move, and see that India is governed well and the vast mass of the people are kept contented.

HERE is a great anomaly. Is it too much to expect of the Hon'ble Law Member to remove it when passing his new Criminal Procedure Code Bill? The recent Bombay cases brought this anomaly, involving, as it does, the liberty of the Indians residing in the Presidency towns, conspicuously to the front. Indeed, trial by jury is almost a farce to an Indian resident of the Presidency town, specially when he is tried by a special jury. We call it an anomaly, because a different rule prevails in the Muffasil.

First, as regards Europeans and Americans. Under section 451 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Europeans and Americans have the right, both in the High Court and in the Court of Sessions, to be tried by a jury, of whom not less than half the number shall be Europeans or Americans. Then, under section 451A, in trials before a District Magistrate, either in a warrant case or even in a summons case, Europeans and Americans have likewise the right to be tried by a jury, of whom the majority shall be Europeans or Americans. Then again, under clause (6) section 451A, even in a petty summons case, the procedure in a trial by jury before a Court of Sessions shall, as nearly as may be, apply, as if the District Magistrate were a Sessions Judge and the accused had been committed to his court for trial.

Thus, the Europeans and Americans possess the right to be tired by a majority of their own countrymen, in all the courts of justice, both in the Muffasil and the Presidency towns.

The Indian has this right only in the Muffasil Courts of Sessions under section 275 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; but he has no such right in the High Court. Is this not a queer arrangement?

But the anomaly becomes all the more glaring when we refer to section 452 of the Procedure Code. Under this section, in the case of a European and an Indian tried jointly, in the High Court as well as in the Muffasil Sessions Court, the Indian is given the option of a separate trial, so that he may not have the disadvantage of being tried by a jury, of whom the majority may be Europeans. In the event of such a case, the Indian can claim a majority of non-European jurors under section 275 of the Procedure Code in the Court of Sessions in the Muffasil; but, if the trial happens to be held before the High Court, he is at once deprived of that right.

When the Legislature admits the soundness of the principle of section 275 of the Procedure Code, as well as of para. 2 of 452 that an accused person should be tried by a majority of his fellow-countrymen, by what logic can the principle be sound in the Muffasil and unsound in the Presidency towns in the case of the Indians, specially when the principle has been admitted to be sound everywhere in the case of the Europeans? Here is a subject which deserves the serious attention of the Indian members in the Council, who, we doubt not, will bring it to the notice of the Government in the shape of an amendment.

While on this subject, we should draw the attention of the public to another important matter. In the Presidency towns, the special juries consist mainly of Europeans. Now, as all serious cases in the High Court are tried by a special jury, so, this means that when an Indian is accused of a grave offence and hauled up in the High Court, he is tried practically by a European jury. In Calcutta, the last year's special jury list consists of 197 Europeans and 101 Indians. Is this not scandalous, considering that the number of educated Indians, fit to serve as special jurors, is ten or fifteen times larger than of those to be found among the European community? It was Mr. Jackson who drew the attention of the Chief Justice Sir Comer Petheram to this scandal during the *Bangabasi* trial, and Sir Comer took strong notice of it in his charge to the jury. Thanks to Mr. Apcar, the Clerk of the Crown, for the improvement that has been effected since then; but he will find that the proportion between the Indian and European jurors is yet far from satisfactory; indeed, the reverse of what now exists ought to have been the fairer position. In this we think, our own people are more to blame than the Clerk of the Crown; for, we have been assured by several gentlemen that Mr. Apcar would be too glad to add to the list of the special jurors, provided names of educated Indians, occupying respectable position in society, were supplied to him.

IT is to stop disaffection,—the spread of hatred and contempt against the Government—that the press has been gagged. This is what the authors of the measures say. But are not the measures themselves calculated to do the same mischief for which they are alleged to have been introduced? This is what *Capital* said:—

Surely if this Bill were passed as it stands, and the logical result attained, the first persons to be brought before the tribunals of this country would be Lord Elgin and Mr. Chalmers themselves; for, are not they, by their words and signs, bringing into hatred and contempt the Government of the country, promoting feelings of enmity and hatred amongst the people, and exciting disaffection towards the Government among all classes of Her Majesty's Indian subjects? Surely, the only answer which a jury of their countrymen could give, would be that this has been the result of their ill-advised legislation.

The position is thus reversed. It is for the protection of the country from "native newspapers" that the measures have been introduced. Is it not? The same newspapers find themselves now in a position to have to protect the country from the sedition inadvertently commited by the Government itself. The nation is now in blank despair, because of the measures of the Government. We have now to show that the nation has no reason to despair. Our publicists have now to infuse hope; to defend the Government; to prove that if the repressive measures have come rather successively from the British Go-

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ment, they are mere accidents, and the Government itself is sound ; and if there is universal mourning now, the day is not far distant when the gloom of night would disappear and bright morning would dawn. It is not mere poetry that we speak. We quote below a line from the letter of a friend in England, a man of considerable influence in that country :—

"The country is Liberal to the backbone."

Now what does the above mean? It means that the vast majority in England are on our side. What we have to do is to seek the help of the English public. We have not done that hitherto. Let us do it now in earnest. The task has seriously devolved on the native papers, of defending the Government for its attempt to gag them!

WHAT are the grounds which have led Sir Alexander Mackenzie to propose such radical changes in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality? We have sought for them in vain in his speech. The elected Commissioners have been exercising the privileges, conferred upon them in 1876, to the satisfaction of the general body of the rate-payers. The Calcutta of the present day is surely a quite different city from the Calcutta of thirty or twenty-five years ago, when the official and nominated Commissioners had everything in their own way. This is a stern fact, and no amount of abuse of the elected Commissioners by the head of the Government can alter it. How would it then be possible for Sir Alexander to justify his forthcoming Bill, in which he proposes to reduce the elected Commissioners to non-entities and strengthen the executive, as if the executive are not already too strong, that is to say, to return to the old order of things, which was voted a failure, unless he chooses to close his ears against all reasonable representations and does not see things as they are? The proper course for His Honour was to carry the citizens of Calcutta along with him, by proving conclusively that the powers, vested in their representatives in the Corporation, have been abused by them. But he ignores them altogether ; indeed, it does not seem to occur to him at all that, as it is they who mainly maintain the Municipality, they ought to have at least some voice in the settlement of the question which has exercised Sir Alexander so much. His Honour is anxious to secure European co-operation in the Municipal administration of the town. That is, no doubt, a very laudable object ; but, can he tell us why the Europeans took no interest in the Municipal affairs of Calcutta before the introduction of the elective system? Can he also tell us why the Europeans refuse to stand as candidates, though their successful return is guaranteed by the native voters? And is it just that the European element should preponderate, considering that the entire cost of the Municipality is practically borne by Indian and not European tax-payers? We want no favour but justice and fairness, from the present Lieutenant-Governor. His predecessors had never thought of curtailing the powers of the Commissioners in the way he means to do. It is, therefore, meet that, before His Honour seeks to disturb an arrangement which has existed this quarter of a century, to the satisfaction of the bulk of those who maintain the Municipality, he should satisfy them by facts and figures that a radical change of the kind proposed by him, has become absolutely necessary. He has, of course, the privilege of treating public opinion with utter contempt and carrying everything he likes at his sweet will ; but, surely, such a procedure is unworthy of an enlightened and intelligent ruler. We can assure His Honour, the contemplated Municipal Bill has created a feeling of deep disappointment in the country. The people never expected that such a retrograde measure could emanate from one who wrote the famous local self-government Resolution of the Government of Lord Ripon. If we had the privilege of counselling Sir Alexander Mackenzie, we would have implored him to drop the Bill and thus avoid universal unpopularity

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WE have said above that famine deaths are sought to be credited to some disease or other. Here is a cutting from the evidence of Mr. R. P. Barrow, the Collector of Thana, before the Famine Commission :—

Sir James Lyall : Death from simple starvation, I suppose, is a very rare thing, because unless you shut a person up in a stone cell or send him to sea in an open boat, long before he dies of starvation, he will fill his stomach with something or other which will lead to his death?

Mr. Barrow :—I do not know. I have never seen a case of starvation, and have only heard of three, which occurred in the district of Thana, where I have since been working.

Did you see many cases of deaths from famine diarrhoea?—We had a lot of deaths from diarrhoea, but I put them down as being really due to cholera, which was concealed.

You do not think they were due to people filling their stomachs with bad food, because their ordinary food was not obtainable?—I do not think so I saw nothing to lead me to believe that such was the case.

So, it was diarrhoea or cholera, and not famine, which caused "a lot of deaths"! In reply to Mr. Monteith, another official witness said, "cholera, which broke out, was responsible for the decrease in the number of persons on the works in Bijapore.' Mr. Barrow was, however, very frank about the loss of cattle in the Bijapore district. He said : "I put the loss down at 50 per cent. I have seen cases where it was 75 per cent. A great portion died before the relief works were open at all." So, no relief works were started before 50 or 75 per cent of cattle had perished, that is to say, the agricultural population had been ruined! And does the Bombay Government want praise for this also?

THE *Englishman* very much resented the action of the authorities in asking for opinions on the Sedition Bill and then ignoring them. But the Legal Remembrancer of the Government of Sir A. P. MacDonnell was equal to the occasion. The opinion that he gave, was the best that could be caoceived, considering all circumstances. Here it is :—

With reference to G. O. No 4186—VI-954-C., dated 29th December, 1897, forwarding for my opinion a copy of the papers relating to further amendments to the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code, and Statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, I have the honour to say that I have no criticisms to make.

The next best was that of the High Court of the same Provinces. It says :—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of G. O. No. 4185 VI-954-C., dated 29th December, 1897, and its enclosures, and in reply to say that the Court approves the proposed amendments of sections 124A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code.

Nothing like a silent vote! It takes away the necessity of finding argument for supporting a measure which is untenable. If all those who had supported the measure, had followed the advice of the High Court of the North-West, a good many reputations might have been saved. Fancy Sir James Westland going to prove that all those who opposed the measure, were only the three tailors of the Tooley Street and that it was he and his colleagues who alone represented the people of India! Fancy Sir Alexander Mackenzie asking for powers to protect his Government from his own people! And then you can see the danger that besets one who has to give reasons for his opinions. The two Mussalman Associations supported the measure and they acted wisely. They knew that the Government would not listen to them if they opposed it, even vehemently. So they thought that the best thing would be to give such an opinion as would be accepted. Sir J. Westland poohpoohed the opinions of the opposition ; but this is what Mr. Labouchere says :—

The gagging of the press will shut down the only safety-valve for native opinion of India, and remove the sole check upon despotism. No surer means of promoting popular discontent and encouraging secret conspiracies could be devised. If incitements to sedition are published, the existing law affords ample power to deal with the offender. But as Sir Richard Garth, formerly Chief Justice of Bengal, has testified, it is not on account of sedition that the Government of India brings forward the drastic measure for silencing the Press "I read native papers myself week after week," wrote Sir Richard, "and never see anything there approaching sedition or even disloyalty or disrespect to English rule. What I do find, and what I rejoice to find, is thoroughly well-deserved censure of the arbitrary conduct of many of the Government officials. I am afraid this is exactly what the Government would wish to repress." There, in a few words, is the true explanation of the action the Government of India is taking.

How is it possible to ignore the above?

WE pointed out the other day that, if section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code Bill became law, every man would be placed at the heels of the District or the Presidency Magistrate Indeed, any unscrupulous person might inform a Magistrate that so-and-so, residing within his jurisdiction, was disseminating seditious or defamatory matter, and he might be at once hauled up and bound down, without his ever being able to obtain justice, as the order of the Magistrate is final on the subject. When the sedition law was first introduced in 1870 and objection was taken that it might be used for malicious prosecutions Sir James Stephen sought to remove the apprehension on this score with these remarks :—

This, however, was completely answered by the provision that no prosecution should be commenced under this section except under the authority of the Government.

But, even no such safeguard, incomplete as it is, is provided in the present section. It is the District Magistrate who will start the prosecution, who will conduct the case, and who will finally dispose of it. The other safeguard against sedition cases instituted under seetion 124A, and when tried by a Magistrate, is that an appeal lies against the idecision of the lower court. But, as stated above, the Magistrate's order is not appealable under section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Is not the arrangement monstrous?

If the Government is determined to pass the section, then, we hope, it will be pleased to concede the above two safeguards, namely (1) no prosecution shall take place without the sanction of the Government, (2) an appeal shall lie against the order of the Magistrate, and thus protect the liberty of the subject, at least to some extent.

AN English correspondent of the *Englishman*, over the signature of "Loyalty", thus resents the sneers of Mr. Chalmers and other Hon'ble members at the opinion of the Anglo-Indian Associations against the Sedition Bill :—

When the Hon. Mr. Chalmers the other day blandly referred to the support which heads of administrations gave to his Sedition Law, as the support of informed and responsible rulers, and the opposition of various associations as that of irresponsible commentators, the learned gentleman was delivered of a saying that was full of meaning : but what did it really mean? In India, the number of Englishmen who are constitutionally loyal and support the Government by instinct, is increasing rapidly. But the strain thrown on their loyalty is unnecessarily tightened when, on the very few occasions on which they oppose the Government, the whole significance of the fact is overlooked, or what is worse, made game of.

Without admitting that English Associations in Calcutta have very much to learn about the administration of justice in the moffussil, I may respectfully solicit the attention of Mr. Chalmers, when he can spare a few moments from codification, to a plea in one of the published letters of one of the public bodies, asking for time to ascertain the views of planters throughout the country. Before this could possibly be done, supposing it to be necessary, a Bill, opposed by everybody not in the official pay of the State, was hurriedly done into law. Even if, as some suppose, the opposition was mistaken, such tactics are of the nature of blunders, which no mere party vote in the House of Commons can ever absolve of their inherent unwisdom : still less promote to the rank of wise strategy : whereas if, as I fear, the opposition was in the main sound, and the amendments mostly unwise, in spite of the crisp sayings of Secretariat Doctrinaries, what can be said of such tactics? Resembling, as in that case they would do, unions of brilliancy with error they fall into the category of marriages made in haste to be repented of at leisure. But when the time for leisurely repentance arrives, the "responsible" authors of it will have retired into titled or pensioned irresponsibilty at home, while the consequences will have to be borne by the "irresponsible" critics or their heirs or assigns for ever. One has to pay for being not only, as was once upon a time playfully remarked, a citizen of no mean city, but the subject of what, in spite of its innate greatness, is being made to look a rather mean empire, an empire whose salaried custodians do not recognise the moral support they obtain from the volunteer loyalty of all Englishmen in the country : and sometimes the price seems a little too large.

Yes, the beauty of the whole thing is that neither Mr. Chalmers nor any of his colleagues will be in India when the disastrous effects of their doings will begin to affect the Empire. "It will last my time," is the policy which guides most of our wise statesmen of the present day. They sow the wind, and their successors reap the whirlwind.

THE election of Lord Edmund Fitz-Maurice is a glorious victory for the Liberals. The cheering news will infuse hope into the minds of the Indians who are now sinking into what is pœtically called "the ocean of despair." The Liberal victories at Durham and Cricklade shew which side the scale is turning, and that if a general election were to take place now, the ministry of Lord Salisbury would probably be swept away. A correspondent writes from England :

"I am sorry to inform you that Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose is suffering from something like an attack of influenza. He has been requested to go to North Wiltshire, and help the candidature of Lord E. Fitz Maurice who is a brother of Lord Lansdowne, but who is not a Unionist. He (Mr. Ananda Mohan) is going there next Friday to support him."

And we may come to know that as in Durham so in Cricklade, his services had been of great help in the victory obtained by the brother of Lord Lansdowne. Mr. Richardson, the victorious Liberal return by Durham, writes to Babu Ananda Mohan thanking him and promising "Anything I can do for India, I shall do." This is the first time that such a testimony has been borne to the value of Indian help in the party conflicts of England.

THERE is no doubt of it that Sir A. P. MacDonnell has done much in the way of reforming the criminal administration of justice in the N.-W Provinces, which was rotten to the core. Before his advent, the executive officers, as a rule, carried every thing in their way, law or no law. Indeed when we unearthed and published the whip ping circular of the late Government of the N.-W Provinces, enjoining on Magistrates to sentence accused persons to whipping gene rally, it created such a noise here and in England that it formed the subject of interpellation in Parliament. The result was, the circular was knocked on the head. We regret to learn from our Benares correspondent that, in some places, the District Magistrates are still in the habit of exercising undue influence over their subordinates by issuing orders to them, and suggesting how particular offences are to be dealt with. The matter deserves the attention of His ur. Honour

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LORD and Lady Kinnaird and Lord and Lady Methven have left for England.

THE delimitation work of the Burma-Chinese frontier will be continued for another month.

THE *Morning Post* says that the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers goes home in the spring for three months and that the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans will officiate for him.

THE appeal of Raja Narendra Bahadur Singh, of Haraha, has been accepted by the Sessions Judge of Lucknow, and the conviction of the lower court has been set aside.

IT is anticipated that the opium crop in Behar will be a very bumper one this year. This is all the more satisfactory, as Government stocks have fallen very low at present.

IN compliance with a representation on the subject, the date of the Convocation of the Allahabad University has been altered from the 8th to the 10th instant, the first-named day being *Dole Purnima*.

THE Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray of Natore and the Hon. Mr. J. G. H. Glass, have resigned their seats in the Bengal Legislative Council. Mr. Buckley, who succeeds Mr. J. H. G. Glass as Public Works Secretary in Bengal, will be nominated for that gentleman's seat in the Council. A resolution appears in the *Calcutta Gazette*, of the 2nd instantrelating to the election of a member in the Maharajah's place.

TWENTY-ONE European officers of the Poona Punitive Police have been sent to Bombay for plague work ; and this is not the first draft from that force to do work outside Poona. The fact itself is an indirect admission on the part of the Bombay Government that, like the attachment of the moveable property of the Natu brothers, the imposition of a police force at Poona was a mistake. But, why not formally disband the punitive police force which has been found to be unnecessary, especially in view of the fact that the Government is now meeting the cost from its own pockets and that it will find it hard to make Poona repay its debt soon, in consequence of the ravages of famine and plague there.

AN influential deputation of Hindus waited upon His Excellency the Governor of Bombay at Malabar Hill and drew attention to the hardships which their community would be subjected to, if strict rules were applied to find out the cause of all deaths. His Excellency promised to give the matter his attention. This reply not being considered satisfactory, a public meeting of the Bhatias was decided upon. This meeting was called on Tuesday, the 1st. inst., at Mahajanwali ; but as late on Monday night. the 28th ultimo, His Excellen y informed Dr. Balchandra that he was not in a position to give a reply till the 9th March, the meeting was postponed and will probably be held to-day.

HERE is a plague story, brought to light by a correspondent of the *Indian Spectator*. The correspondent had an occasion to visit the Hindu Plague Hospital at Bombay, when he "came across a patient, who, with face as bright as my own and with spectacles on his eyes, was sitting on his cot and reading a novel." Though a non-medical man, the correspondent could not persuade himself to believe that the man was a plague patient ; and, on enquiry, he was told that he was quite correct in his surmise. The patient then narrated how he found his way to the hospital. He had a sprain on his leg, which produced a little swelling ; but it was not glandular. Yet, on the strength of some fever, the case was pronounced to be one of plague; and notwithstanding certificates to the contrary of two medical men and a bone-setter, he was removed to the hospital where, by rule, he had to be detained till perfectly cured

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THERE is no doubt that many Zemindars have a dreary time of it, they having left the management of their estates to paid officials and having themselves no serious work to do But are they not entirely to thank themselves, if they have to lead such purposeless lives? Providence has given them opportunities of doing good to themselves and to others, if they only utilize them. Let them devote a portion of their tine and money in introducing agricultural and industrial reforms in their estates. By this means not only will they benefit themselves, but do good to lots of people placed in their care. Will a zemindar try to ascertain by experiments, which is the best manure for paddy-producing land? Vast areas of land in Bengal being used for paddy, the importance of such a discovery cannot be over-estimated.

THE correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Bombay regarding the plague expenditure, has been published. It shows that the former do not hold themselves liable to lend money to the Municipalities for plague expenses, nor to relieve the Municipalities generally at the cost of the State, nor are they prepared to sanction any considerable extension of the period for the repayment of such loan as may be granted. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council recognizes, however, the financial difficulties into which the Government of the Bombay Presidency have been brought by the disasters of this and the past year, and accepts the view of the Government of Bombay that some time must be given for recovery before a true estimate of the possibilities of repayment in each case can be made. He considers, therefore, that for the present loans should be made on a stipulation that the principal will be repaid during the five years from the 1st April, 1900, to the 31st March, 1905. Before this period begins, it may be hoped that the Municipalities concerned may have to a large extent, recovered their normal position, and it will be possible to judge, by the examination of each case, whether sufficient cause may exsist for an extension of the period of repayment.

THERE were 151 attacks and 169 deaths from plague in Bombay on Wednesday.

MR. F. J. ROWE, Officiating Principal, Presidency College, shortly proceeds on fifteen days' privilege leave.

MR. J. KNOX-WIGHT, District and Sessions Judge of Patna, shortly proceeds on three months' privilege leave.

SIR CHARLES LYALL, Chief Commissioner in the Central Provinces, will probably proceed on leave during the hot weather.

THE Czar of Russia has, it is said, ordered the establishment of a course of instruction in Hindustani at Tashkend in the military district of Turkistan.

A BOMBAY telegram informs that on Saturday a small military search-party were stoned by a crowd of Mahomedans. Several arrests were made, and one person has been fined Rs. 20.

IT said that Sir William Lockhart intends taking three months' leave home from the 12th instant, if the negotiations with the frontier tribesmen are successfully concluded by that time.

IN Hyderabad, the plague returns show an increase of the epidemic in the infected villages, and in the Aurangabad District it is very bad, 70 deaths having occurred on the 26th ultimo.

THE Collector of Godavary wires that a disease, known as "Black Blister", has broken out among the inhabitants of Mangapet in the Pakkal Taluqua, Nizam's territory, where the death-rate from this fresh affliction is 50 a day.

A LAHORE telegram to the *Indian Daily News* says that Sirdar Gurdyal Singh, Divisional Judge of Sialkote, has been suspended under the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, pending an inquiry into certain charges of bribery and corruption.

THE distress in Nellore is still on the increase. The numbers on relief in the district have risen from 6,766 to 7,079. The Board of Revenue reports that prices remain steady, or are slightly easier, but generally there is no improvement, except in one taluqua of the Kurnool District.

THE Viceroy during his walk from Mussoorie to Simla, will halt on the following stations on the following dates : 1st April, Saniji Sanhwar ; 2nd, Nagthal, Chaurainpani ; 3rd, Deoban ; 4th, Mandali ; 5th, Kathyair; 6th, Tyuni ; 7th Mirach. A temporary telegraph line will be eretced along this route.

YET another appointment of an ex-official *Sahib* in a Native State. It is said, Mr. Bradshaw, District Superintendent of Police at Jhelum, who shortly retires from the British Service, will be appointed Personal Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief of the Kashmir Army for advising him in the direction of the police administration of the State.

A PESHAWAR telegram to the *Englishman* of Wednesday's date, says :—The tribal negotiations are proceeding slowly, but it is anticipated that the Kambar Khel and Kuki Khel Jirgas will arrive to-morrow or next day. These tribesmen are in possession of land and are dependent upon agriculture. They are anxious for a settlement, and are moving to influence the others. Ten days will probably see the business on a definite footing, as all clans are anxious to re-build their homes, but will not begin work until the threat of invasion is withdrawn.

A DEPUTATION, headed by the Maharajah of Ajudhya, waited upon Sir Antony MacDonnell at Allahabad on Wednesday, and presented a memorial, urging the substitution of the Nagri for the Persian character in the courts and public offices of the N. W. Provinces. The memorial contends that Nagri being the character generally understood by the mass of the people, the exclusive use of the Persian character as the language of the courts and Government Offices, not only leads to administrative abuses, but operates as a distinct encouragement to primary education.

SOME time ago Babu Rajani Kant Chowdhuri, naib of a Dacca zemindar, sought protection of what may be called the High Court against official harassment. His story, which is extraordinary, is to the following effect. A ryot lodged a complaint against him in the court of the Sub-divisional Officer of Naraingunj with having wrongfully detained him, and he took up the case with more than usual zeal. The accused had failed to appear in court on the first day of the hearing. The result was, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Of course there was nothing objectionable in this procedure. But what followed was extraordinary. The accused at last surrendered to the court, when it came to light that the complainant and the accused had made up their differences. Indeed, the complainant filed a petition to that effect. The Magistrate, however, would not allow him to do this, for, according to him, the law stood in the way. Accordingly the case was proceeded with. Next followed a series of strange proceedings on the part of the Magistrate. The official was trying the case at camp at a place which was two days' journey from the sub-divisional head-quarters. The accused found great difficulty to get legal help there. So he applied for the postponement of the case, but the Magistrate rejected h pplication. This action of the Magistrate naturally reminds us of the famous Resolution of Sir A. Mackenzie on official tours. In that document occurs the following sentence, which Sub-divisional Officers, while on tour, ought always to bear in mind : "The main point to be kept in view, is to reduce to a minimum the inconvenience and trouble which the tour of a Sub-divisional Officer must unavoidably occasion to parties, witnesses and pleaders". Has not the Sub-divisional Officer at Naraingunj violated, in letter and spirit, the instructions of His Honour, as embodied in his Tour Resolution, by his action referred to above? Be that as it may, after rejecting the application, the Magistrate formed a charge against the accused, and asked the new Mooktear, whom the accused had engaged, to proceed with the cross-examination. The Mooktear had not studied the case ; so, he expressed his inability to do it. The next day, the petitioner's former Mooktear appeared. He wanted to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution and made a petition for recalling them. But, for reasons best known to the Sub-divisional Officer, the application was rejected. In distress, the naib moved the High Court, and a rule has been issued upon the Sub-divisional Officer to show cause why the naib should be refused to cross-examine the witnesses through his Mooktear.

THE Government of India is pushing the laying of railroads in Burmah with great energy. Over one core of rupees has been allotted to be utilised during the coming official year for covering Lord Dufferin's acquisition to the Empire with a network of railroads. In Burmah, as in other parts of the Indian Empire, there has been famine prevailing throughout a considerable portion of last year, and the entire earthwork for the Meiktila-Myingian extension was completed with famine labour. The famine, it would appear, is not altogether an unmixed evil, for does it not give plenty of half-starved coolies at cheap wages for the advocates of the "railways under all circumstances" policy?—*Hind.*

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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PROVISIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.—General Nairne assumes charge as Provisional Commander-in-chief on the 21st instant, the day after Sir George White sails.

LOSS OF EYE-SIGHT.—A correspondent writes to the *Gourbarta* to say that some of the inhabitants of Ratna lost their power of sight from the time following the late solar eclipse.

A WEAVING MANUFACTORY.—Babu Kailas Chandra Bannerjea has established a Fly Shuttle Loom Weaving Manufactory at his residence at Arrah for training native weavers to do their work on a more improved plan.

THE P. W. CESS.—It is notified that the rate at which the Public Works Cess shall be levied for the year 1898-99 in all the districts in Bengal to which the Cess Act has been extended, shall be one-half of an anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and on the annual net profits from mines, quarries, tramways, railways, and other immovable property

PLAGUE OBSERVATION CAMPS.—The number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 6th of February at the respective camps of Mairwa, Chausa, Damukdia, and Khurda were as follows :—Number of persons examined during the week from Sunday to Sunday 1,508, 11,222, 1,185, and 1,802, total 15,717 ; number of persons examined since the plague observation camp was opened 3,907; 79,094; 41,650, and 18,323, total 142,974 ; number of suspects detained during the week 18;50; 147, and 16, total 231 ; number of suspects detained since the camp was opened 127; 1,208; 3,372, and 1,409, total 6,116; number of persons detained in camp during the week 18,50, 155, and 21, total 244. There were no deaths.

A DARING DACOITY. A correspondent from Raneegunj writes to the " Burdwan Sanjibani " about a terrible dacoity which took place in the house of Babus Mohes Chandra and Umes Chandra Mukherjee at the village Bammarah, under the jurisdiction of the Kanksa police station, on the pitch dark night of the 17th ultimo. Their spoils, consisting of gold and silver ornaments and hard cash, amounted to about Rs. 3,000 They made a laborious search after the said gentlemen, evidently with nefarious designs, but fortunately they were not at home and the dacoits pacified their wrath by beating any body and every body including some old females. It is supposed that this vile deed was organised by an enemy of the above gentlemen. The dacoits were about fifty in number. A vigorous police investigation is being carried on.

SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN TIPPERAH.—The *Dacca Gazette* says:—The settlement operations of the estates of H. H. the Maharaja of Tipperah are being rapidly pushed through by Mr. Cumming, who would bring them to a close before the season of 1899. This is so far good news for the Maharaja. It is said that except in Noornagar, the tenure-holders or the ryots will not be far worse off for these operations than before. But the Noornagar talukdars are done for. With a few exceptions the Courts are adjudging half the entire assets for the Maharaja, which would practically result in an entire resumption of the greater portion of the Pergunna. This is at least the talukdar's view of the matter. The Maharaja's officials are, however, not content, and most of the adjudgments are being appealed against by the Maharaja as well as by the taluqdars.

CLOSURE OF A NEWSPAPER.—Babu Lalit Mohun Ghosal writes :—" It is with the utmost regret that I inform your readers that " Sahachar ", one of our veteran friends and counsellors, is going to take leave of its subscribers and the public in general. Its issue of the 2nd March is the last. After serving the country faithfully for so long a period as 25 years, it at last sorrowfully bids good-bye to the public. And why? It is not that the public no longer wanted its assistance, not that the subscribers were not forward to help it with their money and attention, but because the stringent Sedition Law has compelled it to withdraw from the field of journalism."

MORTUARY RETURNS.—The total number of deaths registered in urban Calcutta during the week ending 26th February was 293 against 250 and 218 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 24. There were 12 deaths from cholera against 18 and 18 in the two preceding weeks, the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 19. There were 3 deaths from small-pox during the week, against 2 in the previous week. There were 3 deaths from tetanus against 3 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 95 and 35 respectively, against 72 and 24 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 32·7 per mille per annum, against 35·3 the mean of the last five years. The total number of deaths registered in suburban Calcutta during the week ending 26th February was 163 against 138 and 158 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 22. There were 6 deaths from cholera, against 3 and 12 in the two preceding weeks, the number is lower than the avarage of the past quinquennium by 15. There was one death from small-pox during the week against nil in the previous week. There was no death from tetanus against 3 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted 43 and 43 respectively, against 32 and 28 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 39·5 per mille per annum, against 42·2 the mean of the last five years. The general death-rate of the combined area is equal to 34·9.

MONSTROUS BIRTH.—The *Saraswat Patra* says, that the wife of one Tarak Nath Das, of Goal Chamat, Faridpur, gave birth to a dead child of a rather extraordinary nature. It had a pair of big and round eyes with a very wide mouth. It had also a lump of flesh at the back.

CALCUTTA CORPORATION.—It is officially notified that Mr. W. R. Bright, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, takes leave for eight months and nine days from the 7th March, and that Mr. R. T. Greer acts for him, Mr. A. Earle acting for Mr. Greer as Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling.

FIRST LADY GRADUATE IN MADRAS.—The name of Miss Kamala Ratnam Krishnama appears on the list of successful candidates for the History Branch of the last B. A. Degree Examinations of the Madras University. She is a daughter of Mr. O. Sivarama Krishnama, of the Madras Subordinate Judicial Service.

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.—There was no rain during the week ending the 28th ultimo. The general prospects of the *rabi* and other crops on the ground continue favourable, but in Chittagong rain is badly needed. The earlier *rabi* crops are being gathered, and the pressing of sugarcane is going on. Boro or spring rice is doing well, and ploughing for autumn rice and jute is proceeding in parts of Bengal Proper. The collection of opium is going on everywhere in Behar, but in Chapra and Monghyr it is suffering from the west wind. Very little cattle-disease is reported, and there is a good supply of food everywhere, except in parts of Rangpur and Chittagong, as previously reported. In these parts, and in parts of Mymensingh, there is also a want of good drinking-water. Prices continue steady.

A LUNAR PHENOMENON.—The new moon on Tuesday evening presented a peculiar phenomenon to people returning home to dine after the usual gathering at the Lahore Institute. The atmosphere seemed to be remarkably crisp and translucent, and the soft and silvery light of the crescent, with no rays to dazzle, made discernable, like a sombre globe, the remainder of the moon's surface. The sight was uncommon and though such a phenomenon is no doubt well enough known to science, and a natural sequence of the air being rendered clear by the state of the weather, the subject is worth mentioning from the point of view of one familiar with eclipses, comets and such like appearances, but who has never before experienced the sight of what looked like a ball of ebony in a cup of burnished silver suspended within a short reach of the horizon in the western sky.

THE RAJSHAHI PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Society came off on Sunday last under the Presidency of Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen, B.A., Head Master. After the amendment of certain rules and the adoption of the annual report, the following gentlemen were elected members of the Managing Committee by means of ballot in the order given below : Babus Kumudini Kanta Bannerjee M.A., Offig. Principal, Rajshahi College ; Rajmohan Sen, M.A., Mathematical Lecturer ; Srish Chandra Ray, B.A., Offig. Hd. Clerk, Rajshahi College ; Rashik Lal Ghosh, M.A., Lecturer on History, Rajshahi Collegiate School; Mr. S. C. Mookherjee, I. C. S., Joint Magistrate ; Babu Kedar Prassanna Lahiri ; Mr. Matlub Ahmed, B.A., and Ray Bhuban Mohon Moitra Bahadur, L.L., Zemindar, Kalan, Rajshahi.

OIL SEED CROP IN BENGAL.—From the return of district officers it seems that out of the 45 districts of these Provinces, one district, Champaran shows a 19-anna crop ; two districts, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur, show crops a little above 16 annas ; eight districts, viz., Burdwan, Birbhum, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Malda, Angul and Khondmals, Hazaribagh, and Singhbhum, report average crops of 16 annas ; and the remaining 34 districts report crops below the average. No district reports a crop lower than nine annas. Comparing the estimates of out-turn this year with those of last year it appears that from 41 districts better crops are reported. From four districts only, viz., Dinajpur (14 annas), Jalpaiguri (10 annas), Bogra (14 annas), and Purnea (15 annas), are worse crops reported. The arithmetical mean of the estimates of anna outturn this year, calculated with reference to the areas sown, amounts to 13-3-5 annas. Considering the good character of the season, it is not improbable that this estimate may be exceeded, and it appears safe to estimate a 14-anna crop for the whole Province. The crop last year was estimated at 11 annas.

AN ARRIVAL.—His Highness the Maharaja of Tippera on his way back from Allahabad, arrived at the Howrah Station on Wednesday at 10-23. A. M. The special train in which His Highness travelled steamed in exactly in time and His Highness on alighting from the train was received on behalf of Government by the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and the usual salute was fired from the ramparts of Fort William. Besides the members of 'the Tripura Hitasadhini Sabha', a number of gentlemen were present at the station to receive His Highness. Among these were Babu Jogendra Narayan Acharjee Choudhury, Zaminder, Mymensing, his son Babu Nagendra Narayan Acharjee Choudhury, Babu Pran Sanker Ray, Zaminder of Teota, the Raja of Chowgao, in Rajshaye, Moulvi Seraj-ul Islam Khan Bahadur, Vakil, High Court, Moulavi Syed Shamsul Huda M. A., B. L., Vakil, High Court, Babu Dwarka Nath Chakraburty Vakil, High Court, Babu Gobinda Chandra Dass M. A., B. L., Vakil, High Court.—*Communicated.*

"THE NEW INFLUENZA".—The *Indian Daily News* says :—Influenza, which has been prevalent lately in Calcutta, has, according to the *British Medical Journal*, its types of which at present there are three. Type No. 1 attacks the respiratory organs ; No. 2 attacks the nerves ; No. 3 attacks the digestive organisation. In the earlier epidemics, influenza was of type No. 1, but it blended into type No. 2, and people got nervous influenza which sent them into lunatic asylums. That was what the Government of India had the other day when it started the Sedition Bill. We are told it leaves people in a condition of mental and physical depression, which, for many months, limit their activties. The new influenza is digestive—or to express it properly —is remarkable for the very large proportion of cases which show symptoms of profound disorganisation of the digestive system. "The symptoms are," says the " British Medical Journal" "in many cases so severe and pronounced, that the most experienced physicians have in individual cases felt some hesitation for several days in rejecting the diagnosis of typhoid fever." In fact, like the "Lawrence policy" influenza has become something else quite different, which one would hardly recognise again if one met it in the street. It is, however, still the same dear old influenza. We think that is what Mr. Greenwood must have been having—"dyspeptic influenza."

AIDS TO ELOQUENCE.

THE House of Commons is a very temperate assembly as far as intoxicating liquors are concerned, but, nevertheless, there is a very frequent and steady demand for pick-me-ups during every session of Parliament.

As a rule, there are three occasions in the life of a Parliamentary man when he requires the "Dutch courage," which alcoholic pick-me-ups are designed to supply—the first when, as a new member, he timidly advances up the floor of the House to take the oath and his seat, the second when he rises to make his maiden speech, and the third when he retires from the House into the cold shades of oblivion.

The pick-me-ups of Parliament are not all compounded of intoxicating liquors. Each member has his own pet pick-me-up, and sometimes it takes the form of an innocent lemon squash. Mr. Jesse Colings awalys fortifies himself with one of these cooling drinks when he intends to make a speech. A strong soda and lemon cools his brain, settles his stomach and puts him into a fit and proper mood for Parliamentary warf are.

In fact, the House of Commons is so much impressed with the importance of temperance that it is contrary to the standing rules for a member while making a speech to drink anything stronger than water. This rule—teetotallers will be sorry to hear—is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Form the Prime Minister downwards it is broken with unfailing regularity.

When Mr. Gladstone was in the House of Commons he was the principal offender in this respect. Whenever he intended to make a big speech he would produce from the recesses of his capacious pockets a small glass bottle with wooden stopper filled with a mysterious compound looking like vaseline or bear's grease. As soon as this toilet looking article appeared everybody knew that the G. O. M. was in fighting form. For in the "Pomatum pot"—as it was aptly called—was a mysterious pick-me-up for renovating the voice and strengthening the lungs.

What was it? Nobody knows to this day. Mrs. Gladstone used to prepare it with her own hands every time "William" wanted to make a big speech. It was believed to be a concoction of sherry, eggs and honey, but whatever the ingredients they proved a splendid pick-me-up for Mr. Gladstone. On this lubricant he could speak for hours at a stretch.

Every front bench man has his own peculiar pick-me-up. Sir William Harcourt derives strength and inspiration from a little light claret, Mr. John Morley finds a tumbler of dry sherry an excellent stimulant for the voice and the imagination, while Mr. Asquith contents himself with a sip of distilled water.

The late Lord Beaconsfield used to consume a bottle of '48 port on the occasion of a great oratorical effort. Just before taking his seat in the House he would rush off to the refreshment bar, drink half a bottle of his favourite brand, and then return to the bar at the conclusion of his speech to finish the bottle. The late Lord Randolph Churchill, on the other hand, fortified himself with a big glass of brands and soda, from which he drank copiously during the progress of an important speech.

The favourite pick-me-up of the Irish and Scotch members is whisky and water. On this stimulating fluid they can orate with wonderful vitality. This beverage on one occasion caused a scene in the House which has not yet been forgotten.

After dining well and wisely the late Major O'Gorman came into the House one night in the thick of an excited debate. The major, a big burly fellow, with the true instincts of the fighting Irishman, wanted to make part in the fray. Like the Irishman at Donnybrook Fair he yearned to hit something.

He sprang to his feet, and began a furious attack on one of the parties. Becoming thirsty he asked a friend to get him a glass of water "with something in it." The friend returned with a glass three parts full of whisky. At the first gulp the major went into a fit of semi-suffocation. He yelled for more water and less "cratur." His friend responded with more whisky, which the major quaffed, and cried for more.

The newspapers next morning contained the very significant headlines,

"DISORDERLY SPEECH IN THE HOUSE. A MEMBER SUSPENDED."

AFTER the meeting of the Piece-Goods Association, the Deputy Commissioner had authorised the Secretary, Municipal Committe, to inform the Delhi public by means of a notice that the Deputy Commissioner would be glad to hear any proposals regarding plague regulations from the public on the 19th instant in the Town Hall, and so there was a large crowd gathered, say about 4,000 men, near the Town Hall from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M. Several objections to the rules were preferred and amendments proposed, but the reply to all was in the negative by the Deputy Commissioner which greatly disappointed the assemblage. But at the close of the meeting some selected personages were called aside, and it is said, that some promises of concession were held out, which went to some extent to calm the disturbed minds. There were issued other notices on report being made by the police that people were leaving the city in large numbers, to the effect that there was at present no plague in or near Delhi and that no house-to-house visitation was contemplated and that the people had no cause for anxiety and should not leave the city but rather live in peace as before. Since then several communities have had their own meetings to make necessary arrangements in case, which God forbid, the plague breaks out. But the proceedings of none of these have yet been made public.—*Tribune.*

Never Knew It To Fail

MR. R. JOHNSTON, Rawalpindi, says : "I have personally tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy, and have given it to travellers who were passing through a hotel I managed, and I must say I never knew it to fail, and is all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicine I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep."

CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy is the most successful medicine in use for Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, Cholera-Morbus and Cholera, and is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1 Rs. 2.

A SECOND MOON.

SOME months ago the world laughed, and shook its wise old head dubiously, when it was announced that a Hamburg astronomer had discovered a second moon of the earth. So long have we been satisfied with our familiar satellite that the idea of a rival was regarded as a joke "made in Germany." The discoverer, however—Dr. George Waltemath—still believes in his find, and promises that the hitherto unobserved statellite of this earth will be visible on July 30th next. It is not improbable that some unreflecting body, larger than a meteor, but of the nature of a meteor, is revolving round this planet, and has escaped the vigilance of astronomical observers. Dr. Waltemath, in an interesting article contributed to the "Globe," says that this new satellite has been observed, and that it sometimes reflects the light of the sun. Early in the morning of November 19th, 1762, two gentlemen saw a little under the centre of the sun a large black, round spot. A year and-a-half later the Inspector of the Forest at Gotha saw the same, or another black spot on the rising sun, moving slowly from north to south, and the same phenomenon was noted by an anonymous correspondent, who wrote to a London journal in 1761. Dr. Waltemath points out that 530 days in one case and 5 1 in another elapsed between the observation of these phenomena. But he has come to the conclusion that 177 days are to be understood as the value of the synodal revolution ; that is, the time from one conjunction with the sun to another. Thus far, the new satellite had only been seen as a black spot. But the fact is recalled that during Lieutenant Greely's search for Franklin, the explorer and his party were much surprised to see the sun again three days after it had gone for the winter, and the stars were shining. This sun remained visible for nearly an hour, shewing a brilliant disc of blue, yellow and red with streaks of white extending from its centre. Lieutenant Greely remarks:—"I know no other instance in which this phenomenon has been witnessed after the going of the winter sun." It was presumed to be an illusion, a reflection of the sun; but Dr. Waltemath believes it to have been his second moon. He says that, its orbit being eccentric, some parts of its surface come to sight, which are far more brilliant than the full moon. Its power of reflecting the sun's light, however, is so small that, as a rule, it can only be seen by a strong telescope. Nevertheless, it would be surprising if its light has never left some trace on the numerous photographic plates exposed in the night. It is not a minute satellite. The discoverer computes that it is ten times larger than England and Wales. Its diameter, he states, is 435 miles, and covers an area of nearly 600,000 square miles. The new satellite is, in area, the twenty-fifth part of our moon, is 640,000 miles from the earth—just 2⅔ of the greater moon's distance. The past half century has been rich in the discovery of new moons attending other planets than our own, and the finding of a satellite of the earth would not be the least of the great astronomical triumphs. Jupiter has been found to have a fifth satellite, and Mars has, within the memory of most of us, been shewn to have two moons. *Morning Post.*

THE Delhi and London Bank issued a notice the other day that the Bank was prepared to receive jewels and other valuables from the public, in case they are obliged to segregate, on a commission of 2 per cent. which property would be given back to the owners on their or their wearers' return from the Camp. —*Tribune.*

THE following changes have been made in the P. W. Department:—Mr. Hartwell, Traffic Superintendent, acts for Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson as manager of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway. Mr. Hebbert, Agent of the Burma Railways, is appointed Consulting Engineer at Lucknow when his services are available, Mr. G. A. Anderson, Under-Secretary in the Railway Branch, Public Works Department, succeeds Colonel Selby as officiating Consulting Engineer, Bombay.

BAKHSHI DEVI DITTA MAL, employed in the Kashmir State, was accused of contempt of His Highness the Maharaja's private court. He was sentenced the same day by a Magistrate to four months' simple imprisonment and Rs. 400 fine, in default to one month's further imprisonment. The appeal was heard by Rai Bahadur Pandit Bhag Ram on the 24th ultimo, Babu K. P. Roy, of the Lahore Bar, appearing for Bakhshi Devi Datta Mal. The argument for the defence was that there could be no contempt of court as the Maharaja was not presiding over any tribunal of justice. Judgment has been reserved.

NEWS from the Burmo-Chinese frontier says that the northern portion of the Delimitation Commission is proceeding slowly but fairly satisfactorily. Their task is comparatively easy, as the agreement lays down the boundary line in that section very precisely, and there is not much room for differences of opinion. The Southern portion, however, has been delayed for some time in camp at Lwolong waiting for answers to references home, and to the Chinese Government. The delay is, of course, very annoying, as the season is going fast, and work has not even begun on this section.

—THE movement in America in favour of children under fifteen being required to be at home by eight o'clock in winter and nine in summer is steadily growing, more than 300 cities and towns having already adopted the Curfew ordnance, as it is called, the last being Indianopolis, whose City Council recently voted in favour of it by twelve to seven. The movement originated in 1894, when the Boys' and Girls' National Home and Employment Association, organised to study the matter of hoodlumism and crime among boys, resolved that the revival of the Curfew was the only practical way that an improvement could be attempted. So far experience has been very satisfactory.

Recommended by A Medical Friend.

THIS is how MR. J. SHAIL, the well-known Manager of LAURIE'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Says he : "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to me. I bought one bottle and it effected a complete cure. Since that time, whenever I have the land cough, I procure Chamberlain's Cough Ready ees the results are always satisfactory."

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is sold everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

CHINA UP TO DATE.

REUTER'S Agency has been sending a special correspondent to the East, and in a telegram from Sanghai he says:—

"I was greatly impressed with the appearance of Sanghai. It is an immense prosperous town, its approach by the river resembling the Mersey. It has splendidly built houses, and the river is lined with huge cotton mills. Most of these are owned by the Chinese : but the machinery is all British, though it is often ordered through German agents. The Chinese show great capacity in business affairs. Some are extremely rich and own luxurious residences in the suburbs, fitted with electric light and other modern appliances.

"As a sign how quickly the Chinese absorb foreign ideas, I may mention that Chinese ladies who, twenty years ago, were locked up in harems may now be seen bicycling through the town.

"German merchants are in excellent accord with the British, whom they look upon as the pioneers in China. They therefore hope that Britain will succeed in her task, knowing that freedom of trade will follow. They say they will refuse to attempt to settle in Kiao-chow, because they possess greater facilities here than under their own flag."

An Anglo-Chinese paper further tells with delight of a recent "semi-public dinner" at Shanghai, at which "Chinese ladies of distinction from various parts of the vast empire" sat down with some fifty or o European ladies, and partook of the foreign fare, "in regular European style, knives and forks, champagne, and flower spread table-cloths all included." Our Anglo-Chinese contemporary exults that "even a couple of years ago" no one would have believed that such a thing would come about, at least in modern times, and finds it a matter of much satisfaction that "the dinner was excellent and well served" ; "and the entertainment was a complete success." During the feast "women servants waited behind many of the Chinese ladies to light their pipes for them."

THE FORTUNES OF FINANCIERS.

SOME PERSONAL WEALTH STATISTICS.

As short and simple as the annals of the poor are often the deeds by which very rich men dispose of their wealth. The length of them is often in curiously inverse ratio to the amount of the testator's fortune. A couple of closely-written folios may, of course, be devoted to instructions to executors with respect to the securities in which they may or may not invest funds of not more than £7,000 or £8,000. The late Mr. Walter Hayes Burns, of J. S. Morgan and Co., whose personaity in the United Kingdom has been valued at nearly £800,000, gave in two or three lines liberty to the trustees of his estate to choose just such investments as they may think desirable. As he had retained his citizenship of the United States, his property out of this country (England) will be, presumably, exempt from the English death duties. He gives to his son and his daugther equal shares in his wealth. Each had £100,000 to begin with. The son is to have the first option of the purchase of the testator's North Mymms estate, but otherwise he takes no greater portion than his sister of his father's property, excepting—and the exception is considerable—that he has a partnership in the business of his grandfather, the late Mr. Junius Spencer Morgan.

Mr. Morgan's personality in this country was valued, when his will was proved in 1890, at £2,022,000, and that of Mr. Charles Cubitt Gooch, a former partner in the firm of George Peabody and Co, to whose business J. S. Morgan and Co. succeeded—was valued in 1889 at £592,122. The late Mr. Walter Hayes Burns came over from New York, it will be remembered, to establish the London house which became known as the merchant banking firm of Morton Rose and Co. Sir John Rose left in personally £303,493, and Mr. Pascoe Dupre Greenfell, of the same firm, whose will was reported last year, left personal estate valued at £146,820. Mr. George Milne, who had retired from the firm of Morton Rose and Co. for some years died in 1896, at the age of eighty, leaving £44,180 in personalty. Amongst other merchant bankers' fortunes, upon which death duties have been levied, have been those of Baron Herman de Stern in 1887, £3,544,970 ; Hugh McCalmont, in the same year, £3,121,931 ; and Sir Alexander Matheson, £643, 760 ; Charles Loyd Norman, of Baring Brothers and Co., in 1889, £908,000 ; and Thomas Charles Baring, formerly of the same house, in 1891, £811,521 ; James Jardine, of Mathesons, in 1893, £332,500 ; and Charles Magniac, of Mathesons, in 1892, £199,454 ; Charles T. Hambro, of C. and T. Hambro, in 1891, £28,090 ; Marianolde Zulueta, of Zulueta and Co., in 1889, £27,038 ; and F. G. Dalgety, of Dalgety and Co., Limited, in 1894, £479, 974.

—THE wealthiest church in the world is without much doubt, Trinity Church, in the Broadway, New York, for its possessions are at the present time estimated to be of a value of nearly £2,000,000. This enormous property has come to the church owing to the great increase in the value of land in New York, an old farm on Manhattan Island, which was two centuries, and more ago made over by Royal grant to Trinity, being now in the very heart of commercial New York, and a succession of magnificent thoroughfares are now to be found where once the cattle grazed. The income from this property has been used for many purposes other than supplying the church's own needs, for besides a number of chapels which have been built in different places, twenty-four poor parishes are receiving grants from Trinity's coffers.

I HAD the rheumatism so badly that I could no get my hand to my head. I tried the doctor's medicine without the least benefit. At last I thought of Chamberlain's Pain Balm ; the first bottle relieved all of the pain, and one half of the second bottle effected a complete cure.—W. J HOLLAND, Holland, Va. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is equally good for sprains, swellings and lameness, as wel as burns, cuts and bruises, for sale at all drug store Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

Gen Agents :—SMITH STANISTRED & CO AND B K. PAUL & CO. Cal

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

N. W. P. HIGH COURT.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

THE CHARGE OF MURDER AGAINST A SOLDIER.

IN the High Court on Tuesday, the 1st. inst., before Mr. Justice Aikman and a jury, the hearing was continued of the charges of murder and culpable homicide brought against a private soldier named Patrick Doyle.

On the previous day a woman named Rahiman described the events of the evening of 5th January when her sister Musamat Chutia was killed. After a few questions had been put to her on Tuesday, her mother Waziran, who was present at the time of the occurrence, was called.

Waziran said she resided in the Sadar Bazar, Jubbulpore. She recognised the prisoner, whom she had seen at her house. He was last there one night about two months ago. On that occasion Chutia said something about the military police coming, whereupon the prisoner kicked Rahiman two or three, times, seized the bar used to fasten the door which Chutia was holding, struck the latter over the head with it and ran out into the road. Witness and Rahiman followed, and when they got outside the soldier was about three paces ahead. He ran towards the chauki some 76 yards away, and was then eight or nine paces ahead. By this time several others were following him, and a jemadar and two constables came out and joined in the chase. Some 300 yards from witness's house in the direction of the barracks there was a culvert, and when prisoner reached this spot he jumped down into the 'nulla' and tried to hide in the culvert. Witness, with the rest of those who were following, was about eight or nine yards behind the prisoner at this time. Prisoner was arrested at the culvert. When the man was caught witness said: "This is the soldier." He replied, "I am not the man; it was another man." Prisoner was breathing hard. Later on witness went to the kotwali. Prisoner was there and there were also two soldiers and a corporal. She there recognised the prisoner as the man who struck Chutia. He was quite alone when she identified him.

Cross-examined: She had known the prisoner for three years. He was always coming to her house, he used to be a military policeman. When she said he was always coming she meant he had been two or three times. He was there a week before this occurrence, and eight or ten days before that. When the jemadar arrested the soldier he said: "You made a disturbance and struck one of the women," and it was in reply to this that the prisoner said "I am not the man, it was another man." He said: "I have not struck one of the women." At the kotwali when the accused and two other soldiers were together the sergeant pointed to the accused and asked, "Is this the man?" and witness replied "Yes."

Karim, son of Ilahi Bux, a Mahomedan, who resided next door to the women, said he heard the disturbance on the night of January 5th, and ran out of his house. He joined in the chase after a soldier who was running past the police *Chauki* towards the barracks. He was about six paces away from the bridge when the prisoner was arrested. He saw no other soldiers on the road. He saw the soldier come out of Waziran's door that night, and he never lost sight of him until he got under the bridge. The prisoner in the dock was undoubtedly the soldier.

The case was again adjourned.—*Pioneer.*

A ROMANCE OF THE NORTH.

LADY CLAIRE KLONDIKE, the golden-haired daughter of the first Duke of Dawson, stood within the grand old oaken hall of her father's palace, overlooking the frozen river, and the snow-clad hills. She was clothed heavily in rich and elegant furs, for the winter had been long and cold, and the end was not yet.

She shivered as the seneschal announced the arrival of the Count of St. Michael. Full well she knew the intent of the count's visit, and she steeled herself for the encounter which she knew must follow quick upon their meeting.

Seeing the fair being standing by the wide fireplace of the drawing room, looking more lovely than he had over seen her, he approached her side in a whirl of emotion.

"At last", he ejaculated in suppressed tones.

"Why?" she required in a tone of voice which made the Klondike winter seem like a tropic dream.

"Oh, sweet Claire" he murmured, "so long have I yearned for this moment. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge, but all days were dumb to me and all nights black in ignorance while I have been waiting to come thus into your presence and offer you my heart, my hand and my fortune".

Thus speaking he flung himself at her feet, the meanwhile ten large and soiled Indians from the headwaters of the river came forward rolling into the beautiful reception-room ten barrels of pure, unadulterated gold-dust worth nineteen dollars and thirty-five cents an ounce at any mint in the land.

At first Lady Claire's fair face took on a kindly look, and there was in it almost a rosy flush of hope. She watched the barrels eagerly for they looked so much like the barrels her father was wont to pack hams in ere he had come hither from Chicago so many years agone.

However, it was but a moment until she detected nothing in the barrels save gold-dust, and she involuntarily and convulsively clutched at her bediamoned and gold stomacher, hanging now so loosely about her fair form.

The count, still at her feet, took no notice, for he had not spent the winter in Klondike, and did not know how it was.

As she saw what the count was lavishing upon her, she drew back and touched him with her foot as a token that he might arise.

"Take back your gold, count," she said, waving her lily white hand for the Indians to withdraw as they had come, that is, accompanied by the barrels. "Take back your gold, I have no use for it here. It was kind of you to think of it, and I am sure I appreciate your courtesy, but Charlie Mc Managin has forty pounds of boiled dog, which he says shall be all mine own if I accept him, and you must excuse me, count, really you must.'

Before the ice broke up in the river in ly, the count began to understand Lady e's choice.—*N. Y. Sun.*

THE ABSURDITY OF THE "FORWARD POLICY."

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF A RUSSIAN INVASION OF INDIA.

THE above map (not given) is designed to illustrate the impossibility of a Russian invasion of India—the bogey which is responsible for the enormous waste of blood and treasure dignified by the name of the "forward frontier policy."

The map assumes that we stand where we stood in 1876, before Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury, and Lord Lytton had thrust the "forward" policy upon India.

India then had all the three great natural lines of defence—a desert, a mountain range of colossal extent, and a wide and rapid river.

From Peshawar to Dadar the mountain ranges that form India's first line of defence are about 650 miles in length, and are pierced only by five passes through which any large body of men could possibly move.

These five routes—the Bolan, the Thai Shotiali, the Gomul, the Kuram, and the Khyber—are shown on the map as five white streaks through the rocks and mountains of Afghanistan. In order to show them it was necessary to leave them white. But it must not be assumed that they are, therefore, fairly level and easy to traverse. On the contrary, the difficulties of the road by any one of them are insuperable for a large army, as the following information—taken from Colonel H. B. Hanna's excellent little book "Can Russia Invade India?"—will show.

It must be remembered that it is one thing for an Anglo-Indian army to pass up one of these routes and quite another for a Russian army to come down. For we possess a true base in Peshawar, or Rawal Pindi, or Multan, while the Russian journey would begin either at Kandahar or on the Oxus. Cabul suffers from scarcity every winter, and always has to draw part of its food supply from Ghazni. It could never therefore be a true base for Russia. This is also true of Kandahar or the Oxus. But we need not carry the inquiry beyond the overwhelming difficulties of Afghanistan.

The first route—if we begin at the bottom left-hand corner of our map—is from Kandahar to Multan by the Bolan Pass and the desert of Beluchistan. The distance is 678 miles. After leaving Kandahar this route runs for 70 miles over a stony waste, and crosses the precipitous Khwaja Amran Range into the Pishin Valley, which has not food enough for a single cavalry regiment, while its water is brackish. The Bolan Pass itself is 59 miles in length—ruggedly savage, utterly barren, offering few camping grounds—an inferno in summer, and a flood in winter. Then the invading army, before it reaches the Indus, must still traverse 160 miles of arid desert low jungle, or pestilential marsh, the water again being so brackish that parched horses refuse to drink it. The advance could only be made in small bodies of half-starved men who would fall an easy prey to our waiting troops.

The second, or "Thal Chotiali," route is from Kandahar to Multan by the Khojak Pass, the Pishin Valley, the Kakar Hills, and Dera Ghazi Khan. The distance is 459 miles. The route is the same as the former one as far as the Pishin Valley. Then it crosses range after range of rugged hills, followed by a hot and arid wilderness. The British Field Force which returned to India this way in 1879 had to carry not only all ordinary supplies but also grain for the transport animals.

The third route, from Ghazni to Multan, by the Ghwalari Pass, the Gomul river, and Dera Ishmael Khan, is 666 miles long. Closed at one end by heat in summer, and at the other end by cold in winter, it is quite impracticable for a large army. It debouches into an arid desert, after which the invader would still be confronted by the Indus.

The fourth route is from Kandahar to Rawal Pindi, by Ghazni and Kabul, the Shutagardan and Peiwar Passes, the Kuram Valley, Thal, Kohat, and Kushalgarh distance 649 miles. No large army could possibly make use of this route without reproducing the terrible features of the French retreat from Moscow.

The fifth route, distance 490 miles, is from Kandahar to Peshawar, by Ghazni and Kabul, and the Lataband, the Jugdalak, and Khyber Passes. This route, which debouches into the fertile valley of Peshawar, has been adopted by nearly every invader from Alexander to Nadir Shah. But no large army could invade India by it in the teeth of a well armed, well-fed force. Even if the difficulties of the road and the climate could be overcome, a fortified camp at the mouth of the Khyber, almost within sight of our base, Peshawar, would seal the pass so effectually that, as Sir E. Hamley said, not a single regiment could issue from it.

But the whole question of the possibility of a Russian invasion of India hinges upon considerations of supply and tansport.

The supposed Russian army would need to consist of at least—

(*a*) 40,000 men to garrison Herat (10,000), Kandahar (10,000), and Kabul (20,000).
(*b*) 30,000 men to keep open communications between Herat and Kandahar, and between the bases of operations and the armies in the field.
(*c*) 150,000 men for the actual invasion of India.
(*d*) 50,000 reserve.

That is to say, there would be at least 270,000 fighting men, a force which, as military experts know, would necessitate a further number of 234,700 camp followers.

It would be simply impossible to feed this force.

It would take at least 100 days for the invading force to pass through the Bolan and reach Multan from Kandahar, and each detachment would need to be fed for an average of 75 days. To carry the barest necessaries of life for such a force would require 375,000 camels or 750,000 mules.

The carriage of tents, hospitals, and baggage generally would require a further number of at least 75,000 camels or 150,000 mules; while the carriage of provision for the feeding of the transport animals themselves in those barren regions would require, 632,812 camels or 1,265,624 mules.

In other words, without reckoning transport animals to carry food for the last-named, the invading army would need 1,082,812 camels or 2,165,624 mules, even if no hitch occurred from first to last.

The thing needs only to be stated in order to be dismissed as a grotesque impossibility. Nor would matters be mended by a colossal system of railways. No fewer than 1,200 trains would be required, and the work would take 100 days. Besides it would be little short of a miracle if in those regions bridges were not swept away or destroyed, embankments undermined or torn down, and rails pulled up, to the swift and complete dislocation of the whole of the military arrangements.

Nature is on our side. A Russian invasion of India is impossible. "Afghanistan," as Sir Henry Durand said, "merits the character given to Spain by the First Henry of France: invade with a large force, and you are destroyed by starvation invade with a small one, and you are overwhelmed by a hostile people." *The Star.*

—AN analysis of the contents of the gizzard of a hen killed at Opalopolis, N. S. W., revealed one threepenny-bit one bone overcoat-button, six metal trouser-buttons, two brass-headed tacks (¼ in.) about 5 doz, mental springs (for boots) and sundry opal chips. The old lady suffered no inconvenince and contributed her daily egg to the breakfast table up to the last.—"Sydney Mail."

THE ORIGIN OF TRUFFLE

ONE of the mysteries of botany is the orirgin of the truffle, and as no means of propagating it are known, its price keeps up. We have got to 1898 without discovering how it is reproduced, but the year will be known probably as that in which the secret was discovered. A French gentleman, the Duc de Lesparre, thinks he has found it out. Like rust on wheat which grows on one plant and dies on another, so the truffle begins its life on the leaves of an appropriate tree, generally an oak, and then passes a second life as a tuber underground. The spores of the truffle are male and female, and meet on oak-leaves and propagate. The female spores put out teleuto-spores which fall on the ground, and form the truffle mycelium, just as mushroom spawn is formed. Whether the world will ever be provided with cheap truffles is another matter. Oysters are said to be more expensive since they found out how to grow them.

Frontier Affairs.

IT is reported at Landi Kotal that Ghulam Hyder Khan, the Sipan Salar, died a few days ago; also that the Amir has informed the two Khyber Maliks, Khwas Khan and Wali Muhammad, who are at Dakka, that they must either surrender themselves to the British Government or leave Afghan territory at once.

THE examination of rifles surrendered by the Afridis goes to confirm the conclusions already arrived at regarding the source of supply. Practically all the weapons come under three headings: those stolen by thieves, those carried off by deserters, and those made up from rifles which were under the old system cut into lengths in the arsenals and sold as scrap iron. There are, of course, a number also taken in action from time to time, but the tribesmen show a great disinclination to give up any Lee-Metfords.

A LANDI KOTAL telegram says: Forty-seven deserters from the Khyber Rifles have come in, and the remainder are said to be about to follow their example. Only the two maliks are still recalcitrant, and the report goes that the Amir has conveyed his instructions to them to the effect that if they still remain stubborn he will have them deported to Turkistan or to some other place at such a distance from the Khyber as will prevent them bringing influeuce to bear upon their fellow tribesmen.

A PESHAWAR telegram to the *Englishman*, dated the 1st instant, says:—It is reported to-day from Jamrud that the Zekka Khels have surrendered nine rifles towards their oll of fine. This being the case we may take it as the best of signs, for, if they had not intended compliance, they would not have troubled to pay up anything. Moreover, the Kajouri plain is reported to be covered with Afridi cattle and womenfolk,—a truly submissive sign. Short leave is again open to the officers of the force, and the general impression is that fifteen days will see a sufficient settlement through to warrant the breaking-up of the position of the force.

TWO BUCKETS AND A PIPE.

TAKE two common water-buckets; connect them at the bottom with a small pipe. Now undertake to fill one of them with water; you perceive at once that the water tends to fill the other pail also.

"What's the use of saying that?" you ask me. "Every fool knows that water in connected reservoirs will assume the same level." Quite so. Yet the wisest men on earth didn't know it once. If the ancient Romans had known it they wouldn't have gone to the trouble and expense of building their great aqueducts. Oh, dear! oh, dear! After a thing is pointed out what a lot of people are able to see it.

But to see it the *first* time? Ah! that takes eyes. To explain it the *first* time? Ah that takes brains. The blood circulated through pipes in the human body thousands of years before anybody even suspected it. Isn't that queer? Now there is a matter—But let's have an example or two first and he theory afterwards.

A father writes thus about his daughter: "During the summer of 1890 my daughter, Rebecca, got in to a weak, languid way. Her appetite was poor, and after eating she had so much pain at the chest and sides that she didn't know where to put herself. She also complained of pain in the pit of the stomach, in the throat, and at the back of her neck. Cold, clammy sweats used to break out all over her. Her breathing became short and laboured, and at times she could not even lie in bed on account of it. She consulted two physicians, who prescribed for her without avail.

"This was her general condition until January, 1893, when she began taking Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. This preparation certainly had a remarkable effect. One bottle alone greatly relieved her. She relished her food, and got stronger. By simply continuing to use this medicine in three months she was completely cured. Since then she has been well as ever she was. My married daughter, who has suffered from indigestion for a long time, seeing what this remedy had done for Rebecca, took it also, with the same good results. Yours truly, (Signed) Bartholomew Bell, Grocer, &c., Brompton, Northallerton, October 25th, 1893."

"All my life," writes a woman, "I have suffered more or less from sickness and spasms. I always felt weak, tired, and languid, and had no desire for company. I had a bad taste in the mouth, and frequently felt sick and prostrate. I had no relish for food, and, after eating, had pain at the chest and side. Such was my manner of life for years. Two years ago my sister told me of Seigel's Syrup; I tried it, and even a few doses relieved me. I continued taking it, and soon my appetite improved, and my food digested. Since that time I have felt quite a new being—*so light-hearted and strong.* What a pity for me that I didn't know of Seigel's Syrup years before. But better late than never. Yours truly, (Signed) Mrs. Annie Goodger, 20 Bardolph Street, Leicester, May 10th, 1893."

"From childhood," says another, "I have suffered from indigestion and sick headaches. I never felt as if I wanted food, and after eating I experienced the usual pains and distresses of the confirmed dyspeptic. The attacks of sickness and headache were often no less than dreadful. So-called medicines and remedies were, at the best, only temporarily useful. In January, 1892, a friend, living at Hackney, told me of Seigel's Syrup. I used it, and it cured me. *I never felt so well in my life as I do now.* (Signed) Miss L. White, 92, Barnsbury Road, Islington, London, April 20th, 1893."

Now, see. Evidence like the above (though much more impressive) proves that Mother Sigel's Syrup either cures or relieves almost every known complaint. Yet it never was (nor is it now) recommended for any disease except indigestion and dyspepsia. What is the inference? That nearly evrey known complaint is caused by indigestion and dyspepsia—is, indeed, a symptom of it.

"But everybody believes that nowadays," you say. Not every body but very many. The rest will byerand-bye. Although the fact is old as Adam, the *discovery* of it is new. Yet the principle will presently be as it now is to few.

Telegrams.

(INDIAN TELEGRAM.)

BOMBAY, MARCH 2.

The appeal of Damoder Chapekar was heard in the High Court to-day. Mr. Anderson, Barrister-at-Law, instructed by Mr. Nicholson, solicitor, represented the Crown, Mr. Moriarity, the Legal Remembrancer, being present, assisting him. Mr. Branson, Barrister-at-Law, with Mr Bakhle, pleader, appeared for the accused. Mr. Branson argued that the confession was inadmissible, because it had been made while the accused was in police custody and did not know that Mr. Hamilton was a Magistrate. The accused did not adhere to his confession before Mr. Bonus, while his statement to the latter, that he had an agreement with Mr. Bruin and that he would say his say in the High Court, shewed that he intended to withdraw the confession. Mr. Branson then pointed out three material misdirections in the Sessions Judge's charge: First, the Judge told the Jury that Chapeker had jumped behind Mr. Rand's carriage without evidence; secondly, his remarks on the similarity of the cloth, tied to the weapons and found in Chapeker's house, were also unsupported by evidence; and thirdly, the Judge was wrong in telling the Jury that Chapeker adhered to his confession to the last. Mr. Branson also commented at length on many parts of the confession, showing it to be false, and pointed out several points which were not properly investigated. Mr. Branson concluded his speech by asking the Court to order a re-trial or acquit Chapekar.

Mr. Anderson argued that the accused had been defended in the lower court by pleader who should have raised the points, now urged by Mr. Branson. He said that the confession was amply corroborated.

Mr. Bakhle having replied, Mr. Justice Parsons, in delivering judgment, said that the conviction rested wholly upon the confession and the Court hel that it was true and sufficiently corroborated. It was made before the Magistrate. It was not necessary that the accused must know he was confessing to a Magistrate. Besides, there were circumstances which showed that the accused knew Mr. Hamilton to be a Magistrate. His Lordship then reviewed the points urged by Mr. Branson, and held that the confessions were consistent and true. Why should, remarked his Lordship, Damoder implicate his brother if his confession was false? Besides, no motive appeared for making the confession, the promise of reward and sentence of transportation not being sufficient motive. As to the argument that the carriage hood showed two shots, thus contradicting the confession, their Lordships inspected the hood during lunch time and came to the conclusion that there was one shot only.

The conviction was upheld and the death sentence was confirmed.

Weapons and other articles in evidence were laid on a side table, and formed interesting exhibition.

The court was crowded by spectators, many European ladies occupying the galleries.

BOMBAY, MAR. 4.

Malhari, Kotwal, the alleged ring-leader of the Sinner riots, has been arrested. Two more are still at large.

Two men have been sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment each for cutting the telegraph wire.

Cases against the sixty alleged rioters are proceeding.

The trial of some bunniahs for security islikely to be dropped.

A SEDITION RESOLUTION.

The Government of Bombay has just published a Resolution, dismissing Mr. Modok, Head Master and two other teachers named Mr. Dabhalkar add Mr. Bhardil of the Amednagar Society's High School, and disqualifying them for Government employ. A local newspaper, the "Sudarson", published, in June last, the speech of Mr. Modok at the Shivaji Celebration Festival which is considered by Government as sedi, tious. The fault of the two other teachers is that they are Directors of a Company owing the newspaper. Three more teachers and one Murwari student have also been dismissed for the same reason. The Resolution recommends the appointment of Government officials over the Managing Board and incidentally condemns the constitution of the Deccan Education Society at Poona. The Resolution concludes declaring the principle that the instruction of the youth should be wholly dissociated from politics and, as a consequence, teachers and professors should not take part in political agitations. The observance of this rule is insisted in all Aided Schools.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

The death is announced of Colonel Malleson, the Indian historian.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

Another arrest has been made in connection with the attempt on King George's life. The man's name is Navvij George, and he has confessed to being one of the assailants.

LONDON, MAR. 3.

Tho *Slandard* states that the Britsh Government is negotiating with Russia and Germany with a view to the embodiment of their recent assurances regarding China in a formal diplomatic document of the character of an international agreement.

It is reported in Paris that the Siamese Government has sent troops to the neutral zone at Battanbong owing to a local disturbance there.

LONDON, MAR. 4.

Lord George Hamilton, replying to various questions in the House of Commons, said the detention of the Natu brothers must continue until the Government of India and Bombay were satisfied that their release would not endanger the public tranquillity.

Lord George further said: I am communicating with the Viceroy regarding the increased pay of the British Army in India. The question is very complicated, owing to the difference between rations in India and England. I cannot yet say what will be the effects of the change, but the cost of the British Army in India will continue in any case to be borned by India.

Lord George then said that he saw a great objections to altering the conditions of the Victoria Cross so as to extend it to the Indian Army

The *Times* Pekin correspondent states that, in accordance with the loan contract the revenues of Chekiang and the provinces of the Yangtze Valley have been placed under the immediate control of the Imperial customs.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

Reuter's special correspondent visiting China telegraphs that there is every sign that the Russians are all powerful in North China. The Native naval officers are quite subservient to them.

"LINSEED COMPOUND," Trade Mark of KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE OF LINSEED. "LINSEED COMPOUND," a demulcent expectorant for Coughs, Colds, and Chest Complaints. LINUM CATHARTICUM PILLS, digestive, corrective, and agreeably aperient. KAY'S CUE CEMENT.—Tips Billiard Cues firmly. "Your Cement is the best I have ever used."—JOHN ROBERTS (Champion), 1866. KLINX.—New white inorganic Cement, almost hydraulic, for Pottery, Porcelain, &c. COAGULINE.—Transparent Cement, for all broken articles. Manufactory, Stockport, England. CHESHIRE BIRD LIME.—For Mosquitoes and noxious insects. In tin boxes. To spread on paper, twigs, twine. KAY BROTHERS, LTD., Stockport, England.

DR. BISWAS'

ACIDITY PILL

ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most common disorders of the day, and very few are so fortunate as to declare their immunity from these. In view of the fact that though apparently harmless in the embryonic stage Acidity and Dyspepsia shatter and undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous in their insidiousnes.

After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, I can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of Dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically. However chronic and long-standing the complaint, however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give insant and permanent relief as has been proved in hundreds of cases, Here are a few unsolicited testimonials:—

Babu Amrita Krishna Mullick, B. L., Pleader, Calcutta Court of Small Causes, writes: I have very great pleasure to testify to the efficacy of your Acidity Pills. I have used the above and I can recommend the same to others suffering from acidity and dyspepsia.

The **Amrita Bazar Patrika** says:—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill has an extraordinary digestiv power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may give a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some antive herbs and hence is perfectly safe

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of the Sovabazar Raj family, writes:—"I am glad to state that I have derived much benefit by the use of a box of your Acidity Pills. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Kindly send me two more boxes."

Babu Nitrya Gopal Dutt, Zemindar, Mozilpur, writes:—"I have used your Pill and can bear testimony to its marvellous effects. Before I had used your Pill for a week it cured me of acute Acidity which all other remedies failed to cure.'

Babu Nilmoni Dey Assistant Settlement Officer rite from Camp Patepur, Dt. Mozafferpur:—"I have wried yonr Acidity Pill and found them to be an excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately. They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are invaluable in the Moffussil. Thex should find place in every tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes immediately.

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A PROTEST AGAINST THE FORWARD POLICY.

SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL AND SIR JAMES WESTLAND'S VIEWS.

WE quote the following Minute of Dissent by Sir Charles Pritchard, Sir James Westland, and Sir A. Macdonnell, from a despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, dated Simla, July 1894. The despatch is just published in Volume I of the "Papers regarding British relations with the neighbouring tribes on the North-West Frontier of India, and the Military Operations undertaken against them during the year 1897-98."

We dissent from the despatch. It does not, in our opinion, express distinctly either approval or disapproval of proposals that have been put forward for the military occupation and direct control of the whole of Waziristan. It suggests a middle course, and in some respects, as we conceive, an uncertain course between proposals for annexation and the policy of dissuasive restraint laid down in 1892 (see paragraph 7 below). But, while suggesting a middle course, the despatch expresses in its final paragraph a decided condemnation of the policy of 1892 that has hitherto been acted upon, and to that extent, we fear implies a preference for the opposite policy. We advocate the continuance of the policy of 1892. It seems to us that that no such middle course as the despatch suggests, can be effective as substantial solution of the question, or can operate otherwise than as a temporary expedient, prefacing annexation. In our judgment the real choice lies between, on the one hand, a policy that aims at resting on our present frontiers and influencing the Waziris from without; and on the other hand, a policy that contemplates the assumption of complete responsibility for the administration of Waziristan and the independent tribal territory that intervenes between the present frontiers of British India and of the kingdom of Afghanistan.

We have therefore arrived at the parting of the ways as regards our policy in Waziristan, and the real issue involved in the present discussion is one of grave importance. The decision arrived at in this matter will reach further than Waziristan, and must affect materially the rest of the independent tribal country on the Afghan border and our treatment of it.

We recognise that the demarcation of British and Afghan spheres of influence introduces a new confactor into the consideration of questions connected with our frontier, and should, as time goes on, conduce to the simplification of our policy and its concentration on two objects, namely, the prevention of frontier raids and the weaning of the tribes from internal feuds. These are objects which, with patience and tact, may, we think, be gradually secured, to a substantial extent, at all events, by peaceful means, and consistently with maintaining the independence of the Waziris and not projecting forward the existing frontier of British India. But if we push forward our military posts beyond the Gomal, make roads through Waziri territory, establish police arrangement within it, interfere in inter-tribal quarrels, levy tribute from the tribes, and undertake, from the beginning, to prevent the Waziris from raiding into Afghanistan, we shall destroy their independence and be practically assuming the administrative control of their country, in whatever terms we may choose to describe our action. We shall not be able eventually to stop short of establishing and maintaining a line of military posts, or of combined military and levy posts, along the whole length of the Waziri-Afghan border, the possibility of which indeed is foreshadowed in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the despatch. The cost of these operations will be enormous. In carrying them out we shall have to encounter and overcome much stubborn resistance: and when the new line of posts is established along the Afghan border, we shall find ourselves in contact with a fresh set of tribesmen who are likely to prove as troublesome neighbours in the future as the Waziris have proved in the past. Any attempt to subjugate the Waziris and hold their country by military force is eminently calculated to set the whole frontier in a blaze and to involve our ally the Amir as well as ourselves in various troubles. We must recognise the fact the Amir's authority is not yet completely established in some of the outlying border tracks that are included in Afghanistan under the recent Kabul agreement, and that he will have considerable difficulties to face in keeping under control the unruly tribesmen who inhabit the tracts within his sphere of influence.

A forward movement and a policy of the nature which inspires the despatch seems to us to transgress alike the declarations of policy made in our despatches to the Secretary of State and the instructions of that authority. On the 16th August, 1892, the Government of India wrote as follows:—

"A question may be raised with regard to our relations with the Waziri tribesmen in those districts from which we propose that the Amir's interference should be excluded. We do not, as we have already said, desire to annex the country. We wish them to regard us as their friends, and to assist us in keeping open and improving the Gomal Pass, which immediately adjoins their territory. In order to secure this object, it may be necessary at some future time to establish posts in the neighbourhood; but . . . . we have decided to avoid, as far as may be possible, any exhibition of activity amongst them at the present time.

"Nor again are we prepared to say that because we have decided that the Amir should not be allowed to annex the independent Waziri tribes, it will be incumbent upon us to protect them upon all occasions, or whatever their conduct may be. It is likely that in a mountainous region inhabited by warlike tribes, such as that under discussion, there may for many years to come the inter-tribal conflicts, sometimes between one section of the Waziris and another, sometimes between the Waziris and the adjoining clans. Such occurrences are regarded as the natural incidents of frontier life, and we do not contemplate that it need be our duty either to keep the Waziri tribesmen under strict control or, if their conduct should invite reprisals, to shield them from the consequences of their own acts. The Waziri tribes might, for the present, be left in the same position as the Afridis, who, if they raid on the Amir's territory, are liable to be punished by the Amir * * * Such a state of things is no doubt far from ideally perfect, but it is that which obtains on other parts of the border, and it has been found to produce fairly good results.

We do not therefore at present see any necessity for entering into engagements with the Waziris themselves which would bind us to protect them. What is, in our opinion, essential is that we should, subject to what we have said with regard to Wano, make it absolutely clear to the Amir, that we cannot allow him to encroach upon any part of Waziristan".

The Secretary of State's observations on the statement of policy just quoted run as follows:—

"The question of our own future action in regard to Waziristan remains to be considered.

You state that your Government are prepared to assure the Amir that you do not regard Waziristan as British territory, and also to renew the assurance given in 1888 that you do not intend building a fort at Wano; and though, in your opinion, it may be necessary to establish at some future time posts in the neighbourhood of the Gomal, you disclaim any desire to annex the country, and you have decided to avoid any exhibition of activity among the Waziris. The latter decision has my full concurrence. I should see with regret any steps which might lead to interference on our part with the independence of the Waziris, or which might tend to convert your political influence into direct administrative control over the tribe."

The above were the instructions on which Sir M. Durand proceeded in the conduct at Kabul of his negotiations concerning Waziristan. The agreement arrived at with the Amir defines the limits of the kingdom of Afghanistan and stipulates for the demarcation of a boundary line beyond which the Amir on the one side and the British Government on the other is not to advance territorial claims. It forbids the Amir from encroaching upon any portions of Waziristan, but it leaves the border tribes in the same independent position that they occupied before the settlement was made, and it does not impose on the Government of India any obligation in the matter of establishing a system of direct control over Waziristan or over other portions of independent tribal territory. The last-named question does not indeed appear to have been raised in the course of the negotiations.

In addressing the Secretary of State we wrote:—

"We wish it to be clearly understood that nothing is further from our intentions than the annexation of tribal country on our frontier. We believe, however, that without annexation and without interference in the internal affairs of the tribes, it will be possible to bring them further within our influence, and to induce them to regard themselves as owing allegiance to us."

The Secretary of State's reply on this part of the subject runs as follows:—

"I trust that the tranquillity of the border, especially in the neighbourhood of the Gomal, will now be secured. I observe that your Government emphatically repudiates all intention of annexing tribal territory, but desires to bring the tribes whom this settlement concerns further within your influence. I approve generally of the policy thus described; but I trust that in carrying it into effect your Government will carefully abstain from taking any steps to extend your influence, which may tend to bring about a collision with the tribesmen, or to the establishment of fresh posts beyond the frontier which may require armed protection."

The steps which the Secretary of State has thus on two occasions deprecated our taking seem to us to be those very steps which the despatch, from which we are dissenting, proposes that we should take.

The further correspondence with the Secretary of State relates to arrangements to be made for the delimitation of the boundary, and does not alter the position regarding the future treatment of Waziristan.

It will be seen then that neither our own declarations of policy, nor the agreement lately concluded with the Amir, nor the instructions of the Secretary of State, impose upon us an obligation to establish any system of direct control over Waziristan. The declarations of the Government of India and the instructions of the Secretary of State, on the contrary demand that we should abstain, as far as possible, from advancing our military posts beyond the Gomal and from interference with the Waziris that is likely to provoke a collision with the tribes or to prejudice their independence. We strongly advise adherence to the lines indicated in the Government of India's despatch, viz, to restrict our military posts to the present line of the Gomal, to strengthen our position there by a scheme of tribal services, and to treat the Waziris generally in the same manner in which we treat the Afridis.

It must be remembered that any assumption of obligations under this enagagement with the Amir to prevent tribes within our influence from raiding into Afghanistan could not be confined to the Waziris alone. If we now undertake responsibilities of that nature as regards the Waziri clans, on what grounds could we hereafter decline similar obligations with respect to the Mohmands and other tribesmen who inhabit the country farther north between British India and Afghanistan? If, in pursuance of the agreement concluded with the Amir, we undertake to control and keep the peace amongst the independent tribes on our side of one portion of the Afghan border, it seems to us that we shall be unable to avoid a recognition of similar responsibilities along the whole length of it. Any attempt to exercise active control amongst the border clansmen, who boast that they have never been subjugated by any foreign ruler and prize their independence above everything, would certainly involve us in a long protracted warfare and the expenditure of many crores of rupees, and would land us in endless embarrassments.

We do not consider, as we have already stated, that Sir M. Durnand's agreement provides in this connection for anything more than the demarcation of a boundary line beyond which neither the Amir nor the British Government is to encroach; and we would not admit that it imposes upon us obligations to advance the frontier of British India, or by an exercise of military force to prevent from the outset raiding by the independent border tribes over which we have never pretended to exercise effective control. We should exercise our friendly influence to check raiding on the part of the tribesmen on the British side of the line, and be prepared, as hitherto, to punish them by sending expeditions into their country when they offend grieviously. Moreover there will be in the liberty which is left to the Amir to punish raids on his territory a further restraint on the tribes, which will operate in the direction of their good behaviour. That the Amir considers that he still possesses this liberty of protecting himself and punishing aggressors without his military intervention of the British Government is manifest from correspondence that has lately passed between the Government of India and the Amir. The correspondence to which we refer relates to an attack made by Umra Khan of Jandol, since the conclusion of the Durand agreement, on certain villages of Afghan Kafiristan.

The proposal put forward in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the despatch to advance to a position in or near Spin, about 25 miles north-west of the existing frontier post at Kajuri Kach, and to locate a new cantonment there, the garrison of which is, we understand, to number about 2,000 men, has for its object the attainment of a good strategical position for overawing the Waziris, protection of the Gomal caravan route, the prevention of raids into the Zhob district of Baluchistan, and the discharge of responsibilities which, it is stated, require that our position shall be such as to show the tribes that we can prevent raiding on the Amir's frontier. We doubt if the establishment of a single new military post in the extreme south of Wiziristan is sufficient in itself for the attainment of all these objects, even admitting them to be necessary and legitimate.

Mention is made in paragraph 13 of the despatch of difficulties that have arisen on the Tochi and in Lower Dawar, which may necessitate the establishment of "a regular system of government in that quarter," or, in other words, may call for the military occupation of the north-eastern portion of Waziristan. The mere presence of a British force in Spin would not obviate those difficulties; nor would in suffice, so far as we can see, to prevent raids on the Amir's boundary to the West of Waziristan.

It cannot be reasonably expected that a force of 2,000 troops cantoned in the wilderness of Spin will remain there in idleness. Circumstances will surely arise that will necessitate the detachment of parties and the establishment of out-posts beyond the new cantonment, and the probability is that our troops will soon find themselves embroiled in quarrels with sections of the tribes other than those which have lately engaged in raids on the Gomal. Judging from what has happened in other similar cases we cannot believe that an advance to Spin would eventually be followed by a corresponding advance on the other side of Waziristan from Bannu along the Tochi to Sheranna, or some other place in that neighbourhood, and would lead to the establishment of a line of posts along the Afghan border, between the positions in Spin and at Sheranna, as has in fact been proposed by Mr. Bruce and other frontier officers.

The Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan, who is the officer chiefly concerned in the protection against Waziri raids of the Zhob district and the Gomal caravan route, has urged the establishment of an additional post on the northern bank of the Gomal and the strengthening of the garrisons on that river and in the neighbourhood of the Gomal Pass. We would support Sir James Browne's recommendations in this matter, and give them a fair trial before committing ourselves to an advance to Spin. We would further endeavour, as we have already observed, to strengthen our position on the Gomal by a scheme of tribal service, as suggested in the concluding paragraph of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's note of the 14th March, 1894. It must not be forgotten that the situation now is very different from what it was before the Durand agreement had been effected. The main cause of the difficulties hitherto experieneed in dealing with the Waziris, *viz.*, the Amir's assertion of suzerain rights over part of their country and the disputes arising therefrom, has been removed by that agreement. This is a most important factor in the present situation to which we think the despatch attributes insufficient weight. It is not unreasonable to expect that the Waziris will, in consequence of the removal of this source of difficulty become more amenable to the influence of our officers Such military occupation of Waziristan at the despatch proposes, will place all our future relations with the Waziris on a military basis, will be interpreted by them as an imminent threat of annexation, will furnish many causes of mutual irritation and quarrelling, and will make amicable approaches a matter of difficulty. If we abstain from show of permanent military occupation, our efforts to establish friendly influence will have a much greater chance of success.

The recent proceedings of the Political officers afford much ground for encouragement in this direction.

We would communicate to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab a full explanation of the policy we intend to pursue for the present, and call upon him to submit a detailed scheme of tribal service to meet that policy. We would advice a trial of the scheme that may thus be determined on, and leave to the future the devising of other expedients if that scheme should prove a failure.

We would invite attention to two passages in Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's note of the 14th March, 1894. In paragraph 9 he remarks:—

"Our present difficulties along our true frontier, *i.e.*, between the Derajat and Wiziristan, are really very small, and it would be absurd to suggest that to diminish them (if indeed it would diminish them) we should undertake to occupy the two exterior lines along the Tochi and between the Tochi and the Gomal beyond the Mahsud country.

"Therefore, I say that if we have an object of our own to serve in establishing our control over Waziristan, it must be the imperial military object."

Again in paragraph 19 he says: "We have had a great deal of trouble in the Gomal and south of it. Most of it has been due to the perturbation caused by intrigues and to the want of caution shown in letting our men go about insufficiently protected; but a certain amount of it is the natural consequence of our taking up such a position in a country like that, and may be expected to continue, no matter how good our relations with the Amir may be, and no matter what precautions we take for the safety of our men. With proper arrangements, however troubles of this sort may be so reduced as to become endurable; and we have had before us for some time separate proposals put forward by Mr. Bruce for improving our position by granting certain further allowances to the tribes with which we are there concerned"

Mr. Bruce also makes reference to the absence of proper precautions in the neighbourhood of the Gomal.

It is noteworthy that almost all the Waziri offences enumerated in the list attached to the despatch were committed on or near the portion of the Waziristan border which marches with the Zhob district recently annexed to Baluchistan. If these offences may he regarded—and we think that, to some extent at all events, they may be reasonably regarded—as evidenee of irritation fell by the Waziris at the advance of the British frontier in that direction, then the inference is that much greater irritation will be felt at the establishment of military posts inside Waziristan, and still more at an advance to the boundary of Afghanistan.

It is evident that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab does not anticipate any great difficulties if our establishment are kept within our present frontier line, and if, at the same time, due precautions are taken to prevent the provocation of collisions with the tribesmen and to moderate the ardour of those of our civil and military officers who are eager for an advance. To our reading Mr. Bruce's letter conveys the same lesson.

In conclusion, we would urge abstention from aggressive activity on our north-west frontier. We have at last arrived at a satisfactory understanding with the Amir; we have thus and otherwise attained to a strong frontier position. This we should endeavour by all means to consolidate peacefully, and with it we should rest content as long as circumstances may permit. Many important questions of domestic politics now press on the attention of the Government of India, and we believe that conflicts and warfare with the border tribes would add greatly to the difficulties of the present situation. The need for a policy of unaggressive watchfulness on the frontiers is indicated as much by the feeling of unrest which is perceptible in India as by the overwhelming need for economy in all branches of expenditure. No expenditure would be more distasteful to the public in this country, or in our opinion more unjustifiable, than expenditure incurred in attempts to subjugate those independent frontier tribes. We believe that an advance to Spin and the location there of a permanent military cantonment is greatly calculated to lead to such expenditure, and for this, among other reasons, we are compelled to oppose it. We oppose it with the less hesitation in that we believe there is a reasonable prospect that the legitimate end in view may be attained by more peaceful means.

(Signed) C. B. PRITCHARD.
J. WESTLAND,
A. P. MACDONNELL.

"THE MURDER IS OUT NOW."

IT was scarcely credible that all the members of the Government of India could always have supported the half timid, half bold and wholly disastrous policy which has been the cause of so many needless complications on the North-West Frontier during the past few years. From a Minute of Dissent, signed by Sir Antony MacDonnell, Sir J. (then Mr. J) Westland and Sir Charles Pritchard, it is now clear that in 1894 the Government of India stood at the parting of the ways: that they knew their position; and that, by the casting vote of Lord Elgin, then only a few months in India, they deliberately chose the wrong path. The despatch to which this very remarkable minute was appended was dated Simla, 10th July, 1894, and reviewed the situation on the North-West Frontier in the light of the recent agreement between the Amir and the Government of India for the demarcation of the border. As our readers are aware, one argument which has frequently been advanced of late by the advocates of advance and absorption, is that having fixed a border we must control the country up to that line. We find this doctrine first definitely put forward in the despatch of 1894. "We conceive" so runs the despatch, "that by reason of the agreement made in November, 1893, between the Amir of Kabul and Sir Mortimer Durand, by which agreement His Highness has undertaken at no time to exercise interference in the territories lying beyond the boundary line on the side of India, we have assumed a measure of responsibility for the peace of the Afghan border which has not hitherto been ours, and which, under present arrangements, we nave no adequate means of discharging. We understand that Her Majesty's Government concur in this view. Lord Kimberley, writing on this subject, approved of our statement of policy to the effect that, while we emphatically repudiated all intention of annexing tribal territory, we desired to bring the tribes whom this settlement concerns further within our influence." Now one of the first means of adequately discharging this newly-assumed "measure of responsibility for the peace of the Afghan border," was the establishment of a military post at Wano in Waziristan. Of course there was to be no annexation: we were only to "extend our influence" over the frontier tribes, we were not to annex any country, "the frontier of British India and the sphere of the local administration of British officials" were to "remain unaltered." We know, however, that the immediate result of the new policy was an attack on the British camp at Wano a few months later and an expedition which cost the country 28 lakhs; and it may be truly said that the same determination to "extend our influence," while affecting to deprecate annexation, has been at the root of all our troubles on the North West Frontier since that date. What we did not know until we came on this Minute of Dissent in a recently-published blue-book, was that all this had been clearly put before the Government of India by three members of the Viceroy's Council at the time. The despatch advising the establishment of a military post at Wano is signed by Lord Elgin, Sir George White, Sir Alexander Miller, Sir H. Brackenbury, Sir C. B. Pritchard, and Sir Antony MacDonnell, but in the last paragraph it is written that "our honourable colleagues Sir Charles Pritchard, Mr. Westland, and Sir Antony MacDonnell dissent from this despatch." In other words the decision must have been arrived at by a majority of four to three, the majority including the Viceroy, who had been in India only a few months, the two military votes (Commander-in-chief and Military Member) and Sir Alexander Miller whose vote on this or any other question was of the smallest intrinsic importance. On the other side were the Finance Member, the Home Member (Sir A. P. MacDonnell) and the Public Works Member (Sir Charles Pritchard). One has only to put the ayes and noes in contrast to see whether a decision of vast importance to India was in this case supported by those members of the Government who were the most likely to take an informed and far sighted view of the true interests of the Empire as a whole. For ourselves, though we have had occasion to differ at times both from Sir Antony MacDonnell and Sir James Westland, we hold their opinion on the broad question of policy decided in 1894 of more importance than those of all the other members of Council put together. And a perusal of the grounds of their dissent fully justifies such a confidence. The Minute points out that, so far from the Durand agreement compelling us to interfere more in tribal country, it warrants us in interfering less, since we could no longer be forestalled by the Afghans; it sweeps aside the affectation that we can "extend our influence" without a constant absorption of territory, a middle course being absolutely unpracticable; and it warns the Government that the course upon which they were entering would inevitably result in constant and costly complications, which a due regard to the interest of India should lead us to avoid. How Sir Henry Fowler ever came to pass over such a Minute in favour of the shuffling and illogical despatch to which it was appended, is a mystery; but, at all events, now that the matter is no longer a secret, it is pleasant to be able to congratulate the Governor of these Provinces and Sir James Westland on the stand they made on behalf of statesmanship and common sense in 1894. *Pioneer.*

THE 28TH JANUARY DESPATCH.

THE 28th January despatch by Lord George Hamilton is probably considered a State document of importance, at all events to the present Cabinet. It consists of 23 paragraphs. The author has had to sit down and gasp for breath at frequent intervals, and at the 5th para. he says: "I do not consider it necessary to follow minutely, etc." At the 10th: "I do not propose to dwell at length, etc."

1. My Lord, I have read your letters. Now that the active phase of operations is over, I would like to recapitulate events and indicate my future policy.

2. The first disturbance was on June 10th in the Tochi Valley. Mr. Fowler, you will recollect, hed sanctioned a policy of more effective protection and closer connection with the tribes. He wrote to the following effect that he sanctioned, with reluctance, the assumption of fresh responsibilities. In 1896 there were disturbances in the Tochi and fines. Mr. Gee went to fix a site for a post, and was attacked at Maizar.

3. When it was over, everyone bolted. General Bird took command and issued a proclamation (July 13th.) By November 26th I learned that Sadda Khan, the instigator, had surrendered.

4. As to Swat. Here, within fourteen days of our proclamation to the Madda Khels, there was an outburst of fanaticism raised by Suddulla, the mad fakir. The tribal levies fled. Malakand and Clakdara were attacked on July 26th, and went on till August 2nd, when Sir Bindon Blood relieved Chakdara.

5. I do not consider it necessary to follow Sir Bindon-Blood's operations. He was successful; he threatened the Bunerwals, and later on I hear (January 19th), the Bunerwals have given in.

6. Five days after the relief of Chakdara, one Adda Mulla of Jarobi, with 5,000 men, attacked the frontier post of Shabkadar. On August 8th his men, who were Mohmands and Afghan subjects, were attacked and defeated. He subsequently attacked Sir Bindon-Blood, and got a bad beating. On October 7th the Mohmand field force was broken up.

7. It was inevitable all this lighting should upset the Afridis and Orakzais. There were rumours about a rising, but Sir R. Udney was not disposed to credit them. On August 20th you wired me, the reports were much exaggerated. A few days after this reassuring news, you wired there was a hostile gathering in the Khyber. On August 23rd, I heard Ali Musjid was attacked. On the 25th, Lundi Kotal was wrested from its garrison and the pass closed. On August 26th, you asked for a Tirah Expedition, which I granted on September 1st. Further information reveals that the Afridis who were well paid, were ungrateful and from the [illegible]

November 17th in Sayyed Akbar's house (which we published) I believe the attack was fanatical in its origin, and I am glad to say, not ingratitude. How bitterer than a serpent's tooth, etc.

8. While all this was going on, the Orakzais began prowling round the Samana outpost and sitting under a Mulla. On October 20th, you told me these reports were exaggerated (but you were wrong as usual), and on that very night the Orakzais burnt a village in the Kurram. The same night I heard of Ali Musjid. You again informed me all was quiet; but two days after, Fort Lockhart was attacked, and then Saraghari, and no time was lost in driving the Orakzais into the Khanki Valley; but you will had no option but to have a Tirah Expedition.

9. I won't go into details. The Orakzais were vanquished by December 18th. Tirah is a very difficult place, full of rocks. The Imperial Service Troops were grand, the Native Princes of India loyal. I sympathise with Kapurthala in its loss on November 7th.

10. From all I have read, I believe the outbreak was fanatical. You were aware that Mullahs were engaged in circulating two books, which had been published at Kabul, of a tone and character that must inevitably have stimulated the fanatical spirit of wild and ignorant tribesmen (these) are the Amir's seditious writings, though Lord George does not give the authorship, which of course, he knew.) Adda Mullah was a bad man, I believe, etc.

11. I believe the delimitation of the Durand line gave the Mullahs material for stirring up alarm.

12. You raised the price of salt at Kohat; although the tribes say this was a hardship, I do not doubt what they say. You were quite right about Cis-Indus and Trans-Indus salt.

13. Now as to my views: Our duties are (1) to protect the British vicinity; (2) to prevent outside interference with those tribes; (3) to support the Amir as we bargained, and safeguard the natural frontiers of India.

14. As civilisation and trade increase, the boundary neighbourhood is more worth looting. The tribes have got guns and ammunition; they are more united; they have relatives who have settled on our side of the line. Their Mullahs tell them lies, and the words of the British M. Ps. are distorted by Mullahs. British subjects, in fact, took part in the Malakand attack. Therefore, the state of the tribal surrounding country is important.

15. As to keeping the tribes from outside influences, we have got a Durand line; we cannot allow interference, and must exercise an effective control. MacDonnell, Westland and Pritchard do not agree to this. They told Fowler so in 1894. He would not listen to them. But I agree with Fowler. The tribes seem to rather suspect our intentions, and to allay their suspicions should be our policy. I trust to Providence and frequent intercourse to allay their predatory instincts.

16. You will recollect that Lord Ripon in 1880 agreed to help the Amir against aggression if he followed British advice in his external relations. Sir Mortimer Durand did not extend this, he confirmed it (please notice), and gave him six lakhs extra. The Amir has got to look after the establishment of any adverse political influence in the higher plateaux which within Afghanistan dominate the passes.

17. You are at times a Policeman, at times a Statesman, I cannot reduce all I have to say to a formula. Policy must wait on circumstances. My idea is to show that we are as determined to respect the rights of others as able to protect our own—(we don't want to fight, but by Jingo).

18. There are, however, certain leading principles. Look at my wire, October 13th. No new responsibility should be taken—present opportunity should be taken for defining our policy—some, modifications will be necessary, and read mine of August 9th, 1895, as to the minimising, of interference, and of May 8th, 1896. Does Wano justify expenditure? You must concentrate your Military so as to secure the best results consider the expense and don't put British troops where they may be cut off or damaged. Above all, no disasters.

19. Don't interfere with the tribes,—that is why I do not want tribute from the Afridis—I agree with you in what you say, but I do not intend to follow it. I won't have the tribes imagine we are going to interfere with them, annexation would really be dreadful

20. Now as to disarmament. These poor devils must have arms unless we agree to guarantee them against our neighbours. You must, however, try and stop any traffic in arms and take care that the Amir's supplies are never tapped *en route.*

21. You must maintain the Khyber as an artery of trade, whether as an obligation to the Amir or otherwise. I do not care; only keep it open, re-align the road, do anything you like, and, inspite of the treachery of the Afridis, try them again, and enlist their good-will and protection (and contempt).

22. The march of events in Central Asia has helped to elucidate the question. We were very much surprised to learn that so much fanaticism was about, and that the blessings of British Government were so little appreciated. It is quite a revelation! Try and deal well with this restlessness. It is true, I said five minutes ago, I don't want to interfere with the tribes, but giving them money and contracting with them is not interference. I may say at once that I do not think you need be found to give them arrears of pay as they broke their engagement.

23. I am very pleased with Your Excellency. You must recollect never to swap horses while crossing a stream, and that no new responsibility should be undertaken unless absolutely required by actual strategical necessities and the protection of the border.

Good-bye, yours,
G. Hamilton.

RAIN is again delaying the Panjab Lieutenant-Governor's tour. He is now weather bound at Bannu.

REGARDING the contemplated plague rules in Bombay, the "Advocate of India says":—From enquiries made there is no doubt that the Mahomedan community is greatly disturbed by the news, and that there is a good deal of serious irritation under the surface.

PRINCE MYOUNG OKE, a Burmese political *detenue*, who was kept under police surveillance at Berhampore, and used to get a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000 from Government, died on the 25th ultimo of malarial fever. The Prince was a step-brother of the late ex-King Theebaw, and brother of [illegible]

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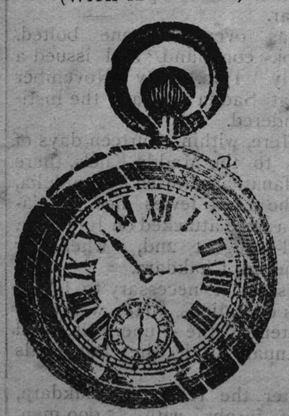

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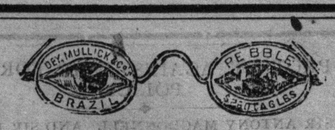

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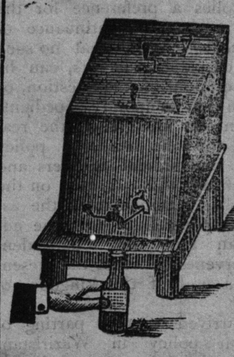

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