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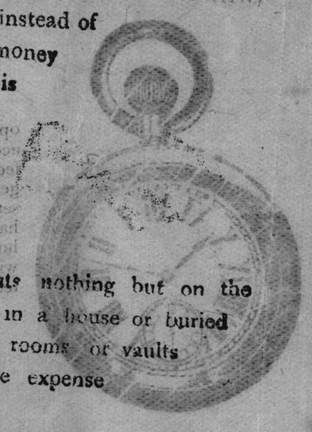

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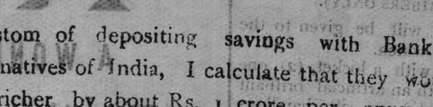
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS. 5.

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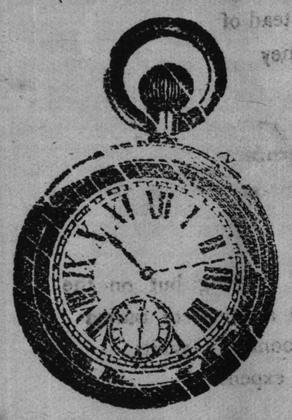

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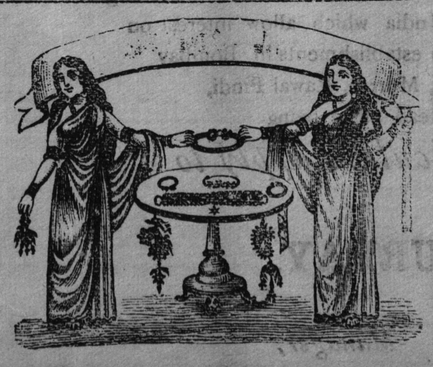

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 13, 1898.

BRITISH CITIZENSHIP.

THE article from the *Pall Mall Gazeette*, that we discussed the other day, makes two points clear. One is that the foremost opponents of the Congress know that its object is to acquire the right of British citizenship and not to undermine the British Empire. The other is that these opponents object to the Congress, not because its intentions are disloyal but because British citizenship which the movement demands is what they do not like to give to the people. Hence the triumphant declaration of the *Pall Mall* that as long as British rule endures, the Indians will never get any political privilege. We think, however, the *Pall Mall* has not realized the real significance of its declaration. A ruler here has the power of doing much temporary mischief, for, the Government is carried on under despotic principles; but he cannot yet retard the progress of the country onward. As the Indians and the English grow familiar with one another, political privileges are bound to come along with the course of events. Even under the unenlightened rule of the Mussalmans, the Hindus at last came to be treated as equals.

As a matter of fact, already the connection between England and India has moulded the destinies of the two nations to a considerable extent. If India is a part and parcel of England, England is now also a part and parcel of India. England sought to keep the Irish in a position of political bondage, yet the same England would have given that country independence if Mr. Gladstone had not become too old. Indian soldiers are just now fighting England's battles all over the world, and British officers have agreed to acknowledge, by a memorial, the worth of Indian soldiers.

But what strikes us as unaccountable is the dread which the contemplation of vesting Indians with some petty political privileges, fills the *Pall Mall* and intelligent Englishmen who think in the same manner. Let us make plain what the leaders of this country really want.

As for absolute independence, if the British were now to offer it to the people of this country, they would not accept it; because, the country has been demoralized and the Indians are now not in a position to manage their own affairs without British help.

What the people want is, therefore, some liberty, which would not, in any way, interfere with British supremacy.

Now, this "some liberty" which the Indians want, cannot be much. Take, for instance the control of the Calcutta Municipality. Suppose this institution were made over to the Indians entirely. To be able, under the present circumstances, to discharge their functions, the Indian members of the Corporation would be obliged to seek the help of Europeans almost at every step. It would not be possible for the Indians to supply Calcutta regularly with water without European supervision. It would not be possible for them to keep the drains in proper order without European assistance. Nay, it would be impossible for the members to agree at all in many important matters in the beginning.

In justice to our countrymen, we must say that this incapacity is not due to any natural defect or perversity on their part. When the Romans left England, the English had to seek the help of other nations te protect themselver. The Indians have no leaders now; and, therefore, they have forgotten to act under *native* leadership. They have become unused to act independently, and they have forgotten how to do it.

So, if the Indians were ever vested with some political privileges, the arrangement would not interfere, not only with British supremacy but also with the supremacy of the Europeans here, official or non-official. It comes to this then that if they would enjoy any right they would do so under British leadership. Thus, the British citizenship for which the Congress is labouring and the demand for which gives the *Pall Mall* such a great fright, does not mean any loss to any vested interest that exists now.

We would here beg to draw the attention of those, whom the idea of the bestowal of the British citizenship upon Indians gives a fright, to two points. One is that India is a poor country of the masses. Here men of the higher classes can be counted by the fingers. Take a district with a population of two millions, and you will scarcely get five hundred men who can be called fairly educated or who are in an independent position. The number of gentlemen, that is to say, men of independenr means, here is infinitesimal. Thus the number of those who are in a position to dispute the authority of Englishmen, is very small, indeed. If all the rights enjoyed by Englishmen were conferred upon the Indians, even then the former would continue to occupy a superiot position in as complete a manner as now.

The other point is that this disability, which the *Pall Mall* votes for the Indians, is not an unmixed blessing for Englishmen Only take stock of what this policy costs England. It is due to this policy that the natives of the soil are distrusted; and it is to this distrust that the authorities owe their Russian scare and many costly and ruinous arrangements and undertakings. It is for this policy that India has to bear the burden of maintaining seventy-five thousand British troops.

What the natives of the soil want, is some share. For the benefit of the constituents of the *Pall Mall*, we shall tell them a sto which is true.

A Brahmin and a Sudra were both going to a holy place, and the Brahmin seeing very fine fishes for sale in a market place, felt a longing desire to taste them. I ut not having a well-filled purse, he asked his Sudra friend to do an act of merit, and purchase some fish for him,—an act which, the Brahmin assured him, would cause his own (the Sudra's) salvation and that of all his ancestors. Well, the pious Sudra agreed, and it was arranged that he would supply all the materials for a dinner, while the Brahmin would cook for both.

The Sudra had purchased forty *Khoyra* fish, and the Brahmin having cooked them, sat down to dinner, the Sudra having, according to custom, the grand privilege of being allowed to sit to the same plate after him, and to partake of the food which the Brahmin would leave behind. The Brahmin sat down to dinner and the Sudra went to bathe. On his return, he found, to his horror, that of the forty fish the Brahmin had partaken of thirty-nine, leaving only one,—and that too not the biggest of the lot,—for the Sudra! His first impulse was to knock the Brahmin down; but he was a pious man, and restrained himself and tried to console himself with the one fish which remained for him. But his feeling may be better conceived than described when, after sitting to dinner, and after handling the fish, he discovered that the Brahmin had devoured half of the remaining fish, though he had taken care to keep the fact concealed, as long as that was possible, by keeping the undevoured side of the fish exposed!

The man, who entertained the Bramhin, would have been quite satisfied if the latter had kept only one entire fish for him.

THE SEDITION BILL AND ITS OFF-SHOOT.

THE strong opposition of the exponents of the Anglo-Indian community to the sedition measure and its off-shoots, has led the leaders of Indian opinion to place themselves under the guidance of the former. There are many questions in which the Indians and Anglo-Indians can act in concert. In such movement, it is the duty of the former to follow the lead of the latter when there is confidence among them; and we hope, it will be possible for the Indians to do so in the present instance.

That the Anglo-Indians will be as much affected as the Indians by the proposed radical changes in the law, can be easily demonstrated. Indeed, it is quite evident that though some of their exponents at first accorded faint support to the measures, they have at last come to realize that they are in the same boat with the Indians in this matter. We shall show how the changes, if given effect to, will hang, like Damocles' swords, upon all the diverse sections of the Indian and Anglo-Indian communities.

When Sir James Stephen sought to add the sedition section to the Penal Code, a hue and cry was raised both by the Indians and Anglo-Indians to the effect that the measure would seriously interfere with the liberty of the press. Only a few weeks before the introduction of the Bill, the *Englishman* had published an article against the Income-tax, suggesting that blood would be the spilt if such a tax were imposed and retained.

This is, however, what Sir James said about the article of the *Englishman* :—

One paper had said, "if this law passes we shall never know what we might say and what we might not." If they wanted to see what they might say, all they had to do was to read the English newspapers which were published under the same law and they did not write very much as if they were under tyrannical rulers. Their liberty included the following items, at least. They might refute anything which had been put forward, and abuse anybody for bringing it forward: and if they wanted to see more particularly what sort of things they were perfectly at liberty to say, they had only to refer to the files of the English newspapers printed during the last eight months, and read the articles on the income-tax. Nobody ever said or thought that the authors of those articles were exciting disaffection. If a man was permitted to say everything that had been said about the members of the Government in general, and particularly about his honourable friend who was in charge of the Financial Department, and was not satisfied with such liberty, he (Mr. Stephen) must say that that man had a most insatiable appetite for using strong language. So long as the English papers in this country published what they did publish about every man, every measure, every principle which they thought it right to discuss, the Native papers need not be under the smallest apprehension that they would fall under the pale of the law. He would appeal to anybody who knew what English public life was, whether any Government which existed in this country was ever likely to bring a newspaper, published in this town, into Court on a charge of exciting sedition for mere discussion, however violent, personal, or unfair. It was absurd to suppose that anybody here wished to do it or would dare to do it; it would be altogether repugnant, not only to the law, but to the habits in which English public men were trained up.

What Sir James Stephen meant was that as the *Englishman* had not written with the *criminal intention* of exciting disaffection, that is, inciting others to *commit violence*, it did not fall within the purview of the section. But, under the proposed law, "criminal intent" and "incitement to violence" have been knocked on the head. In the place of "disaffection", again, we have got such vague and undefined words, as 'hatred', contempt', and 'enmity'. No longer would the, *Englishman* thus be allowed to indulge in the above style, or even to express its honest indignation against a bad measure of Government; for, no hostile criticism is possible without producing some feeling of contempt against the party criticised, and this will be sedition under the Chalmers Law. Good intention and absence of any violent result would be no excuse; for, what a journalist or a public speaker has to do, in order to bring himself under the jurisdiction of the amended section, is to excite a mere unfriendly feeling against the Government.

Even after the passing of the Sedition Law, the Anglo-Indian papers sometimes expressed themselves fiercely. We shall select a few instances. When Lord Ripon declared that no Government had ever yielded to menaces, an Anglo-Indian contemporary remarked :—

"These were brave orts, Sir John," but with the results of Irish menace, and Boer violence, so clearly worked out before our eyes, and the hide-and-seek of the Kilmainham compact still going on, no one is likely to attach much meaning to Lord Ripon's words, or those of the Government of which he is an offshoot.

When the officials were agitating for an increase of pay, one of their members thus wrote to an Anglo-Indian paper :—

As Lord Northbrook resigned *re* the cotton duties, so let His Excellency the Viceroy and his whole Executive Council to a man declare that unless the India Office yields, and at once, they must, by vacating office, divest themselves of the responsibility for the imminent ruin of India, and let them resign, if necessary. By this course, they will earn the gratitude of the Indian tax-payer, and also secure for themselves an honourable place in the history of India.

Then let the Service support the Council by unanimously declining to take their places. Should a new Viceroy and Council be sent out from home, we cannot ignore the former, but we can boycott the latter to an extent which no man would dare to face for long, and no Viceroy can work alone. The time for a universal Service strike has also come: and sooner than I expected. With the rupee below 1s. 3d. already, the Government of India would not, in my opinion, condemn that step in their hearts. Resignation is no rebellion. We are free men and can resign when we please.

And the following is the comment of an Anglo-Indian paper upon it :—

The endurance of the Englishmen in India has been sorely tried, of late, by the coolness with which the Government and public at home have listened to the recital of their wrongs. The *Statist* has told them with brutal frankness that "the European in India will not rebel, while the native may," and that therefore the currency question must be approached, if at all, in the interests of the Natives only. We will not pause to comment on political wisdom of this kind which would risk the loss of an Empire by wanton injustice to the dominant race; but men cannot forget that India in the past has seen a mutiny of whites as well as of Natives, and that the bands of allegiance to the mother-country were strained almost to the breaking-point by an ill-advised persistence with the Ilbert Bill. It is, however, with the greatest pleasure that we turn from the contemplation of a possible situation bristling with dangers to the State, to again congratulate the Currency Association on the initial success which has rewarded its public-spirited efforts.

Of course, the above language cannot be justified; but no notice was taken of it, and yet the Empire was not endangered in the least. But if no notice was taken of such writings before, there is no knowing that, armed with the new Sedition Law, they would be ignored now by the Government. In the interests of all communities, therefore, the measure should be withdrawn.

THE OFF-SHOOT.

Let us now examine section 153 A, which has been cut out of the proposed sedition section and introduced as a new section into the Penal Code in the Chapter relating to offences against the public tranquillity. Here is the section :—

153A. Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Here is a new offence created. And what is this offence? We confess, we do not understand it at all. It is *acts*, and not *feelings* and *sentiments*, which are punishable. This is, we presume, the principle upon which all penal laws are based, and which practice prevails in all civilized countries. But mark the wording of the section. Whoever promotes or attempts to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes, shall be punished with two years' hard imprisonment. One could understand the section if it were provided that a person, who promotes hatred between different classes with the intention of bringing about a disturbance, should be punished. But, no; he is to be punished, if he only creates a *feeling* of enmity between different classes, though this feeling may not lead to a breach of the peace. Was such an absurd thing ever heard of?

A Hindu may cherish a feeling of hatred towards a class of Mussalmans, and a Mussalman may cherish a feeling of hatred towards a class of Hindus. They may express it publicly in writing or speech. If they express it in language which is libellous, there is the defamation section to protect the class libelled. If, again, they give vent to this feeling of hatred, intending to cause a riot, section 153 of the Penal Code is quite enough to deal with the offence. Where is, then, the necessity of this section? The mere stirring-up of class-hatred can never be an offence; neither can it be proved. For, a class may be composed of thousands of men; and unless all of them come forward and say that any particular writing has created hatred against them as a class, or, if, only a few of them depose that in their opinion the writing is not objectionable, the accused is bound to be acquitted.

The section will, however, not only prove an engine of oppression in the hands of unscrupulous men, but seriously compromise the character of the Government. For, the section is included in section 196 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, so that offences under it would be prosecuted under the authority or with the sanction of the Government. The Government will thus identify itself with the prosecuting class, and create a feeling of ill-will or deep hatred against itself in the minds of the other classs to which the defendant belongs. If the prosecuting class win, the accused class will deeply resent it, and attribute their defeat to the unjust interference of the Government; if the former lose, the prestige of the Government will be gone.

Let us cite here a few instances to make our position clear. There was a work on Geography which was forced upon the Calcutta University by the missionary element in the Senate. That book contained offensive allusions to Krishna and Muhammed. The late Nawab Abdul Latiff strongly condemned the book, and it was boycotted from all Mahomedan educational institutions in the Province.

In Mr. Justice Amir Ali's book on Muhammed, there is a passage where Krishna has been grossly libelled. In the book of a missionary gentleman of Jubbulpore, named, Mr. Sykes, God Krishna of the Hindus has been similarly reviled.

Five years ago, the students of a missionary educational institution in India had a *kirttan* music, and their Christian Professor scolded them for having paid divine honours to a lascivious God, and so forth. He addressed his students in these terms :—

I do not wish to dispute with you; but I must tell you one thing.—Had Krishna been present here in flesh and blood, I would have driven him out of the class; had he been any where else in Calcutta, he would have been sent to the Presidency Jail. Don't lower your standard of morality by regarding him as a model. If you lead a life like Krishna's, you should be driven out of this class. He was a monster of immorality.

Sir Edwin Collen the other day libelled the Hindu widows when he said to the effect that chastity was a thing not valued by them. We all know also how the high and low officials of the Government, as well as the lady doctors and some Anglo-Indian papers, did their very best to rouse the wors passions of the Hindus by slandering them in the vilest terms possible during the Age of Consent Bill controversy and how the Hindu papers returned the compliment with compound interest.

These mutual recriminations are n good; yet there was peace, and no one ever thought of running to the law court for such matters. But the proposed measure will encourage every class to go to the law courts, and thus create a convulsion in the country. For, if a Mussalman sues a *padre* or a Hindu an Anglo-Indian journalist or official, the incident will create a row. It is quite true that no prosecution under the section will be instituted without the authority of the Government; but, how can the Government refuse sanction, without creating a scandal, when the leading members of a class appeal to it for taking action against the class of writings, noted above? And if the section were to remain a dead letter, why create it at all?

THE PERPLEXITY OF THE PEOPLE.

WHEN the Age of Consent measure was introduced, the Government relied upon the support of the social reform[illegible] advanced party in the Indian co[illegible]y. Indeed, the authorities posed as if, in going to introduce the measure, they were only carrying out the wishes of the most important sections of the community. Thus it became necessary on the part of the people to show that the country had no sympathy with the reform which the Government was going to thrust upon it. The agitation gradually assumed gigantic proportions; and then the Government found itself in a position of difficulty. That difficulty was removed by passing the Bill.

The authorities argued the matter in this wise. They thought, they could have dropped the Bill if the country had not been roused to offer such a strong opposition to it. And since the country had offered such a strong opposition, to yield to it would seem to be yielding to clamour. And, therefore, it was necessary that the Bill should be passed at all hazards. Thus the measure, originally sought to be introduced on the ground that the country wanted it, was finally passed on the ground that the country had shown in an unmistakable manner that it was not wanted at all!

In days gone by, witches were bound hand and foot and thrown into water. If they sank, they died. If they did not, they were witches no doubt, and then burnt to death. The witches must have complained in those days that no opportunities were given them to defend themselves, when charged with witchcraft. In the same manner, when the Age of Consent measure was passed, the Indians scratched their heads in perplexity to find how they were to deport themselves in future when any measure, which appeared to them obnoxious, was sought to be introduced. If they remain silent the Government will construe their silence into acquiescence. If they oppose the measure, the Government is bound to thrust it upon them!

The same perplexity overtook them when the present Sedition Bill was introduced. Would it be prudent to let things alone or to offer a protest? Mr. Chalm[illegible] however invited discussion by his speec[illegible] only proceeded on lines on [illegible] was originally created, and [illegible] commanded the Sedition Bill to appear as light was commanded to appear in the beginning, of course, the properest course for the people would have been to watch the grand creation with wonder and awe. But he adopted altogether human methods. He said that a better sedition measure was wanted for several reasons, *viz.*, unrest in the country, and the different interpretations given to the existing law by different Judges; and, therefore, he was going to import the English law on the subject into this country.

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When Mr. Chalmers spoke in that way he agreed indirectly to withdraw the measure, if it could be proved that there was no unrest; that the section, as it is, would serve its purpose with slight alterations; and that what he was going to give us as English law was not it, but something quite different. Thus Mr. Chalmers challenged and invited criticism. The *Englishman* was so misled by his happy speech that it took him at his word. But, in going to discuss the measure, our contemporary found that the Law Member had done much more than made some "verbal alterations."

Well, Mr. Chalmers wanted the question to be discussed, and this was done. Now, we see that the whole country is agreed that the grounds on which Mr. Chalmers sought to introduce the measure, are not tenable. What is now in store for us? Will the Government now declare that since the people have so thoroughly exposed the fallacy of the arguments upon which the measure was sought to be introduced, there is now no help for the authorities but to pass it at all hazards?

There is, however, another way out of the difficulty. It is to declare that since the Government has at last been convinced of the inexpediency of passing the measure, it is pleased, in deference to public opinion, both Indian and European, to drop it.

REFERRING to the result of the Kirki murder case, noticed in these columns, the *Advocate of India* remarks that "no body but the discharged prisoner, we imagine, can be perfectly satisfied" with it. We say ditto. The case for the defence was, as the reader is aware, that the gun had gone off accidentally, killing Arjoon on the spot; while, according to the prosecution, the deceased had been shot at deliberately. For the defence, one witness was produced to corroborate the accused's statement, and he was no other than his companion, Gunner Clark. On the other hand, several villagers swore to the fact that Arjoon had been shot at deliberately by the accused in the head. They did not break down in cross-examination, neither did the defence attempt to explain away Dr. McConaghy's evidence, according to which Arjoon "must have been fired at by a person standing some little distance." The Jury, however, disbelieved the story of the prosecution witnesses and discharged the accused. What wonder if this result of the case fails to satisfy the Indian public? Further on, the *Advocate* observes :—

But everyone must, we think, recognise how unsatisfactory to all the parties concerned, and how unfortunate, from a political point of view, is a verdict which cannot possibly be rated at anything higher than the "Not Proven" of the Scotch Courts. There would seem to be a sort of fatality about cases of this kind. They all endin one way—in a verdict which, to the European appears to be the only possible one, and to the Native, appears to be a demonstrably unjust one. The moral, we earnestly urge on the authorities, is that sporting expeditions of the kind on which these two gunners started, should be sternly discouraged, we should like to say, wholly prohibited.

We think it would be cruel to deprive the soldiers, who are kept chained like bulldogs at the barracks, of the pleasures of sporting expeditions now and then. It is not at all necessary to resort to such drastic measures. Indeed, a way may be found for the continuance of these sporting expeditions without the chance of these "accidents" occurring. The fact is, an impression has been created in the minds of these soldiers that they may kill these "black niggers," deliberately or accidentally, with impunity. Was ever a British soldier hanged, or transported, or even given three years for deliberately murdering a native? We know, how O'Hara exulted, because there was one "d—ed black bastard the less" when he had taken the life ,of one who did him no harm, and how he escaped justice. We can't blame the soldiers, if, with these facts before them, they are careless about handling guns when there is a scuffle between them and the disarmed and famished Indians. We said, there is a way by which these accidental or deliberate murders can be stopped; and it is to punish the soldiers with some severity when they are found guilty. But that is never done, and hence these "accidents" which have grown into a huge scandal.

As regards the Kirki murder case, a full report of the trial is published elsewhere. It will be seen that the Jury, with the exception of one, was composed of Europeans. The most remarkable feature of the case is that though the Judge, when summing up, told them as distinctly as he possibly could under the circumstances, that the prisoner should be found guilty either of murder or of culpable homicide, the jurors paid no heed to his direction, and returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty on the charge of murder, and not guilty on two other counts by a majority of 8 to 1!

AN occasional correspondent writes to us from England under date, the 21st January :

You have already noticed the good service which the Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Bose is doing to India by his public speeches in England. Another young Indian, Mr. J. Babisto of Bombay, who is studying at Cambridge, also deserves well of his countrymen for his endeavours to serve his country. Recently he addressed several meetings at York on behalf of the candidature of Sir Christopher Furness, and I am happy to inform you, that he experienced the most magnificent and enthusiastic reception whenever he spoke. This will appear from the cuttings from the local newspapers which noticed his speeches. The audience showed great eagerness to listen to Indian grievances, and I have never seen an assembly more indignant at the wrongs done to India. I have not the slightest doubt that Sir Christopher would have secured a decided majority in his favour had he from the very outset given more prominence to the Indian question. Mr. Babisto went to York just a couple of days before the polling day and could not do much; but, undoubtedly the remarks he made had won for the Liberal policy at least 500 votes. This is borne out by the fact that Sir Christoph r lost no time in recommending Alderman Richardson, who is contesting the seat at South East Durham, to keep the Indian question to the front. The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Bose and Mr. Babisto are to speak at West Hartlepool and other places on behalf of Alderman Richardson, the Liberal candidate.

In brief, I am so thoroughly convinced of the soundness of the conscience of the people of England that I feel quite confident that if, at the present moment, you could induce a competent *Indian* with ample means to meet the electioneering expenditure, to contest the next vacancy that occurs in the House of Commons purely on the Indian question, he would be returned by a telling majority. I wish you would give wide publicity to this view and I trust other Indian journals would do the same.

In another column, we publish extracts from the *Leeds Mercury* and the *York Herald* to show how India formed the subject of discussion during the electioneering campaign of Sir Christopher Furness. It is a pity that like Mr. Babisto, other Indians residing in England did not interest themselves in the return of Liberal candidates and thus avail of that opportunity of bringing the grievances of the people of this country to the notice of the British public. The suggestion of our correspondent at the end of his letter, is worth the attention of those of our public men who have money and talent to contest a Parliamentary seat.

WE take the following from the *Morning Post* :—

A correspondent hurls fiery denunciation at the Judge of a hill station in the Punjab. We are told that he is more fit for a lunatic asylum or the drawing-room than the bench. His Honour is so lazy that "he would get his bearer to brush his hair, costmetic his moustache, and point it, too." And finally, hehas struck such terror in the hearts of litigants, especially the bunniahs, that his court is always empty. The knowledge of which, whilst it induces our correspondent to write indignantly, gives us cause for exceeding joy. If we had a few more such Judges, we might make some headway against the greatest curse of the country.

We like such Judges immensely. Indeed, they are the greatest benefactors of the country; for, it is not drink but litigation which is eating into the vitals of the nation. A Judge who gets his hair combed and moustache dyed by his bearer, must also, in his heart of hearts, be a very good soul.

Anent the efficacy of bone manure, the following letter from a correspondent will perhaps be read with much interest ;—He purchased 4 maunds of bones for two rupees (annas eight per maund) and got them burnt and reduced to ashes. This bone-ash he had scattered over about three kanals of land over which cabbage, "Arbi" (Kachalu), and some other vegetables were cultivated. He gained nothing in the first year. But at the end of the second year, he was astonished to find that with the usual manure, the produce was extraordinarily good. He does not remember to have ever earned more than twenty rupees out of those three kanals of land. His income this year was 45 rupees. The vegetables were more tasty, superior in quality, more in quantity and much better liked by people who bought them."

IT may sound preposterous, but it is all the same a fact, that the result of Damodar's case and the Sinnar riot point to the same conclusion. They go to disprove conclusively the theory of the organized conspiracy of the Poona Brahmins, the outcome of which has proved so disastrous to the people of this country. They establish, without a shadow of doubt, that the conspiracy was altogether a mare's nest, inasmuch as the bloody work, both at Poona and Sinnar, is to be traced to the same cause, viz, the enforcement of plague measures against the wishes of the masses. We hope, the Bombay authorities will now be pleased to find their way to rectify some of those blunders which they committed under a sense of wrong and which may yet be corrected. It goes without saying that neither the Natu brothers would have been deported nor Mr. Tilak imprisoned, but for the Poona murders. Now that the mystery hanging over the regrettable affair has been cleared up by the conviction of Damodar, the Bombay authorities have no right to keep the Natu brothers and Mr. Tilak in custody any longer. It may be urged that prestige stands in the way. But we can guarantee, that the Government, instead of losing, will rise highly in the estimation of the Indian public by this righteous act.

WE have received the particulars of an assault upon a native under very extraordinary circumstances. There is to be a horse-race this week at Barisaul; and for some time past the European residents of the district have been drilling themselves for the coming contest. On the 2nd instant, several Europeans came out on the race-course to train their horses and run a mimic race. It so happened that a Mahomedan, mounted on a country nag, with only a country harness (Bangla jin) on, came up to the spot, and was allowed to join the Europeans, perhaps in a spirit of fun. Goodness gracious! The race was run, and the Mahomedan came off victorious. There was then a second race, in which, it is alleged, that the Mahomedan started a moment too soon. When this was over, though he was only second this time, one of the Europeans came down upon him, with some abusive epithets, and began, without further warning, to beat him. In this he was joined by another of the party, and between them they beat the man black and blue. We hear, a high District official was an eye-witness to the scene. Will the Government be pleased to ask the District Magistrate of Burisaul to explain the whole matter?

SOMETIME ago, we published a long telegram, detailing some extraordinary doigns of the Sub-divisional Officer of Gaibanda. The case is pending. A gentleman of position now writes to us from Rungpur to say that the Sub-divisional Officer has made himself very unpopular; and the people in distress are seriously thinking of making a representation to the authorities on the conduct of their local huzoor.

A FORMER High Court Judge in India wirtes to *India* with reference to the case of Mr. Tilak :—

"The trial of Mr. Tilak was a disgrace to the Indian Courts, and the Privy Council shunted it on a side issue because they did not like to bring the Bombay Court into discredit, and thought that perhaps a few months' imprisonment would do Mr. Tilak and his friends no harm. It is a crying scandal that that poor man should be incarcerated. I and many others who have taken the Indian Government to task, deserve imprisonment at least as much as Mr. Tilak.

In a further letter, "our distinguished correspondent," says *India*, "who authorises us to cite his opinion," adds :—

"It was a graye mistake, I consider, to prosecute Mr. Tilak, and it was evidently done under the supposition—which turned out to be an entire mistake—that Mr. Tilak's agency or articles in the *Kessari* had been instrumental in causing the assassination of those two poor gentlemen. That seems admitted now. At anv rate, it is admitted that the prosecution could not trace the murders to anything that Mr. Tilak had said or done. .....There can be no question that the summing-up of the Judge was incorrect and unfair. There was a strong bias against the prisoner; and so there was, I am ashamed to say, in the High Court on the appeal. As for the Privy Council, it is perfectly clear from their too short and perfunctory judgment that they did not approve, nor mean to express approval of the summing-up; but they probably thought that, although some injustice had been done to Mr. Tilak, it might be a dangerous thing to upset the conviction, and that to allow Mr. Tilak a few months' incarceration would be a good thing for India. I think they are wrong, and I am ashamed of the way the Privy Council treated the case.....But I think they were glad to get out of an awkward mess by saying that the case was not of that exceptional character which justified them in dealing with it. I wonder where and when the Privy Council are likely to find a more important or exceptional case than poor Mr. Tilak's! I strongly suspect that the amendments in the law have been suggested..... to avoid other mistakes in the future. Poor Tilak is the victim of the imperfect state of the law hitherto.

When Mr. Tilak's case was carried before the Privy Council, the *Pioneer* quoted a judgment of their Lordships in which they said that they would not admit the appeals of those Indian cases which were not of an exceptional character. We then pointed out that, if there was a case which needed the careful consideration of their Lordships it was Mr. Tilak's case; for it was more than exceptional in its nature. Indeed, not only was there gross misdirection in the summing-up, but grave principles, affecting the liberty of the subjects of Her Majesty, were involved in the case. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, however, took a quite different view of the situation. Their Lordships treated the case as if it were a very trivial one. They ignored the fact altogether that a whole nation, dependent upon England was vitally interested in the matter. And they disposed it of, in an off-hand way, without entering into the merits of the case at all, and delivered a judgment which left the matter where it was. It is some consolation to learn that a former High Court Judge is "ashamed of the way the Privy Council treated the case."

Capital has the following on the proposed Sedition Law :—

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.

Our contemporary forgets that the law is not for the celestial beings who reside in the heights of Simla, but the ordinary mortals who crawl below in the plains. The *Indian Daily News* has the following remarks on the subject :—

The only merit it (the Sedition Bill) has is that it keeps Lord Elgin occupied, and prevents him doing General and wiring to the force not to go near the Butter Scotch Khels.

Let us trust, however, that the Government of Lord Elgin will yet find its way either to shelve the Bill or pass it in a really better form and thus compel its opponents to convert their invectives into blessings.

IN SPITE of the ravages of the plague, Poona continues to supply items of sensational news. In the first place, we are told, the case against Damodar Chapekar's brother is being proceeded with in the court of the Additional Magistrate, though his whereabouts are yet unknown. On Thursday, the evidence of eight witnesses was recorded. The next incident is involved in a mystery. At about 1-30 A. M. on Thursday, a Pathan soldier, named Mazmuddin, of the Sappers and Miners, was on sentry duty in the Sappers lines, which are now vacant. He observed a figure moving through them, and a person approaching, dressed in a long military over-coat and khaki turban. The sentry challenged, but received no reply. The man advanced to within about thirty yards, and fired a shot which took effect in the sentry's leg. The latter gave chase for some distance, but was unable to overtake his assailant. He fell down, owing to loss of blood, and remained until the guard came to relieve him. They made search and found him lying some distance away. The arms of all the guards were examined; but no trace of any used rifle could be discovered. Nor are the particulars of the incident, connected with the desperate attack on the bearer Maruti, already reported in our columns, less strange. While the dhoolie-bearer was sitting outside the Auxiliary Hospital at Ghorpuri, he saw a drunken soldier entering Ward 2. He went up to prevent his going in, when the latter seized him by the back of the neck, and inflicted a cut across the throat with a razor. The bearer raised an alarm, and a European warder came and secured the soldier. Medical assistance was at once rendered; but, in the meantime, the soldier freed himself and disappeared. The guard turned out in search, but did not find the soldier till the next morning when they discovered he had been confined by a corporal for drunkenness. The name of the soldier is McQuillian, and he has since been placed on his trial before the Cantonment Magistrate.

IT may be in the recollection of the reader how the Branch of the Asiatic Society in Bombay sought to crush the *Champion* because of its strong condemnation of some of the measures of the Local Government. The Society discontinued the copy of the *Champion* it used to subscribe. In noticing this incident, we observed that the action of the Society betrayed only meanness, and that, far from injuring the Bombay paper in the least, it would possibly do it some good. Here is a letter, which the *Champion* has received from a gentleman at Canton :—

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE CHAMPION"

Sir,—It will be satisfaction to you to learn that your journal *The Champion* is read by many with great interest in this corner of the world. We just learn that the journal is "boycotted" by the members of the "Royal Asiatic Society;" may be, you trod on somebody's toe or that your castigations were a trifle too strong, but such a step from them as to proscribe a well and respectably conducted paper, is nothing but first-class humbug. Times have gone by, when pious "Pharisees" would make people believe black was white and white black. Such like futile attempts to smother honest criticism for mere blind partizanship, are utterly foolish and only bring discredit; they might as well have subscribed to the Jericho Gazette at the same time. To show that your fearless criticisms are thoroughly appreciated, even in the Far East, I beg to subscribe to three copies of your valued journal for my friends as per their addresses sent.—Yours, &c.,

H. S. KAVARANA.

Canton, China, 18th January, 1898.

So, if the *Champion* lost one subscriber in the Society, it has got three by the mean action of its members.

IT gives us very great pleasure to announce on the authority of the *Pioneer* that Mr. Gladstone, whose condition, Reuter told us the other day, was getting very serious, is, after all, not so very bad as might be imagined from these alarming reports. It is said that the Grand Old Man has had a return of the facial neuralgia from which he has suffered for years. His bodily strength, however, remains good.

THE case in which a Eurasian Guard on the Assam-Bengal Railway stood charged with having outraged the modesty of a woman, travelling on the railway, has ended in the discharge of the accused. The result, we are told, has caused some surprise. The matter, however, should not, we think, drop here. The Guard ought to proceed against the woman for having brought a false case against him.

YET another plague riot, and from the Southern Mahratta country, too. A Poona telegram, dated the 9th instant, states that a riot broke out at Sangli, and considerable damage was done. It would appear that, roused to resistance by the present plague operations, the inhabitants collected "en masse", bent on mischief. Some 800 infuriated men marched to the Doctor's house and assaulted him. The local police came out to put down the rising, in which they failed, and were overpowered. The mob then rushed towards the house occupied by the Assistant Political Agent and would have perhaps done him injury; but he persuaded them to retire. So far as in known yet, no arrests have been made.

ELSEWHERE is published a telegram from Noakhali, about a quarrel between the local police and the students on the Sripanchami day. Referring to this matter, a correspondent writes from Noakhali, under date the 4th February:—"The Sripanchami day witnessed a collision between the students here and the local police. Something like a fight took place, in which two persons on the side of the students received severe cuts on the head. Babu Bidhu Bhusan Sen, of the Students' party, suffered seriously in the scuffle". The correspondent is silent as to the cause of the quarrel; so is the telegram, alluded above. The case was to have come off for hearing on Wednesday.

IN THE despatch of the Secretary of State on the Frontier policy, there are certain points which will, we hope, be hailed with joy. The despatch is, in fact, a flat condemnation of the policy of gradual absorption on the border. So annexation will not be the burden of song henceforth. Then, again, the Secretary of State definitely decides that the payment of a tribute should not be enforced. The next question the Despatch deals with, is that of disarmament. It would perhaps be safe to disarm all the tribes on the frontier; but that being an imposible feat, so far as it went, the chief business of the Government would be to block, as far as possible, the sources of supply.

DAMODAR HURRY CHAPEKAR is looking well and keeping cheerful in jail. The only change in him is that he wears the prison garb. He has appealed against the sentence of death.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

ON Monday night the telegraph wire was cut again between Jamrud and Ali Masjid, about 3 miles from the latter, and about the same place as it was cut on the previous night. Seven posts were destroyed and about half a mile of wire taken away.

A BOLD and determined attack was made on Monday night on a picket of the Sussex Regiment on the north side of the Ali Masjid camp, which was recently placed on a high bluff to protect the camp on that quarter. The enemy fired about 30 rounds from distances varying from 10 to 25 yards. Sergeant Finucane and the six men of the picket must have had a hot time, as the rocks behind which they were stationed, were found bespattered with bullet marks in the morning. One man was hit in two places, and seriously though not dangerously wounded. The small tent was riddled with bullet holes. The enemy advanced close up and threw stones at the picket, which behaved extremely well.

LIEUTENANT H D. HAMMOND, R. A., we regret to say, has died at Nowshera of the wound he recently received. It will be remembered that on 2nd January, General Hammond took a force up the Tsera Nulla to examine some caves, nightly occupied by the enemy. While the searching was in progress, a number of carefully-aimed shots fell near the little group of staff officers, one of which struck Lieutenant Hammond, who was acting as the General Orderly Officer The wound was not reported to be serious at the time.

AN ultimatum was communicated on Tuesday to the representatives of the Malikdin, Kambar, Camrai Khels and Sipahs collected at Jamrud. They were told that unless the Government terms were accepted by the end of Ramzan (23rd February) active operations would be instituted anew.

THE MEKRAN RISING.

ACCORDING to Captain E. LeMesurier, I. C. S.. Political Agent in Kelat up to March last year, who writes to the *Times*, explaining the situation in Mekran, the originator of the disturbance, Mir Mehrab Khan, was bound to get into trouble before long. He has been for a long time at loggerheads with his brother, the Gitchki Chief of Kech, or Kedj, an irresolute and impotent but loyal Sardar, and has extended his hostility to the British officials who have been the main obstacle to his deposing the feeble ruler and seizing the revenues. Mir Mehrab Khan is described as a swaggering, quarrelsome young blood "of sufficient ambition and influence to make himself a nuisance, but powerless to stand up against the Government once it had been provoked to action. This course is now run and the "fresh frontier outbreak" proclaimed by the London papers has not taken much effort to quell.

THE cavalry reconnoitred on the 1st instant and one sowar was slightly wounded. An ultimatum was sent to Mehrab Khan after a slight bombardment of the fort on the morning of the 2nd instant, but he remained obstinate. The fort was invested and was to be assaulted as soon as preparations were completed. The walls were nineteen feet high. Mehrab Khan was inside and intended fighting to the last. The enemy's wounded in the action of the 31st ultimo, were found in the surrounding villages, and they stated that they had lost over three hundred, mostly killed.

MEHRAB Khan's village was burnt on the 2nd and a foraging party brought in large supplies. Sixty swords, 30 guns and 19 pistols, were captured on the 31st ultimo, also many left on the field and many camels and horses.

THE Sappers and Miners arrived at night on the 2nd, 5 having marched 36 miles. Mehrab Khan evacuated Turbat fort the same night and fled, and the fort was taken possession of the next day. The column marched that night 25 miles to surprise him.

A BODY of cavalry and infantry, mounted on camels, started on the evening of February 3rd and surprised and surrounded Sher Mahomed's fort by midnight. Early on the 4th instant, guns and infantry arrived, having marched 30 miles in the night. An officer's patrol reconnoitered the fort and a plan was made for the assault, but Mahomed Sher surrendered and evacuated the fort, which was razed to the ground on the 5th instant. He has given much trouble in recent years and has wavered during the present rising. His humiliation will produce an undoubtedly excellent political effect.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab arrived at Bhawalpur on Tuesday last.

YET another village, Rampur Bilron, two miles from the plague-infected village of Birampur, in the Hoshiarpur district, Punjab, has been attacked by plague.

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THE FAMINE COMMISSION.—The Famine Commissioners will sit at Lucknow till the 27th February.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.—Sir George White is making slow but satisfactory progress, there being no unfavourable symptoms.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING. Mr. Mars is likely to be appointed Inspector of Electric Lighting in Calcutta.

LORD ROBERTS' STATUE.—His Excellency the Viceroy will unveil the statue of Lord Roberts, on Wednesday the 2nd of March, at 5 P. M.

MONETARY.—Exchange rates were steady on Thursday, and closing quotations were 1-4-7-32 for six months and 1-3-15-16 for demand.

A LEOPARD SHOT.—A very fine leopard was recently shot by some native "shikaris" near Mussoorie. It was taken into the station and exhibited in the Delhi Bank verandah.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.—The alterations required to the Electric Lighting Installations with a view to their more satisfactory working, have now been completed, and the Indian Telegraph Department has been asked to inspect the alterations.

OFFICIAL.—Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson, Commissioner of the Dacca Division, has applied for permission to retire from the Service. Mr. H. Holmewood, District and Sessions Judge, Gaya, goes on leave at the beginning of the hot weather. Mr. E. S. Drake-Brockman will act.

THE PETROLEUM ACT.—The Government of India have under consideration an amendment to this Act. Opinions from Local Governments are now being invited. The Bengal Government, in turn, is consulting the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Chemical Examiner to the Government.

A SENSATIONAL CASE.—A Durbhanga correspondent writes to us to say that recently a rich man of the District induced the wife of a Eurasian gentleman to elope with him from Calcutta. The betrayed husband, in search of his missing better-half, at once came to Durbhanga, and there he received information of the whereabouts of the woman. A case has been instituted, we are told.

ALLEGED POLICE OPPRESSION.—We learn from the *Bankura Darpan* that a Baishnav of Saltora has memorialised the District Magistrate of Bankura to the effect that a police officer, attached to the Saltora out-post, accompanied by a Choukidar, came to his house one night and outraged the modesty of his sister. On being remonstrated with by the complainant, the officer is said to have reported that the police had every authority and power to do whatever they liked.

THE L. G. AT BURDWAN.—His Honour acccompanied by the Hon. Mr. Bolton and Mr. Stevenson, arrived at Burdwan station by train at 9 a.m. on Wednesday. He was met by Messrs. Gayer, Fisher Windsor, H. H. the Maharaja of Burdwan, the Raja Bun Behari Kapur, and several native gentlemen and officials. The party all drove to a *shamiana* pitched in the palace grounds, where addresses from the Burdwan Municipality, District Board and the Mahomedan Associations were read. His Honour having replied to them, proceeded to the palace where breakfast was ready. After breakfast, His Honour had a conference with the local officials and received visitors. H. H. the Maharaja gave a large lunch party at one o'clock, at which nearly all Burdwan was present.

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT WITH A TIGER.—The "Charu Mihir" of Maimensing reports a fight between a man and a tiger in a village near Muktagacha, such as one does not hear of everyday. A Mahomedan youth happened one day to penetrate into a neighbouring jungle to graze a cow. Before he was aware of any danger or unwelcome presence, he was attacked by a tiger which perhaps was crouching in some bush. The youth did not lose heart or die of fright. On the other hand, he engaged the brute in a deadly struggle which ended in the death of the monster, though not before the gallant youth was himself fearfully mauled. He now lives in a precarious condition in the Muktagacha Charitable Dispensary, and not much hope is entertained of his life.

CROP REPORT.—There was general rain in Behar and the north of Bengal during the week ending February 7, and slight showers are also reported from parts of East Bengal and Chota Nagpore. The rabi crops in general have benefited by the rain, but a few crops in flower have suffered. In Jalpaigurie the standing crops are reported to have suffered from a severe hail-storm on the night of the 5th instant. Reports of the poppy crop in Behar are favourable, but round Motihari it has been damaged by hail, and in Sewan some blight has appeared in light soils. The ploughing of lands for bhadoi and jute has begun in the Rajshahye Division. The pressing of sugar-cane is proceeding, and potatoes, mustard and other early rabi crops are being gathered. The price of rice has fluctuated in a few places, but, on the whole, it has been stationary for some weeks past. No cattle disease is reported, except from places in Bancoora, Hooghly, Jessore Purnea and Lohardugga.

THE FRONTIER QUESTION.—The *Englishman* says:—The Afridi jirgahs at Jamrud have been told that if they do not comply with the Government terms by the 23rd instant, active operations for their punishment will be resumed. The nature of the operations to be undertaken then, if they do not comply, is not stated, but in the meantime Sir William Lockhart is engaged in active preparations. A general advance into the higher valleys will not be possible until late next month. There are indications that the Zakha Khel are thinking of abandoning their attitude of stubborn resistance. Rumours which have been current of disagreement between the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief, and Sir William Lockhart during his visit to Calcutta, are entirely unfounded.

THE WEATHER IN BENGAL.—Pressure has changed scarcely at all over the Bay. The gradient remains steeper than usual, and readings are in moderate defect in Burma and Madras. Winds remain northerly, but they are everywhere lighter than yesterday, especially in Bengal, where very calm weather prevails, and directions are becoming southerly. Mean temperature is lower in Bengal and Orissa and generally higher elsewhere. During the day it was warmer, but at night there was a considerable fall, the average change at northern stations being between 1° and 2°. Humidity and cloud proportion have both increased, and the sky is now more or less heavily clouded over a wide area. Weather is changing in Bengal and the north of the Bay owing to the disturbance reported to be approaching from the west. So far the change is shown only in humidity and cloud. Fine weather prevails.

A COMMUNIQUE FROM MARS, INDEED. An astronomer of Binghamtown, New York State, writes the *Daily News*, was going home the other night, when a meteor dropped almost at his feet. He had been accustomed to deal with these sorts of heavenly bodies, so he enviced no surprise. He merely went to bed and next morning had it dug up. It had cooled down in the night and so he was able to handle it; and his practised eye soon noticed that it appeared to be only partially melted. On the rest of the surface were what looked extremely like writing and Mr. Macdonald—for that is his name at once concluded that it was a personal massage from the people of Mars. He had been engaged in looking at them the night before, and he had, of course, read Mr. Wells' new book "The War of the Worlds," and it was not an unnatural conclusion to come to. The United States will now try and decipher the writing. It has been felt in America that the new writing was very necessary, for, almost all the old-world alphabets, and the Sztecs and Toltecs and the Moabite stone have yielded their secrets, and the weekly papers were getting short of cryptograms. When the message of Mars to Mr. Macdonold has been deciphered, the Americans intend to ask Edison to get the answer back again somehow. What puzzles us, however, is how they got the message to the right Mr. Macdonald. It looks almost as if they could see down a telescope the wrong way.

SARVAJANIK SABHA'S PROTEST.—The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha has addressed the following telegram to the Secretary to the Supreme Government, Legislative Department, Calcutta:—Poona Sarvajanik Sabha regrets inability to accept proposed amended Sections 4, 108 A, 124 A, and 505, I. P. C., as satisfactory. Under new sections 4 and 108A. speech and writing of Indians in England outside British India and their writings from India to newspapers in England will be offences at the will of the Indian Executive. Giving extra-territorial effect to whole Penal Code against policy and intention of English statutes, the Penal Code and Extradition Acts and treaties which have expressly limited the extra-territorial effect to certain offences only such as 121A, 125, 126, and also against British treaties with native princes. West judgment met already by amended section 411 *Lex Loei* is generally accepted to govern all criminal jurisdiction by civlised nations. Circumstances justifying enforcement of extra-territorial jurisdiction in more cases than already proved, have not been made out or published. Regarding sedition, 124A and 505, Sabha thinks change to be retrograde and impolitic, as virtually gagging public press and speech in India. Use of words like disaffection, enmity, ill-will, contempt, highly undesirable, as they are vague and uncertain. First Explanation is objectionable, being vague and unlimited. Second Explanation ought to form part of section or be called Exception. Sabha respectfully recommends that the section be so amended as to incorporate objective test of disaffection furnished by existing Explanation in the section, or to amend it on lines similar to sections 131 and 132 proposed by Bethune in revised Code on English Law, as embodied in the Bill debated in Parliament in 1879, adopting seditious intention the gist of the offence. Also Sabha protests against any change in section 505 I. P. C. or schedule 2, authorising Magistrates to try cases of sedition and like. Sabha also disapproves additions or changes respecting section 109, 110, 118Criminal Procedure, and also new sections chiefly, 20, 25, 26, of Indian Post Office Bill, as arming the Magistrate, Police, executive with powers likely to be abused, to the prejudice of the liberties of subjects and jeopardy of property and reputation and claims to justice. Sabha regrets inability to send memorial in time, owing to unusual hurrying of the Bills. Sabha prays postponement of the measure to enable public to express their opinion. Sabha's memorial containing detailed observations, would follow. Sabha requests this telegraphic summary of its views be placed before Select Committee and Council.

Acted Like A Charm.

MR. J. HARRY WATERS, Head-Maste STATION SCHOOL, RAWALPINIDI, says, "I regard Chamberlain's Pain Balm as a most useful household medicine. Have seen used for toothache, rheumatism, and once for a very bad scalded foot, and in each of thess instances the Pain Balm acted like a charm"

Every one who uses Chamberlain's Pain Balm always speaks in the same terms. It should be kept in every medicine chest.

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GENERAL AGENTS:—Smith Stanistreet & Co., and B K. Paul & Co., Calcutta.

ASSAULT BY A EUROPEAN.—The case in which Babu Kali Churn Palit, a respectable pleader of the Police Court, charged Captain Easton of the steamer Buckland with criminal intimidation and assault and the cross-case in which the Captain charged him with assault, using abusive language and criminal intimidation, were concluded on Friday before Mr. N. N. Ghosh, Presy. Magistrate. It will be remembered that sometime ago a serang named Sheikh Hasy of the "Ireland" was prosecuted for rash and negligent navigation. That case came on for hearing before Mr. O. C. Dutt, Honorary Presidency Magistrate. Babu Kali Churn Palit who appeared for the serang asked the Court to hold a local enquiry. On the 19th ultimo the pleader, his client and the Magistrate went to the Hooghly Bridge, and Captain Easton, who was a witness for the prosecution in that case, was also present there. During the enquiry the pleader, it was alleged, had a suppressed chuckle or a grunt, which enraged the Captain, and he said that he would knock his head off, if he laughed at him and also raised his clenched fists towards the pleader. Kali Babu then took a summons against him and six days after the Captain obtained a summons against Kali Babu. His Worship after examining the witnesses in the two cases delivered the following judgment:—"Case No. 23 and case No. 39 have been heard together. In the former Babu Kali Churn Palit complains of assault and criminal intimidation as committed by Captain Easton (the accused). In the latter Captain Easton is the complainant, Babu Kali Churn Palit is the accused, and the charges are assault, criminal intimidation, using abusive language. Captian Easton's case against Babu Kali Churn has broken down altogether. Assuming his evidence to be, every word of it, literal truth, no offence is established against the accused. He did not institute his case till he had been served with summons in the case instituted by Babu Kali Churn, and he says he would have made no complaint if no charge had been brought against him. Inspector Major, one of his two witnesses, has proved nothing against the accused, and what the other witness, Perris, deposed does not disclose any offence committed by the accused. I therefore discharge Babu Kali Churn Palit, the accussd in case No. 39. In the other case it has been fully established by the evidence of the complainant, of Mr. O. C. Dutt and of Mr. Espino, that Captain Easton, clenching his fist, addressed these words to Babu Kali Churn Palit, 'If you laugh at me I will knock your head off.' Babu Kali Churn Palit says that he apprehended the use of criminal force, and the words used would suggest the employment of criminal force. Clenching the fist was a gesture which, attended with and explained by the words just quoted constituted an assault. In case No. 23, therefore, I find the accused Captain Easton guilty of assault, punishable under section 352 of the Indian Penal Code, and sentence him to pay a fine of Rs. 10.

THE Plague Committee are prepared to erect sheds for families on vacant Government or Municipal land in the neighbourhood of Dadur, Matunga and Sion at cost price. Applications should be made to the Secretary, stating accommodation required. The value of sheds erected will have to be paid before occupation. Occupiers of sheds will be allowed to retain them until the rains, when, if not removed, they will become the property of the Committee.

HEAVY rain fell in Guzrat on Wednesday, and the downpour was so heavy at Surat that the Collector allowed the people camping out to return to their houses. The quarantine sheds at Anand were rendered uninhabitable, and 3000 persons who were under detention there, were taken to Ahmedabad.

THERE were three cases and three deaths in the Poona City, and seven cases and four deaths in the district. The quarantine camp at Kalyan is at present crowded. Nearly 800 persons have been transferred to Poona. Since Wednesday the weather has been cloudy, and a cold wind is blowing. Several temporary sheds in the segregation and quarantine camps were blown down.

A SINDHI convict, Rowla Arab, set fire to the bedding in his cell, and then raised an alarm. On the warders appearing the man, who managed to arm himself with stones, began to attack them, throwing stones and fire-brands at the two European warders, who rushed in and secured the man, but the latter, turning quickly, caught the native warder, aged 65 years, in his arms, and, being a powerful man, haudled him in such a violent manner that the warder died of the effects on Saturday.

THE *Englishman* says:—It has been suggested by an officer with much experience of the North-west Frontier that a graceful and profitable way of getting out of the present difficulty with the Afridis is to enlist them wholesale into our army. The idea may appear fantastic at first sight, but it is exactly the course which we originally took with the Sikhs than whom no more staunch and loyal servants serve the Queen. The Afridi has in the late campaign shown himself a warrior of the very first order, a wonderful shot hardy bold and enterprising. From among those redoubtable warriors it would be possible to raise ten or a dozen regiments which might well replace some of those which are now a mere burden to the State, useless for anything more serious than the suppression of a very gentlemanly riot or a professional campaign against a very pusillanimous foe. The Indian taxpayer has a right to demand the best possible value for his money, and no better value than the Afridi soldier is at present in the market.

AT 9-3 P. M. on Wednesday, the Governor of Madras held an Investiture, when Sir Henry Bliss and the Prince of Arcot were invested with the insignia of the second-class of the Indian Empire.

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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.

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Law Intellegence.

A MAGISTRATE SETS ASIDE HIS PREDECESSOR'S ORDER.

MR. P. L. ROY with Babu Lal Mohan Ganguli, on Thursday appeard before Justices Banerjee and Stevens, in support of a rule obtained by Mitterjit Sing and others upon the District Magistrate of Gya to show cause why the order of the said Magistrate, directing the arrest and the subsequent trial of the petitioners should not be set aside. Babu Lal Mohan Das appeared to show cause on behalf of the Crown. It appears that sometime ago Mr. Mullick, predecessor in office of the present District Majistrate of Gya, upon a report submitted by Moulvi Habibulla, Deputy Magistrate, and also upon a petition filed by the complainant, Thakur Sing, had passed an order to the effect that certain criminal proceedings that were going on against the petitioners should be stayed. On the return of the present District Magistrate, Mr. Savage, the latter, on going through the papers of the case, thought that it should be proceeded with, and passed an order accordingly. after setting aside Mr. Mullick's order, remarking that Mr. Mullick had passed the order in his executive capacity. Thereupon the petitioners moved the High Court, and obtained the above-mentioned rule.

Mr. Roy contended that the order of Mr. Mullick was nothing but a purely judicial order inasmuch as it was passed upon a petition of complaint filed by Thakur Sing, and that the present District Magistrate was not legally competent to set aside the order of the Offg. District Magistrate, Mr. Mullick.

Their Lordships after hearing Babu Lal Mohan Das for the Crown, made the rule absolute, holding that Mr. Mullick's order was a judicial order and that Mr. Savage could not set aside that order. The order of Mr. Savage was accordingly set aside.

INCONVENIENCE OF A TRIAL IN CAMP.

BABU DASARATHI SANYAL moved on behal of one Rajani Kanta Chowdhury for a rule upon the District Magistrate of Dacca to show cause why the proceedings against the petitioner under section 347 I. P. C. now pending before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Naraingunge should not be altegether quashed, or in the alternative the case should not be transferred to any Magistrate in the sudder or why the Magistrate should not be directed to allow an opportunity to the petitioner to cross examine the witnesses for the prosecution. It appears that upon the complaint of a ryot alleging that the petitioner, who is a zemindar's Naib, called the complainant to his cutchery and fined him and realised Rs. 3 from him, the Sub-divisional officer after holding a preliminary enquiry summoned the petitioner to answer a charge for wrongful confinement. The accused did not appear on the appointed day and the case was put off. In the meantime a warrant was issued for his arrest and warrants of attachment and sale proclamation issued. On the 10th November the petitioner surrendered and on that day the complainant filed a petition of compromise. The Sub-divisional Magistrate, however, did not allow the case to be compromised, as in his opinion the case was really under section 347 I. P. C. which was not compoundable notwithstanding the fact that the summons had been issued under section 342. The witnesses for the prosecution were thereafter examined in chief, but accused put in a petition saying that as the case was being tried in camp in a place about two days' journey from the Sub-divisional head-quarters, his Mukhtear could not arrive and asked for one day's time to enable him to cross-examine the witnesses. This application was refused. The Magistrate then framed a charge under section 347 and asked the new Mukhtear, whom the accused engaged, to proceed with the cross-examination at once. The Mukhtear expressed his inability to proceed with the cross-examination as he was not properly instructed. The next day the petitioner's former Mukhtear arrived and put in a petiton for recalling the witnesses for the prosecuion, which was refused.

Their Lordships granted a rule only to show cause why the petitioner should not have an opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution. In the meantime further proceedings will be stayed.

CHIKKAI, the noted freebooter of the Kurram, is reported to be dangerously ill with pneumonia. It will be remembered that this man, who belongs to the Zaimukht section of the Orakzais, and who in past years has been the leader in many a desperate foray on the Frontier, espoused the British cause in the recent operations, and seems to have tried to keep his people quiet throughout. He has recently sent in to the Political Officer two out of three Lee-Metfords he had bought from the Afridis

THE Madras Government has estimated that its further famine expenditure, to the end of March, will be about a lakh and-a-half; for the next official year, beginning on the 1st April, it estimates an expenditure of eight and-a-quarter lakhs. The estimates will be revised by the Famine Department month by month.

THE number of deaths recorded in Bombay during the past week was 2,067, being 216 more than in the preceding week, 156 more than in week ending February 7th, 1898, and 1,231 more than in the corresponding period of the previous five years. The death-rate per thousand was 129·21. There were 1,113 deaths from plague, being 186 more than the previous week.

COLONEL Mayne's force which moved on to Charbuk, has blown up the fort there. Mehrab Khan and his brothers have, it is believed, fled into Persian territory, and Colonel Mayne is returning to Turbat. It would appear from this information that further difficulty in Mekran is not likely to occur.

THE revenue of the Local Boards in Assam for the year 1896-97 amounted to Rs. 12,134,921, and the net balance at the credit of the Boards at the end of the year was Rs. 1,31,184, as against Rs. 1,05,553 in the previous year, while under standing orders the Boards will get the benefit of these closing balances in the year 1898-99. The total outlay of the local Boards during 1896-97, including that on public works, was 11-2 lakhs against an estimate of Rs. 12,39,304 and an expenditure of thirteen lakhs in 1895-96.

Tele Erams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

NOAKHALI, FEB. 8.

On the night of 28th January last, a fracas occurred. Next day Babus Bhubanmohan Das and Bidhubhusan Sen, who had received severe knocks on their heads, brought two charges against the Town and Reserve Sub-Inspectors of Police, nd some Constables, under sections 323 and 325, I. P. C. A preliminary enquiry has been ordered by the Magistrate in charge. The cases are fixed for hearing to-morrow. Some high officials tried to effect a compromise, but that failing, the Police to-day, on the 12th day of occurrence, have arrested the two complainants and a school-boy under sections 147, 353 and 114, I.P. C. The occurrence is said to have taken place in the presence of some Munsiffs and Deputy Magistrates. Great sensation prevails. The public anxiously awaits the result.

DINAJPUR, FEB. 11.

In re the petition of the Sub-Registrar of Thakurgaon, complaining against the conduct of the police and the Sub-divisional Officer, Thakurgaon, referred to in my letter dated 8th and 12th January, the following order is passed by the District Magistrate: "It is greatly to be regretted that the case was not formally tried by the Sub-divisional Officer. If he had some tact and judgment the matter would probably have dropped. The Sub-Inspector of Police in my opinion is guilty of great discourtesy to the Sub-Registrar. The constables are guilty of criminal trespass but they had the excuse that they were probably acting under the orders of the Sub-Inspector. The conduct of the Sub-Inspector is severely reprimanded. The Sub-Registrar is at liberty to proceed against the constables for criminal trespass."

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, FEB. 9.

Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords said that he hoped before many months had passed that Khartoum would be restored to Egypt. His lordship said that China had represented that she would be much embarrassed if the proposal regarding Talienwan was maintained, and that it had therefore been settled to postpone the question of the treaty ports until the railway reached Talienwan. Russia and Germany had assured Great Britain that any port they obtained would be a free port. The Lords then voted the Address.

Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons said that Great Britain, France, and Russia had agreed to guarantee the Greek indemnity loan.

LONDON, FEB. 8.

A voluminous Blue-Book has been published regarding our relations with the tribes on the north-west frontier. The principal despatch in it is from Lord George Hamilton to the Viceroy, dated 28th January, 1898, which concurs with the Viceroy that the hostilities are principally due to an unprecedented outbreak of fanaticism which the tribal organisation was powerless to oppose, and that it should be one of our primary objects to allay the suspicions aroused by the Durand agreement, which has assisted the Mullahs in fanning the fanaticism. It is impossible to lay down precise instructions for a future policy, but Her Majesty's Government are resolved to adhere to certain leading principles. The despatch then says it i essential, firstly, to consider the best possible concentration of military force, enabling us to cope with our different responsibilities, secondly, to avoid all possible interference with the tribes, and hence they have declined to sanction the imposition of a tribute on the Afridis and Orakzais or the disarmament of tribes, but the wholesale traffic in arms and munitions must be scrupulously investigated and controlled. The safety of the Khyber must be the paramount consideration; the Government trusts it will still be possible to enlist the good will of the Afridis in protecting the road. No new responsibility should be undertaken unless it is absolutely required by actual strategical necessities.

LONDON, FEB. 9.

It is reported that the Tsar has withdrawn at least temporarily the candidacy of Prince George for the Governorship of Crete.

Lord Salisbury, referring to India in his speech last night in the House of Lords, said the Government had no wish to occupy a single position not absolutely necessary for the security of India and the fulfilment of treaty obligations. It was, he said, extremely important to avoid rash annexation which had proved the ruin of great States.

LONDON, FEB. 9.

It is officially announced at St. Petersburg that Russia withdraws the candidacy of Prince George, and repudiates any further responsibility in Crete, but will not permit any increase of Turkish troops there, nor the coercion of the Cretans.

Mr. Kruger has been re-elected President of the Transvaal Republic.

LONDON, FEB. 10.

Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said the Chief Mwanga had left German territory, and entered Budda and that Major Macdonald had started to check his advance with two more Companies of Indian troops, making five altogether and was rapidly pushing to the front

The report that M. Dupuy Delome, Spanish Minister at Washington, had resigned, is confirmed, and the Spanish Cabinet to-day accepted his resignation.

Mr. Charles Arnold White has been appointed Advocate-General of Madras.

LONDON, FEB. 10.

The *Times'* Pekin correspondent states that France has demanded an indemnity from China within eight days, for the kidnapping of a Frenchman in Tonkin by Chinese brigands, otherwise French action in the south will become necessary.

A private letter from M. Dupuy de Lome, Spanish Minister at Washington, has been stolen by a Cuban patriot and published in New York, describing President Mackinley as a low-class politician catering to the rabble This has caused a great sensation in America, and the American Government has demanded M. de Lome's recall. It is reported that he has already resigned.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE KIRKEE MURDER CASE.

WILLIAM EDWARD PIPER, a Gunner belonging to a Field Battery, stationed at Kirkee, was placed at the bar and claimed to be tried for having, on the 16th January, in the Poona district, committed murder by shooting a villager, named Arjoona Tulsiram. The accused was also charged with the offence of committing culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and voluntarily causing grievous hurt. The Hon. Mr. Lang, Advocate-General, with Mr. Bahadurji, instructed by Mr. Little, Government Solicitor, appeared for the Crown, the accused being defended by Mr. Kirkpatrick. The following gentlemen were empannelled on the jury, of which the accused claimed that the majority should be Europeans :—Messrs. John R. Greaves (foreman), C. F. Horbury, Cecil Richardson, W. A. Bittell, F. A. Reddie, R. H. Macaulay, Nusserwanjee Bomanjee Jessawalla, T. Stephenson, and S. A. Nathan.

The Advocate-General, in opening the case for the prosecution, said the circumstances under which the case arose, occurred on the 16th January at a village, called Barketchowadi near the Artillery Camp of Hinjouri. There could be no question but that the deceased had met his death from a shot fired by the prisoner from the gun before the court. Luckily there was no question as to the identity of the prisoner, who with a comrade, named Clark, on the afternoon of the 16th ultimo left the artillery camp, Piper carrying the gun and some ball cartridge. According to the villagers' story, the two soldiers went down to a well to get water, and afterwards the villagers objected on the ground that the well had been polluted, and asked the soldiers in Marathi to go with them to the village patel and Kulkarni. The soldiers then attempted to return to camp, and while the villagers were attempting to stop them, Piper shot the deceased, who was trying to prevent him getting away. The accused's story, Mr. Lang said, was that after he and Clark had been drinking water, he went to have a shot at what he thought was a hyena, after leaving Clark sitting near the well. Afterwards some villagers came up and assaulted Clark, who called to the prisoner for assistance, and in a subsequent struggle, Piper alleged, the gun went off accidentally. Clark had been originally charged before the Magistrate in company with Piper, but the Magistrate, thinking there was no evidence against Clark, discharged him, and afterwards examined him as a witness. Mr. Lang said he did not propose to call Clark for the prosecution, but would call four villagers, who would relate the details of the murder. Of course, if their story was true, the jury would have to come to the conclusion that Piper had deliberately shot the deceased under such circumstances as would render him guilty of murder, and preclude him from claiming the benefit of the section of the Code, reducing such an offence to culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Nama Yemaji, a villager, the first witness examined for the prosecution, said that on the afternoon of the 16th January he was in his field, which was about one hundred yards from the village well. He saw the two soldiers go down to the well and take water. When he saw them there, he shouted out to Arjoon that the men had polluted the water. When the soldiers came away, witness and some other villagers told them in Marathi that they had polluted the water and asked them to go to the patel. The soldiers then commenced pushing and striking witness and his companions, and walked away. The villagers had previously touched the soldiers. They went on in that way for about five hundred yards when the soldiers began to use force and refused to go to the village. Witness then went in front of them and opposed them when the soldier who had no gun in his hand, picked up a stone and threw it at witness who was hit on the side of the hand. Witness fell down and Arjoona then shouting out that a man had been beaten, went in front of the soldiers. The one armed with the gun, ran forward and fired his gun at Arjoona who fell down. The accused was the man with the gun. He was standing about five yards ftom Arjoona when he fired. No one was touching the accused when he fired. Another villager, named Mussu, then ran up and seized the accused who lost his helmet in the struggle. Prisoner struck Mussoo on the head with the gun and he and his comrade ran away. Witness raised an alarm and ran after them to the Hinjouri Camp, but was not allowed to enter. He was afterwards taken there by the police.

Cross-examined, witness said, the villagers were angry at the soldiers polluting the well, as they did not allow anyone except their caste-people to drink the water in it. There was no notice at the well, warning other persons not to drink the water or any person to prevent them doing so. Witness had been carrying a switch which was broken in the subsequent struggle with the accused. He did not know if the soldiers understood what was said to them in the vernacular, as they did not answer. There was no general struggle, and witness did not strike Piper with a stick. He did not know that the accused, after the occurrence, was found to have a bruise on his shoulder. It was not true that the accused went away with the gun, and that the villagers had a scuffle with his companion, who was sitting near the well, and that the latter called to Piper to come back. Witness was lying on the ground with his eyes closed, when he heard the report of the gun, and when he opened them, he found Arjoona was lying on the ground, and the accused and Mussoo struggling together.

Mussoo Ruckmajee, another villager, gave corroborative evidence, stating that after Arjoona had been shot he (witness) was struck on the head by the accused with the gun and rendered unconscious.

Other witnesses were then called who gave brief formal evidence as to the gun and ammunition being handed to the accused and the deceased's body being taken into Poona, where it was examined by Dr. McConoghy, who in his evidence stated that he also examined Piper and found a bruise on him such as would have been caused by a stick. He considered that the deceased must have been fired at by a person, standing some little distance away. Surgeon-Lieutenant Kiddle also deposed to the accused coming to him on the evening of the murder for treatment and finding a bruise on his shoulder, which must have been caused by a severe blow by a heavy weapon. Accused, who at the time seemed partly out of the breath, said he had been assaulted by some villagers and been struck by them, also adding that he thought he had shot a man but did not know for certain. The bruise was at the back of the shoulder.

Sergeant William White, of the 1st Field Battery, deposed to the prisoner bearing an excellent character and to being in charge of the R. A. Coffee Shop accounts.

At the close of the prosecution, Mr. Kirkpatrick submitted that Clark should be called by the Crown, as he was the best witness who could actually give an account of what took place at the village. He submitted that the prosecution was not at liberty to pick and choose evidence, but should call all witnesses who could throw light on the case unless they had reason to suppose that they would not speak the truth. Counsel submitted that could not be said on behalf of Clark who, he contended, should be called by Mr. Lang.

After the examination of two more witnesses, Mr. Kirkpatrick closed the defence. Mr. Lang, for the prosecution, rebutted the assertion of the defence that the case only rested on the statement of one man.

Mr. Justice Fulton, in summing up poinied out how serious the case was for the prisoner, and reminded the jury of the necessity of hearing in mind the main points. They had to decide whether the gun had been deliberately or accidentally fired, and under which of the charges the prisoner might be guilty. It had also to be remembered that Clark had escaped uninjured and Piper with only a bruise which was a remarkable fact if they had been attacked by large numbers of villagers. It also was curious that the empty carridge case was found near the scene of the murder; and his Lordship left that point to the jury to decide whether it was likely that if the gun had gone off accidentally that the cartridge would at once have been extracted. His Lordship expressed an opinion that if the act of the prisoner was not murder that the section of the Code that would apply to the case, was that dealing with culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The jury, after twenty minutes' consultation, returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty on the charge of murder, and by a majority of 8 to 1 of not guilty on the other two counts.

His Lordship accepted the verdict and ordered the discharge of the prisoner.—*Times of India.*

THE SPREAD OF PLAGUE.

PREPARATIONS IN BENGAL.

THE following Resolution, dated 8th February, has been issued by the Bengal Government in the Municipal (Medical) Department :—

The promulgation of Plague Notification No. 9, of the 10th of November, in the districts of Behar, gave rise to considerable misapprehension on the part of the people as to the effect of some of the provisions of the Regulation, and misunderstanding as to the steps which it was proposed to take at present, as contrasted with the more stringent measures that might have to be brought into force, should plague unfortunately actually invade the Province. Much was done, through the judicious action of the Commissioner and District Officers, to allay the misapprehension; but the Lieutenant-Governor thought it desirable that he should himself visit Behar, confer with the local officers, and explain to the leading members of the Native community the true scope of the Government policy in connection with the prevention, detection, and treatment of plague. It appeared also to His Honour that it was possible so to recast the Regulation as to mitigate its stringency and allay the fears of the people without sacrificing any of the essential principles prescribed by the Government of India.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie has returned from a rapid tour in Behar, in the course of which he has received deputations of Native notables from the districts of Muzaffarpur, Champarun, Darbhunga, Arrah, Patna, Saran and Gaya. He was glad to find that the modifications which he proposed in the Regulation, met with universal acceptance; and the Regulations appended to this Resolution, will take the place of Regulation 9 in the case of all mufassil municipalities, cantonments, and villages.

To each deputation in turn the Lieutenant-Governor pointed out that there certainly is no need or panic or alarm at the present time, inasmuch as the plague has not yet come anywhere near Bengal, while the Governments of Bombay, the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces and the Central Provinces, each in its own jurisdiction, are taking effective steps for preventing its spread. It was also remarked that the disease is not one which spreads rapidly, and that if it ever extended to the neighbourhood of the Bengal frontier, ample notice would be secured in advance. Nor is it a disease that springs up of itself in tracts where it has hitherto been unknown. The essential thing at present, therefore, is to guard against importation and to detect and deal with the first imported cases.

His Honour agreed with the objections taken in most of the memorials to the employment of the police in house-to-house investigation at the present stage of the operations. He was prepared to make over in large measure the duty of reporting suspected cases to the people themselves, on a plan which he proceeded to outline. In the first place, however, he thought it quite unnecessary to report to any authority ordinary cases of "sudden fever," "pain in the chest with cough and feeling of oppression," and similar ordinary diseases of the country. It would be sufficient to watch arrivals from infected tracts, and to report cases of illness among them or among the residents of houses in which such persons might be staying or have resided.

The supervision of such arrivals and the reporting of illness among them, would, he thought, best be effected by dividing each town into convenient circles of 300 or 400 or more houses, as local conditions might dictate, and appointing for each of these circles a Committee of Observation consisting of one Hindu and one Mohamedan gentleman approved by the District Magistrate, and to give them a Muharrir as Registering Officer, to be paid a small salary by the Municipality or Government. The Committee would report daily on the health of the circle through the Muharrir to the Civil Surgeon. If there was a case that appeared to them suspicious, the Civil Surgeon would judge on the facts reported, whether there was ground for suspicion or not. If not, nothing more would be required. If he thought the case suspicious, he would make further enquiry with the and of a Medical Committee of which at present it would suffice to have one for each town. It should consist of the Civil Surgeon himself as President, of one Hindu medical practitioner, one Mohamedan medical practitioner, and one female doctor. The Native members need not necessarily be men of European medical training, but should be men of respectability, approved by the District Magistrate. The Medical Committee would visit the spot, and in concert, if possible, with the Committee of Observation, enquire into the case. This enquiry in the case of *purda* women would be conducted through the agency of the female member of the Committee. If the case was not one of plague, nothing more would be done. If it turned out to be a case of plague, it would have to be treated in the manner described below.

At the outset it was necessary to make clear the fact that what was called "home segregation" could under no circumstances be allowed. One fact which was clearly demonstrated by experience was this, that in the case of plague the house itself, its walls and floors, become poisoned in such a way that evacuation of the house and of all neighbouriug buldingss to which infection might be reasonably supposed to extend, was essential at the outset. The home treatment of cholera and small-pox was no precedent for the treatment of plague. Cholera was rarely, if ever, directly dangerous to those in attendance, if the evacuations were promptly treated with disinfectants and properly disposed of. In small-pox the risk came from direct contact with the patient, and to properly vaccinated attendance, was practically nil. Not only was the plague more dangerous than either of these diseases, but its mode of infection was, it appeared, more subtle. The dust of the floors, the plaster of the walls, every garment of the patient, became a source of danger; and although, as was shown in the experience of hospital attendants and the like in Bomb y, under proper precautions and a thorough system of personal and floor disinfection, the danger could be minimised. There was no doubt whatever that flight from the infected house until it had been thoroughly disinfected and left unoccuppied for some time, was, in the present state of our knowledge, the only satisfactory measure to check its propagation. This is in accordance also with the experience of the North-Western Provinces. In the case of Kankhal, a town of 7,000 inhabitants, the whole town was evacuated, and the sick placed in garden-houses attended, by their friends or relatives, who also were kept in strict segregation. The other inhabitants were placed in a series of camps, consisting of huts constructed with due regard to female privacy and the custom of the country. There was a separate camp for each different class of people. In spite of all precautions, an ordinary house in the crowded part of a town in which a case of plague has occured, cannot be made safe without evacuation, not only of the house itself, but of the houses in its vicinity. The narrower the circle of adjacent houses evacuated, the less chance there is of controlling the disease. The affected house or quarter would, therefore, have to be promptly cleared of the inmates. How were these persons to be provided for?

Raises and men of means having adequate compounds or gardens, will, as already provided in the existing Regulation, be allowed to maintain a private hospital for the sick and a private set of segregation huts in their own compounds or gardens, wherever there is space sufficient, for he complete segregation of the family from all risk of infection arising from the originally-inhabited house or from infected houses in the neighbourhood. There the sick would be looked after by their own families, persons brought into direct contact with the sick being kept apart from those who were only open to suspicion merely as coming from the same house. The treatment will be that preferred by the family; no attempt to force any particular system of treatment on the sick or their friends would ever be tolerated. The Civil Surgeon will, however, have to be satisfied beforehand with the adequacy of the arrangements proposed for segregation and disinfection, and must be permitted from time to time to see that those arrangments are being duly kept up. The owners of such private hospitals and camps will also be required to meet the cost of such external guards as the District Magistrate deemed necessary. Of course, in all such private establishments, the arrangements for *purda* women would be made by the owners themselves.

In the case of respectable people of smaller means, the system of associated family, caste or class hospitals and camps is the only resource. The sooner arrangements for such refuges are completed, the better. In all such association-camps, suitable arrangements for *purda* women should be made. Families should not be broken up, but kept together. The treatment may be that desired by each family. Generally, in short, the arrangements already suggested for private camps, will be reproduced with any necessary modifications approved by the Civil Surgeon.

For the poorest classes of all, of course, public hospitals and segregation camps must be provided under the District Magistrate's orders. But here also every effort will be made to respect *purda* requirements. Both the management and treatment will be in the hands of the Civil Surgeon. But families will not be separated. Those who wish to attend on their sick, will be separately housed in the hospital compound, and they will have free access to their sick, both by night and by day.

At present it is quite unnecessary for private persons to go to any expense in building even temporary accommodation; all that is required is that a complete scheme for each town should be drawn up and approved by the District Magistrate and submitted for examination to the Plague Commission.

When a quarter of a town or group of houses has to be vacated, the owners will be allowed to make arrangements for the watch and ward of their property, and the Magistrate will give every assistance in his power to guard such property from theft.

The Lieutenant-Governor pointed out that he was entrusting the first line of defence to the people themselves. If it were found that cases of suspected plague were concealed and not reported then it would be necessary to institute search parties. The police and possibly the troops, would have to be called in, and much trouble would be inflicted on the townsmen generally. But they would have brought this on themselves, by failing to fulfil the obligation now laid upon them.

For the rest, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes Municipal Commissioners and District Magistrates will devote special attention to flushing and cleaning drains and privies, and to closing absolutely all well privies, proper provision for the wants of the poorer classes being made. It seems to him waste of time and money to whitewash the outside of houses, as has been done generally in Behar, and whitewashing the inside at this season is more dangerous to health than leaving things alone. Their duty is to get rid of "real filth," so that the plague, if it came, might be combated under the most favourable conditions.

In the case of Patna, the Lieutenant-Governor thought it necessary to give a warning. There is no doubt that much of the agitation there was factious—got up by evil-designing persons to embarrass the Government. His Honour warned such persons that they were well-known to the authorities, and that any repetition of such tactics would lead to their being very summarily and severely dealt with.

In the matter of the village rules, certain modifications have been made after consultation with the local officers. It is deemed unnecessary to include in the Regulations matters that are more properly dealt with by executive orders. To do so, only confuses the mind of the less intelligent members of the public.

It will be necessary, however, as a check upon reporting, to provide that no interments or cremations shall take place in other than duly-registered and licensed cemeteries and burning-ghats. This is already part of the ordinary municipal law, though not brought universally into force. No interference with corpses or funeral ceremonies is, however, at present anywhere called for.

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Effect Is Marvellous.

SO says THOMAS C. FLASHMAN, Esq., the well-known merchant and proprietor of FLASHMAN'S HOTEL, RAWALPINDI, when speaking about some instances where he gave Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhœa remedy.

He said: "Have much pleasure in testifying to the beneficial results I have experienced from Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhœa remedy. Whenever I had occassion to use it, it has never failed to check diarrhœa, and often one dose was enough. The effect is marvellous. Have given it to travellers passing through my Hotel, and to my servants many times, and it has always proved efficacious." and CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA, DIARRHŒA REMEDY sold everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

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GOOD FOOD—GOOD DIGESTION—GOOD CHEER.

"MORAL character is located in the "stomach," says a recent writer. He is wrong; but there is a shade of truth in the idea he throws out. Napoleon was often willing to trust others to look after the arms and ammunition of his armies, but the commissary department he looked after himself. The braves men won't fight unless they are fed, he said. Nor will they.

That's why we are not surprised to find Mr William Jones saying that at a certain time he was in a low and desponding state of mind. He gives the reason himself in three words. "I was weak." And why was he weak? He explains that, too.

"I was always strong and healthy," he says, "up to January, 1892. Then I had a severe attack of influenza, followed by congestion of the lungs. After this I never got up my strength, and I was low, weak, and desponding. I had a bad taste in the mouth, my appetite was poor, and every morsel of food I took gave me intense pain at my chest. After every meal I was sick, vomiting a green filthy fluid, which was often mixed with blood."

We shall have no trouble to understand this especial phase of Mr. Jones' illness. The green filthy fluid was mucus mingled with bile, and the blood come from some of the small blood-vessels, which were ruptured in retching and straining. The bile was out of its place; that's why nature tried to get rid of it. But how did it get out of its place? Wait a bit; we'll come to that presently.

"I had," continues our friend, "dreadful attacks of cramp in the stomach, and the gnawing pain was well nigh unbearable. At night I got but little rest; sometimes none at all—cold, clammy sweats breaking out all over me, and in the morning I had barely the strength to raise myself. When I went out of doors my breathing was so bad I had to stop and rest every few yards.

[The cramp was caused by the gas arising from the fermented food, and the short breathing by a partial paralysis of the nerves, created by the poisonous acids which had entered the the blood fron the stomach. The nerves were also enfeebled by the enforced stravation—like all the rest of his body.]

"As month after month went by," says Mr. Jones, "my relatives and friends could see me wasting away and apparently sinking into the grave. I became as *thin as a lath*, and you could see through my hands. My legs and face were attenuated to the same extent, and as for my muscles they seemed to be all completely gone."

[Now, inasmuch as when people waste away the fat goes first, and the muscles and other tissues last, you can perceive how far advanced in a decline our good friend really was.]

"Yet I continued in this condition," he says, "altogether for over seventeen months. I was attended, off and on, by four doctors, but their medicines had no good effect on me. I also used lung tonics and cod-liver oil, but to no purpose.

"In June of this year (1893) I first read of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and my wife got me a bottle from Mr. Cole, the grocer, at Grosmont. After taking it a few days I was relieved, my appetite improved, and the sickness (the nausea) left me. Keeping on with the Syrup I gained strength every day, and in a month I could walk and ride, and was soon as well and strong as ever. Your remedy saved my life, and I wish others to know it. You can refer enquirers to me. (Signed) William Jones, Bridge Inn, Kentchurch Pontrilas, Herefordshire, Octobor 31st, 1893."

The case of Mr. Jones and his recovery as set forth by him are well known in his neighbourhood. His wife says that one of the doctors told her that all hope was gone. But happily the doctor was mistaken, as the wisest of us sometimes are. His disease was chronic inflammatory dyspepsia, and that only. But that was enough, mercy knows, and a fatal end to it was not far off when Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup had a chance to do its healing work.

Our friend is cheerful now because he is trong; and he is strong because this remedy et his digestion to rights.

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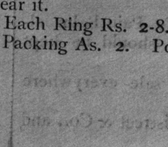

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After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, I can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of Dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically. However chronic and long-standing 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 :—

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

Babu F. De, B. A., Head-Master, Shibpur, H. C. E. School, writes :—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill is a sovereign remedy for Acidity and Dyspepsia in general. It is prepared from innocent drugs, and therefore, perfectly harmless. Those that have been suffering from Acidity and Dyspepsia will find in the said Pill a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Biswas deserves the patronage of the public at large.

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

The Acidita Pill is a vegetable preparaion. We guarantee a cure aud

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

Pundit Satya Charan Sastri, the well-known author of the lives of Protapaditya and Sivajee, writes :—'I have hardly seen a more efficacious medicine than Biswas's Acidity Pill. It not only cures acidity and dyspepsia, for which it is a sovereign remedy, but it laso proves of great use in cold. I believe every house older should keep a box by him."

Babu Lalit Mohun Banerjee, B. A., Head. master, Metropolitan Institution, Barabaza Branch, says :—"I tried Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pills at a time when I was suffering from a very bad type of Dyspepsias The medicine did me immense good. I lost mos all relish for food and felt a heaviness in the stomact after meal, however spare. All these bad symptomh were removed with the use of pills on the very first day."

Babu Sarasi Lal Sarcar, M. A., writes :—have tried Dr. Biswas's Acidity Pills, and found them to be of great use not only in the case of Acidity but in general Dyspepsia. The medicine, it seems, is prepared solely from indigenous herbs, and is perfectly harmless Dyspeptic persons will find it to be a great boon for curing this dread disease.

Babu Kalipada Chatterjee, Pleader, Palamow, writes ;—"Many thanks for the Acidity Pills sent by you. They have so far done much good to my mother-in-law, who has been for the last few years a constant sufferer from Acidity and Colic pain. Please send me by V. P. P. one box of the Acidity Pills without delay.

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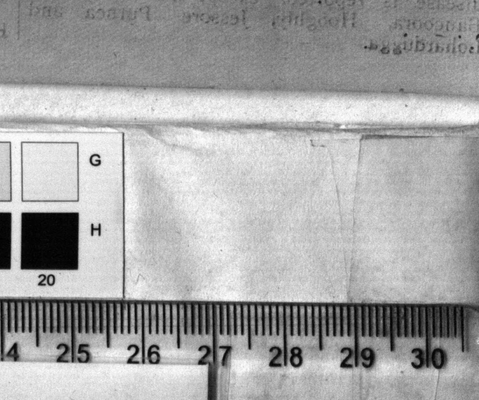

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OVERLAND SCRAPS.

THE TIRAH QUESTION.

WHEN the question of the permanent occupation of Tirah comes to be decided, it may be hoped that the silly notions of Jingo ignoramuses will not prevail against the opinions of the most trustworthy experts in the world. It is understood that a large majority of the members of the Council of the Secretary of State for India are most strongly opposed to the permanent occupation of Tirah, and that their views on the subject are decidedly shared by the Council of the Viceroy.—*Truth.*

PUNJAB JUDGESHIP.

A RECENT appointment to a second-grade judgeship by the Government of the Punjab affords a striking illustration of the unsatisfactory manner in which the ranks of the judiciary in India are recruited. Mr. A. Kensington, the gentleman selected for the post, is doubtless an able member of the Civil Service, but for the last ten years he has been engaged in the performance of non-judicial duties, and since 1891 he has been employed in the Finance Department. A sound practical legal training should be a *sine quâ non* for a Judge; but under the preposterous system of reserving these berths for member of the Indian Civil Service, that is about the last qualification that is thought of.—*Truth.*

FRONTIER POLICY AND TROUBLE OF THE THE MINISTRY.

As soon as Parliament opens, the Government will have a trying and terrible time in connection with the Indian frontier campaign. Practically speaking, all parties will be united against the men in office. The two men who have done the most to condemn the Government are the late Sir Henry Havelock-Allan, whose letter was a damning indictment of the operations, and Mr. Maclean, who has special experience of India and unusual facilities for knowing all that goes on there. Both these were counted among the supporters of the present Ministry. Many predictions are made that the Tory Government will fall over this disastrous campaign, and its position becomes daily less secure, as stories reach this country of the break-down of organisation and the cowardice of a few of the troops on more than one occasion. There are stories afloat in the clubs—and there is no reason to doubt their substantial accuracy—which are far from creditable, and these will certainly be told in the House of Commons when the Indian amendment to the Address is moved. For its own protection, the Ministry would be well advised to replace Lord George Hamilton by a strong man before the struggle begins.—*Newcastle Leader.*

COOKING BY SOLDIERS.

THE Indian military authorities have lately had under consideration the subject of the food supply of British troops in the field, and, as the outcome of their enquiries, it has been decided to render British regiments in future, as far as possible, independent of native assistance when they take the field. With this view a few men in each unit will, during peace time, be instructed to kill, flay, and cut up an animal, to make rough bannocks or chaputties and to cook without the ordinary cooking pots or other European appliances.

Arrangements will be made with the local commissariat officers to have classes periodically for instruction. It has been suggested that men already instructed in cooking, should be further instructed. It is thought that in many regiments the services of officers with exceptional experience of camp life obtained when in the field, as travellers, or in pursuit of sport, will be available to take charge of the department. It is recommended when such assistance is not to be secured, that the native method of cooking kabobs, by which the flesh of a newly-killed animal is quickly made palatable and wholesome, as well as the Indian methods of making and cooking chaputties, should be taught. If necessary, soldiers of the Native Army will be allowed to be called in as instructors, but in that case an officer is invariably to bo present while instruction is going on. The course of field butchery it is thought, will last three months, and the instruction in rough cooking about one month.—*United Service Gazette.*

INDIAN COFFEE CULTIVATION.

THE report of the Government of India on coffee cultivation affords another instance of the way in which the fortunes of distant and disconnected portions of the earth linked together. Take coffee. In the heart of India, a circumscribed zone might be marked out, including the districts of Mysore and Coorg, Malabar and the Nilgiris, which would be practically the whole of the coffee-bearing region under the Indian Government, and if we turn the terrestrial globe completely round, we shall find a similar coffee region on the other side of the world, in Brazil. In spite of geographical distance, when the naked coolie of Mysore finds work scarce and wages low, he may safely attribute it to the fact that prosperity is smiling upon his antipodian counterpart. This fact is very clearly brought out in the report of the Government of India. From 1876 to 1878, inclusive, Brazil was in political trouble, and the Indian coffee-grower made such handsome profits that cultivation rapidly extended. Then came India's trouble in the shape of the coffee-boring insect and leaf disease; and Brazil ruled the market, while unremunerative Indian coffee plantations began year by year to give place to tea-gardens. But in 1889, the pendulum swung the other way once more. Science had defeated the coffee-borer and rendered plants immune against the leaf disease in India; while American "corners" in Brazilian coffee and fresh political troubles gradually enabled the price of Indian coffee to rise in 1893 to double the price that ruled in 1885. Brazil is still more or less troubled, and the coffee of India still rules high; but assured peace and prosperity in Brazil would promptly send prices down again.—*Globe.*

THE WEST INDIES SUGAR QUESTION.

IN his speech at Liverpool last night, Mr Chamberlain announced the policy of the Government with regard to our West Indian colonies and the sugar question. The recent Commission declared against the imposition of countervailing duties, and the Government have wisely decided to take their advice. As Mr. Chamberlain put it, they don't see their way to damage a trade of 1,500,000 tons in order to benefit trade of 260,000 tons. But as this country gains two millions a year by the bounties, he thinks it is only fair that we should come to the rescue of our colonial brethren. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, he stated, has consented to propose next session "a very large grant-in-aid of the West Indies." It will be "much less" than the two millions, but it will be large enough to enable the West Indies to "tide over the crisis." Now Liberals will support any plan for helping the British colonists which, on the one hand, does not involve protection, and, on the other, is a real benefit to colonial trade. They sympathise with their kinsmen over sea, and are willing to help them in any practical way. Those who read the messages from the West Indies in the birthday Number of the *Star*, could not fail to be srtuck by the unanimity of their appeal for assistance to the mother country. They must not appeal in vain. We have a duty to them; and in their extremity we must show that our love for them is not less than their love fer us. But our love must be on practical lines. What is needed, is improved methods of production rather than mere pecuniary sops. They have cheapened European sugar; and if West Indian sugar is to compete with bounty-fed sugar, it must be by means of better and more modern methods, and not by mere subsidies which can only give temporary relief. The conference which Belgium has summonded and in which the Government has agreed to take part is, we fear, likely to be barren; for, Austria, France, and Germany will not readily abandon their bountes. Much good might be done, if part, at least, of the new grant were applied in the encouragement of other industries, such as cocoa, which may take the place of or supplement sugar. But the main thing to keep in mind is that we must discuss this question with enl ghtened sympathy.—*Star.*

A RUN-AWAY ELEPHANT.

THE more I hear about elephants, the lower do I feel inclined to rate their vaunted intelligence. A few weeks ago the populace of a small town near Madras were frightened out of their wits and into their houses by a run-away elephant, which broke from his mahout's control and stampeded, in a state of insene alarm, caused by the pattering of rain-drops on his rider's umbrella; if nobody was killed, it was no fault of the elephant. It is extraordinary how little frightens the animals.

An Indian civilian of my acquaintance tells a story which I always understood to be against himself, but which, by the light of later knowledge, seems to be against the elephant. When "out in the district," soon after his arrival in Burma, he grew tired of riding the beast, which also carried his servants and impedimenta, so bought a pony in one of the villages to which duty took him. Mindful of equine weaknesses, he was careful to ascertain that the pony was not afraid of elephants, but he never thoughrt of inquiring whether the elephant was afraid of ponies. Early next morning he despatched his baggage and servants per elephant, with orders to halt for lunch at a hamlet ten miles distant, and, having finished his work, followed on the pony. When a mile or so from the halting-place, he saw the elephant hunching along the road, and trotted on to hurry up the mahout. As he approached, the man, a phlegmatic Burman, began to shout and gesticulate wildly; the civilian and his Bengali servants knew no Burmese, and the Burman knew no tongue but his own, but the civilian guessed that something was amiss, and pressing his pony harder to ascertain what, was amazed to see the elephant start off at speed. Three times did the mahout succeed in stopping him after a race of a mile or two, and three times did that puzzled and thirsty civilian trot up and frighten the brute off again. Finally, the mahout, who seems to have been the most intelligent of th three, turned his charge off the road on to swampy ground, and thus shaking off pursuit, ploughed his way back to the appointed halting place, where an interpreter was found to explain matters.—*Sketch.*

AFRIDI HUMANITY.

THE story of Colour-Sergenat Walker's captivity among the Afridis, narrated by himself, and published in this morning's telegrass, is in many ways the best bit of news from the Frontier since the commencement of hostilities. It speaks as well for the Afridis—ruthless savages, as they have always been painted—as for the gallant Sergeant himself. And all the better for the Afridis, because they captured him when their blood was on the boil in that disastrous retirement, or rather retreat, of the British force down the Bara Valley. The story of his captivity is really unique. It shows the Afridi character in an unfamiliar light, and may well suggest the question even to the hottest Anglo-Indian Jingo,—the question whether it may not be possible to do something better with the frontier folk than to shoot them, and drive their women and children from their homes into the snows. Colour-Sergeant Walker was a month in captivity. Yet, all that time he was, according to his own account, treated with great kindness, and made as comfortably at home as the simple rude resource of his hosts permitted. It may be said that all this was done from prudential motives. But prudential motives did not prevent the Afridis from waging war with the powerful British Empire. According to all border precedent, from the annexation of the Punjab half a century ago until Sir William Lockhart's adventure, Colour-Sergeant Walker would have been summarily put to death. Though this is only one instance of Afridi humanity, and though, as the proverb says, one swallow does not make a summer, it means a good deal. So far as it goes, it is an argument for making friends with the hill folk, for using every effort to turn them into loyal guardians of the magnificent mountain rampart which Nature has placed there as India's bulwark But to effect that, yo i nust respect their independence. If you do not, you turn that natural rampart into a source of weakness and peril. That is what the Salisburys the Lord Georges the Sir George Whites, and the rest have been doing. It is one of the many blunders for which they must be shortly called to account.—*Echo.*

LORD G. HAMILTON ON FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

LORD George Hamilton is fond of making important announcements at unimportant meetings. But his remarks upon India at a Tory supper in Acton last night, are not much more interesting than the occasion upon which they were delivered. He again traced the the origin of the war to the agreement between Sir Mortimer Durand and the Ameer. It has been pointed out again and again in language which even a Secretary of State might be expected to understand, that this agreement had nothing whatever to do with the indepen dence of the frontier tribes, but merely defined the respective limits of the British and Afghan spheres. Lord George declared, in a triumphant style, that all the tribes had „practically" accepted our terms except the Afridis. We need hardly say that the Afridis are infinitely more powerful than all the rest put together or that "practically" is, in the mouth of a Minister, the adverbial form of the negative. Of course, Lord George Hamilton talked about the Russian advance in Central Asia. He was talking about it, as he canno admitted, twenty years ago, and he is talking about it still. He has not done much to stop it, and the effect of this wretched war has been to drive the frontier races away from British towards Russian rule. As Mr. Asquith said last night in his speech at Birkenhead, the proper security againt Russian invasion is the independence of mountaineers like the Afridis, and the barrier of the mountain ranges themselves. Happily, the Forward policy is, we believe, dead. It has at last been put to a crucial test, and it has utterly broken down. When Lord George Hamilton pretends that a force of seventy thousand men was necessary to put down a border raid, he practises upon the credulity even of an Acton supper party. It was a life-and-death struggle for supremacy on the north-western frontier. And what made it inevitable? The foolish reversal of Sir Henry Fowler's policy by the raw haste of his reckless successor.—*Daily News.*

AN YORKSHIRE ELECTION.

MR. BABISTO'S SPEECH.

THE following is from the "Leeds Mercury" of the 14th Jan. :—

Sir Christopher Furness wound up his campaign with a mass meeting in the Exhibition Building last night. The huge building was crowded in every part, and so many were unable to gain admission that an overflow meeting was held. Mr. J. S. Rowntree moved "That this meeting tenders to Sir Christopher Furness its heartiest thanks for his strenuous and honourable conduct of the campaign, and pledges itself to use every legitimate means to secure his election on Thursday".

SLAVERY UNDER THE BRITISH FLAG.

Mr. Joshua Rowntree said that when Sir Christopher Furness was returned to the House of Commons in 1886, it was a message of encouragement to Mr. Gladstone, and now they were looking forward to Sir Christopher's return at another bye-election to be another message of encouragement to the Liberals in the House of Commons and to Mr. Gladstone, who, although he was not now in the thick of the fight, still watched over the good name of the country he loved so well. (Cheers.) There was some excellent advice given by a very distinguished Member of the House of Commons at a political meeting on Monday night. This gentleman was considering what the government of admirals had come to in one part of the world and he said that it was certain that the admirals were unable to give a good and satisfactory government to the people of Crete. In fact, he had a very low opinion indeed of what the admirals had been able to do for that unhappy island of Crete. Mr. Arthur Balfour evidently thought that it was quite time that something was done to remove the government of the admirals from Crete and to settle some government which could give the Cretans even the elementary principles of government required by them. Mr. Samuel had made a remarkable utterance when he said that when the workingmen of England had any right given to them, they expected that right to be given with equality and justice all round. (Hear,hear.) Did they not also expect, when this country exercised its influence over the nations of the world, that that influence would be in favour of justice, of right, and of equality, for all other peoples as well as for our own? Did they not also expect that the might and power of England would be exercised generously, justly, and honestly? Because they had intrusted the Government of this land and of other lands to military power and influences, they were told, forsooth, that these gentlemen were really the agents of insurance for this great country. The difficulty was that the military men of this country and of all other countries were constantly buying panic one from the other. (Hear, hear). They had got a foolish cry of "Panic" going round amongst the civilised nations of the world, and it could only end in the bankruptcy of the poorer countries. It was an unjust policy against the poor people of the earth in whatsoever corner they were. Was England to go on hounding on the countries in this reckless war policy, or was England to see that there was a danger in all this panic-mongering, that they did not deal justly and honourably with men? They wanted to go a little further than this soiled record of the last two years in Crete. They wanted to turn to Africa. In Yorkshire they prided themselves still on the achievements of their fathers, who were the foremost in declaring that no slavery should exist under the British flag. (Cheers.) Now they had got slaves in Zanzibar to the number of 140,000 nnder the British flag; and even worse was the case of the poor tribes of Bechuana land who were practically handed over to slavery for five years. (Hisses.) This country was going back in the cause of liberty. Was York to go back on Thursday? (Cheers, and "No.") The Government which would not respect manhood abroad, would not in the long run respect manhood at home. (Hear, hear.) They wanted justice all round; they wanted to raise men up, but not to raise them on stepping-stones of the poor and oppressed. (Cheers.)

Then in India, they had, forsooth, an army of 70,000 men— more than Wellington had at Waterloo, more than we had against the Russians at the Crimea and what had they been doing? They had been carrying on war agains 200,000 tribesmen, who had never yet been slaves to anybody, and would not be slaves to Britain. (Cheers). The English Government decided, forsooth, to make roads up into their mountains and to place fortified positions upon them. They were told in York that this was done in order to gain the good-will of the natives in the end (Laughter). A joke was a very good thing, but it ought not to be made at the expense of men who were suffering untold horrors—with the ruin of their houses and the rigours of a winter up in the mountains for their women and children, in prospect. We had heard how this and that English regiment had been engaged for two days in destroying hamlets, burning cottages, taking away the people's food, or destroying what they could not carry. And what had come of it all? Just this, that 70,000 men had marched up a mountain and they were now marching down again. All they could say was: "Never mind; we are coming back in the spring to see that you do not sow any new crops for the next year." Was that the greatness of England? (Shouts of "No"). A telegram came from India, saying our troops had burned forty hamlets, destroyed nine mills, and smashed nineteen mill-stones. Think of the British Army destroying the millstones which gave these people their miserable bread! (Cries of "Shame.") One ought to be sick and ashamed of a record like that at the end of the nineteenth century. ("Shame.") At Christmas-time, when in their churches and chaples, they were hearing the massage of peace and good-will to men, our soldiers were burning hamlets, breaking millstones, and destroying the food which alone could keep these women and children from starvation. And what did it all mean? Just this: that we were to have a forward policy in India, right up amongst these mountains. The Tory candidate, the man of war, said these men would become our friends like the Sikhs. Lord Charles Beresford should not have said that; he wronged a great and noble memory. Who made the Sikhs such friends of England? It was Sir John Lawrence—(cheers)—a man who cared nothing about "prestige," about glory, and gunpowder—a man whose word was his bond the world over—(loud cheers)—a man who won the love of these brave men. Sir John Lawrence was the greatest of opponents of this miserable "Forward Policy," which had reaped such disastrous fruits. Countries away from England would watch that contest. They would ask if they, the men of York, approved, for the good name of England, these things; or if they were going to give their vote against them? (Cheers.) It was time they made their protest; it was time they stopped this miserable, most disastrous failure, for their own sakes. Why squander valuable lives over a miserable policy like this? For the sake of these poor man, who had only their freedom left to them, let us hold our hand and stop this miserable policy of slaughter and devastation. (great cheering.)

AN INDIAN'S TESTIMONY.

Mr. Babisto, a native Indian gentleman from Bombay, next supported the Resolution and had an enthusiastic reception. Their reception, he said, gave him joy, because it showed that Englishmen could rise above petty politics and do justice to their fellow-countrymen in India. (Cheers). He had not intended nor hoped to speak at that meetting; but it was always a pleasure to an Indian to speak on behalf of his own country. It was in their care. It was they who had got to take care of India, and if they failed in so doing the responsibility would be theirs. (Cheers) An Indian loved his country above everything else in this world. His love for his country was a devotion that suffered. He might suffer long and keenly without complaint, but complaint must be made when burdens became almost unbearable. They had heard from the honourable gentleman who had spoken of the miseries with which the Frontier policy had been attended, and the harm it had done to those poor people. Mr. Balfour on the previous night had said that the Frontier policy had done no good, but he took care to say that it had not done much harm. He did not tell them that it had done immense harm. These millions spent on the Frontier policy during the last twenty years, had robbed the starving native of his food, and millions of men in India were living on one poor, insufficient meal a day. If these millions of money spent on useless wars, were expended in cultivating the fields, in opening roads, in constructing railways, and exploiting the forests, it would do immense good to India. (Cheers.) They had, indeed, won his country, but a good policy was a policy that would win their hearts. (Cheers.) The last speaker had mentioned Sir John Lawrence. That man was known all over India as the saviour of India. If ever there was a revolution in India, it would be all over in a day if they would only send Lord Ripon. (Great cheering.) It was not British arms that made the natives loyal; it was the grand English character that made the natives love them (Cheers.) They could not for a moment keep them under subjection if they once determined to get rid of England. (Hear, hear.) There was one Englishman, so to speak, surrounded by five thousand natives; and no sane Englishman would suppose that India could be kept subjected by mere force of arms. Even Lord Roberts said that they might have taken India by force, but that they could not keep it by force, and Lord Roberts should know. (Laughter and cheers.) He (the speaker) asked the electors of York to give his countrymen the sympathy for which they craveed. He had come from Cambridge, feeling that one might hope for sympathy from England; for it was at this moment that India was suffering most. There were two men of wealth in Poonah who had helped the British Government to establish itself in India; but they had been imprisoned for no cause at all. They actually did not know why they were in prison; they had repeatedly asked what was the charge against them, but were unable to get any explanation. One of them had had his property confiscated, and his wife and children were going about almost begging. The brother of one of them, although not even suspected, was being treated in the same way. Was such conduct English? (Shouts of "No.") Then he asked them to protest against it, and this they could do by voting for Sir Christopher Furness. (Loud cheers.) He sincerely hoped that Sir Christopher would win. (Cheers.)

The Resolution was then put, and carried without a single dissentient, amid a scene of remarkable enthusiasm.

The "*Yorkshire* Post", the "Evening Press" and the "Yorkshire Herald" of the 12th January also noticed the speech of Mr. Babisto. Says the "York Herald":—

Mr. Babisto (Bombay), also supported the Resolution. He said that if Englishmen failed in their duty to India, they were responsible to God and man for their failure. (Cheers). The money spent on the frontier policy for the last twenty years had robbed the poor Indian of his vote. (Cheers). England had won the Indian's country, but a good policy only could win their hearts. (Cheers). If ever there was a revolution in India and they sent out Lord Ripon, that revolution would be stopped in a day. (Cheers). It was not English arms that made Indians loyal, but the grand English character which made them love. No sane man would say that England could keep the Indians by force; Lord Roberts had said so, and he ought to know (Cheers).

The "Leeds Mercury" of the 13th January also contains a short report of another speech which Mr. Babisto delivered at the gathering in St. Sampson's Square in the afternoon of the 12th :—

Mr. Babisto, of Bombay (now studying at Cambridge), said he had been a Forest officer in Bombay, and had come into contact with millions of his countrymen. England was teaching these people the great boon of liberty and freedom, and that was why the Indians loved the English. He had heard the Indians charged with being disloyal. The people who made that charge were telling a lie which they knew to be a lie; some politicians told lies honestly, believing them to be the truth. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. Balfour had said, the North-West Frontier war had done no good. That was incorrect, for the war had done great good for the Russians by removing the natural obstacles and paving the way for an advance. The harm it had done, was enormous; and he asserted that when the Afridis were allowed to return to their territory they would have to starve, owing to their food supply having been destroyed. The sole possession of the Afridis was their freedom and liberty, but some of them had "as wise brains as Mr. Hardie, Mr. Keir John Burns, or Mr. Balfour." There were millions in India who could only get one meal a day, and that often only of wild fruit, and sometimes even of wild grass of a certain kind. If the treasure spent on this war had been expended in repairing the havoc created amongst these people by famine and plague, and in developing the country and its resources, then the Government would have been pursuing a wise policy. The present policy of the Government was causing thousands of loyal subjects in India to weep with grief. He urged them to register a protest against that policy by returning Sir Christopher Furness to the House of Commons, and rejoice the hearts of the people of India by so doing. (Cheers).

THE "PERISH INDIA" PARTY.

FOUR of the "great, wise and eminent statesmen" of the Front Benches addressed themselves last night to the war beyond the Indian frontier,—Sir Michael Hichs-Beach Mr. Chamberlain, Lord George Hamilton and Mr. Asquith. We may pass over the last three with two remarks, and two only. In the first place Mr. Chamberlain, to whom the patriot is avowedly the commercial traveller, regretted the campaign because it was being carried on "in a territory which is worth nothing from a commercial point of view. In the second place, Mr. Asquith, following Lord Kimberley, accepted Mr. Balfour's vague and sinister "principles" of future policy "with some reservation upon one or two points, and a with clear definition upon others" As the whole point of Mr. Balfour's policy is to secure "routes and positions" in other words, an unlimited number of new Chitrals—beyond the frontier, it is not easy to see what definitions or reservations could possibly make it acceptable to Liberals; while the perils involved in Lord Kimberley's and Mr. Asquith's too innocent acquiescence may be estimated from the astounding announcement of the *Daily News* this morning that "happily the forward policy is dead"! But these things are for the moment, of less importance than the declaration of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach at Bristol, than which it would be difficult to conceive anything mor amazing ore more deplorable. Everybody—including even the *Times*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and the *Pioneer* of Allahabad—has assume that part, and a large part, of the cost of the present war beyond the borders of India would be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. The reason for such a charge, is, of course, as men like Sir Henry Brackenbury and Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt have pointed out that the operations are not Indian but Imperial operations they Are part of an Imperial policy in mid-Asia. Now, a few weeks ago Sir Michael Hicks-Beach announced that, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he would be prepared to furnish a contribution from the British Treasury provided that, upon careful examination, the Indian finances proved unable to bear the strain. Last night he announced the results of his inquiries, and we say they are deplorable and amazing. Here is the gist of what he said :—

"He was glad to tell them that the financial position had so much improved that, from the last advices, they had good reason to believe that the Indian Government did not consider it necessary that any help should be given by this country to India at the present time." (Applause.)

The Indian "Government" be it observed—not the Indian tax.payers. And Sir Michael continued :—

"Suppose we were ready to grant them whatever they wanted from our own resources, quite irrespective of any exceptional emergency, was it not clear that they would not very much regard how much they spent, that there might be a great inducement to unnecessary frontier wars on the part of the Indian Government, and that there might be a still greater inducement to the Indian Government to take necessary precautions in providing for possible future famine? In fact, it would disturb the whole financial administration of a most important part of the Empire by relieving it of responsibility which it ought to bear for itself. That was not good policy.'

Was anything more Pecksniffian ever heard? Just consider the position. Here is a handful of Englishmen in India who, under orders from Englishmen at home, have been pursuing for many years an English policy of advance in mid-Asia. The cos of this policy which Colonel H. B. Hanna estimates at seven hundred millions of rupees up to the period preceding the present war, has fallen upon the indigent, unrepresented, and famine-stricken taxpayers of India. At last, in the year of grace 1897, when famine, plague, earthquake and cyclone supplied a lurid background to the theatre of war, a strong opinion manifested itself among men of all parties at home that, on this occasion at any rate, the Pritish Treasury should pay a share of the expense. "No," says the austere and righteous Chancellor of the Exchequer, "that would be bad finance; you would be encouraging the Government of India to make war with other people's money." Will he not perceive—does he not grasp the fact—that English bureaucrats in India have been doing this all along—they have been making war, in the supposed interests of the British Empire, at the expense of the dumb taxpayers of India?

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach says the Indian *Government* does not consider financial help desirable. That is, no doubt, true. And the *Pioneer*—the official Anglo-Indian journal—has told us why. It is because Anglo-Indians fear that if Parliament contributes to the cost of this war, Parliament will in future take a closer interest in Indian administration. Hinc illae lachrymae! And while we are anxious to finance China—while we talk big about "British interests" the world over—we are to kindle a blaze in British India which will give every enemy of England in every part of the world his coveted opportunity and leave us powerless to protect either our colonies or ourselves.—*Star.*

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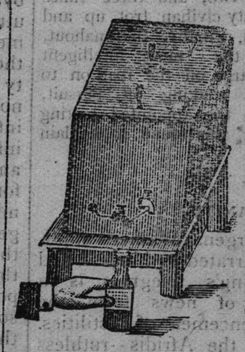

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