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অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

এই খানি উপাদেয় বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ দুই শত বৎসর পূর্ব্বে লিখিত।

মূল্য হয় আনা ডাঃ মাঃ অর্দ্ধ আনা।

অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট গ্রন্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

শ্রীঅদ্বৈত প্রকাশ।

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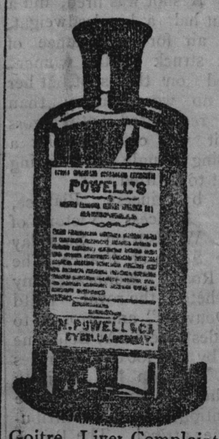

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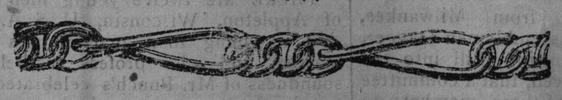

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The Hon'ble G. M. Chitnavis C.I.E., Member of H. E. the Viceroy's Legislative Council writes :—The Acidity Pills are giving satisfaction to all those on whom I tried th m.

Babu Bhobo Tosh Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of 6th March, 1898 :—Many thinks for your Acidity Pills I was suffering fo m Dyspepsia and Colic pains of the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief only for a day or two. Bu since I have been taking your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any attack for a moment even during this time. The Pill is an excellent medicine for this nasty disease which is very painful. Please sent me three boxes of that pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience and oblige.

(From Babu Ramdhani Paure, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Arrah) "I am really gl d to certify that your Acidity Pills have a wonderful power to cure that ailments th y are intended for and I have to thank you very much for the pills you sent me on December last.

(From Mr. S. C. Haldar, Politica Agency Gilgit.)

I am exceedtngly glad to let you know that your Acidity Pills have miraculously relieved me of the colic pains and Bowel-Coemplaints from which I was very bad y suffering for the last two years and more.

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of the Sovabazar sPladmily, writes :—"I am glad to state that I have de Refi rmuch benefit by the use of a box of yo ir Acidity vilj. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Kindly send me two more boxes.

Babu Nilmoni Dey, Assistant Settlement Officer writes from Camp Patepur, Dt. Mozafferpur :—I have treid your Acidity Pill and found them to be and excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately. They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are in valuable in the Moftusil. They should find place every tourist's bag. P ease send me two boxes immediately.

The **Amrita Bazar Patrika** says;- Dr. H. Biswas,s Acidity pilf has an extraordinary digestive power so hat men suffering from Dyspepsia may give afair trial. It is exc usively prepared from some ative herbs is perfectly safe.

Babu Sarasi Lall Sarcar, M. A. writes :—I have tried Dr. Biswas Acidity Pills, and found them to be of great use not only in the ease of Acidity but in general Dyspepsia. The medicine, it stems, is prepared solely from indigenous herbs, and perfectly harmless. Dyspetic persons will find it to be a great boon for curing this dead disease.

Babu T. K. Baksi, Professor, Government College Jubbulpore, writes :—Dr. Bis was's medicine for Acidity and dyspepsia has been tried in our family with marked efficacy and I can safely declare that suffers who may give it a fair trial are sure to derive much benefit from it.

The Acidity Pill is a vegetable preparation. We guarantee a cure and.

Refund the Price in case of failure.

Price Rupee one per box. V. P. charge extra Do not fail to give it a trial when every other medicine patent or prescribed, has failed to give you relief. You will realise its worth by a week's use only.

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Best Fruit Grafts, *Chinese pine apples,* several road e and timber trees, most beautiful and scented ieties of select *Roses,* distinct varieties of *Crotons, ms,* Ferns, Orcheds, Arancaries, Camellias and gnolias of sorts, Santalum Album Coffee, Camphor drakha, Nutmeg; many other ornamental foli-d plants, Culbons plants Dahlias, choice gianr oworing cannas, Gloxinias and beautiful creepers always kept ready for sale. Please send for ised Horticultural and fruit Catalogues with 2 as and half anna postage.

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N. B.—Our datrons and constituents are requestes have a look of the Institution which possesses it a Nursery, Orchards and the extensive Mode es

THE INDIAN VIEW OF INDIAN SUBJECTS.

INDIAN in Parliament was the subject of address given on March 14 to the members of the Liberal Forwards Club by Sir William Wedderb rn, M. P. Mr. C. E. Schwann, M. P., presided Sir William Wedderburn said his object was to show the extreme difficul y which attended any endeavour to bring before the House of Commons the Indian view of Indian subjects, official opinion being the prevailing influence.

What they wanted was that popular feeling in India should have a hearing, bu the natives had no representation in the British House of Commons. The Bri ish people honestly desired that justice should be done to India, but there was no machinery by which that justice could be obtained, or grievances redressed. The Secretary for India was simply the mouthpiece and champion of the official hierarchy, against whom complaints were made, and taking his views and information from the India Office, he became the apologist for official opin ons. What they needed in Indian affairs was a wholesome reality, instead of a discreditable sham, and it was the du y of the B.itish people to see that this was brought abou. The question was whether the British people had done their duty in this respect. They had an Indian Secretary, who had never been in India and laboured under many disadvantages, taking his opinions from an office which was a kind of Dublin Castle, only more so. At that moment an attempt was being made to impair the usefulness of the Muuicipal Council of Calcutta, and although a motion had been made for an inquiry—a very reas nable request—it had been refused by Lord George Hamilton. The policy of the Government was one of secrecy and obscurantism, and the refusal of all independent inquiry, in wh ch it was backed by most of the London Press, which took its views from Anglo-Indians. He still b lieved that the Brit sh people des red to do justi e to India, but if that desire was to be anything more than a pious opinion they must alter the existing system in the House of Common, which at present was the ideal how not to do it.

A discussion followed in which Mr. D. Naoroji, Mr. S. Smith, M. P. Mme. De'a force and others took par. Sir Charles Dilke remarked that the more he saw of Indian affairs the more he had come to doubt whether Stuart Mill was wrong in his opposition to the aboli-t n of the Company. If members of the House of Commons would put questions concerning India to their constituents he believed that the electorate would respond, and in this he could see the only cure for the present condition of affa rs.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy left Lahore with His Hon r the Lieutenant-Governor and Staff on the evening of Sunday last, on a visit to Khanki and Lyallpur, and returns to Lahore this morning.

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Wonderful Discovery.

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The cure is permanent and radical.

It relieves the patient promptly from the most distressing symptoms.

Value returned in Case of Failure.

To ensure a permanent and radical cure the Calcutta patients are requested to see the Doctor, Muffasil patients should, when ordering for a phial, write in detail the nature of the disease.

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৬ষ্ঠ সংস্করণ।

মূল্য পাঁচ আনা মাত্র। ডাকমাশুল অর্দ্ধ আনা

এই পুস্তক-লিখিত-প্রণালী অনুসারে চিকিৎসা করিলে সর্পদষ্ট ব্যক্তি কখনই মরিবে না। ইহার চিকিৎসা প্রণালী এত সহজ এবং পুস্তকের ভাষাও এত সরল, যে স্ত্রীলোকেরা পর্য্যন্তও এই পুস্তক পাঠ করিয়া অনায়াসে চিকিৎসা করিতে পারে। গ্রন্থকার ত্রিশ বৎসর যাবত এই প্রণালী অনুসারে অনেক সর্পদষ্ট ব্যক্তিকে নিজহস্তে চিকিৎসা করিয়া আরাম করিয়াছেন, এবং অপরকেও আরাম করিতে দেখিয়াছেন।

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Keyless, medium size, set with lever, escapement, and second hand. The cheapest and best watch of the day.

GUARANTEED FOR 5 YEARS.

FREE PRESENTATION :—For 500 Purchasers only Every Purchaser will get free of charge the following presents viz :—1. one set sterling silver studs, 2. one gold plated chain, 3. one case box, 4. one Webster's Dictionary, 5. one locket, 6. one bottle essence, 7. one hair comb, 8. one Victoria looking glass. Postage &c., As. 12 extra.

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A large collection of fancy and chronometer watches ever seen in the east always kept in stock. Catalogue sent free on application.

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EARTH HUNGER OF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS.

THE conclusion of the Anglo-French arrangement whi h defines the r spective spheres of the two nations in the Central and Eastern Soudan puts a finish to that partition of Africa among the European nations, the lines of which were laid down less than ten years ago at the Brussels Conference. It must be limited that the Powers have wasted no time over their gigantic job. Fifteen years back here were practically but three nations who owned a footing in Africa; England in the South, France in the North, and Portugal with its ancient possessions on the East and West Coast vast in nominal extent but shadowy under the test of effective occupation. In 1884 came Bismark's hunt for colonies, and the process of leisurely and gradual extension was suddenly changed for a breathless race to peg out claims anywhere and everywhere. Jostled out of Damaraland and the Cameroons by the Germans, and threatened in Zanzibar, the English Foreign Office against all its traditions and wishes had to bestir itself to take part in the game. The formation of the Congo Free State took one huge slice out of Africa and it was not long before the expansion of German East Africa, which obliged that of British East Africa to keep step, had brought these possessions in o touch with those of the Belgian State, drawing a band of European dominion right across the Continent. The progress of the French from Senegal and Dahomey into the Western Soudan. The British expansion in South and Central Africa, the Italian advance into Abyssinia from the Red Sea Coast and South of Cape Gardafui brought enormous changes upon the Map of Africa in the years following the Brussels Conference. Five years later, by 1895, there is little left to divide. The only regions not in effective occupation are the revolted Egyptian Soudan and the territory west of this comprising in the north the southern portion of the Sahara desert and to the south the Negro Sultanates of Wadai and Bagirmi. Italy has since then been dislodged, and by the one reactionary episode in this story of European acquisition her possessions have gone back into the grasp of a native power. But at any rate they are in hands whose title no one at present desires to question: and so the one divisible piece of Africa that reminded is that which has just been partitioned by this Agreement.

If it is quantity that she desires in her possessions France has nothing to complain of in the result. Her African dominions before this last deal were roughly computed to amount to 3 million square miles, a territory that is to say in extent just twice the size of British India. The kingdom of Wadai alone, which is but a part of what she now gains, is supposed to cover not less than 160,000 square miles, which is about the same area as the Provinces of Bengal, Behar and Orissa together. She is now by far the largest landholder in Africa. Her territories coming down from Algeria to the Niger, north and south, extending from Senegal on the Atlantic to the longitude of Lake Tchad, and again from the mouth of the Congo north eastwards through Ubangi to the back of the Bahr-el-Ghazal province were vast enough before. But by the new arrangement her border takes an enormous curve north and east till it meets the western edge of the Libyan desert, and completely encloses Lake Tchad, on which, however, both Germans and English have a footing in the south-west corner. The greater part of the new acquisition may be worthless, but it has always been an aim with the French to establish themselves in Wadai and Bagirmi to the south and east of the lake which has hitherto been left in all partition treaties as a No Man's land. The Agreement of August 1893 which fixed the Say Barrua line as the border between the French Soudan and the Royal Niger Company's possessions, in halting at Barrua on the western side of the lake by implication reserved the recognition of any rights to the eastward of it. Now in return for her acknowledgment of the British position in Darfur and Bahr-el-Ghazal France is able to turn the lake and by this means to join her possessions in the Congo and Ubangi on to those in the Soudan in a continuous belt of territory. The result is that all the West African coast colonies from the mouth of the Congo northwards are completely shut in the rear and closed to any further expansion in the interior. Whether the fact much matters to them, and particularly to England which holds the mouth and water-way of the Niger, may be doubtful, but probably the sight of the map will be a spectacle of grification to French sentiment, and if it soothes them and by soothing leads them to drop the policy of petty provocations and the eternal Egyptian question. Lord Salisbury's compromise will have been a good one, even although the voices of Mr. Greenwood and he determined patriots should be raised up, as they are sure to be, in denunciation of the surrender.—*Pioneer.*

GOVERNMENT have sanctioned the posts of Latamma, Jani Khel and Kurram, at present garrisioned by the Military, being handed over to the Border police.

MR. RATTIGAN, Junior, will, in every probability, be appointed Government Advocate in the Punjab in room of Mr. Sinclair, deceased, and as a stepping-stone to a Judgeship in a Chief Court later on.

DURING the recent *Holi* festival, a Hindu n tive chemist in the city of Lahore on being importuned to subscribe towards some *holi* conviviality, got angry, and, taking down a bottle of prus ic acid, sprinkled its contents among the crowd standing in front of his shop, injuring several people, including some children, very severely. The case is in the hands of the police.

A DALZIEL message from Milwankee, (Wisconsin) states that Assemblyman Daggett has introduced the following Bill into the State Legislature: "Resolved, that a committee be appointed, consisting of three members, to draft a Bill to protect the healh of the misses, old maids, and married women of the state of Wisconsin by making a law to prohibit tight-lacing." Mrs. Holen Barker, the President of the Women's Temperance Union, says that trouble will begin when the police attempt to enforce such a law.

IT is reported at Lahore that on Friday evening a bandsman of the Hampshire Regiment was shot dead in Peshawar Cantonment Bazar by a Zakha Khel Afridi who had come into Peshawar the previous night for the purpose of Ghazi. The weapon used by the murderer who was immediately arrested, was a small country pistol. The excitement at Peshawar in consequence of Colonel Le Marchant's recent murder is said to be intensely aggravated by this fresh outrage. The murderer was seized by a native shopkeeper. It is said that the Hampshire men were locked up in their barracks all night.

Many Lives Saved

In almost every neighbourhood there is some one whose life has been saved by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy, or who has been cured of chronic diarrhœa by the use of that medicine. Such persons make a point of telling of it whenever opportunity offers, hoping that it may be the means of saving other lives. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO.
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ENGLISH NOTES.

SOME Arabic manuscripts brought home by Scotch private from Omdurman, are said to contain some hints as to e whereabouts of the Khalifa's treasure. They have been sent to Colonel Wingate at Cairo.

THE Russian Geographical Society is fitting out, with the aid of funds supplied by the Czar, a new expedition for the exploration of Central Asia. The expedition, the work of which is intended to cover two years, is to be under the command of Lieutenant Koslow, and will leave St. Petersburg at the end of the present month. It will make its way through West Monglia and the desert of Gobi, across the Nanschu Mountains by Lake Kyko-nor, and penetrate into region lying round the upper waters of the Yellow River.

THE reports of the specialists appointed by the Home Secretary to investigate the subject of the use f phosphorus in the manufacture of lucifer matches have been issued in a blue book. They do not recommend that the use of the dangerous yellow phosphorus should be prohibited, but indicate that necrosis among workpeople can be practically stamped out by adequate inspection, proper dental and medical superintendence other preventive measures which are fully set forth.

THE local correspondent of the "Sydney Morning Herald" reports a recent discovery of some scientific interest in British New Guinea. A party of gold miners prospecting an old river bed some fifteen feet below the surface dug into a large kitchen-midden. In it were found bones of great size belonging to some extinct species of animal. The sockets into which the rib bones fitted were four inches in diameter. A stone tomahawk was also found, together with several axe handles, one earthenware pot, and a quantity of potsherds.

AXEL ORLING, a Swede, twenty-nine years of age, and an electrical engineer, who has already taken out ninety-two patents in the field of his profession has it is asserted, in conjunction with Mr. J. T. Armstrong, of London, invented a submarine torpedo which can be steered at will without any ship or shore attachment. But Mr. Orling does not stop short at this great advance in torpedo warfare. He declares that his invention will, in time, render superfluous the use of wires for telephone purposes.

AN accident of a remarkable characrer occurred at Devenport on March 15. Mary Elizabeth Greening, an elderly woman, with her daughter, Florence Thomas, had been on a visit to relatives near Keyham factory, and they were hurrying to the station for a train for Plymouth, where they lived. They took a short cut across a field which skirts the Great Western Railway, on which blasting operations are going on for the widening of aline. A shot was fired, and a piece of rock, weighing about half a hundredweight, was hurled through the air for a distance of 150 yards. In falling it struck both women. Mrs. Greeming was killed on the spot, but her daughter escaped with no worse injury than a broken arm. There is no recognised path across the field, and it is said that it was cusiomary for a warning to be given by blowing a bugle and hoisting a flag when a shot was about to be fired.

THE Queen, accompanied by Princess Biatrice, the Duchess of York, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein left Windsor on Saturday morning, March 11, for the South of France. The train travelled via Addison Road, Nunhead, any Ashford to Folkestone, whete the royal partd embarked on the "Calais-Douvres," and crossed to Boulogne, escorted by eight destroyers. At Boulogne her Majesty was welcomed by the local authorities and the train started. At Toulon her Majesty expressed to the sub-prefect her sympathy with the inhabitants and her intention to send a contribution to the relief fund upon her arrival. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge welcomed the Queen at Cannes, and the train then went on to Nice, where her Majesty drove to the Hotel Regina, Cimez The Queen has presented Captain G Paine, at the commander of the Calais mail packet *Calais-Douvres,* with a handsome gold scarf pin in recognition of this services in taking her across Channel. A similar memento has been presented by her Majesty to captain Davis, of the Folkestone-Boulogne service, who acted as pilot on that occasion. The Empress Frederick will pay a visit to her mother the Queen immediately.

THE Dublin correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* reports the details of an exciting incident in Portobello Barracks, Dublin. On Sunday morning, March 12, as the men of the Rifle Brigade were being inspected on church parade, Lieutenant Kerr-Pearse was passing in front of his company, when one of the soldiers stepped suddenly from the ranks and dealt him a heavy blow under the jaw, which completely knocked him over. The officer on falling slid along the gravelled square, cutting his face. Another officer, who is a man of fine physique, rushed forward and dealt the assailant a smashing blow between the eyes. It fairly paralysed the man, or when he fell he shook all over in a convulsive manner. Mr. Pearse was helped to his quarters and the soldier to the cells. All was the work of a minute. The other officer quietly drew on his gloves, settled his tunic, and marched with his men to church. The entire battalion were observers of the incident. The soldier, it is reported, bore no spite to his officer, but being under orders for Indian service he had expressed his determination in the barrack-room that morning that he would not leave. This is the reason assigned or his committing so grave an offence.

MARBLEHEARTS.

THERE are twelve young men in the town of Appleton, Wisconsin, U. S. A., who hold that a young man married, is a young man marred, and who profess to believe in the soundness of Mr. Punch's celebrated advice to people about to marry. And so they have banded themselves together in a secret convenant, and have christened themselves "Marblehearts." The conditions of the league are that if any member falls away into the heresy of matrimony, he must forfeit a sum of money to the others. In this way each individual member of the Marblehearts is practically engaged in a scheme to get his brethern trapped in the hores that he may hold out longest and pocket the accumulated penalties In the efforts to entangle his friends it is highly probable that each of the young prigs will get caught himself. We may be quite sure that the young women of Appleton, Wisconsin, U.S.A., will sooner or later discover the identity of the twelve Marblehearts and run them to earth.

Remarkable Cure of Rheumatism.

KENNA, Jackson Co., W. Va.

About three years ago my wife had an attack of rheumatism which confined her to her bed for over a month and rendered her unable to walk a step without assistance, her limbs being swollen to double their normal size. Mr. S. Maddox insisted on my using Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I purchased a fifty-cent bottle and used it according to the directions and the next morning she walked to breakfast without assistance in any manner, and she has not had a similar attack since.—A. B. PARSONS. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO.
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STORY OF A KISS.

COLONEL BUYS ONE FOR £800.

A WELL KNON American actress recently offered to sell a kiss to the highest bidder at a charity bazar in New York. The bidding was brisk, and the eagerness and zeal with which the youth of New York ran up the price was sufficient to make the husband of the lady stop the au tion.

The spirited lead has now been followed in Englaand. A fascinating actress, whose name need not be mentioned, being anxious to assist a certain charity in the provinces, offered a kiss to be put up to auction. The bidding was brisk, and had advanced in three leaps from tow guiness to thirty, when without further party the round sum of £800 was offered. There being no higher bid the kiss was knocked down by the auctioneer to a colonel in one of onr line regiments, who came forward to meet the blushing young lady.

But to the surprise of all present the colonel introduced little fair haired boy, explained that it was his grandson's fifth birthday and that he had acquired the kiss as a birthday gift for him. Whereupon Miss——took the child in her arms, and discharged her debt with interest. The charity a local one in which the colonel took a keen interest, was the richer by £800 for the grenddad's generous whim.

But a little bird whispered afterwards that at the colonel's dinner party that night he had one also on the strict Q T.

VESUVIUS IN ERUPTION.

A VISIT to Vesuvius in erup ion on the 18th instant is described by a Naples correspondent, who says a great number of tourists are making this excursion. A track has been made across the new lava, which has more than once lately blocked the carriage road. At the central cone the eruption was in great activity. The spectator could only stand on the edge and gaze down into the enormous depth of the crater for a few seconds for every half-minute there was a loud roar from the abyss, as if of innumerable internal explosions, followed by the rise, hundreds of feet into the air, of volums of suffocating smoke, in the tawny convoluted folds of which large masses of molten lava shot up like shells from a mortar The spectators watched the splendid curve of such a mass as it issued from the smoke with much anxiety as to the place where it might fall, and with a keen sense of the danger of being in its way. Much of the lava, after a particularly loud roar from the crater, fell on the sides of the cone, and within a very few feet of the flying spectators. When it was safe to do so they returned and plunged sticks into the viscied pasty, red-hot mass, taking away pieces of the rapidly-cooling black mass as a souvenir of their risky visit.

THE QUEEN: A SECRET PICTURE.

PROBABLY the most sensational "French picture," which will be exhibited at the World's Fair of 1900, well be M. Beniamin Constant's great portrait of the Queen. Its owner is Sir W. Ingram, of the *Illustrated London News,* whose intention it is to have it reproduced in chromo-lithography. The secret has been well kept, and the Paris correspondent of the *Observe* has been the first to see the finished masterpiece.

BENGAL PUMP.

He describes it as follows: —

The Queen is represented, dressed in all her Regal, and Imperial pump, seated upon her throne in the House of Lords The figure is life-sized and receives a flood os light from an invisible window above. The Queen's face wears a very serious, grave, and slightly melancholy expression. The regard is towards the right. The hair is almost perfectly white, the eyebrows slightly raised, and the brow faintly wrinkled. In the left hand is a pocket-handkerchief of antique lace, in the right one a fan. The fingers of both hands wear emerald rings set with diamonds. On the head is a small imperial crown entrusted with diamonds and lined with purple, under which falls a long white lace shawl reaching to the waist and covering the arms to the wrists. The robe which is of blank velvet; ir also covered with a white lace kits, from beneath which the black velvet irain falls on to a purple and gold embroidered footstool and thence on to a red carpet, where it is twisted round into the foreground of the picture On the footstool and peeping beneath the heavy folds of the black velvet dress is the tip of one very small black satin shoe, the gold buckle of which is just visible.

THE Barni Bathing Fair will be held at Hardwar from April 7th to the 12th.

THE Government of India has finally decided that the construction of the railway from Calicut to Cannanore should be on the standard gauge, and not on the metre gauge as proposed by the Madras Government.

MR. HAILEY, C.S., has assumed charge of the office of Under-Secretary in the Revenue Secretariat at Simla, vice Mr. E. Maconochie, C.S., who has proceeded on leave.

MR. F. J. E. SPRING, Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras, has gone to inspect the alignment of the proposed Shoranur-Cochin Railway, and to see whether an improvement could be effected in the same.

A GANG of robbers, it is said, looted the shops of the Hindus in the bazar of Okarpura, in the Peshawar district, the other day, and, after this, are said to have committed a raid on the village of Tornah.

WE understand that Dewan Bahadur Srinivassa Raghava Aiyangar, Dewan of Baroda, will soon rejoin his appointment as Inspector-General of Registration in Madras.

JUDGMENT has been reserved by the Sessions Judge of Salem in the case of Chinnappan, a lad of 14, who was charged with the murder of a boy of 4 by smashing his head with a stone in a village near Ahtur, Salem District.

WE understand that the Government of Madras has not complied with the mercy request of Rangasawmi who was sentenced to be hanged by the neck for the murder of the Denkonicotta Sub-Magistrate, Salem District.

MR. MUHAMMAD RAFIQUE is going to Fyzabad to officiate as District and Sessions Judge. Pandit Bukht Narain officiates for him and the latter will be relieved by Babu Kali Prassano Singh from Unao.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 6, 1899.

THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET.

As expected the Viceroy's speech was a characteristic one in every way. His Excellency's strong individuality peeped through almost every sentence he uttered. His tone was decisive, and his assertions positive. Not that we object to it at all. A dictator ought to speak like a dictator, only he must be amenable to reason. The Viceroy, of course, gave reasons for every conclusion he arrived at; though it is a quite different thing whether these reasons would be considered as convincing or not by others. For instance, we said, when the Budget Statement was presented and a surplus of nearly four crores of Rupees was announced, that the prosperous condition of the finance was of the supremest indifference to the people so long as there was no remission of the taxation under which they were groaning. The Viceroy thus sought to answer the point :—

We have been criticised in these circumstances for not having proposed a remission of taxation. I quite understand, and I do not in any degree deprecate such criticism. It is the natural and legitimate desire of taxpayers all over the world to obtain relief for what they regard, or at least represent, as their burdens, and to feel the passion for relief swelling in their bosoms in proportion to the apparent existence of the means for satisfying it. I doubt not that the payers of income tax would have welcomed an extension of the scale of exemption The Hon. the Maharaja of Durbhanga pleaded their cause with great ability, and I was anxious for the extension of that scale from Rs. 3 00 to Rs. 1,500; the Hon. Mr. Charlu took much the same view, and the Hon. Mr. LaTouche pleaded for some relaxation of the same system. I may add also that it is equally the desire of Governments not merely to earn the popularity that may result from a remission of taxation although my experience is that popularity so won is a very ephemeral asset—but also in the interests of good Government itself to reduce the burdens upon the people. But there are considerations in this case, both normal and exceptional, which decided us to take the opposite course.

And what are these normal circumstances which prevented the Viceroy from remitting a portion of the people's burden? Let His Excellency describe them :—

The normal consideration of which I spoke was that of ordinary caution. Though I have spoken of the astonishing recovery of the past year, though I believe it to represent a much more than transient improvement in the resources of the country, and though Sir James Westland budgets for a surplus of nearly four crores in the coming year, I am yet too conscious of the part played by what I may describe as the swing of the pendulum in the economic world, to be willing to sacrifice any portion of a hardly won advantage by being in too great a hurry. The Hon. Sir Griffith Evans has reminded us that India is a land of surprises, and these surprises are liable to start into existence equally in the spheres of politics and finance. Even in the more sober atmosphere of England we have had during the past year a startling instance of this phenomenon; for whereas in the plenitude of our wealth and substance, the Government of which I was a member a year ago agreed to a remission of taxation by which we forfeited in the case of one duty alone a sum of nearly 1½ million sterling without, so far as I remember, exciting any gratitude from any body; within the space of a year the balance has so completely swung round owing to unexpected calls that if what I read in the papers be correct there will be no cause for surprise should the forthcoming budget contain proposals for the recovery of considerably more than was then remitted. To reduce taxation in one year and to reimpose it in the next is a condition to which Governments have frequently been driven by unforeseen events. But it is one which it is better to avoid by an excess of prudence at the time than to meet with whatever ingenuity at a later period.

Analysed, the above stands thus : There is, no doubt, that we have got a surplus of four crores this year and the tax-payers have every right to demand relief; but who knows that there may not be a deficit in the following year? So ordinary caution requires that we should be on the safe side and make no remission. The point, however, is,—does the principle, inculcated by the Viceroy, apply in any other country in the world? His Excellency himself admits that a certain tax was abolished in England by the Ministry of which he was a member, because there was a surplus. Why should not the same rule hold good in India?

What is done here is this. If there is a deficit, Government makes it up by fresh taxation or borrowing, which is the same thing. But if there is a surplus, the additional burden imposed upon the people is not removed on the ground of "caution." So they must continue to bear the burden, for ever and ever, both in adversity and in prosperity. In England and other countries the people are taxed only when the Government is absolutely in need of money. But, here, their burdens are not to be relieved, even partially, when the coffers of the State are full. Just see. The Maharaja of Durbhanga, Mr. Ananda Charlu, and even Mr. LaTouche pleaded for the exemption of people with incomes of Rs. 1,500 from the operation of the income-tax. In England, which is perhaps a hundred times richer than India, incomes below Rs. 2,000 are not taxed. The prayer of the Hon'ble members was thus most reasonable. Then again, by raising the scale from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500, Government would have suffered a loss of only a few lakhs. But, although there was a surplus of about 4 crores of rupees, the Viceroy was not prepared to sacrifice this small sum, because India was a land of surprises and because ordinary caution stood in the way!

We humbly think, that the Viceroy might have taken an unassailable position if he had remitted a portion of taxation this year with the proviso that if some special circumstances rendered it necessary in future to impose a tax or contract a loan, he would do so. The "caution" theory, laid down by His Excellency, if stuck to, would mean this, that the people of this country would never know what remission is, for even when the exchequer is full to the brim, the Viceroy might say that considerations of prudence would not permit him to lighten their burden. Perhaps Lord Curzon did not like to begin his rule with a remission.

The following announcement of the Viceroy, with reference to the proposition of the Hon'ble Mr. Arthur regarding the present high rate of telegraphic charges, will no doubt create a good deal of curiosity in the public mind His Excellency observed :—

I regard that rate as inimical to trade, as being a barrier to the ever-growing intercourse between India and the mother country, and as being obsolete and anomalous in itself. I have already considered the question, and I may say that I have placed it in a category of 12 important questions, all of them waiting to be taken up, all of them questions which ought to have been taken up long ago, and to which, as soon as I have the time, I propose to address myself. What these questions are I am not prepared to relieve the curiosity of Hon. Members by now informing them. It is conceivable that I may have to add a thirteenth to their number in respect of the appeal of the Hon. Sir Griffith Evans with regard to the Small Cause Court Judges in the mofussil. That is a question with which I am necessarily not myself familiar, but, while I understand the Finance Minister to have answered him on the point of finance, the impression left on me by Sir Griffith Evans' remarks was this, that he was arguing the case not from the point of view of pay but from that of character. It is from that point of view that the question is deserving of the attention of the Indian Government, which attention I shall be glad to give to it.

Now, what are these twelve important questions which, the Viceroy assures us, ought to have been disposed of long ago, but which His Excellency means to settle ere long? The Viceroy rightly gauged the feelings of the public when he remarked that the announcement would rouse great curiosity. His Excellency was, however, not in a position to satisfy the curiosity, so it is useless to speculate upon their precise character. Let us, however, trust that these dozen important questions are of such a nature that, when formally taken up and carried out, the Viceroy will be able to carry the whole nation with him and earn their fervent gratitude for his Government.

The Viceroy continued to say :—

But another question has been raised by an Hon. Member sitting at this table which I am unable to add to the dozen already alluded to. I am unable to add to it the suggestion of the Hon. Mr. Chitnavis that I should acquiesce in the reduction of the British soldiers in India. I can assure him that no such proposal will form part of the programme of the Government of India during my time.

In the above Lord Curzon betrayed the fact that, though occupying one of the most exalted positions in the world, he has yet the enthusiasm of youth! How could he be so positive as to say that he would never reduce British soldiers during his time when he has but just begun his rule? One hundred and one circumstances may occur during the next five years, that may compel him to alter his resolution. Who knows that for the benefit of the British soldiers themselves, who are now being decimated and disabled by loathsome diseases and the deadly climate of India, that a reduction in their number would not be recommended by Lord Curzon himself? Indeed, no patriotic Englishman can contemplate the dismal fate of the British soldier in this country with unconcern, and Lord Curzon, when he comes to realize the true situation, may come forward to support the proposal of Mr. Chitnavis.

PROTECTION FROM OFFICIAL VAGARIES.

When the Sub-divisional Officer of Munshigunj had a quarrel with the people of that place; and when we found that he had been able to secure the sympathy of some of his superiors, we deemed it a duty to take up the case in the interests of justice and good government. As the Sub-divisional Officer, Moulvi Fazlal Karim, is not unknown to fame, we thought that it would be enough if we only informed the Government of a portion of his antecedents. We had to do this, because the Government was in new hands, and the present *regime* knew not their men. We had thus to inform the Government that the official in question had a very bad record; that he could scarcely perform his duties quietly; that it was not in Munshigunj alone but almost at every place he had been posted, that he had put himself in opposition to one party or the other; and that he had often been placed in a humiliating position for his vagaries. Indeed, he had been transferred from Madaripore to the Sudder station of Dacca apparently for the pranks he played in that Sub-division of Faridpore.

As subordinate officials rule the country and not Lord George Hamilton, and as they rule with despotic sway, it is, therefore, their duty to afford protection to the people from the vagaries of the members of their own class. Officials here form something like a family, They are bound to help and protect one another; naturally, therefore, they are led to cling to one another in weal and woe. Such being the case, when a non-official has a quarrel with an official, the former finds himself in inextricable difficulties. He has either to submit unconditionally, or to go to other officials for protection. As a rule, a non-official, unless forced, never proclaims war against an official, for such a war must be unequal. He has, however, to do this now and then as in the case of the Munshigunj Sub divisional Officer, and to appeal to superior officials for protection. But, how are the latter to behave under the circumstances? Well, what the superior officials have to do under the circumstance, is to afford protection to their accused subordinate, as also to afford protection to the nonofficial accuser. This they are doubly bound to do, because they themselves are officials, and are the only parties who can do justice.

We had not the least doubt in our mind,—and this we say sincerely,—as to the line of conduct which would be adopted by Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Bolton, when they were thus appealed to. Believing firmly in our mind that our humble efforts in cases like these—cases in which the officials and non-officials are found to be at variance,—would be welcomed by Government, we took up this Munshigunj case. We did it purely in the interests of justice and good government. We can possibly have no personal interest in the matter, as both Maulvi Fazlal Karim and those who complained against him are utter strangers to us.

But one circumstance damped our zeal. We saw, to our dismay, that we were only injuring the case of the Munshigunj people by our advocacy, and that the more we commented on this case, the more we made the authorities determined to follow the policy condemned by us, or to ignore the facts brought forward by us We knew, Sir Charles Elliott now and then adopted this policy, which was to take a contrary direction to the path pointed by the Indian newspapers, and promote officials, who were unfavourably commented upon in their columns. Indeed, this fact came to be known in so pronounced a manner, that all newspapers adopted an amusing method of making him accept their suggestions. It was to oppose what they commended and thus lead him to carry out their wishes!

It must be borne in mind that men are rational beings, and, in spite of their best efforts, they can never act irrationally for any length of time. It is irrational to reject a course simply because one, who is not liked, has recommended it. And Sir Charles had to pay the penalty like the stubborn boy who defied the control of his friendly guardians. This boy had been hopelessly spoiled, so that he at last took a vow never to do what his guardians asked him to. Nay, the resolution that he adopted was not only not to do the bidding of his guardians but to do quite the contrary. His guardians, however, brought him to reason in the following manner. They bade him not to do what they desired he should. Thus when he refused to go to school, the guardians told him, in a peremptory manner, never to go there.—"Is it so?" says the stubborn boy, "Then I must." It was in this manner that the boy was reasoned down. How far the policy succeeded with Sir Charles Elliott is, however, a point not relevant to the present discussion.

We must say this much, however, that the Indian papers did succeed in persuading Sir Charles Elliott to transfer Maulvi Fazlal Karim from a Sub-division where he was independent to a Suddor Station, where he had to act under the direct supervision of his superior.

We firmly believe that the duty of Government is not to see whether its critics are friendly or not, or whether their suggestions are agreeable or otherwise, but, to do even-handed justice, that is to say, to afford equal protection to its children, —the people as well as its brethren, the members of the service.

It will be remembered that a petition containing serious allegations against Maulvi Fazlal Karim and signed by hundreds of people in Munshigunj, was submitted to Government in September or October last. For months no notice was taken of it; but when the entire press expressed its surprise at the unaccountable silence of the authorities, the following reply was sent to one of the signatories :—

No. 900 J.
Government of Bengal
Judicial Department
Judicial Branch
Resolution.

Dated, Calcutta, the 9th February, 1899,

Read a memorial dated the 29th September 1898 from Babu Jogendra Nath Chatterjee and certain others, complaining against Moulavi Fazlul Karim Sub-divisional Officer of Munshigunge in the District of Dacca.

Read also a letter No. 689 Dated the 19th January 99, from the Commissioner of Dacca reporting on the memorial. After enquiry, a careful examination of records and a thorough inspection of the Sub-divisional Office, the Commissioner has reported on all the complaints made against the Deputy Magistrate and expressed his opinion that the memorial contains a series of false charges emanating from persons whom the Deputy Magistrate has offended in doing his duty. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the opinion. Moulavi Fazlal Karim will remain in charge of the Munshigunge Sub-division.

Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner for information and for communication to the memorialists.

(Sd.) C. W. Bolton.
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

As the charges against the Maulvi were definite and specific, the proper course for the Government was to have sifted the matter by an open enquiry. But, we fancy, the authorities did not venture to take this hazardous step! By the way, is it only "Babu Jogendra Nath Chatterjee and certain others," or five to six hundred people, some of them holding very respectable positions in the Sub-division, who submitted the memorial to the Government?

The plague is raging in this country for more than two years. Scientific and highly educated men should have acquired by this time sufficient experience of the disease to be able to give to the country some definite information regarding the subject. Of course, exact information may not be in the possession of any, but some definite directions to the people, as to how they should try to avert the danger, ought to be forthcoming. Medical men ought to be able to say what are the means to be adopted to protect oneself from an attack of the disease, and what treatment should be followed when one is attacked. We have seen it stated that upper stories are better than the ground floor, that the bacilli generally attack though the sole of the feet and that every one ought therefore to use shoes constantly. Some say that crowded houses ought to be avoided, others that any abrasion on the skin is dangerous. It is alleged, again, that segregation is very effective. But what does segregation mean and how is it to be carried out? In the same way, can medical men give us an idea as to the treatment which is likely to be successful? We understand stimulants are given freely, though they never succeed. And then what are these stimulants? Has musk, or cobra poison, or the white liquid that exudes from the skin of the toad when pressed, been ever tried? What we would like to see is that the Local Governments should bring all the distinguished medical men together for the purpose of arriving at such definite conclusions and issuing general instructions for the guidance of the people. Of course, it is possible they will not be able to say anything precise, but still it is quite possible they may yet say something useful.

The *Indian Witness* does not commend the *Daily Mail* for having selected Mr. Steevens for its roving representative in India. But it must be borne in mind that both the paper and its representative have been able to create a sensation which they may turn to their benefit. One way to make a paper successful is to make it scurrilous and abusive. Some of our Bengalee contemporaries have imitated this objectionable way of making themselves notorious. The *Globe*, like the *Mail*, is oftentimes brutal when writing about the Hindus. We understand, an article in *Justice*, the Socialist paper, bitterly condemned the India Government. It was when the sedition-phobia was upon the Government. The Government of that period succeeded in persuading itself that sedition was devastating the country and unless checked with vigor the whole Empire would be destroyed. When the Government was in this frame of mind, the issue of *Justice* containing that dreadful article reached India. Government did not know how to stop its circulation; it was felt, at least the people were made to feel, that the perusal of the article would bring in a cataclysm or something like it. Telegraphic warnings were issued from Simla to the Local Governments; the Local Governments hastily called their ministers together, and prolonged and deep consultations were held to find a way out of the difficulty. We have given the above account with an object in view, which is to let the authorities know, that any amount of abuse by Englishmen of British rule will never create any but very good feeling in India. On the other hand, sympathetic utterances in English papers even if they contain the severest condemnation of British rule do not serve the cause of sedition but of loyalty, as they really soothe the people What really creates bad feeling against the Government are writings like those indulged in by Mr. Steevens and the *Globe*. The article in *Justice*, if circulated in India, would have done no harm and perhaps done some good, but the brutal sentiments of writers like Mr. Steevens rouse the worst feelings in the mind of a subject race.

We see that Mr. H. Roberts has asked a question in Parliament regarding the sugar legislation. The question is harmless enough, but it may be asked whether he is going to act in concert with Mr. Maclean for the purpose of opposing the measure. This would appear to be the case from an article in the *Daily News* which has opposed the legislation. On the other hand, our London correspondent, who is as good a Liberal as the *Daily News*, supports it. From this it would appear that the Liberal paper has not as yet been able to realize thoroughly the situation here in India, Mr. Caine has, and, therefore, he supports the measure; and the *Daily News* opposes it, and, therefore, it is clear it has not been able to grasp it. And it is not likely that Mr. Roberts who always acts in concert with Mr. Caine in regard to Indian questions will oppose a measure which is so ardently supported by the latter. The contention of the *Daily News* is that the object of the sugar legislation is to bolster up a decaying industry. No, Sir, that is not the situation. It is the bounty which is the sole cause of this decay. By this bountry system, any industry of any country can be destroyed. The most flourishing industry of England can be destroyed by this method.

The letter of our London correspondent which deals entirely with the Indian Sugar Bill, will be read with the most intense interest by the Indian public. Our correspondent's surmise is correct that no one in India had the slightest conception that the question had aroused such keen interest in Parliament, and that a coalition had been formed between the Liberals and a large number of the Tories, to raise a debate over the subject and overthrow Lord George Hamilton if possible. Our friends in England, however, acted wisely in refraining from taking any decisive action, without being assured of the support of the Indians in the matter. It seems, that the Liberals and many Tories are under the impression that the Sugar Bill would not benefit India in the least, and that it was introduced into the Indian Legislative Council with the ultimate object of introducing it in England, and thus undermining the principles of Free Trade. The colorless question of Mr. Roberts is now explained. The Liberals are waiting for information from India. The question before the Liberals is whether the Sugar Bill was introduced to benefit India or to undermine the principles of Free Trade. The *Daily News* has already expressed the opinion that it would not benefit India at all. The same opinion is held by a large number of other papers —Liberal and Tory. The Sugar legislation has, by a freak of fortune, assumed great importance.

Lord Curzon has thus begun his rule with a cloud, boldly raised by himself. To our view these petty matters should give place to other important problems, which Lord Curzon has raised by his own utterances. One of them is the question of the ever-widening gulf that is separating the two races in India. How glad the Indians would be, and how glad many Englishmen would be if this gulf were bridged! We cannot admit that all Englishmen would be glad to see feelings of amity established in India between the rulers and the ruled. For the *Globe* avowedly prefers unrest and war. Let the Indians and Europeans here be friends: they can be friends by mutual sacrifices: and when they have once established friendly feelings amongst themselves they will be in a position to treat with unconcern any possible combination in Parliament. We entertain the hope that under the sympathetic rule of Lord Curzon an attempt will really be made to make India strong and the Indians a nation. For, we already see a change of tone for the better in most of the Anglo-Indian papers.

The Anglo-Indians have a contempt for the Indians which they cannot conceal, even with all their efforts. The Indians have also a contempt, in some respects, for the Europeans, which they cannot likewise conceal. As for the Europeans who speak contemptuously of the Indians, we do not refer to those who "damn niggers". Such men do not enjoy the confidence or respect of their own countrymen. Take note of the treatment accorded to Mr. Steevens. He has been torn to pieces by his own countrymen for his attack on the Indians. But mischief comes from highly cultured and highly placed Europeans, official and non-official, who damn the natives by faint praise,—who betray contempt for the natives in the most temperate language.

Now, Englishmen who are naturally cosmopolitan in instincts, who own the largest empire in the world, ought to be able to bear up with the failings of others. They ought to be especially considerate, in the matter of the failings of those whose liberties they have taken. Then again, we do not admit that the Indian is at all a contemptible creature. Entrust an Indian with work, howeve. responsible, and he will give as much satisfaction as an Englishman. This is a proposition to which the Europeans will not give a ready assent. But in order to oppose the proposition, the Europeans have to shew instances, proving that Indians, entrusted with responsible work, have failed. We can shew that the Indians, so far as they have been trusted, have never been found wanting.

Here is a piece of news :—

It is gratifying to observe that one of our countrymen, Mr. S. C. Mahalanabis B. Sc., F. R. M. S., F. R. S. E., who is now a professor in the University College, Cardiff, has, along with Prof. E. A. Schafer F. R. S., of the University College, London, been appointed Examiner in Physiology for the degree of B. Sc., at the University of Wales. Mr. Mahalanabis is the first Indian Examiner in a British University.

Similarly, Dr. Sarat Mullick holds an important post in one of the hospitals of London and has already distinguished himself in various ways in England.

Of course, the Indian has his defects and the European his superiority in many respects; but the Indians have in some matters an advantage over his European brother. That being the case, Sir Charles Elliott had no business to call the Indians an inferior race. The impression that is sought to be conveyed by the higher classes of Englishmen about the Indians is that, they are an inferior race a little in advance of the negroes, but much inferior to Europeans. Now, this is we think, a wrong done to the Indians. He is fully the peer of a European, only he has very few opportunities of proving it. The letter of the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham criticizing Mr. Steevens' strictures on the Bengalee, is a generous production. Often times have we seen a European assuming the garb of a friend only to stab the Indian, but there is no trace of anything like it in Mr Oldham's letter. Mr. Oldham treats the Bengalee as a peer.

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We have now something to say of the Indian's contempt for the Europeans. We do not know how to express ourselves without giving offence. European vices are those which follow the enjoyment of excessive power. Compare a man who has only the birth-rights of humanity with a man who has excessive powers over his fellows, and the fact will at once be made patent that they do as a rule differ as poles asunder in character. One of these vices is too much attraction for material and transient blessings. Thus, while the cultured and considerate European will speak in approving terms of the Indians apparently, but damn him really, the Indian will always praise the energy, the powers of organisation, the sharp wit of the Europeans, deploring the fact at the same time that he has no idea of an existence beyond the material.

It is said that the over-crowding of Calcutta is one of the causes of the outbreak of the plague, and that the authorities are anxious that the town should be denuded of a portion of its population. Of course, a panic can at once be created by proposing segregation or instituting search parties, and three-fourths of the people will be driven to the interior. But Sir John Woodburn would rather resign his post than be a party to such an arrangement. The other way is for the Government to appeal to the citizens, who can afford it, to send out their families to the Mofussil, and thus thin the congested parts of the town. We think, many might gladly respond to such an appeal if the authorities would undertake to supply them with medical help and pure drinking water. A large number of the inhabitants of the town have their country-houses. But they cannot avail of them, simply because something like a water-famine prevails in most of the villages of Bengal from April to July, and no medical help is to be had there either for love or for money. When last year's scare led three or four lakhs of men, women and children to fly into the interior, they soon came to find that they had leaped from the frying pan to the fire. A good many of them were attacked with cholera, and carried off by that fell disease. People get good water and medical treatment in Calcutta, and hence they stick to this place. Secure them the same advantages in the Mofussil, and they will not come here. The major portion of the Road-Cess Funds ought to be devoted to the excavations of tanks and the sinking of wells, and the water-difficulty will be removed from the Mofussil. In the same manner, Government should post medical men in groups of villages to afford medical aid to the residents of the rural tracts. In a poor and pestilence-stricken country like ours, one of the sacred duties of the Government is to distribute the blessings of medical treatment to the people. The Lady Dufferin Fund, which is lying useless may also be utilized for this purpose.

We have said above that the *Globe* wants war and unrest. Our attention has been drawn to the following malignant paragraph in a recent issue of that paper :—

The deliberate and public assassination at Poona of the two principal witnesses on whose testimone Damodhar Chapekar was condemned and executeyd will, it is to be hoped, at once cause the Bomba, Government to organise a really efficient detectivy department. The native policeman is good enough for ordinary purposes, but when it comes to getting behind the scenes of murder societies he has little worth. There is no sort of doubt that a secret organisation of that character has been in existence at the old Mahratta capital for many years. It was also known that very liberal funds were furnished by wealthy natives who preferred to employ venal tools to accomplish their treasonable purposes. But with all that in evidence, no discovery was made until Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst were murdered. History has repeated itself in the present outrage. The conspirators remained quiet until their intended victims considered themselves safe, but it is clear that the purpose to make away with them was never abandoned. Yet the police never, apparently, got wind of the foul conspiracy, or the murdered men would have received warning, we may assume, to be on their guard. Probably the release of Tilak before his full term of imprisonment had expired helped to produce a false sense of security at Poona. The police would have substantial grounds for believing that all danger had disappeared when the Government thus let loose on society a plotter whose whole public career had been marked by scarcely veiled treason. If Lord Sandhurst imagined that he would ingratiate himself with the Poona Brahmins by setting Tilak free, he must now recognise the folly of attempting to conciliate murder societies. It is to be hoped, too, that too much weight will not be attached to the confessions of Vasudeo Chapekar and Ranade, that it was they who assassinated the Dravids. Possibly, theirs may have been the hands which fired the fatal shots, but they probably acted as the instruments of people more powerful than themselves.

When a man, standing on a high terrace, pelts one who is passing along the street below with stones, he is regarded in the light of a mean coward. The *Globe* libels Mr. Tilak and the Mahrattas from England. We only wish its editor would come out to this country and publish all the above here in an Indian paper. But the *Globe*, Mr. Steevens and others of their way of thinking, would never venture to do so, for that requires manliness. As long as Mr. Steevens was in Bengal, he was very sweet-tongued whenever he came across a Bengalee gentleman. But, as soon as he was safe from the clutches of the Indian law of libel, he appeared in his true colour and began to traduce the character of the Bengalee nation. Papers like the *Globe* and the *Daily Mail* should be proscribed in India. *Justice*, the Socialist organ, was proscribed because it contained a so-called seditious article. Why should not the *Globe* and the *Daily Mail* be treated in the same way when their venomous writings are calculated to rouse the worst feelings of the people of this country and make them lose the balance of their mind? It was mainly these two papers and the *Times*, in conjunction with some Anglo-Indian papers, that brought about the incarceration of Mr. Tilak, the deportation of the Natus, and the sedition and other repressive measures. This time also they did their best to foment discontent in this country but failed, because, the Indians had taken a vow to treat their effusions with indifference. The Indian subjects of Her Majesty, however, need protection from these virulent attacks. Some Indian Political Association ought to formally bring the above extract from the *Globe* to the notice of His Excellency the Viceroy and pray for his interference, in the interests of the good government of the country.

Mr. Chalmers, the late Law Member, came like a panther, stealthily, unperceived. His presence was subsequently made known by the havoc he committed. And if he has now gone, every one is, of course, glad. Sir James Westland came here with some noise, because he had obtained a prominent position in the examination which secured him a comfortable berth at the cost of India. When a Magistrate, he wrote a book. That was the last occasion when he made his presence felt. Since then he had been in our midst more as a principle than as a personality. People were surprised to find in him a bitter, and a little bit unscrupulous, enemy of Indian interests. He now goes or has gone and nobody knows whether he is yet here or has gone out of the country. He was never remembered, so he is not likely to be forgotten. He was never noticed, so he is not likely to be missed.

As a financier Sir James Westland was neither a failure nor a success. That is to say, he carried out orders. When there was money he had no trouble to meet the requirements of the Government ; when he had it not, he borrowed. When neither of these was feasible, the Local Governments were fleeced. It is well for him that his term has expired, for it is doubtful whether he could have pleased Lord Curzon. Lord Curzon has not as yet meddled with the financial condition of the Empire. As a new-comer, perhaps, his lordship is right. But it was altogether an extraordinary statement for one in his position to make that he would never recommend the reduction of the military strength of the Empire. He may have to remain five years more. He is only two months here; and however able, industrious and far-seeing a statesman he may be, surely he is not in a position to pass an opinion on the point.

In noticing the case, in which Mr. W. B. Thompson, Deputy Commissioner of Singbhum, sentenced a man to rigorous imprisonment for two years, though the maximum sentence provided for the offence is only one year, we made a slight mistake. We said, "First of all the case was instituted by a subordinate of the Deputy Commissioner, and the Judicial Commissioner thinks that this alone incapacitated him from trying the case." The case was not instituted by a subordinate of the Deputy Commissioner, but by the Deputy Commissioner himself. This makes the situation still worse. Having been the prosecutor, Mr. Thompson should never have tried the case. And what havoc did he commit! Not only did he not allow the poor man to obtain legal help, but he finished his case in two days, and then passed double the maximum punishment allowed by the law! It is in India alone that such things are possible. Here a number of men is sentenced to be hanged for having killed a single individual. Here a man is liable to be punished with two years' imprisonment, though, under the law, he is to get only twelve months. Will Sir John Woodburn be pleased to send for the records of this case? And will His Honor be pleased to divorce Mr. Thompson of the first-class Magisterial powers with which he has been invested? Mr. Thompson, we think, will do very well in the Opium Department.

Considering the fact that during the past quarter of a century the Sultans of Oman have received from the Government of India subsidies amounting to over £200,000, many may be inquisitive to know how we became connected with this kingdom. The first treaty of the English with the rulers of this kingdom dates as far back as 1798, when the East India Company adopted measures to frustrate the designs of the French and the rivalry of the Dutch. Since then the Sultans of Oman have looked to Great Britain for protection, and have relinquished all right to alienate their territory or to enter into relations with any other foreign Power. It would thus appear that this burden ought to have been borne by England and not by India.

We have been reporting the depredations of a herd of wild elephants in the district of Bankura for months. These leviathans, the very sight of which strike terror into the boldest hearts—not only damage the raiyats' crops and their homesteads, but often kill them. We are told that the District Magistrate has offered a reward of Rs. 100 to any one who would kill any of the elephants ; but no one has yet taken up the challenge, and perhaps no one in Bankura will, for it is no childs' play to account for such a powerful animal. While this reward remains inoperative, another life has been lost. We fear it is time for the Local Government to take up the matter, for now that the population has been thoroughly emasculated, it behoves it to take every precaution for the safety and security of its disarmed subjects. Another report reaches us from another part of the province—from Barpetta, of the depredations of wild elephants. There, too, a reward of Rs. 100 has been offered by the district authorities.

We have already noticed that the Municipality, at any rate, certain high municipal authorities, are in favour of reducing the population of Calcutta—at all events, in the congested parts such as Burra Bazar owing to the plague. The project of Sir Bradford Leslie, as we have been able to make out, tends to that end. The Woodburn Avenue, we understand, will effect it. The Woodburn Avenue will be a broad road—nearly 100 feet wide—which will pass from the proposed permanent bridge, from a place near Juggernath Ghat to Tiretta Bazar through Burra Bazar and other thickly populated parts of the town. Burra Bazar consists of 23 acres of land, that portion of the Woodburn Avenue which will pass through Burra Bazar will take up nearly 12 acres ; so the question of congestion, we believe, would be set at rest for once. It may be very properly asked whether to remove the congestion, the projectors will remove trade in Burra Bazar off the face of Calcutta. We are assured that no such thing will happen. No doubt certain section of the population will be removed from their narrow, ill-ventilated and dingy abodes. But the projectors mean to rear up well-ventilated and well-lighted five-storied houses in conformity to the modern scientific requirements, over the surplus lands—which will locate more than the number of people disturbed and made homeless by the new road. Indeed, Sir Bradford Leslie has estimated that the total floor area that the new buildings will take up, will be 105,000 square yards, over which five-storied houses will be reared up and a half story over it for cooking purposes provided. The cost will no doubt be enormous. But our countrymen have not to pay for it. It will be borne by the English projectors. Our impecunious Municipality which is anxious to open out the congested parts will, we think, be too glad to accept the above proposal in good parts.

In the face of the assurance of the Hungarian Government to protect the interests of the sugar producers of that country, against the imposition of countervailing duties and the opposition kept up only by those whose interests are at stake by it and in the face of the fact of America, which is in the same condition as India, having done what India has now done, it would be simply silly to say that protection was not required in India. It would, however, be interesting to the reader to note that as late as October 31st last year, the Indian Government was evidently altogether sceptical as to the necessity for any such step as that which has now been taken. In a circular sent round to the Provincial Governments asking for information as to the alleged injury done to Indian agriculturists by the importation of foreign sugar, the Secretary in the Revenue and Agricultural Department wrote: "The Government of India have no clear evidence before them that the increasing sugar imports have had, or are tending to such serious consequences. The area under sugarcane in the different provinces has not declined of late years, nor in recent revenue or settlement reports have any observations regarding the unprofitableness of the industry been noticed. The extent to which the refined sugars from abroad compete in the Indian markets with the the coarse sugars ordinarily manufactured by native processes, and tend to supplant the latter is uncertain. There is probably an increasing demand for sugar in India for domestic consumption and for spirit distilling and sweetmeat making, and as the sugarcane area has not expanded of late years, it may be that the increasing imports have not been in excess of the necessary demand. The *Daily Graphic* is greatly surprized at this and says that if these were the views of the India Government on 31st October 1898, it is not easy to understand what can have occurred in the meantime to produce such a startling change of policy. It is simply because Lord Elgin was not wide awake as Lord Curzon is. The above facts prove beyond doubt that it is the temper of the Government which guides many of the affairs of the realm. If it is sympathetic, every action of Government is bound to be approved of by the people, if otherwise, Government would not lack bringing forward arguments to secure its ground inspite of the violent opposition of the people. So that there is nothing to be wondered at if the policy of Lord Curzon would totally upset that of his predecessor.

The Amir of Afghanistan had left Kabul for Kohisthan up to the 26th March ; but preparations for his journey are being rapidly completed. The Amir, it is expected, will be away from the Capital about a month.

Captain McMahon, political officer at the Malakand, who has been on a short trip to Chitral, seems to have found the country beyond Chakdarrah quite peaceful and free from alarms. The Nawab of Dir has recovered from his illness, which threatened at one time to be dangerous.

His Royal Highness Count of Turin, accompanied by Prince Teano, Count Carbonetto, A.-D.-C, and Sir Benjamin Simpson, K.C.I.E, arrived at Hyderabad on Tuesday evening. A guard-of honor, furnished by the 1st Lancers, Hyderabad Imperial Service Troops, was drawn up on the platform, and presented arms when the train conveying the Royal party arrived, while the Band struck up the National Anthem. A salute of 21 guns was also fired from the Red Hill. On alighting, the Count was introduced by Sir Trevor Plowden, first, to His Grace Bishop Vigano, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hyderabad, and then to several others, including the Minister. His Royal Highness left the station in the Nizam's State carriage and pair under an escort of the African Cavalary Guards for the King's Koti where he remains as the Nizam's guest. The Count was accompanied to his residence by Nawab Sultan-ul-Mulk, son of the Prime Minister, and Mr. Furdonjee Jumohdjee, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Minister. A second guard-of-honor, consisting of 100 rank and file, 3rd Infantry, Nizam's Regulars Troops, were drawn up outside the Railway Station, and saluted His Royal Highness as he passed. On Wednesday the Court exchanged visits with the Nizam, and during the day His Royal Highness drove through Hyderabad City under an escort of the Nizam's troops. In the evening the Nizam entertained the Count at a State Banquet at Chow Mahala Palace, and after dinner His Royal Highness started by a special train for his shooting camp at Charkarpilla, in the Warangal districts, where a magnificent camp had been pitched and twelve tigers marked down.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Indian Sketches

BY

Shishir Kumar Ghose

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

W. S. Caine

PRICE—1 RUPEE AND 6 ANNAS.

"I heartily commend to every cultured and earnest Indian, to every Christian Missionary, and also to every European who cares to look beneath the surface of Indian life and thought, the contents of this deeply-interesting volume of miscellaneous articles from the pen of Shishir Kumar Ghose".—W. S. Caine in the Introduction.

The sketches are written in excellent English and an attractive style. These sketches are of a miscellaneous character—stories with a distinctive imaginative faculty on every page ; excellent descriptions of exciting scenes, theological essays, dissertation ons Sutteeism ; poetry ; a spirited and long defence of their political rights ignored by the Government, entitled "The perpetual slavery of India" which it would do good to certain of the English people, if they would only take the trouble to read, and many other interesting essays. . . . it is pleasant to find that our friends in India are capable of writing in such an interesting strain as to be found in this book. —*London Review.*

To be had at the *Patrika* Office.

A Zoological Library.—The Library of the Zoological Gardens has been made available to all students of zoology under certain rules to regulate admission, the use of the books, etc. Applications for admission are to be made to the Superintendent of the Gardens.

The Foreign Office.—During the absence of the Governor-General in Council from Calcutta, the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Judicial, Political, and Appointment Departments, will hold charge of that portion of the Foreign Department which is left in Calcutta.

Honour to the Vicerine.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the decoration of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India on Mary Victoria, Lady Curzon of Kedleston, wife of the Right Honourable George Nathanial, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

A Drowning Fatality.—Lieutenant-Colonel Shirres, R. A., Commanding the 8th Mountain Battery was accidentally drowned on Friday afternoon in the Rungeet River while fishing He slipped off a rock into deep water, and never rose to the surface. Every effort to recover his body is being made, but so far without success.

The Recent Cyclone.—So far as can be ascertained no individual garden has suffered to the full extent of what storms, such as last Tuesday's, are capable of inflicting, but there has been a good number slightly injured. In one or two instances plucking will be suspended for a month or so. On Friday night, another very severe storm was experienced, but only a little hail fell.

A Tiger Shot.—A Dhubri correspondent says that the other day at noon a woman at Bagoolamari, a village adjacent to Dhubri, was killed by a large-sized tiger. The occurrence was reported to the Deputy Commissioner, who immediately went to the scene in company with Mr. Jolly, Extra Assistant Commissioner, and a few servants, on three elephants, and shot the tiger.

Murder at Basirhat.—An atrocious murder was committed at Hasnabad near Basirhat. An old Hindoo woman on the 1st instant went to her son-in-law's house for the purpose of bringing her daughter home for a temporary visit. The son-in-law was absent at the time; the mother-in-law without waiting for his return took her daughter away. On returning home the son-in-law found his wife absent and having learned from his neighbours the cause thereof was so much enraged that he took up an axe, chased his mother-in-law, and overtaking her on the way, mercilessly struck the old woman with the axe causing her immediate death.

A Buddhist Monastery in Calcutta.—At no distant date, says the *Maha Bodhi Journal*, the Buddhists will have a monastery in Calcutta. A plot of land is to be secured at Rs. 3,750 near the Ballygunge railway station within the Municipal limits of Calcutta. A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been advanced by a Buddhist gentleman, whose name cannot be disclosed at present. The land is beautifully situated and admirably suited for Buddhist students. We expect to erect a monastery, and we hope Burma, Ceylon, Siam, Arakan and Japan will liberally contribute towards the project.

A Monster.—A correspondent sends us the following from Raipur, Birbhum : "It is not often that we see or hear of animals giving birth to creatures, other than of its own species, half human, half beast. It was on the 27th of March that a cow in this village, after more than a year brought forth a still born monster. Its head was round like that of a human infant with the eyes and nose imperfectly developed while the ears and the rest of the body were formed like those of a calf (with these exception that it had no hair on the surface of its body). In size it was not much bigger than a full developed human infant at its birth.

Vital Statistics.—The total number of deaths registered in Urban Calcutta during the week ending 18th March was 568 against 456 and 416 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 263. There were 10 deaths from cholera, against 9 and 9 in the two preceding weeks ; the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 65. There were 112 deaths from plague, against 67 and 29 in the two preceding weeks. There was one death from small-pox during the week. There were 3 deaths from tetanus, against 3 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 189 and 93, respectively, against 184 and 50 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 69·5 per mille per annum, against 45·4, the mean of the last five years.—The total number of deaths registered in Suburban Calcutta during the same week was 231, against 172 and 188 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 78. There were 11 deaths from cholera against 6 and 7 in the two preceding weeks; the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 20. There were 8 deaths from plague, against one and nil in the two preceding weeks. There were 8 deaths from small-pox during the week, against 5 in the previous week. There were two deaths from tetanus, against 2 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 58 and 38, respectively, against 60 and 28 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 56·0 per mille per annum against 48·1, the mean of the last five years. The general death-rate of the combined area is equal to 61·1.

Inventions and Designs.—Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed, under the provisions of the Invensions and Designs Act of 1888, in the office of the Secretary appointed under that Act, during the week ending 25th March 1899;—Gopal Mahadeo Vidwans, draftsman, sanitary engineer's office, Poona, Bombay Presidency for a box latrine ; Laura Moller, wife of N. E. T. Moller, of 51 Bentinck Street, Calcutta, for an air tight lid or lock especially suitable and intended for municipal nightsoil carts and buckets ; William Martin, retired indigo planter, residing at Agra, N.-W. P. For a double roller cotton gin suitable for India ; Gustaf Dillberg, electrician, of 77 Elizabeth street, Sydney, New South Wales for an improved acetylene gas generator ; Gustaf Dillberg, electrician, of 77 Elizabeth-street, Sydney, New South Wales, for improvements in the treatment of catcium carbide, whereby the conversion of same into acetylene gas may be retarded without the aid of any mechanical devices ; Gustaf Dillberg, electrician, of 77 Elizabeth-street, Sydney, New South Wales, for improvements in means for using calcium carbide for the purpose of generating acetylene gas ; Samuel Cleland Davidson, merchant, of Sirocco, engineering works, Belfast, for improvements in the manufacture of black tea from the green tea leaf, and a new compound for use in such manufacture ; Samuel Cleland Davidson, merchant of Sirocco engineering works, Belfast, for improvements in apparatus for the manufacture of compressed pelleis, tabloids, or blocks of dried vegetable or other substances ; Gustaf Dillberg, electrician, of 77 Elizabeth street, Sydney, New South Wales, for improvements in protective coverings for compressed cakes composed of granulated calcium carbide, or an admixture of calcium carbide with other ingredients; Cecil Gorman May, temporary engineer, Punjab Irrigation Department, Chenab canal, Lyallpore, Punjab, for an improved slide rule for use by irrigation engineers ; Arthur Kitson, civil engineer, of Philadelphia, in the county and state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. for improvements in and relating to vapour burning apparatus ; John Coyne, engineer, of 1644 Colwell street, in the city of Pittsburgh, county of Allegheny, state of Pennsylvania, U. S. A., for improvements in the manufacture of gas ; A Simon and Company, manufacturers of boots, shoes, etc., Quetta, for the manufacture of leather putti leggings ; Major H. B. Thornhill, cantonment magistrate, Bareilly. A latrine to be called "Thornhill's automatic sanitary latrine."

Plague News.

CALCUTTA RETURNS—34 ATTACKS AND 30 DEATHS.

On Tuesday last, there were so many as 34 attacks and 30 deaths, distributed as follows over the various wards:—4 and 6 in No. 1; 3 and 4 in No. 3; 2 and 2 in No. 4; 9 and 8 in No. 5; 4 and 4 in No. 6; 3 and 1 in No. 7; 1 attack in No. 8; 1 attack in No. 11; 2 and 2 in No. 13; 3 and 3 in No. 14; 2 attacks, address unknown. Of suspected cases there were 24 with an equal number of deaths—2 and 2 in No. 2; 4 and 4 in No. 3; 1 and 1 in No. 4; 1 and in No. 5; 1 and 1 in No. 6; 1 and 1 in No. 7; 1 and 1 in No. 9; 1 and 1 in No. 10; 1 and 1 in No. 11; 3 and 3 in No. 13; 3 and 3 in No. 14; 4 and 4 in No. 15; 1 and 1 in No. 19. The total mortality from all causes amounted to 97 against 75, the average of the last five years.

POONA FIGURES.

The plague is about stationary. There were thirteen fresh cases and nine deaths, with a total mortality in the city of twenty.

PLAGUE IN THE PUNJAB.

Two new villages in the Jullundur district, Lodhapur and Shikapur, have been attacked with plague. There have been one death and ten cases. There has been one case in the disinfecting gang at Buhara.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

Tuesday's plague returns for Bombay give 162 cases and 101 deaths ; total mortality is 237. Last year there were 99 cases and 100 deaths, with a total mortality of 219.

RANAGHAT-KRISHNAGAR RAILWAY.

OPENING CEREMONY.

An interesting ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at Aitshala Ghat, on the Churni river, near Ranaghat, the terminus of the new Ranaghat-Krishnaghar Light Railway—the occasion being the opening of the Railway by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. A special train left Calcutta at 2 o'clock, taking His Honor, the Directors of the Company and about a dozen Indian and two dozen European gentlemen. On the way at Naihati Mr. H. C. Williams, the Commissioner of Burdwan, and at Ranaghat Mr. Gapendra Krishna Deb, the Sessions Judge of Krishnaghar, joined the party. The Aitshala Ghat was reached at a quarter past three, and His Honor was here received by the District Officials. The ceremony took place under a Shamiana tastefully decorated in honor of the occasion.

The party then travelled a short way over the new line in the company's train. The line is of 2 feet 6 inches gange and of 20 miles in length, and is similar in every respect to the Howrah-Amta line. The party then came back, had refreshments and then left for Calcutta at about half past five, reaching the town at a quarter past seven. Among those present were Sir James Westland, Sir Patrick Playfair, Hon'ble Mr. Pratt, Sir Acquin Martin, Mr. Walsh, Mr. C. E. Buckland, Mr. H. C. Williams, Mr. N. K. Bose, Mr. Gopendra Krishna Deb, Mr. R. D. Mehta, Mr. H. C. Mullick, Mr. A. E. Adie, the Engineer in charge of the line, Mr. R. N. Mookerjee, Babus Nalin Behari Sarkar and Nagendra Nath Pal Chowdhury.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE VICEROY ON TOUR

A LAHORE correspondent sends, under date 3rd instant, the following account of the Viceroy's visit to Khanki Irrigation Works:—The Viceroy, accompanied by the Lieutenant-Governor, their respective Staffs, Colonel Montgomery, Settlement Commissioner, Mr. Wilson, Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government and Captain Popham Young, the Colonization Officer, left Lahore last night at 11 o'clock by special train, and arrived early this morning at Khanki, where are the head works of the Chenab Canal Colonel Brackenbury, Manager of the NorthWestern Railway, Mr. Jacob, the Traffic Manager, and Mr. Wolburton, Superintendent of Police, were in charge of the train. His Excellency and His Honor were received at Khanki by Mr. Higham, Inspector General of Irrigation, Mr. Beresford, Chief Engineer of the Punjab Irrigation Department, Mr. Jacob, Superintending Engineer of the Chenab Circle and other Canal officers. His Excellency spent some time in viewing the great dam from the wooden tower, about 60 feet high, rected in view of a contemplated visit from Lord Lansdowne, which, however, was never made and in examining the maps and plans submitted to him by Messrs. Higham and Beresford. From the op of the tower an excellent view was obtained of the works and machinery by which the river is embraced and held within bounds, and the necessary supply of water discharged into the canal by means of which over 4,000 square miles of the country are irrigated. His Excellency's reply to the Lyallpur address gives a very graphic and the comprehensive account of this great work. The inspection being over the whole party were entertained at breakfast by the Lieutenant-Govenor.

The train left Khanki at ten o'clock, and halted for lunch at Sangla Hill, a colonist settlement, looking very like an Egyptian town from the distance The inhabitants made quite a brilliant display in the way for triumphal arches and decorations, and had a band in attendance which performed vigorously during the visit. His Excellency and party walked up the main street of the town, being received at the entrance by principal colonists with whom he entered into a conversation, in the course of which he thanked them cordially for the reception they had given him. The people looked happy and contented, and there was an air of prosperity about the town and its surroundings that was striking. Lyallpur, the head quarters of the four Canal Divisions and of the Colonisation Officer, Captain Popham Young, was reached shortly after 4 o'clock. His Excellency was received at the station which was brilliantly decorated by the principal Irrigation officers of the district, and proceeded at once with the Lieutenant-Governor, and the others of the party in a camal carriage, to Captain Popham Young's bungalow, a mile distant. The carriage proceeded at a walking pace, being preceded by the excellent band of the 23rd Pioneer which was specially subscribed for and brought up from Lahore by the colonists for the occasion. Triumphal arches were erected along the route which was densely thronged throughout by the colonists, who were most enthusiastic in their demonstrations of welcome. Amongst them were many fine looking men, pensioners of the Native Army, some wearling their uniforms and medals. All the colonists, indeed with scarcely an exception, were splendid specimen of a manly independent people. After some time spent in conversation with the Irrigation officers and in the examination of the maps and plans at Captain Young's Bungalow, His Excellency proceeded to a verandah in front of which a large body of colonists was assembled to witness the presentation of the address of welcome. This was read by the Nawab Mohamed Hyat Khan, C.S.I., in vernacular, to which His Excellency replied suitably.

His Excellency afterwards visited the town and some of the principal buildings, and later on witnessed an excellent display of fireworks. The town and railway station were also brilliantly illuminated. The special train left for Lahore at 11 P. M.

THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

GRADE REORGANISATION.

SIMLA, MARCH 31.

WITH effect from 1st April, the graded list of the Political Department will be reorganised thus. The appointment of Agent to the Governor-General in Khorassan and Seistan, hitherto an Additional Residency of the second-class, will be classed as an Ordinary Residency of the second-class. The number of appointments as Resident of the second-class will for the present be fifteen, and ultimately thirteen, when Colonel H. A. Vincent and Major H. A. Deane, C. S. I., who are appointed as additional Residents of the second-class, have been adsorbed into the regular establishment.

Eight appointments as Resident of the second-class will be localised with the following pay (the remaining appointments in which the pay will be Rs. 2,000 will not be localised): Kashmir, Rs. 2,750; Baroda, Rs. 2,200; Persian Gulf, Rs. 2,500; Turkish Arabia, Rs. 2,500; Nepal, Rs. 2,250; Thugg and Dacoity, Rs. 250; Revenue, and Judicial Commissioner, Baluchistna, Rs, 250; Gwalior, Rs. 2,250; New Grade Political Agent's pay, Rs. 1,800 per month. Four appointments will be created in this grade. The existing grades of Political Agent of the first class with pay of Rs. 1,500, second-class, pay Rs. 1,200; and third-class pay Rs. 1,000; will be retained, but will be renumbered as second, third, and fourth-class Political Agents, respectively. The appointments in the (new) second-class will be six until Colonel Vincent and Major Deane have been absorbed, and ther after eight. In the (new) third-class there will be eight appointments, and in the (new) fourth-class ten appointments.

The Additional Political Agent, first-class, will be abolished, but the Political Agent posted to the Eastern Rajputana States will, until further orders. receive net pay of Rs. 2,000. Officers posted to other, appointments, hitherto classed as Additional Agencies, will receive pay or salary according to their grading in the Department. The evisting grades of Political Assistant, first class, on Rs. 800, second-class on Rs. 600, and the third-class on Rs. 500, will be maintained. The establishment will be eight assistants of the first-class, nine assistants of the second-class, twenty-four assistants of the third-class.

Subject to the re-numbering of the grades of Political Agent and to the abolition of the appointments of Additional Political Agent of the first-class, all officers retain their present substantive positions, unless or until otherwise ordered.

The reorganihation is intended to improve prospects in the Department as a whole and assimilat, generally the salaries of covenanted civilians to those obtaining in different provinces. It is not possible, however, to ensure that the salary of each individual covenanted civilian in the Political Department shall be equal to the salaries of his contemporaries in his own province.

The standard aimed at is a Department including at least twenty covenanted civilians, of whom twelve shall be in appointments carrying a substantive pay of Rs. 1,000 or upwards, and the remainder in less highly paid posts. The intention is that, as a matter of practice, promotion, both substantive and officiating, should, when a fair distribution of civilian and military members has been secured, go to the civilians in the line of the civilian and to the military men in the line of the military men. The Government of India, however, reserve to themselves absolute discretion as to the actual grant of promotion, whether substantive or officiating. The Government of India also reserve full discretion to all vacancies by introducing men from any branch of the public service

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

A GENERAL Meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta was held on Wednesday at the Town Hall. Besides the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman there were about fifty Commission present.

PLAGUE IN ADDED AREA.

Babu Amulyadhan Addy asked the following questions:—

(a) Will the Chairman kindly state what special measures he has taken or is willing to take for the prevention of the spread of bubonic plague in the Added Area?

(b) Is it not advisable to increase the number of coolies for cleansing the bustees and drains as well as that of sullage and refuse carts for the efficient conservancy of the said area?

The Chairman in reply said:—

(a) The only steps which can be taken to prevent the spread of plague, have been taven in the added area. The wards which compose it have been divided into districts, which are in charge of well qualified European Doctors. There is a public hospital at Budge Budge and another at Manicktola. A sufficient number of disinfecting gangs have been retained, houses are disinfected in which plague cases occur and attempts are made to get the sick people removed to hospital and the infected houses evacuated.

The Vigilance Committees are assisting us to some extent, but there is great reluctance amongst the people to give information.

(b) I cannot answer this question until I have had time to go into it carefully with the Health Officer.

CONSERVANCY IN THE NORTHERN TOWN.

Babu Nalin Bihari Sircar put the following questions:—

1. Is the Chairman aware of the existence of a strong feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the residents of the northern part of the town in regard to (i) conservancy arrangements generally; and (ii) the watering of several of the streets and lanes?

2. (*a*) Will he kindly explain the causes of the defects so bitterly complained of?

2 (*b*) What steps has he taken or does he propose to take for the speedy removal of these defects?

3. If want of proper supervision over the daily work of the coolies, carters, etc., be one of the causes, cannot the honorary services of active members of the Vigilance Committees n each ward be utilized for the purpose as a temporary measure in the present emergency?

The Chairman in reply said:—

1. (a) The Chairman has seen letters in the papers and is aware that complaints are made about the conservancy arrangements generally and the watering of streets and lanes in the northern part of the town.

1. (b) As regards conservancy the defects are principally due to the shortness of cattle and drivers. A number of the drivers have recently run away and in consequence the number of carts which can be sent out is short.

As regards shortness of street watering the cause is the same. As the establishment of ponies is short we have had to take many of them for the conservancy establishment, as conservancy is more important in this time of plague than street watering.

2. The steps which have been taken are as follows: One hundred cattle have been purchased locally, while nearly 100 more have been ordered from Purneah where the stamp of cattle seems to be very suitable for our requirements. Twenty-seven of these have been received and more are expected shortly. If it had not been for the recent exodus of carters, the number of conservancy carts sent out would have been the full number, and the release of other animals from conservancy carts would have enabled street watering to have been more efficiently done. In November last the Health Officer was sepecially deputed to Sonepur to purchase ponies, but was unable to find a sufficient stock for our requirements. As regards deficiency in labour, some months ago, arrangements were made with a labour contractor for the extra hands required; but the contractor has failed us. As soon as the present exodus of carters began, Mr. Mukerjee was deputed to Gaya to arrange for the necessary men, but he has hitherto been unable to secure them probably owing to fear of plague. The General Committee was asked to help in the matter and some of the members have promised to assist the Health Officer with suggestions.

As regards watering I have made atrangements to extend at once as far as possible the system of watering by hose from hydrants. The system will be extended as rapidly as possible and relief will then be given to the water cart establishment which will be able to do the work better and more thoroughly than they do at present. As soon as we can replace the carters who have absconded we shall be able to improve the street watering and conservancy.

3. There is I think undoubtedly want of supervision over the afternoon conservancy. As this is in charge at present of the ordinary Inspectors (as the Chairman pointed out, had already enough to do.) I have therefore arranged to put on five extra Inspectors for the afternoon conservancy as an experiment. Their pay to be met from the Plague Loan Account. As regards the general supervision the supervising establishment is, I think, quite sufficient. As regards making use of the services of honorary members of the Vigilance Committees, I should be unwilling to throw an extra burden upon the shoulders of gentlemen from whom I am already asking considerable sacrifice of time and leisure in connection with reporting of plague cases and supervision of plague contacts. As regards the general question of censervancy, it is only fair to the Healthf Department to note that a larger quentity of refuse is being taken away than in the corresponding year. The question of improving both the conservancy and the street watering, is receiving my earnest attention, and I shall be only too glad for any suggestion which any Commissioner will be kind enough to make.

THE TRAMWAY QUESTION.

The Chairman submitted for information a letter from the Manager of the Tramways Company refusing to accept the terms of the agreement offered by the Commissioners at the meeting held on the 7th March, 1899, in connection with the repairs of the Company's lines.

After some discussion it was resolved to refer the matter to the General Committee for consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF THE CORPORATION ON THE COUNCIL.

The following Resolution of the General Committee held on the 30th March, 1899, was confirmed:—

"That having regard to the fact that the Municipal Bill is now under consideration by the Bengal Legislative Council, the Commissioners pray that in addition to the member to be elected by them to sit in the Council, the Government will be pleased to appoint another member of the Corporation to assist in the discussion of the Bill."

STATE OF ROADS IN NORTHERN TOWN.

Babu Radha Churn Pal expressed strong indignation at the manner in which roads in his ward were kept. They were kept in a disgraceful condition and everybody was complaining of that; but the executive took no notice of the complaints.

The Chairman promised to look into the matter.

PLAGUE IN WARD NO. 1.

Babu Bhupendra Math Bose complained of the way in which the plague officials in Ward No. 1 were carrying their duties. There was no disinfection worth the name in houses where plague broke out. The infected articles were left on the streets to be carried away by poor people, and they were no burned; and what little disinfection there was, that usually took place some days after the death of the victim. There was no satisfactory service of removing dead persons who had no one to take care of them. He mentioned one instances in which the dead body of an Oria was allowed to remain in a hut for more than 24 hours and it was devoured by jackals. Babu P. N. Mullick also added some similar instances from his own ward.

The Ghairman gave some explanation and promised to look into the matter.

The rest of the business was of a formal nature.

SIR GEORGE ROBERTSON, who has been granted six months' special leave, will, it is understood, retire from India at the end of that period.

IN the appeal case of the Bombay Municipality against F. Hogan, in regard to cycle tax, Justices Candi and Russell decided in favour of the tax being levied by the Municipality.

THE appeal of the two Chapekars and Ranade against the sentence of death in the Poona murders was heard at the Bombay High Court on Tuesday last, before Justices Parsons and Ranade. Mr. Justice Parsons, in delivering judgment, said that the case against the elder Chapekar and Ranade was clear, and needed no comment. They had made full and unequivocal confessions, and pleaded guilty in the Court of Sessions. Their Lordships confirmed the sentence of death against the first two accused for double murder. In regard to Balkrishna Chapaker the case was different, and required careful consideration. In that case the Court had to see whether the prosecution had proved the presence of the accused at the murders. The only evidence in the case was the statements of the three accused persons themselves. Outside of the statements there was not a scrap of evidence to connect the accused with the murders. The accused, in his statement to the Chief Presidency Magistrate, frankly admitted his knowledge of, and complicity in, a conspiracy to murder Mr. Rand, but he said that he was not present at the murders. His Lordship set out the facts of the case at great length and in doing so remarked that he had done this in order that Government might be in a position to consider whether they should not exercise their prerogative of mercy in his case, for he didn't actually commit the murders, and his keeping silence might be attributed to the influence exercised over him by his elder brother. His Lordship commented on the conduct of the committing Magistrate, and confirmed the sentence on the third prisoner also. Mr. Justice Ranade delivered a separate judgment, in which he concurred with Mr. Justice Parsons. The sentences passed on the three prisoners were accordingly confirmed. The date of execution of Wasadew Chapekar and Mahadeo Ranade has been fixed for the 17th instant.

SUFFICIENT meterial for a three-volume novel has been furnished by a case of murder recently tried by the Sessions Judge of Mainpuri. The scene of murder is laid about 12 miles from the town of Mainpuri in a forest of Babuls—a place so very rarely visited on account of the absolute uselessness of a Babul tree and consequently so eminently fitted for the commission of such deeds. The story told by the prosecution is this. One Ratan Singh, a Zemindar with a fairly rich income of about 1,200 a year, had about 15 years ago built a temple where he used to live day and night and spent a good deal of his income on the temple. In his holy residence he was accompanied by too sisters of Kesab Singh, one of his own family who are described as "chalis" of Ratan Singh. The inmates of Ratan Singh's house, his wife, his daughter and son in-law, are said to have been watching this mode of Ratan's life, his attachment to the temple and to Kesab's sisters with an eye of jealousy. This jealousy reached its climax when Ratan, in the month of Saman last, expressed a desire to formally dedicate his Zemindari to the temple. The Batesar Fair which takes place in the month of Kartik is a big affair that attracts great many people of the neighbouring villages to it. Kesab and many others had gone there. At this time Ajit Singh formed a conspiracy with Golab Singh, his friend, and Chet Singh a cousin of Ratan Singh. On a certain day at 4 P. M. Ratan Singh was decoyed from his temple to his own forest of Babuls which he wished to sell. He was assaulted by Chet Singh but managed to escape from the claws of the enemy and was running homewards when he was felled with a lathi by one of his own private servants who happened to be there on business. Ratan was then cut into pieces, bound in a bundle and thrown into a dry well. Here the dead body remained for 8 days when it was taken out and burnt on the very place where another man of the same family who chanced to die in the meantime had been burnt on the previous evening. The people of the village were under the impression that Ratan had gone on a pilgrimage. No cluet was found until a confession by Ratan's servant was recorded. This was retracted in the Court of Sessions. Mud was taken out of the well. Bones were collected from the burning place and a cloth was found containing spots of blood, The medical evidence falsified these. The Sessions Judge discredited the prosecution evidence, found no sufficient motive proved and acquitted Chet Singh who alone was on trial.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. C. J. O'Donnell, Offg Commr, Bhagalpur Divn, is allowed furlough on medical certificate for six months, Mr. H. C. Williams, Offig Commr, Burdwan Divn, acting for him.

Mr. J. Kennedy, Addl Commr, Patna Divn, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Commr of the Burdwan Divn.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker, Offg Secy to the Govt of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, is allowed leave for three months.

The services of Mr. F. W. Strong, Asst Magte and Collr, Muzaffarpur, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Govt of India in the Home Dept.

Maulvi Mahmud-ul-Nabi, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, uttack, is allowed leave for two months and eleven days.

In modification of the order of the 28th February 1899, Babu Hari Bhushan De, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Cuttack.

In modification of the order of the 13th March 1899, Babu Kunja Behary Chatterjee, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Cuttack.

Babu Rajani Prasad Neogi, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Bankura, is transferred to Dinajpur.

Mr. E. G. Drake-Brockman, Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, is appointed to the third grade of Magtes and Collrs. Mr. Drake-Brockman will act as Dist and Sesss. Judge of Midnapore until further orders.

Babu Surja Kumar Das, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Jogendra Nath Sen, Dy Magte and Dy. Collr, Noakhali, is transferred temporarily to Howrah.

Mr. F. P. Dixon, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy. Collr, Buxar, Shahabad, is transferred to Muzaffarpur.

Mr. J. Maxwell, Asst Magte and Collr, Bhabhua Shahabad, is appointed to have charge of the Buxar sub-divn.

Babu Anath Bandhu De, Offg. Dy. Magte and Dy Collr, Sarampore, Hooghly, is transferred temporarily to the Jahanabad sub-divn.

Mr. A. Garrett, Offig Jt Magte and Dy Collr, Gobindpur, Manbhum, is appointed to have charge of the Khurda sub divin.

This cancels the order of the 20th March, 1899, appointing Mr. W.F.C. Montriou, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Cuttack, to have temporary charge of the Khurda sub-divn.

Mr. A. J. Chotzner, Asst Magte and Collr, Kushtia, Nadia, is appoinred to have charge of the Gobindpur sub-divn.

Mr. Atul Krishna Ray, Dy Magte and Dy Collr on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Kushtea sub-divn.

Babu Ramesh Chandra Das, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Purnea, is appointed to have charge of the Araria sub-divn.

Mr. E. V. Levinge, Offig Collr of Customs, Calcutta, is allowed furlough for eighteen months, Mr. D. J. Macpherson, C. I. E., Magte and Collr, Champaran, acting for him.

Mr. C. A. Bell, Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Muzaffarpur, is appointed to act as Magte and Collr of Champaran.

Babu Chandra Mohan Mazumdar, Asstt. Inspr of Schools, Presy. Divn. now in charge of the office of Inspr. of Sohools, Presy. Circle, is appointed to act as Inspr. of Schools, Presy. Circle, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. S. C. Hill, or until further orders.

Babu Ishan Chandra Ghosh, Head Master of the Hoogly Training School, is appointed to act as Asst. Inspr. of School, Presy Din.

Babu Rajendra Nath Banerji, Head Master Hooghly Branch School, is appointed to act as Head Master of the Hooghly Training School.

Babu Hari Charan Ray, Principal, Chittagong College, is appointed to act as Head Master of the Hooghly Branch School.

Mr. Durga Das Dutta, Temy Prof in the Dacca College, is appointed to act as Principal of the Chittagong College.

Babu Ras Vihari Basu, Munsif of Krishnagar, is appointed to be a Munsif of Burdwan.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Basu, Munsif of Burdwan, s appointed to be a Munsif of Chuadanga.

Babu Rajani Nath Mitter, Munsif of Chuadanga, s appointed to be a Munsif of Krishnagore.

Babu Bhavan Prasada, Sub-Dy Collr, is posted to the Patna Division, and is veted with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class, on being relieved of his appointment as Asst Settl Officer, North Bihar.

The undermentioned Asst Surg of the Bengal Provincial Establishment are promoted from the first grade to the senior grade:—Assistant Surgeons Jadub Kristo Sen, Bhola Nath Pal, Mati Lal Mukerji, Akbar Khan, Akshoya Kumar Pain.

Asst Surg Upendra Nath Sen, in temporary medical charge of the district of Noakhali, is confirmed in that appointment.

Retired Asst Surg Bully Chunder Sen, who has been temporarily re-employed in Government service is appointed temporarily to have medical charge of the civil station of Backergunge.

Major E. H. Brown, I. M. S., Civil Surgeon of Purnea is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Mazaffarpur

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LIEUTENANT-COLONEL YATE, on return from leave, goes to Jodhpur as Resident in the Western States of Rajputana.

IN connection with the late commotion at Cawnpore, we are surprised to learn that the Police are not making enquiry about persons who are supposed to have instigated the populace to close the shops. Such proceedings are sure to, as they cannot but, add to the existing bitterness.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MUIR, now Political Officer with the ex-Amir, officiates as Resident in Nepal, *vice* Colonel Wylie, who goes to Baluchistan as Agent to the Governor-General replacing Mr. Barnes, who shortly officiates as Foreign Secretary of the Government of India.

HIS Honor Sir Antony MacDonnell arrived at Benares from Lucknow on Monday afternoon, and stayed as the guest of Mr. L. A. S. Porter, the Commissioner, till next morning, when His Honor, accompanied by his Secretary, Mr. Odling, and Mr. Doubles, left Benares by the B. and N.-W. Railway special for Mau to perform the opening ceremony of the Ganges-Gogra-Daub Railways. Among the guests from Benares were Mr. Porter, the Commissioner, Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffry Hall, I. M. S., Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Mr. J. Heining, Superintending Engineer, besides all the other Civil and Military officers who could get away from their official duties. A special train from Gorakhpur arrived on Monday night bringing Mr. Izaat, C. I. E., Chief Engineer, Mr. James Walker, Traffic Manager, Dr. Hoey, the Collector of Gorakhpur, and the Engineers engaged on the construction, as well as other guests. Mr. Izaat and his staff received His Honor on arrival and conducted him to the waiting train which left punctually to time amid cheers from the assembled spectators. At Anorihar junction *en route* the Ghazipur special was to be met and guests from that station transferred to the Benares train. Regular passengers trains started running yesterday.

Telegrams.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, MAR. 30.

There is a movement of Chinese troops towards Pekin. The Kangsu troops, whose withdrawal from the capital the Powers demanded last autumn, will encamp in the immediate vicinity of Pekin.

LONDON, MAR. 30.

British revenue for the year ending the 31st March, shows a net increase of £1,841,039.

LONDON, MAR. 30.

Quarantine on arrivals from Mauritius has been reimposed at Alexandria.

LONDON, MAR. 31.

Telegrams from Manila announce the capture of Malolos to-day by the American troops.

The Filipion's obstinately resisted the American advance, but finally retreated northward, after burning the town which Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader, had left two days previously. The Filipinos' loss was slight, as throughout the attack they were invisible in the jungle. The American losses at the capture of Malolos were one killed and fifteen wounded.

LONDON, MAR. 31.

The South-Western Company's steamer *Stella*, carrying 140 passengers and forty-one crew, bound for Guernsey, struck on the Casquets Rocks yesterday afternoon in a fog, and sank in ten minutes, the boilars exploding. Seventy-four passengers, comprising most of the women and children on board, and nineteen of the crew, were saved in boats, but upwards of eighty were drowned.

LONDON, APRIL 1.

The German punitive expedition from Kiaochau has landed at Ichau, and gone inland to the town of the same name. The Germans will occupy both places until the Chinese prove their ability to maintain order.

Another German detachment has effected the release of the priest taken captive at Thimo, and has punished the culprits.

LONDON, APRIL 1.

Three Powers, Britain, Germany and America, have agreed upon the appointment of a Joint High Commission to settle the Samoan question with the King of Sweden as umpire.

LONDON, APRIL. 1.

It is semi-officially announced in Copenhagen that the Danish cruiser Fyen with Prince Waldemar aboard is going to China, solely for the purpose of strengthening the Danish commercial position in that country.

LONDON, APRIL 1.

General Otis telegraphs from Manila that his troops are preparing for a continued active campaign in the Philippines.

LONDON, APRIL. 2.

A sensation is being caused in Paris by the publication in the *Figaro* of the depositions made before the Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation, in which the evidence of M. Deputy, who was Primier in also 1894, showed that he was not cognizant of and did not concern himself about the Dreyfus case till quite recently.

LONDON, APRIL. 2.

The Chinese Government is sending troops to the vicinity of Kiachau to protect foreigners.

LONDON, APRIL 3.

It is stated at Washington that the three-Powers concerned have reached an understanding on the Samoan Question, obviating the necessity of Appealing to King Oscar as Umpire.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

Reuter telegraphs from Hongkong that it is reported the Chinese have captured the Superintendent of the Hongkong Police. Two companies of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers went to Canton on board a torpedo destroyer yesterday evening. Another destroyer with two hundred men followed at daylight this morning, and a Hongkong regiment is held in readiness to proceed to Canton.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

A later despatch says that the Superintendent of Police has returned to Hongkong, and reports that he was not molested by the Chinese. Owing, however, to natives obstructing the work of the Kaulung extension Surveyors, the Governor of Hongkong has protested to the Viceroy of Canton, who has ordered the troops in the district to protect the Surveyors.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

The semi-official *Berlin Post* announces that the Powers are discussing the question of the re-assembling of the Conference on bounty-fed sugar.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

General Otis cables to the authorities at Washington that the Filipinos are discouraged and have scattered since their recent defeats and many of the insurgents are now seeking American protection.

MR. THOMAS RALEIGH, Barrister-at-Law took upon himself the execution of his office as Legal Member of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council on Monday at Simla under the usual salute.

AFTER some four months' deliberation the appeal was heard before the committee on the 18th and 22nd November 1898—the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have given judgment in a case involving the settlement of the question whether the higher Hindu castes can adopt the son of a maternal aunt—an important point in Hindu law. The Subordinate Judge in India held that the adoption of such a relation is not allowed; but a Full Bench of six Judges of the Allahabad High Court reversed this decision; four Judges being of opinion that such adoption could be allowed, and only two—Mr. Justice Aicman and Mr. Justice Banerji—holding that it could not. The Judicial Committee has now reversed the decision of the High Court, and sustained that of the Subordinate Judge. Lord Hobhouse who delivered the judgment, concluded as follows:—"Their Lordships do not inquire whether the views so earnestly maintained by the learned Chief Justice upon the construction of the disputed text might have been successfully maintained at the beginning of this century. For 80 or 90 years there has been a steady current of authority one way in all parts of India. It has been decided that the precepts condemning adoptions such as the one made in this case are not monitory only, but are positive prohibitions, and that their effect is to make such adoptions wholly void. That has been settled in such a way and for such a length of time as to make it incompetent to a Court of Justice to treat the question now as an open one."

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

India and England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, APRIL 18.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

MEMBERS of Parliament on both sides of the House are keenly alive and alert with regard to the Bill which has been introduced into the Viceroy's Council for the purpose of putting countervailing duties on Bounty-fed sugar. This new and not unexpected move is, as I foreshadowed in my last letter, being seized upon by Sir Howard Vincent and his protectionist friends as a stalking horse behind which they may capture a similar measure for Britain whose sugar refineries have been largely closed by the unfair opposition of Bounty-fed imports. They have no case, for the conditions existing in India have no comparison with those of the British Sugar industries, which have only been diverted into fresh and more profitable channels, the refineries giving place to, and indeed, in many cases used by, sweetmeat makers, jam boilers, sugar bakers and biscuit manufacturers; while in India there are no refineries worth the name to be interfered with, the "protection", if it is to be so styled at all, being intended for the benefit of sugar-growers only. As I observed last week, no one who is familiar with Indian politics and economics, which differ fundamentally from those which guide us here can at all judge what is right for India in fiscal matters by what is right for Britain. To impose a countervailing duty on Bounty-fed sugar in this country would be to fly in the face of the entire principles upon which our fiscal and commercial policy has been based for fifty years—a policy justified with regard to sugar by the fact that our people consume 80 lbs per head per annum, and that the cheap Bounty sugar have been so utilised that they actually employ in other industries thousands of more workpeople than were employed in sugar refineries in their palimest days. In India, on the other hand, the principle of countervailing duties have been solidly established by the Excise duties on cotton manufactures and the imposition of similar duties on sugar becomes a mere question of expedience.

If Lord George Hamilton can make out a clear case that Bounty-fed sugars are throwing land out of cultivation, without conferring a compensating advantage upon the poor by lowering the price of a great staple article of food, the House of Commons, as at present constituted, will let him confirm the Bill. But if it once becomes evident that the Indian Government are, however unwittingly, playing into the hands of the protectionist party on the contrary, he will have a pretty rough time before him. Already his extraordinary inaptitude and lack of Parliamentary tact has given the impression that it is so, and he has been roundly attacked as wishing to use India in the interests of British protectionism.

The ball was opened on Friday last by a member who is almost as maladroit as the Secretary of State for India, Sir Howard Vincent, the prophet of British protectionism.

He asked the Secretary of State for India if the Government of India had with his approval determined to levy a countervailing duty on the importation of foreign bounty-fed sugar.

Lord George Hamilton replied:—A Bill under which countervailing duties will be imposed upon all bounty-fed sugar imported into India has, I believe, been introduced to-day, with my approval, in the Legislative Council at Calcutta.

This reply evoked vociferous cheers from the Tories, and cries of dissent from the Liberals, and at once gave the stamp to the Bill which would probably prevent its passing into law. A few simple words of explanation from the Secretary of State would have put the matter before the House in its least objectionable form; but that would have required tact, and the Secretary hasn't got any.

He floundered still further in the little conversation which followed. Here it is:—

Mr. Maclean (C., Cardiff): May I ask the noble lord if this Bill has been introduced with his assent?

Lord George Hamilton: I have already said so.

Mr. Maclean: Does the noble lord intend to submit this change of policy to the House of Commons before it is carried into effect? (Opposition cheers.)

Lord George Hamilton: I have more than once told my hon. friend that I have no intention whatsoever of interfering with the independence of the local Legislature.

Mr. Maclean: Does the noble lord remember how he interfered with that independence in the case of the Indian cotton duties? (Loud Opposition cheers.)

Lord George sat silent, crimson and ashamed under this clever retort.

But what on earth does the Secretary of State mean by saying in one breath that the Bill has been introduced "by my approval" and in the next, "I have no intention of interfering with the independence of the local authority?" The Bill has been manufactured in the India Office, sent out to India with the imprimatur of the Secretary of State, has been introduced into a Council in which the Government possesses a permanent and docile majority, and yet Lord George vapours about its "independence." The Bill, when we see it, may be a good Bill enough or a very bad Bill, but it has about as much to do with the "independence of the local authority," as it has with the man in the moon! But perhaps Lord George has become a "Home Ruler." It is almost needless to point out in your columns how completely Lord George Hamilton ignores the fact that Parliament is directly responsible for the Government of India. Our self-governing colonies can and do put on protective or countervailing duties on imports without let or hindrance from Parliament. But India is quite another pair of shoes, and the bare fact of Lord George, the servant of Parliament, saying that this Bill was introduced "with his approval," at once declares and emphasises the fact. Can we conceive of a question being asked to Mr. Chamberlain about a Bill having been introduced into the Parliament of Canada or New South Wales and his replying, "it has been introduced with my approval?" The responsibility of the British Parliament and the Government of India is joint and several, and the consent of Parliament will have to be secured sooner or later to this Indian Sugar Bill. If the impression gains ground that this Bill is a sop to a very influential body of supporters of the Government in this country, and not an urgent need of large and important Indian interests—in fact intended to pave the way for countervailing duties in Britain, the House of Commons is likely enough to upset it, and if Lord George were upset with it, the Tory tears would be as few as the Liberal.

The squashing of Lord George by Mr. Maclean was one of the neatest bits of Parliamentary tactics, and the House was delighted with it. Mr. Maclean means business. He will prevent the Bill if he can, and he is a strong opponent. He had intimated his intention of moving the adjournment of the House this week, but Sir Howard Vincent has headed him off by giving notice of a motion, one of the forms of the House which prevents the adjournment on a matter of urgent public interest, by making that matter part of the order book of the House. It is now reported that the Front Opposition Bench will ask for a day for full discussion, and Lord George may find himself face to face with a very ugly situation. An important discussion is absolutely certain and Sir Henry Fowler, who seems at last to be throwing Lord George overboard, is reported to intend to put down a motion asking the Crown to withold assent to the Bill which has been brought in by the Indian Government and demand an opportunity for a discussion which the Government would be unable to refuse.

On Monday Mr. Herbert Roberts very kindly gave Lord George a golden opportunity for saying a few words in explanation of the Bill, and at the same time declaring that the Cabinet had no sinister designs upon the virtue of Free Trade in this country, but again Lord George threw away his chance.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (W.) asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Bill introduced on Friday, the 10th inst, in the Legislative Council of India imposing a countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar.

LORD G. HAMILTON.—On Tuesday last my right hon, friend the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated, on my behalf, in reply to a question, that the responsibility for Indian legislation is thrown by the law, first, upon the Legislative Council, and secondly, upon the Secretary of State for India, on whose advice any Bill may, if he thinks fit, be disallowed, and that to lay a copy of an Indian Bill during its passage through the Council upon the table of this House would involve a transferance of responsibility to which I was not prepared to agree. It is hardly necessary for me to add that I am responsible to the House for the advice which I may give on each case, and I shall be perectly ready, if this Bill is passed, to lay a copy of it on the table and, if necessary, to justify the course which I have taken.

Mr. Roberts intends to take an early opportunity to move a resolution to the effect that it is desirable that all Bills introduced into the Legislative Councils of India shall be laid on the table of the House for the information of members. If he gets the opportunity of debate it will be interesting to hear Lord George's explanation of how the laying of a copy of an Indian Bill during its passage through Council upon the table of the House would involve a "transfer of responsibility" from the Viceroy to the House of Commons. Lord George Hamilton gets more outward and difficult every successive week and tries the temper of the House very severely at times. I hope Mr. Maclean's somewhat savage snob may do them a little good.

The closing incident of the week with regard to the sugar question is found in the following conversation which took place in the House last night between Mr. Maclean and the leader of the House.

Mr. Maclean.—I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the deep interest taken by members on both sides of the House in the Bill to impose a countervailing duty on sugar which has been introduced with the express authority of the Secretary of State for India, into the Calcutta Legislative Council, and also considering the novelty and importance of the commercial policy embodied in the Bill, he will give a day for its discussion before it receives the Royal assent? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Balfour.—I fear that in the present condition of public business it would be quite impossible to afford my hon. friend the facilities he asks for. ("Oh oh," and cheers.)

Mr. Maclean.—Then I beg to give notice that I will raise the question on the motion for the adjournment over Easter (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Macneill.—Will the First Lord not ask his hon. friend (Sir H. Vincent) to take off his blocking notice?

No reply was given.

It is quite clear from this that the Government have no intention of giving any facilities for debate pending the passing of the Bill through the Council. We have no news of any kind from India with regard to the trend of public opinion there, and in all probability you are yourselves, at the time I write, in ignorance of the sharpness of controversy which is surrounding the matter here.

I understand on the best authority, that the Front Opposition Bench, while agreeing in the main with Mr. Maclean, think it inopportune and premature to force a debate on the Sugar Bounty Bill before Easter, and I doubt if he will persevere in his threat to raise it on the question of adjournment. Should the measure be passed by the Viceroy's Legislative Council, there can be no doubt that a formal debate will be raised by the Front Opposition Bench and by Sir Henry Fowler who is a fierce anti-protectionist. In conversation I find the Opposition leaders think that Parliament ought to be in full possession of all the facts the precise nature and wording of the Bill, the report of its discussion before the Council, and especially complete knowledge of native Indian opinion before raising a decisive debate, and it is impossible to deny their wisdom. If in this fuller light the Bill is deemed a dangerous innovation on Free Trade principles, a motion will be submitted praying her Majesty to disallow the Bill, and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman will demand that a day shall be given for full debate. The reticence of the Government and especially all absence of repudiation of Sir Howard Vincent and his following, has justified the belief on the part of the protectionist party that this Indian Bill if approved by Parliament it will be followed by a Bill giving similar protection to British Sugar refiners. The lobbies yesterday and to-day were full of their emissaries and also the Cobden Club put in a strong appearance. It would be a curious Nemesis if the real author of the Press Gagging act, and the true jailor of the Natu brothers, falls from his position at the India Office by a Sugar Bill. Lord George Hamilton is now so unpopular with his own party as well as with the Opposition, that if a Jonah is wanted by this storm-tossed administration he has no competitor for that unenviable position.

THE ENGLISH PERSS ON THE SUGAR BILL.

THE press generally treats the Bill as having little or no bearing on any Indian fiscal problem of importance and treat it uniformly as a abstract attempt to get in the then end of the protection wedge in this country. The "Echo" says it is making India the scene of a first experiment in revived protection, to which Britain is committing herself through her great dependency. Having admitted the principle there she can hardly refuse to apply it at home in the case of the West Indies.

It is the old protection fallacy of raising the price of a necessity of life for a whole community in order to encourage a single industry. We have often insisted that the principle of Free Trade is that which gives to our Empire its chief glory and moral justification. On that principle the New Sugar Bill is a serious infraction, and it is to be hoped that the House of Commons, which, inspite of Lord George Hamilton, is responsible in this case, will resist the reaction towards the old bad policy of protection.

The *Morning Leader* declares that its purpose is avowedly protective, to help the produce in India. The Editor, however, goes on to say:

"Free traders like ourselves would not approve such a measure save upon one condition—the condition namely that it was really and on substantial grounds desired by Indian public opinion (a very different thing from Anglo-Indian opinion). Such conditional approval would follow from the belief which we strongly hold that the authentic opinion of the Indian public is entitled to the same fiscal freedom as that which our colonists claim to exercise.

"We do not yet know enough about the origin and the nature of this particular measure to say whether the condition to which we refer is or is not fulfilled."

The "*Star*" calls upon Parliament to keep a sharp lookout on this dangerous and re-actionary measure which has been hatched in the brain of Lord George Hamilton, not in that of the Legislative Council; and declares we are face to face with an introduction of the "protective" principle, and shall find to our cost that operations will not stop short at the Indian Ryot.

The "*Daily Graphic*" devotes an entire page to a leader headed "A Step towards Protection' and which goes very fully into all the pros and cons. It ends by asking why should the people be taxed upon an article of daily consumption, not in order to raise revenue for the purposes of Government, but in order to put money into the pockets of a handful of private persons who hold shares in Indian sugar refinaries."

The "*Pall Mall Gazette*" smells danger to the Government as there are mini terialists who do not like it and the Liberals welcome it as a new weapon to be turned against the Government, though there are plenty who justify it on grounds of expediency.

The *Daily Chronicle* has a long leader on the whole question and says:—

Lord George Hamilton is determined to make his tenure of the office of Secretary of State for India memorable. On every conceivable opportunity he has blundered, and when, as now, no opportunity seemed to offer, he has promptly created one. He inaugurated his term of office by breaking faith with the frontier tribes in Chitral; in his zeal "to protect the industries and interests of the natives" (*vide* "Glasgow Herald" of Saturday), he "interfered" with the Government of India at the bidding of Lancashire cotton spinners, and altered the cotton duties to suit our Manchester trade, still, of course, in the interests of the natives of India; at the time of the great famine he interfered again, this time with the Lord Mayor of London, to delay the flow of private benevolence towards stricken India, in the interests of the private trader, as he ingenuously put in; and now, when nothing seemed to call for his meddlesome and inept guidance, he interferes, in league with the unteachable Indian Government, in the interests of whom and of what?

India is being made the *corpus vile* of an experiment, to see how far the British people will stand a return to protection. Is the imposition of protective duties on a prime necessary of the Indian people to be made the introduction to that duty on sugar imported into England with which the "Times" threatened the country a few days ago? Or is it a part of that coquetting with fair trade with which the Secretary of State for the Colonies has made us familiar?

After going at length into the statistics upon which the Bill professes to be based, the Editor closes with the following two paragraphs.—

So much for the facts of the case, and for the reasons, or want of reasons, of the Government of India. What about the economics of the question. It is the old ignorant fallacy. Will these Tories and their friends in the Press never learn? How does it injure India if Germany and Austria tax Germans and Austrians to send good cheap sugar to the Indian ryot? Why should anyone, least of all a paternal Government, be so tenderly solicitous for the interests of the natives of India, want to interfere with so satisfactory an arrangement? We have shown that India produces coarse sugar in plenty, that her refining industry is insignificant, but that her people are beginning to want more sugar of the best quality. At present they are getting it cheap. The Government are not satisfied. So they propose to raise the price. For, be it noted, there is no question of raising additional revenue—India has been unexpectedly prosperous during the last rear, exchange has been high, the revenue for 1898-99 will far exceed the Budget estimate. No, it is not for more revenue that the thin end of protection has been inserted in Indian trade policy—but to protect native industries."

"At what cost? It "will not fall upon the consumer," say the Protectionist wiseacres. But it is just upon the consumer, *if the countervailing duties are to be effective*, that the cost will fall. If these duties mean anything they mean the raising of the price of imported sugar of good quality until it has reached a level at which the Indian manufacturer with his primitive plant, his old-world methods, and his strong conservatism, be he native or Anglo-Indian, can put a passable imitation of that sugar upon the market. If with the sugar-cane at his very door, with the cheapest and most tractable labor in the world, he still wants Protection, he must be a very incompetent manufacturer indeed. And it is in the last report to aid this sort of person that the Government of India, with the full approval of Lord George Hamilton, proposes to raise the price of good sugar to the whole body of Indian consumers.

THE Hon. Mr. C. M. Rivaz, Home and Revenue Member, does not arrive at Simla till the 8th instant.

IT is understood that H. E. the Viceroy will visit the public offices at Simla some time this month, following the example of his visit to the public offices in Calcutta last January.

THE Ghazi who shot the bandsman of the Hampshire Regiment was tried on Saturday and sentenced to death and was hung on the same day,—his body being burnt.

The Trincomallee correspondent of a Colombo paper refers in vague terms to a mutiny of a rather serious nature that is alleged to have occurred in the Royal Artillery at that station some days ago.

THE RECENT PLAGUE RIOT IN NAGPORE.

THE following is a fuller account of the plague disturbance in Nagpore, telegraphic intimation of which has already been sent.

On Tuesday morning intelligence was received that a *dhobi's* child had been attacked by plague in the native town near the Mayo Hospital, a part of the city in which no cases had hitherto been discovered. Mr. Mayes, Deputy Commissioner, Captain Hogg, Executive Plague Officer; Lieutenant Aimes, Executive Plague Officers, Jubbulpore, at present on leave, and Mr. Greany, Extra Assistant Commissioner on plague duty, proceeded to the spot. It was found that the *dhobi's* child was unmistakably suffering from plague, and the *dhobi* was informed that his child must be removed to the plague camp, and himself and his wife to the segregation camp, while his house would be dismantled and disinfected. The *dhobi* flatly refused either to go himself or to allow his child to be removed. Captain Hogg, Mr. Mayes, and Lieutenant Aimes then entered the house. The former caught up the child to carry it out, while Mr. Mayes and Lieutenant Aimes were engaged in keeping off the *dhobi*, his wife, and brother-in-law, who struggled frantically to prevent the removal of the child. When Captain Hogg reached the door with the child in his arms he was greeted with a shower of stones, which seemed to come from the upper stories of the neighbouring houses, no assailants being visible. He was forced to deposit the child in the house again. The four gentlemen then came out and found that a crowd was assembling. Thinking it better to take no further steps to remove the *dhobi* and his child just then, they stationed a Pathan policeman on guard outside the *dhobi's* house and started to walk quietly away. The crowd however rapidly increased, and arme with sticks and stones began to make things decidedly unpleasant. A stone narrowly missed Mr. Mayes' head. He dodged to avoid it, and it struck a policemen in the forehead and floored him. The crowd did not venture to come to close quarters, but contented themselves with throwing stones and making occasional salies. One man running up behind aimed a ferocious blow at Mr. Mayes with a heavy stick, which was fortunately warded off by Mr. Greany. Unluckily the rioter now come upon a heap of stones, and the volleys redoubled It was apparent that a serious riot was beginning so Mr. Mayes mounted his horse, which was at hand, and rode away to get assistance, pursued by a shower of stones. The other three gentlemen were obliged to run, and took refuge in the Mayo Hospital. Disquieting reports presently arrived that the hospital was to be attacked in force. Two rifles were procured from the adjacent bungalow of Mr. Ryana, Captain in the B. N. R. Volunteers, and the three refugees prepared to sell their lives dearly. Their position however was not assailed. It was afterwards found that an attempt actually had been made to get out the mill hands of an adjoining mill to combine in an attack on the hospital. Someone had gone to the mill and asked for a half holiday for the hands on the pretext of its being *Holi*. Leave had by good luck been refused.

Mr. Mayes presently returned with Mr. Nedham, the Commissioner, and a detachment of the reserve police. The crowd were quickly dispersed. It was, however, reported that several of the ringleaders had gone into a house, where they had collected some swords and guns, and were arming themselves. Six picked policeman were ordered to break into the house. They were met with a furious rush by two professional wrestlers, who proved to be the only occupants of the house. One was armed with a long knife which happily was wrested from him before he could do any damage. The two wrestlers fought furiously, and gave the six constables all they could do to capture them. They were eventually secured, and, with a dozen more of the principal rioters, were taken into police custody.

Mr. Nedham then addresse some words to the few people who remained, explaining the folly of their conduct. He also expostulated with the *dhobi*, and assured him that both his child and himself would be carefully treated and compensated for all losses. The *dhobi*, however, would not be convinced, saying with loud lamentations that he had a number of Sahib's clothes in his house which he would not be able to return—a circumstance perhaps just as well for the Sahibs. No more resistance was offered, and the *dhobi* and his family were taken quietly away.

A week or two before this an incipient disturbance had been quelled by mild treatment. The husband of a woman living in the native town had left Nagpore by train, and had been taken into plague at the next station. Orders were given to segregate the woman and disinfect her house. Mr. Greany went down to carry them out. A crowd collected, and though no violence was attempted, they let it be clearly understood that they would not allow the woman to be removed. A reference was made to the administrative medical officer, and he decided that as it was not certain that the plague victim had contracted the disease in Nagpore, it would be sufficient to put a police guard on the house, and prevent outside communication.

It has long been known that there is a strong and widespread feeling among the poorer classes in Nagpore against the plague regulations. While the majority of the educated classes, profess to recognise and support these measures, it is to be feared that a certain section, through dislike of the personal inconvenience involved, to a certain extent foster the feeling against them among the poorer people. Rumours are rife in the bazar of the atrocities practised in plague and segregation camps. When the first patient was removed to plague camp, a crowd of over a thousand collected to see him deprived of his life, the rumour having spread that this interesting event was to take place at sunset. The crowd were but little reassured by the fact that the patient eventually recovered, as his escape from extermination by the Sahiblog was ascribed to their intervention. To the disinterested observer it would appear that regulations involving the removal from their homes and segregation of all infected persons would be practically incapable of execution unless supported strongly by public opinion, much more so when public opinion is unanimous in recommending their evasion. One would be inclined to let the people die in their own way, and to rest satisfied with a close watch on the road, train, and water traffic to prevent as far as possible the spread of infection from one place to another. Whatever the impracticabilities in the regulations, however, no doubt, can be retained of the zeal and energy of those who are rentrusted with their execution in Nagpore.—*Pioneer.*

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR BENGAL.

YESTERDAY, at 5-30 P. M., a meeting of the Calcutta Standing Congress Committee was held in the hall of the Indian Association at Bow Bazar, to consider the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to report on the matter of the formation and work of a Central Committee for Bengal.

Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose, who presided, said that the Committee was appointed on the 24th February last to submit a report on the matter of the formation and work of a Central Committee for Bengal within six weeks, which the Committee had done with creditable punctuality. After they had considered and adopted the scheme which the Committee had prepared, it would be sent round to the different centres for consideration and suggestions. It would then come back to them, after which, the plan of work having been settled, the Central Committee would be organized, which, it was hoped, would be the beginning of a sort of Imperial Parliament.

The meeting then proceeded to consider the scheme which was passed in the following form:

It is proposed, agreeably to the Resolution No. 21 (*a*) passed at the last session of the Indian National Congress, to form a Central Congress Committee, comprising within its jurisdiction the provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam, for propagating the principles and furthering the objects of the Indian National Congress by, among others, the following measures: (*a*) Deputing agents and speakers in the mussil from time to time; (*b*) publishing and widely disiributing short and easy pamphlets in English and the vernaculars of the provinces on some of the more important questions in the Congress plank with a view to educate public opinion here and in England; (*c*) collecting authentic informations, facts, and figures on issues of importance to the people of India; (*d*) setting forth, through the medium of the press, the popular, and controverting, when necessary, wrong and one-sided, view of public questions; and lastly (*e*) by holding public meetings and organising Conferences in different parts of the Province and arranging to hold sessions of the Indian National Congress when required.

1. The Central Congress Committee will consist of representatives elected annually for the purpose by the various existing Standing Congress Committees in these provinces and by Committees hereafter to be formed in districts where they do not exist at present, Calcutta being entitled to return not more than twenty-five representatives and every moffussil Standing Congress Committee or District Committee not more than five for each district.

2. The Central Congress Committee will have its office in Calcutta and will have one President, not more than five Vice-Presidents, one treasurer, and one or more Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries as office-bearers, and also an Executive Committee which shall consist of not more than twenty members elected at the annual meeting, together with the office-bearers as ex-officio members.

3. The Executive Committee of the Central Congress Committee shall have power to (*a*) direct and guide by all legitimate and constitutional means the work of the Indian National Congress in Bengal, Behar, Assam, and Orissa; (*b*) carry out the measures put forth above for popularising the principles, and in furtherance of the objects of the Congress; (*c*) raise and maintain a fund on behalf and in the interests of the Central Congress Committee; (*d*) frame bye-laws and add to the number of members of the Central Congress Committee should it think it necessary to do so; and (*e*) in other very legitimate way, further the objects of the Indian National Congress.

4. The office-bearers, the Executive Committee, as well as the representatives of any year shall continue in office from the conclusion of one annual meeting to that of another.

5. Every Standing Congress Committee and District Committee shall send in to the Secretaries of the Central Congress Committee the names of their respective representatives in this Committee for the coming year at such a time that they may reach the office not later than the 30th November, and should no such intimation reach the Secretaries by that time from any centre, the representatives for the previous year shall be held to continue to be the representatives of that centre in the following year.

6. In addition to the annual meeting, the Central Congress Committee of Bengal will meet once or oftener in the course of the year at such time and place as may be determined by the Executive Committee.

7. The annual meeting of the Central Congress Committee will be held in Calcutta at some date early in December when the report for the year to be submitted at the next session of the Congress will be adopted, office-bearers and Executive Committee for the next year elected, and other business of which previous notice shall have been given transacted.

8. Every Standing Congress Committee, or District Committee entitled to send representatives to the Central Congress Committee of Bengal, shall be required to contribute a certain amount of money annually for the efficient maintenance of this body and carrying out its programme of work.

9. The agenda of business to be brought forward before every ordinary or special meeting of the Central Congress Committee shall be sent to all members at least a fortnight before the date of the meeting.

10. Any member of the Central Congress Committee desirous of bringing forward any matter for the consideration of that Committee shall give notice in writing to the Secretaries thereof, which shall each them at least three weeks before the date of meeting.

11. On at least ten members of the Central Congress Committee sending in a requisition for the purpose of convening a meeting of that committee for the consideration of any urgent or special or important business or question which must be fully set out in the requisition, the Secretaries shall call a special meeting at as early a date as may be practicable, circulating the agenda of business as early and promptly as can conveniently be arranged.

12. Any member of the Central Committee may send up to the Executive Committee a proposal for altering, adding to, or repeating any rule. Should the Executive Committee not think it necessary to take action on the proposal, it will be open to twenty members of the Central Congress Committee to require the Executive Committee to convene a meeting of the Central Committee for the consideration of that proposal.

It was then resolved that the above draft rules should be circulated in the mofussil, and submitted for final adoption at a Convention to be held at Burdwan on the occasion of the holding of the next Provincial Conference.

The meeting proceeded to consider some other questions, and then despersed.

MR. UPCOTT and Mr. Holderness, the P W and Revenue Secretaries to the India Government reached Simla yesterday.

THE long-expected visit by His Highness the Nizam to Sir Vikar-ul-Umra was paid on Sunday night at Sir Vikar's Begumpett palace. The great city of canvas, which stands on the brink of the Hoosain Saugor Lake, was gay with bunting and steamers, and it made the place look exceedingly bright and festive. For considerably more than a mile the road from the north of Begumpett to the Lake's border was picked out with strings of lights arranged in lovely devices, the six triumphal arches *en route* being magnificently illuminated, and the Minister's palace itself presented a fairy scene. His Highness, who was in excellent spirits and looked unusually well, drove up from his Mulkapett palace in company with Sir Vikar, who went down to Mulkapett early in the afternoon to escort His Highness. On arrival at Begumpett, the Nizam seemed delighted with his reception, and his noble host, who introduced him to all the Punjab officials, then showed him over the extensive palace grounds which were brilliantly illuminated. Later on His Highness watched a magnificent display of fireworks for half-an-hour near the lake, and on returning to the Minister's palace, was further entertained in various ways by Sir Vikar. His Highness left early this morning. The event was one of striking significants, and was led with appreciation by all in Hyderabad.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MR. STEEVENS A STUDY.

SKETCHED ON THE SPOT.

[BY A D——D NIGGER.]

AUTHOR of 'Pen and Ink Sketches,' 'Gup and Gossip,' 'Letters from Far and Near.' 'Telepathic Interviews' &c., &c.

It was at Government House, Guindy, that I first met Mr. Steevens—Mr. Steevens of the *Daily Mail*. I spotted him by his walk. It was slow, measured and majestic. When he trod on the ground, he thought he conferred a great boon on Mother Earth and Madras earth must have been particularly gratified to receive such marks of favour from this high personage. His feet—and how precious they? the very same that trod the ground with 'Kitchener to Khartoum'—were encased in tanned shoes. His legs were carefully wrapped in the usual "male attire of ugliness, indecency, unsuitability and anti-hygienic stupidity which conceals all symmetry of proportion and yet impudently suggests nudity." Let me apologise at once to Mr. Steevens——Mr. Steevens of the *Daily Mail*. This quotation does not emanate from a nigger: it is written in no spirit of malignant revenge. However, as Mr. Steevens appeared in trousers, a black pair of trousers, concealing, I suppose, his white flesh within, I am unable to describe his legs or his thighs. His legs may be beautifully symmetric, splendidly proportionate. The trousers spoil their beauty. If separately exhibited, I have no doubt many would have fallen in love with them. The Madras niggers would have clutched at them, taken them to their houses, set them up as the belongings of a superior being, decorated them with flowers, offered incense and prostrated before them! And such legs! They are the legs of a free man, not a slave, straight and not defective, and legs on which he could stand solid! By Jingo! Such pretty legs, not skin and bone, no knocking knobs for knees, not fat nor globular! A short coat of the same colour as his trousers covered the upper portion of his body. Mr. Steevens of the *Daily Mail*, I thought, would be a giant—giant in body and mind! But no such thing! He is a very poor specimen of humanity as shoulders go. Narrow chest, narrow shoulders, it looked as if his body was suddenly arrested in development. It may be that his head developed to the sacrifice of the body. And what was the state of his heart I cannot say. A heart in such a partially developed body, cannot be altogether sound and hence perhaps his heartlessness, his savage attack on Indian savages! Rough a globe-trotter, he had his white collar and black neck-tie; but it looked as if he persisted in wearing his winter suit so that he might perspire! And his face! It was well worth the study of a life-time! It had a pair of eyes—grey eyes, eyes which meant mischief, which were partially concealed by his *pince nez*. It had a nose which looked as if it were the result of contemptuous afterthought on the part of its creator. It had a pair of moustaches, rather slow in growth, which their proud owner was anxious to see prolonged, to judge from the frequency with which his left hand patronised, caressed, and played with them. It had a pair of ears rather long which reminded—hem!—and which looked as if they were cut and pasted at the sides not exactly in their proper place. It had cheekbones which courted some prominence and which gave the owner thereof a half-starved appearance. His cheeks, however, were not free from that glow, which Mr. Steveen's notice on Lord Curzon's face when he played the aristocrat at Calcutta. His forehead was broad and receding, indicative no doubt of the intellect and imagination of the author of "with Kitchener to Khartoum." His head was conical in shape and the crown of it was white, a central spot where hair refuses to grow in spite of all the efforts of the marvellous thirty-year old special correspondent. And Mr. Steevens walked with an indepen—dent air, his head covered by a stra-what. I saw him walking, his head covered, in Government House: and I saw him sitting, his head uncovered in the Senate House. At both places, he was observing. At Government House, he talked, but only with the Governor Members of Council and Governor's Private Secretary. He cared not for the natives, the "nigger" he only cared to observe their naked feet, their shapeless legs, their white muslin, their broad *namams*, their curious turbans, their low salaaming, their meaningless chatter. But a nigger, bolder than the rest button-holed him at Government House.

"Excuse me, you are Mr. Steevens of the *Daily Mail*."

"Y-e-s."

"Oh! I am so glad. Several of my countrymen are thirsting to make your acquaintance. Let me introduce to you Mr.——of the——: Mr.—of the—:"

"How do-o-o."

"How do you do."

Mr. Steevens did not know what to think of it. He had scarce time to find out whether the "thirst to know" meant as a compliment.

Mr. Steevens how do you like Southern India!"

"We-e-ll"—I don't know. But, the natives h-e-re speak English w-e-ll."

"Oh! that is complimentary to us. But how do you like the country."

"W-e-ll! I like it better than Northern India."

"Ah! Ah! We are pleased to here that. How long are you going to stay in Madras?"

"In Madras! w-e-ll, eh! I don't know. But I shall be here for a few days."

"Mr. Steevens, don't you think, having come here as a special correspondent you ought to come in contact with the natives of the country, try to know more of them before you write, and if convenient, will you visit the Cosmopolitan club?"

"W-e-ll, eh! I shall try. eh! eh! And if convenient I shall let you know."

"Thank you. Here is my card. Please write to me. I hope you will come."

"Yes. But I must leave you, I am afraid."

And Mr. Steevens shook hands hurriedly and got away.

The object of the interview was to tackle Mr. Steevens as to what he has written about the Bengalees. But Mr. Steevens was in a hurry. He hated the contact with the natives and he struggled to get away. He cared and—n for the Cosmopolitan Club. But he is not as impolite in speech as he is unmannerly in his writings. His object was to steer clear of the niggers, the savages; but the savages had button-holed him. He did not like the contact. The Madras heat and the Madras Brahmin were too much for his brains. He ran home and plunged himself into a bath.

"Boy! The big tub from my bath-room, with a dozen *chattis* bring,
That whilst seated in the water, o'er me may this *punkah* swing.
Pour the *chattis* gently o'er me; let me sit in peace a while.
For one blissful hour forgetful, I am Steevens of the *Daily Mail*.,
Steevens at whom Beng'lees have trembled and Bombayites 'ave crouched.
Steevens the great correspondent who with Vic'roys and Guv'nors have lunched
Boy! Pour yet another *chatti* for, my head, wh-i-r 'is getting hot
Ha! There's virtue in the coolness of the water in that pot,
Let the water trickle, trickle dropping like a gracious rain,
To revive the withering fancies of my Madras-heated brain
Thunder, and Lightning! Every Madrasi shall hear by name
Blackest niggers black with terror at the thunder of my fame!
How each bloated brahmin rascal, who my visage stern may see
Trembling with a vague amazement, shall perspire great drops of ghee!

Bath over, Mr. Steevens the redoubtable special correspondent went and sat before a table and sketched the Madrasee as follows:—

"Look under the turban! His small rotund figure, his hair twisted into a fuzzy knot all rough and ragged, his face unshaven and his hands rough and unclean. The wily acarus and the prolific bacteria flour sh on his body and hold high festival there, so much so that he cannot sit up for five minutes in the same position without being impelled to keep himself in touch with all and every portion of his person. A cold water bath is unknown to him. A small *chatti* of hot water hardly enough to wash your hands in poured over his hard, thick head by his mother or wife, makes him pure and clean and with a dirty rag specially preserved, he wipes his body. His mouth affords room for diligent research. Spiders might have woven their webs and fleas taken refuge there. His teeth are black as charcoal. His nose is a perpetual fountain; it emits black or white matter just as he is in the habit of taking snuff or not. It is blown once in two minutes and he wipes his nose with the lower end of his loin cloth. Babyborn, his intellect and body are equally cramped. He talks glibly: but he is logic and metaphysics inside and a daub of bacteriology outside. Not unlike the Bombay native, he looks as if you could break him across your knee."—*Mad as Standard*.

BALAJI NARAYAN NATU.

I.

As the Natu brothers have been so much *on evidence* ever since the news of the Jubilee night murders electrified the world of British puissance—Imperial, Colonial, and Dependent, we think we need not apologise for unearthing and presenting the following anecdotes to our readers. They relate to the late Balaji Punt Natu—the grand-father of the brace now on parole, and the first Natu of them all who ever achieved distinction. Balaji Narayan Natu left his father's land—Konkan, and crossed over the Ghauts to Poona for earning his livelihood. He first took service with Bhiwaji Naik—Hujare as private Karkun or clerk. Leaving him he worked for a time with Hasabnis, and afterwards with Khandarao Raste. He soon acquired a reputation for shrewd common-sense and capacity for doing good hard work; and coming under the notice of Elphinstone, a short while after the return of the Peishwa to Poona from Bassein, he (Elphinstone) appointed him his *akhbar-navis* or news-reporter on a monthly remuneration of 200 Rupees. At the same time he maintained cordial and even intimate relations with the Peishwa himself, who oftentimes pressed him to quit Elphinstone and be a favourite palace retainer. To all of which Balaji turned a deaf ear, preferring instead to remain faithful to his employer, thus justifying the confidence and trust which Mr. Elphinstone reposed in him. Throughout those troublous times he acted as Mr. Elphinstone's Dewan; and after the downfall of the Peishwa, Elphinstone rewarded his Lieutenant's valuable services by the grant of Inam lands of the aggregate yearly revenue of Rupees twelve thousand. Owing to his position of chief adviser of the British representative he had unique opportunities of amassing a fortune, the like of which mortal man is rarely favoured with. Thus he successively acquired Inam lands and villages from the Patwardhan Sardars, the Angria of Alibag, and the kings of Kolhapur and Satara, the sanads in which these were set forth being invariably endorsed by the seal and signature of his master Elphinstone for he never accepted a thing, from anybody, without the sanction and approval of the Government he served. The influence and weight which he carried in the counsels of the then Bombay Government may be accurately gauged by the signal fact of his appointment as Commissioner to enquire into the conduct of H. H. Buwa Saheb, Maharaja of Satara, who was at the end of the enquiry removed to Benares, and Appa-Saheb was installed on the Satara *musnad* in succession. Appa-Saheb on ascending the *gadi* conferred on Balaji Inam lands and villages worth twelve thousand a year. He also got considerable wealth from the Pratinidhi, the Sachiva, and others, when, mainly through his intercession, they obtained the privilege of adoption, failing heir in the direct line. At his death he was worth, in hard cash and jewellery, over seventy-five lakhs, in addition to the Inams which yielded him a snug yearly income of fifty thousand Rupees Besides he enjoyed for life a monthly pension of one thousand Rupees from the British Governmen

II.

Two years after Balaji had prevailed on the Maharaja of Satara to allow the Sachiva the privilege of adoption, one day a Vakil or agent of the Sachiva waited on him. He politely enquired after his master's health, and asked him to tell him how his young master was progressing in his studies. The Vakil replied saying, innocently enough, that his master had sufficiently mastered Sanskrit learning so as to enable him to recite and expound Pauranic texts. As we have mentioned above Balaji was very shrewd. He at once made the retort that in that case his master had learned something which insured him against starvation he could earn a seer of rice daily by reading the *Purans*. The Vakil was surprised at the remark, and he asked him what he meant by it. Balaji replied he meant exactly what he said. When further interrogated, he explained that he did not care or want to know whether the Sachiva could construe the *Purans*. Men in high places wanted education suitable to their positions. The chief of a State should be well-up in horsemanship, fencing, and the use of arms. He should be well posted in history, at least of his own country, and should also acquire other useful knowledge, which would come handy to him in after life. Instead of which he was told that the young Sachiva was lost in the maze of the *Purans*.

III,

Baji Rao having decided to give battle to the English, orders were communicated to the troops to march out of Poona on a certain day. On the appointed day at 8 o'clock in the morning Balaji took his seat in his palanquin and started with the intention of going to Elphinstone and giving him information. On the way to the Residency a friend topped him and asked 'Dada," (Balaji was thus addressed by his friends and acquaintances) "You are going to join the English, have you taken thought about your return to Poona again?" The answer he made shows more clearly than anything we can say the kind of man he was. Here is:—"I have weighed both sides in my mind and have come to the conclusion that the best course is to join the English. Bajy Rao thinks of fighting, but he has made no preparation. He has thousands of internal enemies, and no ally or assistance from outside. He is therefore doomed to lose the battle. On the other hand, the English are well prepared and ready to meet him any day. Besides they are wise in their generation. It is therefore a foregone conclusion that the Peishwa will quit Poona in a few days, and on his heels I will come back to Poona as safely as I am now going out. That is my firm resolution, and I am joining the English after due and mature consideration of the pros and cons." It is a matter of history that Mr. Natu's estimate of the situation proved correct even to the minutest detail.

IV.

After the battle of Kirkee, Baji Rao Peishwa, thinking prudence the better part of valour sought in flight the safety which he could not secure in battle. After his flight the Queen of the Deccan was given over to rapine and plunder. Some of the Peishwa's officials and retainers accompanied him in his flight, while the rest sought refuge in hiding in the hilly county of Mawal. Son after General Smith at the head of his troops arrived at Kirkee and he requested Elphinstone to allow him to march on Poona, and plant the Union Jack over it Only he asked permission for his troops to sack the city. Balaji Punt Natu who was present on the occasion observed:—"The enemy had fled, then what good would they serve by plundering the poor defenceless raiyats? They are all tired of the old regime in Poona, and are praying for the English to go and shield them from further oppression." Instead of replying, the gallant General met him by a counter-question—"Dadu, will you go yourself and mount the British flag over the city?" He took up the challenge, and only asked for twenty-five sowars to aid him in the undertaking.

A detachment of 25 sabres was at once placed at his disposal, with which he marched through Poona to the Shanawar-Wada and set the Jack flying, without encountering the slighest opposition, over the principal gate of the palace. The deed done, he returned to Kirkee to report to Elplinstone news of his success. Subsequently Mr. Elplinstone asked him to undertake also the work of restoring order in the city and confidence in the harassed minds of he populace, which he did too, to the satisfaction every one concerned.

K. K. A.

THE RAILWAY ASSAULT CASE.

THE man arrested on a charge of assaulting a female passenger on the North-Western Railway was brought up for trial before Mr. Muhammad Ahmad, Deputy Magistrate of Saharanpur, on the 30th ultimo. Mr. Nigar Chand, M. A. Barrister-at-law, defended the accused. Seven witnesses for the prosecution, including the complainant, were examined by the court inspector. The counsel for the defence reserved cross-examination.

The complainant deposed that between Nagal and Deoband a man came into her compartment in which she was alone, while the train was in motion, through the window. He tied her hands and gagged her and after accomplishing his purpose left the compartment as the train was steaming into the Deoband station yard. He also took away from her a purse with eight rupees. She reported the matter to the guard at Deoband Station.

Guard Mackintosh stated that at Deoband the complainant reported the affair.

One Roz, a butcher affirmed that he and the accused travelled together on the night of the occurrence in a third-class compartment from Saharanpur to Nagal where the accused got out by the foot board. He next saw the accused in an *ekka* at Deoband. In it three others besides the accused were sitting and they all drove together from the station to the town of Deoband. The accused said he had had some fun with a girl in the train.

Surja, another passenger in the same *ekka*, described the talk of the accused—that he had not given up his ticket, that he had jumped out of the train and that he had flirted with a girl. Karim, another witness, swore that the accused entered his compartment through the window as the train neared Deoband and requested witness to say, if questioned, that the accused had got in at Deoband.

Sub-Inspector Shahzada said the complainant identified the accused from amongst forty persons shown at Delhi.

The case is proceeding.

ANOTHER case of Ghazism occurred at Peshawar to-night, a bandsman of the Hampshires being shot dead in the sudder bazar, in the middle of cantonment. The murderer was pluckily caught and held by a native shop keeper until arrested. The indignation amongst Europeans is intense.

ON the occasion of the first anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmed's death there was a commemorative gathering in Alighur on Monday night. About 350 old boys and others afterwards sat down to dinner. The Hon. Thomas Raleigh, replying to the toast of the visitors, expressed his deep interest in educational movements, and his pleasure in having an opportunity of seeing the Alighur College.

RAJPUTANA this week reports 4,591 persons in receipt of famine relief, while the number of villagers, who have emigrated up to date, is registered at 4,329. Slight rain fell at Bikanir during the week. Agricultural operations are reported satisfactory except in Merwara, and the condition of the crops is generally good except in Ajmere-Merwara. Crops are being harvested, and the average estimated spring outturn in Ajmere is 11½ annas and in Merwara 6 annas. Fodder is scarce in nine States; prices are rising in two States, falling in two, fluctuating in two, steady elsewhere. The Bombay season report shows that slight rain fell in parts of Sind during the week. The standing crops have been injured by the high winds and rain in one taluka of Hyderabad and by rats in two talukas of Bijapur. American cotton has been blighted in two talukas of Dharwar, and the opium crop has been damaged in parts of Baroda Territory. The reaping of the late crops is progressing in sixteen, and preparations for next season are being made in twelve Districts. Cotton-picking continues in parts of Gujrat and the Karnatak. Fodder is sufficient, and prices which has risen in two Districts have fallen in ten. Madras reports water-supplies generally adequate, though no rain has fallen during the week. Pasture is scanty, but fodder is sufficient, and the condition of cattle is generally good. Rain is badly wanted throughout the Punjab The Central Provinces report that the reaping of the spring crops is approaching completion in most Districts, and threshing has commenced. The planting of sugarcane is in progress in Chanda, Bhanadra, and Sambalpur. Some signs of distress are appearing in the open part of Damoh owing to want of employment. Water is getting scarce in parts of Mandla and Betual. Fodder is scarce in Sambalpur and in the Warora Tahsil of Chanda.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

A RARE FIND.

A RARE find in the shape of a moa's egg has been made in a mining district in Central Otago. There was a fall of earth in a dredging claim, and presently the huge egg was seen floating uninjured in the water. The discovery is the more interesting from the fact that this is the second perfect moa's egg that has ever been found. The only other perfect specimen was unearthed by a man who digging in the alluvial soil at the Kaikoura Mountains in the early sixties. This egg, which was 9in. in length and 7in. in breadth was taken to England and sold for 100gs. Some idea of the size of these eggs may be gleaned from the fact that a man's hat makes an excellent egg-cup for them.

THE KING OF MOUNTAINS.

THE title of Mount Everest to the Kingship of mountains is likely to be invalided ere long. Among the Thibetans a belief seems to pervail that there are some peaks further north loftier than Mount Everest and a European traveller observed some years ago from some high point on the Sikkim range which he pronounces to be higher than Mount Everest. Here is a tempting prospect for a daring climber to immortalize himself by discovering either of these two peaks.

THE TRADE IN WIVES.

EVEN IN THESE ENLIGHTENED DAYS HUSBANDS SELL THEIR "BETTER HALVES" FOR BEER.

MANY people say that high society is nothing but a marriage market, and that scheming mammas sell their daughters as wives to the men who can offer the greatest wealth and finest title.

But very few people are aware that wives are literally sold to-day in England. It is not the husband, however, who buys them, but sells them to get rid of them.

A very common error of the vulgar is that a man by selling his wife releases himself from the marriage contract as surely as as if he were legally divorced.

In March, 1796, the *Times* announced the sale of a wife at Sheffield for sixpence. A short time afterwards the same journal calmly stated the "the price of wives has risen in Smithfield Market from half-a-guinea to three guineas and a half!"

In 1803 a man led his wife, by a halter round her neck, into the cattle market at Sheffield, and sold her for a guinea, the purchaser leading away the woman to his home.

In 1820 a man named Brouchet hired a cattlepen in the Canterbury Market, placed his wife in it and ultimately sold her for 5s. Then wives began not increase in value, for soonafterwards one was sold for £15.

This was followed by a "slump." In 1855 a man led his wife with a halter round her waist into Derby market-place and offered her for sale, but all he could get for her was eighteen pence and a quart of ale.

In 1875 a husband left his home and creditors in Belper for the liberty of America. The week after his flight all his goods were put up for auction to satisfy his debts. His wife claimed part of the money, and this being refused she insisted on being offered for sale as part of her husband's assets. There was on sale, however, for "Lot 29."

In even more recent days wife sales were common, and are even being effected in this present year of grace. In 1882 John Wilson a collier, of Aftreton, Derbyshire, sold his wife in a public-house for fourpence. Sheffield knife-grinders have long been noted for their transactions in the wife trade. Within quite recent times many a Sheffield wife has been sold by her husband for a gallon of beer, which has been drunk on the spot. Some times these sales assume a more formal aspect.

In 1887, in the Sheffield County-court, a man admitted that he had bought another man's wife for 5s. The agreement ran:—

"At the Royal Oak, Shefield, I, Abraham Boothroyd, agree to sell my wife, Clara, to William Hall, both of Sheffield, for the sum of 5s."

Most of these discreditable "deals" escape notice but a case has come to light where a man agreed to sell his wife to a collier, and the trio, with the woman's father and mother and two family friends, assembled to arrange terms. Thirty shillings was the price finally agreed on, and this was the bill of sale:—

"Mr.——to have my wife, Elizabeth——, free from me for ever to do as she has a mind, the day, December 11, 1893."

Four years ago, at Leads, a man charged with bigamy pleaded that as he had sold his wife for 3s. 6d. to another man, he could marry again legally! Eighteen months' imprisonment was what he got, and more than deserved. A police-court case in 1896 at Doncaster revealed the fact that John Tart sold his wife to Enoch Childs, on the understanding that the latter reared the vendor's four children. This is how the contract read:—

"New Conisborough, March 28, 1896.—I Enoch Childs, is quite willing to take your wife and children as mine, that is your wife Ellen Tart, and Sarah, John, Henry, and Eliza.—Signed, Ellen Tart, Enoch Valentine Childs."

In a Durham court in 1894 it transpired that a man named Shaw sold his daughter, a girl of sixteen, to a collier called Cudman The agreement was explicit:—

"I give my daughter into the care of your hands to feed and clothe her in a proper manner. If not satisfied, in one month return my daughter, same as she came to work for her living. I give my daughter, I sell you my daughter for 2s.—Yours truly, B. Shaw."

Many a wife is at present sold in the Eastend of London, as well as in Yorkshire, for a quart of beer or an ounce of thick twist. It is the poor man's method of divorce, and such is popular ignorance that there are scores of people who imagine that selling a wife is as legal a separation as a decree *nisi* pronounced by a bewigged and berobed judge.

SOCIETY SCANDAL.

A PEER AS CO-RESPONDENT.

IN the Divorce Court Sir Francis Jeune had before him the petition of Mr. Clement Martin Le Breton, brother of Mr. Langtry, for a dissolution of marriage with Mrs. Alice Le Breton, on the ground of her misconduct with Lord Grantley. Respondent and co-respondent were represented by counsel, but did not defend the suit.—Mr. Bargrave Deane, Q. C., who, with Mr. Barnard, appeared for the petitioner, said Mr. Clement Martin Le Breton was married on the 21st August, 1877, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton-square, to Miss Alice Jones. They lived together until the month of July, 1898, when the matters which gave rise to this petition happened. There was one child of the marriage, a daughter, born in 1881, and the child since this petition had been made a ward of court for portection. The co-respondent, Lord Grantley, was on the most intimate terms with Mr. and Mrs. Le Breton. Mr. Le Breton was the trustee under his (Lord Grantley's) marriage settlement, and they became almost like two brothers, visiting each other, going about together, and shooting together. The intimacy between the families lasted until the end. Mr. Le Breton had no reason to think there was anything at all beyond the great friendship between the parties until July last year. In that month Lord Grantley took a shooting lodge in Inverness-shire, and he invited Mr. and Mrs. Le Breton and their daughter to go and stay with him there. Mr. Le Breton, being a member of the Bar, was unable to leave London at that time and objected to his wife going without him, Lor Grantley being a widower. Both Mrs. Le Breton and Lord Grantley were anxious that she would go, and it was pointed out that Lord Grantley's sister and a governess would be there also. Eventually, though Mr. Le Breton thought it was wrong that she should go, he gave way. Mrs. Le Breton went up with her daughter to this shooting lodge. Later Mr. Le Breton was unable to join them owing to this illness of his mother, he being, obliged to go to Jersey. Subsequently he heard that instead of Lord Grantley's sister and the governess being at this shooting lodge there were no ladies at all in the house, except Mrs. Le Breton and her daughter. A very great objection was at once raised by Mr. Le Breton, and eventually he said that without further explanation he could not receive his wife back. Very shortly after that, in the early part of October, he got a letter from his wife, or a telegram, saying she was coming to London, and that she was going to the St. Pancras Hotel. Mr. Le Breton made inquiries, but found that she had not gone there. He then employed a detective to trace her, and found that she and Lord Grantley had come to London together, and had gone first to the First Avenue Hotel in the name of Mr. and Mrs. Gray from there to the Hotel Victoria, and thence the lady went to the Hotel Cecil. She arrived at the Hotel Cecil on October 5, and had two rooms, a bed-room and a sitting-room. Lord Grantley arrived from the Hotel Victoria on the 6th, and had rooms in the south block of the Cecil—the bachelor's quarters. The two, however, were together throughout practically the whole of October. They had their meals together and Lord Grantley was constantly alone with her, and on one occasion the detective saw them both go into the lady's room. The respondent and co-respondent were represented by counsel, but they had intimated that they were unable to resist the charge of misconduct. The petitioner, examined by Mr. Barnard, generally corroborated counsel's statement.—Henry Martin Wright, chief reception clerk at the Hotel Cecil, also gave evidence, and the depositions of a waiter at the Hotel Cecil were read.—David Smith, private detective, said he found Mrs. Le Breton at the Hotel Cecil, and took a room on the same floor as her rooms were in order to watch her. Witness had seen Lord Grantley and the respondent frequently together, and on two occasions saw them go into the respondent's room—A decree nisi with costs, with the of custodythe child, was pronounced.

INDIAN NEWS.

SMALL-POX is again on the increase in Rangoon and the admissions daily into the hospital, specially of native cases, are very considerable.

INTIMATION has been received from Jalapahar that Lieutenant-Colonel Shires, Commanding No. 8 Mountain Battery, was drowned on Friday while fishing in the Runjeet river. His body has not been recovered.

NAGPUR is shortly to have another cotton press and ginning factory. The new venture is to be established by Mr. M. B. Dadabhoy and Rai Bahadur Bunsilar Kasturchand. The site for the new factory has already been acquired, and the buildings for the press, etc., are in course of erection.

ENTRANCE fees for carriages have been imposed from the 1st instant at the Municipal Gardens. It is expected that Rs. 50 will be the annual take. These fees were enforced owing to the lessened income of the gardens.

MR. CHESTER, the Town Magistrate of Madras, had an opportunity of again speaking of the police the other day for bringing up a lad who was in a state of nudity, under a charge of indecency. His Worship remarked that the practice prevailing in India as regards custom and habits differed from that of England, and accordingly dismissed the case.

WITH regatd to the case in which Jemedar Roshan Mohammed Hajee Abdul Bari and Inspector Jolliffe were recently acquitted in the Bombay High Court, the Hon. Mr. Justice Russel granted sanction on the 28th ultimo, for the prosecution for perjury, under section 193 I. P.C., of the Havildar Dadu Meah and the three Sepoy witnesses who gave evidence for the prosecution.

THERE has been a daring robbery at Lahore The house of Resalder Haidar Shah, Kucha Dholian, was broken into, and ornaments of silver and gold to the value of Rs, 8,000 taoen from an iron safe, but through the exertions of Mian Muhammed Hussain, Police Inspector of the City, the whole of the plunder has been recovered.

PRIVATE PATRICK JOYCE, of the Buffs (East Kent) Regiment, who a while back caused injury to some natives at Kamptee with a razor, has been tried by district court-martial at Nagpur. The court was composed of Major Ravenhill, of the Buffs, President, and Captain Hawkes, 22nd Madras Native Infantry, with some subaltern officers as members. The prisoner was defended by Mr. J. C. Fraser, barrister-at-law. The decision of the Court has not yet been made public.

A FEW day since a fire broke out in the premises of the Phulgaon Spinning Weaving and Manufacturing Company, at Nagpur, which resulted in the destruction of a considerable quantity of cotton. The Kappas stocks contained about 500 khandies, while something like 900 bales were stored in a godown, and some 150 more bales behind the latter, and of all this fully half was destroyed. A female labourer and a broker, who were assisting at the extinguishing of the fire, were severely injured by the fall of a burning roof, and are at present under treatment in the mill dispensary. The loss is roughly estimated at Rs. 75,000, which is said to be fully covered by insurance.

THE Government of Madras has been issuing orders in favour of type-written correspondence, and an extensive use of these machines is anticipated by English firms patronized by the India Office. *Apropos* of this impending change, one Mr. Randolph W. Savage, of New York, gives currency to a discovery he has made with a view to warn enthusiastic typists against a possible danger. He thinks that with the introduction of type-writing machines comes the use of aniline inks, which are believed to be volatie in character and utterly unsuited for the conservation of public records. "Indeed," he says "there are records in that (office of Register—New York) to-day type-written only nine months ago which from constant use and handling are becoming blurred and indistinct and will becsme indecipherable after a few years." We invite the attention of the Superintendent of Government Stationery, Madras, to this drawback that he might provide against the possible contingency of subjecting the Government to enormous expense to rectify an error due, to the importation of aniline inks.—*Hindu*.

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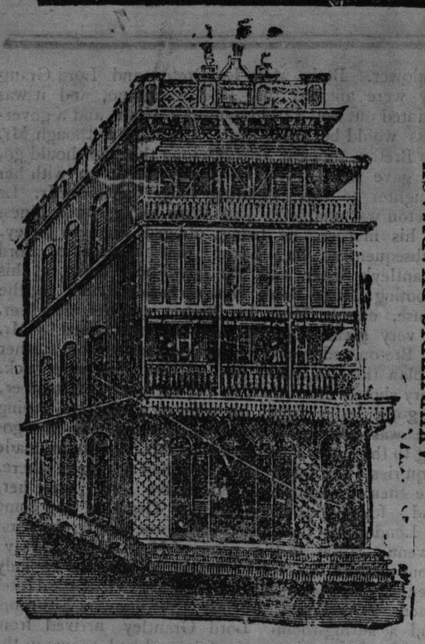

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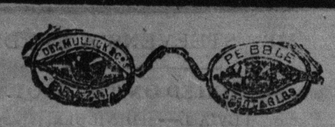

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