REGNO

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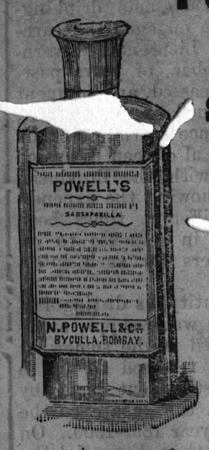

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OTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

HOW THE WAR IS CINEMATOGRAPHED IN PARIS.

From the outset of the war in the Far East most realistic photographs of its vicissitudes were provided for those Paris music-halls which make cinematographic shows a portion of their entertainment, and they were thus able to show battles by land and battles by sea so realistically that one could almost smell the carnage and the powder and hear the booming of the guns.

Out in Belleville, the north-easterly Parisian suburb where the poor classes and the working people live, out beyond Pere Lachaise, is a piece of hilly waste ground, surrounded by high palisading. This ground belongs to Messieurs Pathe Freres, makers of cinematographic films and photographs, and here, a twenty minutes' cab drive from the boulevards, the war between the Russian and the Jap is fought in vivid mimicry before the camera.

The operators have a little army of some sixty men at their disposal, and these, chosen from supers at the theatres, are specially selected for their acting powers and personal appearance. The writer of this article was much amused some time ago by reading in a Paris paper comments upon the changes which civilisation had worked in the actual personal appearance and facial expression of the Japanese. The writer, who waxed very learned, and who quoted many ethnological authorities, explained that civilisation and education could effectually change the facial type, and cited various pictures he had seen of Japs in proof of the great change that had been worked. The fact of course was that the pictures he had seen were taken in Belleville, and the Japanese and Russians in them were Parisians.

And now let us stand on one side and watch this battle off Port Arthur. The cannon is a huge one, made of cardboard, covered with painted canvas, and just beyond the brim of a high piece of rising ground is stretched a cleverly-painted canvas, giving a vivid likeness of the harbour with warships belching smoke in the middle and the far distance. The men who man the gun, under the supervision of a bearded Russian officer, who is a personal friend of the writer's, and knows no word of Russian, were, half an hour before, brave little Japanese, but Messrs. Pathe bring costumes and make-up of all kinds for their army to the seat of war, and changes of this sort are frequent.

The ingenuity and care with which war scenes are simulated are remarkable, and on the self-same piece of ground which, in the Port Arthur picture, is the cliff overlooking the harbour, ten minutes after I was present at Port Arthur's attack and defence, I witnessed a skirmishing party of Japanese, several of whom had been the sleeping Russian soldiers, repel an imaginary Russian charge from the land below, near the Yalu. The mere fact of miles and the change from salt water to dry land matters but little in Belleville.

There is a curiously weird sensation to be got from watching this performance for the camera, for as you cannot photograph mere sound, the battle is fought silently, but very, very vividly. The whole thing strikes one as a curious night-mare. You hear words of command, but not from officers. They came from gentlemen in mufti, who, when the movements they desire are properly carried out, duck beneath velvet hoods to watch them on a glass.

And every now and then, after a soldier has fallen face downwards, writhed in the agony, and remained lifeless for a moment, he gets up, shakes his clothing into shape, brushes himself a little, and trots off obediently to become someone else. The pay of these brave Japs and Russians is, I take it, better than the pay of those out in the Far East. An hour's fighting or manoeuvring, in which, of course, he may be killed three or four times, brings Jap or Russian sevenpence halfpenny, and, as one of the Russians told me in most idiomatic French, they had a lot of fun sometimes in going for their friends.

The smoke and similar details are touched in on to the negatives, and the ultimate effect is excellent. And thus is the war a history produced in photographs in Belleville.

HER FIRST PLAN OF CAMPAIGN ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN SOLD TO THE RUSSIANS.

Captain Sir Bryan Baldwin Mawddwy Leighton, Bart, is on his way to the front as correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" and special artist of the "Illustrated London News." This will be the fourth campaign that Sir Bryan has been through. He served in the Boer war and was in command of the first patrol of Dundonald's cavalry to enter Ladysmith with General Buller's relief force. During the rest of the war he was with the Sixth Dragoons under General French.

When the present war broke out, he was hunting moose in Alaska, but at the request of the papers mentioned, he at once proceeded to Japan, and after going through the necessary formalities, boarded the steamer "Siberia" and arrived at Shanghai, whence he proceeded to Chefoo.

Interviewed by a representative of the "Shanghai Times," he said that the delay in land fighting was due to the selling of the Japanese plan of campaign to the Russians by a Colonel of Engineers in the War Office, who with several others implicated has been executed. The price paid for the information was 100,000 dollars, and in consequence the whole plan of campaign had to be reconstructed, the Japanese troops meanwhile having to mark time.

The first army was on the scene of prospective operations when the affair leaked out, and the second and third armies were ready to follow it, for the original plan of campaign was for the first army to land near the Yalu River and then to land a few troops on the Liao-tung Peninsula, thereby giving the Russians the impression that the second and third armies were being landed there and drawing the enemy's forces to that point.

Meanwhile the second and third armies were to join the first army and the whole to proceed inland to Manchuria in a solid wedge. This plan, which looked to be an excellent piece of strategy, has been abandoned.

The selling of the plan was discovered indirectly by the fate of certain Japanese officers disguised as coolies who were sent to blow up railway bridges.

As soon as they arrived on the field of their contemplated operations, they were always spotted and shot, and this aroused the suspicions of the Government, which set a careful watch, with the result that the moving spirits in the plot were caught and summarily dealt with.

THE PHYSIQUE OF THE JAPANESE.

As is well known, the Japanese are physically a small people, yet they are capable of remarkable feats of strength and endurance, and as recent events have once more shown are full of courage and daring. The Japanese themselves attribute their high average of physical strength to a plain and frugal diet, and the system of gymnastics called "jiu-jitsu," which includes a knowledge of anatomy and of the external and internal uses of water. It is claimed that the average standard of health in Japan is much higher than in China, though the Japanese are a very much smaller race. In 1899 a commission was appointed to consider whether by a meat diet or by other means the stature of the race could be raised; but the conclusion arrived at was that seeing that their feats of strength and enduring powers were superior to races much taller than themselves, the lowness of their stature did not matter. Although during the period of their ascendency the Samurai kept the secret that their great physical superiority was due in a great measure to the internal and external use of water, the belief that if used liberally and intelligently water is an infallible weapon against disease is now generally held. . . .

By the copious ingestion of water the action of the bowels and kindneys is stimulated, and it is noteworthy that rheumatism is almost unknown in Japan; it is probable that the absence of meat from the diet, combined with the use of plenty of water, accounts for this immunity. Bathing is indulged in frequently even by the poorest. The water in the bath is heated to a temperature which would be impossible for an Englishman to endure generally by a stove underneath the bath. These hot baths are taken to cleanse and stimulate the skin, but cold baths also are taken to invigorate and harden, and a roll in the snow often follows the hottest bath.

In the matter of diet they are frugal to a degree, rice being the staple food in every Japanese house, and appearing at very meal. ches on a diet consisting solely of a little rice. Vegetables and fruit are grown in abundance, and their value as a regular part of diet is realized far more than in this country. Indeed a labourer is content to work a whole day on a dinner of tomatoes, cucumbers, and salad. Salad is eaten cooked as a cure for sleeplessness. Milk is scarce because it does not pay to keep cattle to produce milk alone, and the meat is not eaten. Tea, poured out almost immediately after it is made, is taken without milk. Beer is drunk to some extent, but not in large quantities, and though spirits are imported, they are little cared for. Cigarettes are smoked in great moderation, pipes being preferred, but their bowls are small, and contain only a few pinches of tobacco, as Mr. Tree has been demonstrating recently to the British public. The Japanese appreciate above all things the value of fresh air; night and day they keep their windows open and their rooms ventilated, and they do not fear draughts or damp air. Breathing exercises are an important part of their physical training—deep, careful breathing, which is only acquired by practice. They hold that in this way the heart and lungs are strengthened. Then follow other exercises of "jiu-jitsu," described in so interesting a manner by Mr. H. Irving Hancock in his book on "Japanese Physical Training." Nothing short of "this perfection of health and strength" with its accompaniment of "good mental balance and happiness," could have caused the Japanese to accomplish in thirty years what it has taken other nations centuries to achieve. —"British Medical Journal."

A BHAGULPUR SENSATION.

A FIGHT BETWEEN GIANTS AND PIGMIES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bhagulpur, June 6.

We had of late an incident which, though trifling in its origin, took a rather sensational turn and you will excuse me if I narrate it at some length. There is a compound attached to the church here, which the authorities object to being used as a thorough-fare by the public. Some boys of the Government Zilla School, however, evidently through ignorance, utilised this compound as a shorter cut to their school. It may be noted here that this they have been doing every year at the hot season, when the school is held in the morning. It is alleged they did not heed the remonstrances of the Mali and that some of them damaged the wire-fencing surrounding it. Thus reached the ears of Mr. Swaine, the Principal of he Police Training School (and in charge also of the said compound), who arrested some of them while passing through the compound, took them to his own house where he induced them to point out their other accomplices. Thence he proceeded to the school with his juvenile prisoners, who identified their so-called accomplices. At Mr. Swaine's desire, these boys were all given a public flogging by the Head Master after which they were made to write a letter of apology to the Commissioner, confessing their guilt and asking to be pardoned. The Commissioner, however, was not yet satisfied. He sent for the Head Master and not considering his explanation to be sufficient, summoned the guardians of the boys—all of them highly respectable gentlemen of the town—to a "conference" at his house on Saturday last, the result of which was that the guardians were made to write a further letter of apology. It was after this that the idea of prosecuting the boys was dropped. It is deeply to be regretted that the highest officials of the District should, for a mere trifle, be so hard on young students—ever and everywhere a privileged class—and pursue them and their unfortunate and innocet guardians too with a relentless zeal which smacked more of imperialism than anything else.

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY acts on nature's plan—loosens the cold, relieves the lungs and makes expectoration easy. For sale by *
* Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

DRINKING-WATER IN BENGAL.

The following circulation has been issued to all Commissioners of Divisions by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal:—I am directed to invite your attention to the observations with regard to the supply of drinking-water in rural areas in Bengal, which were made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of the debate on the Imperial Budget in the Viceregal Council, and which are reproduced in page 340 of the "Gazette of India" of 2nd April 1904. In the course of his speech His Honour said: "That is a matter to which we shall have to give of our finances, and I do trust that, despite the existence in certain limited localities of an opposite spirit, it will be found that, when the Government either directly or through the Local Boards and Municipalities expends its own money, the public will also be ready to come forward and assist as they have done in the province to which I have so long belonged." The subject was again dealt with by Sir Andrew Fraser in his speech on the Provincial Budget in the Bengal Legislative Council, and his remarks will be found at pages 130 and 131 of part IVA of the "Calcutta Gazette" of 13th April 1904. On the same occasion His Honour made a definite promise through his Secretary that if in any case the local authorities would contribute one-third of the cost, and the public another third, the Government would contribute the remaining third up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 for any one district, and of Rs. 50,000 for the whole Province. I am now to communicate in greater detail the views of the Lieutenant-Governor on this subject, and his instructions in regard to the manner in which the promised grant should be expended. The difficulties connected with an adequate supply of wholesome drinking-water in the mofussil have engaged the earnest attention of successive Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal for a number of years past. Much correspondence has passed, and frequent instructions have been issued on the subject, as will be seen by a reference to the circulars issued. The question has also been discussed annually in connection with the Provincial Budget, and statements showing the expenditure incurred have at different times been laid on the Council table in response to requests by Hon'ble Members for such information.

With regard to the quantity, as distinguished from the quality, of the water-supply available, the opinions expressed in the somewhat voluminous correspondence referred to are in general accord with the statement made by the Financial Secretary in the debate on the Provincial Budget for the year 1899-1900. On that occasion Mr. Baker, then Financial Secretary, said that according to his information there were very few villages in Bengal which had not in their midst one or more tanks or wells which would be sufficient for local purposes if they were kept in proper order and preserved from contamination. On the whole Sir Andrew Fraser has no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that a deficiency in the quantity of water available in rural areas for drinking purposes is altogether exceptional, and that the efforts of Government and of the local officers should be directed chiefly to improving the sources of supply and removing causes of contamination.

The two main causes which affect the quality of the water-supply are the failure to maintain the tanks in proper order, and the absence of suitable arrangement for the reservation of one or more tanks solely for a supply of drinking water. When a prolonged drought occurs the water of tanks which have not been properly cleaned out and deepened becomes shallow and foul, and may readily be a means of spreading disease. The neglect to re-excavate tanks is sometimes due to divide ownership or to friction amongst owners: it is sometimes also attributable to the fact that the tank was originally excavated as an act of piety, but that the descendants of the original benefactor are unable to maintain it. Although many persons are willing from religious motives to dig new tanks when they afford to do so, comparatively few are willing to incur the lesser expense of deepening and maintaining tanks which have been dug by others. In such cases as these, or when suitable arrangements are wanting merely because there is no one with sufficient authority to take the initiative, the local officers will very frequently be able to effect an improvement by a judicious use of their influence and of the grants which they are able to make. A District or Sub-divisional Officer who goes about himself, and is prepared to make an immediate contribution of not more than Rs. 50 when he sees that it is wanted, can do a great deal towards improving the water-supply. At present, it is true, the funds of a District Board may not be expended in the repair and maintenance of any works unless these become vested in, or are placed under the control and administration of, the Board; but there seems little practical objection to allow the District Board (under section 76) to take over and repair or improve works which are really for the benefit of the community. It may be added that the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1889 is at present under amendment, and the opportunity will be taken to widen the powers of District Boards in this respect.

The contamination of tanks which should be reserved for drinking purposes, where it is not due to the failure of those interested to clean them out and deepen them, is principally owing to their use as places for bathing, for washing clothes and utensils, or for watering cattle. When such neglect of the most elementary rules of health is due to the backwardness of the sanitary education of the people, who prefer to use the nearest water available rather than be put to the inconvenience of going a short distance to satisfy some of their requirements, little immediate result can be hoped for from the occasional visits of officials. In such cases the Government must look to the influence of educated native gentlemen in the mofussil by precept and example gradually to lead their fellow-countrymen into the more excellent way. At the same time, although the exhortations and advice of officials may for the time being appear to be thrown away, they can scarcely fail to have an educative influence which may bear fruit at a later date.

When additional tanks or wells are really required, the zemindars concerned should be asked to modify the conditions usually imposed by them in such cases. The conditions in questions are for the most part extremely onerous, and, when drinking-water is really required, are unduly restrictive. A notable example of the effect of the withdrawal of such restrictions was seen in North Bhagalpur in the latter part of the year 1901-02. At that time scarcity was apprehended in certain comparatively small portions of that district, and the zemindars consequently allowed tanks to be dug freely within the areas affected, with the result that in a short time the people themselves expended nearly half a lakh of rupees in digging tanks. At the same time it is not necessary to press for a universal relaxation of these conditions, for those who excavate tank from purely religious motive do not always do so where tanks are most required, or even where they are required at all.

The conditions which the Lieutenant-Governor has attached to the grants which he has promised to make are for the purpose of securing in the first place that the money is judiciously spent. When the villagers themselves are willing to contribute, and when the District Boards are also willing to do so, the Lieutenant-Governor is prepared to accept these facts as sufficient assurance that the money is required, and that it will be properly expended. In the next place these conditions secure also that money will not be given unless it is supplemented, and thus made to go as far as possible. A consideration of even more importance is that when expended in the manner indicated it will be used to foster, instead of stunting the growth of the virtues of self-help and self-reliance. One of the principal objects of the Local Self-Government policy is to secure that the Government and the people shall co-operate in advancing the interests of the community. I am to express the hope that this object will be kept steadily in view.

During the current year, and until the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 is amended in the manner indicated in paragraph 5 above, the expediture will probably be mainly confined to the excavation of new tanks or wells, because at present District Boards cannot legally expend their funds in the maintenance of tanks or wells which remain the property of private individuals. His Honour, however, considers it right that this should be so, for places where new tanks or wells are really required have clearly the first claim to assistance from Government.

PAINS IN THE STOMACH, like toothache, are not dangerous, but decidedly unpleasant. Persons who are subject to such attacks will be pleased to know that prompt relief may be had by taking a dose or two of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by *
* Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

THE CULT OF BEAUTY.

Bond Street is the Mecca of the woman who seeks to have the bloom of youth restored. Here beauty doctors congregate by the score, each with a different key to the secret of perennial good looks. Face massage and electrolysis are practised by the majority of these specialists, but some of the more enterprising are turning from the old to new methods of beauty culture. There are in Bond-street specialists who venture on doing feats of surgery. Some women in their desire to gain beauty have the outer skin of the face removed. In such cases the skin remains raw for ten days. Hairs are sometimes threaded to the eyelids to add to the lashes. Moles and birth marks are cut out of the face. Where the face has been too puffy an incision is made in the skin, so that when it grows again the surface shows to greater effect. "Dermatology" is the name of a science of beauty culture practised by a Bond Street firm. The knife is used freely, but, according to the practitioner, the operation is quite painless and very quick. Under the magic fingers of the dermatologist, it is claimed, the most typically Jewish nose can become the purest Greek, and the pugged or "tip-tilted" nose can become anything that is desired. Baggy eyelids can be rendered smooth, hollow cheeks filled out, dimples added wherever required, a large mouth made smaller, proturding ears flattened, and double chins made to disappear with lightning rapidity. This upper floor in Bond Street is a magic chamber where the ravages of time and the deficiencies of nature are laughed at and promptly remedied.

SHE SUES FOR $100,000.

Supreme Court Justice Maddox in Brooklyn, yesterday May 5, appointed John Hinton of 2, First street guardian ad litem for his daughter, Mrs. Ellen Barrett, in order that she might begin an action against her father-in-law, Peter Barrett, a wealthy manufacturer of carriages and wagons of Navy street, to recover $100,000 for the alleged alienation of the affections of her husband Edward, to whom she was married about a month ago. Mrs. Barrett is only 18 years old. The young husband left his bride on April 28, twenty five days after their wedding. It is also alleged by the daughter-in-law that on Tuesday last her father-in-law sent to her house, 146 Adelphi street, and had a piano which her husband had given to her as a wedding present removed as well as a quantity of other furniture.

Mr. Barrett when spoken to concerning the action taken by his daughter-in-law said that he had no comments to make at this time.

"We knew what we were doing all along," he said. "We had detectives watching my son's wife, and I was displeased with her actions. We haven't anything to say about the matter now."

Young Mrs. Barrett when she heard what her father-in-law said was greatly distressed.

"I had known my husband," she said, "two years before we were married, and I believed that he loved me. Why, I never went one step with any man for seven months before we were married and haven't been anywhere since except to my father's home."

CHOLERA INFANTUM.—This has long been regarded as one of the most dangerous and fatal diseases to which infants are subject. It can be cured, however, when properly treated. All that is necessary is to give Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy and castor oil as directed, with each bottle, and a cure is certain. Since this remedy has come into such general use, there are very few deaths from cholera infantum, and none whatever when it is given. For sale by *
* Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

INDIAN NOTES.

PRISON ADMINISTRATION OF BURMA.

The figures given in the Report for 1903 on the Prison Administration of Burma are not less instructive than those in the other provincial jail reports. There was a greater number of admissions than in the preceding year, and, although the number of discharges was also larger, the jail population at the close of the year was 501 more than on the corresponding period of 1902. More were transported beyond the seas than in the preceding year; more died, and more were executed—from which it will rightly be concluded that the condition of Burma from the social and other points of view is not quite as satisfactory as it might be. It is interesting to note that while there was an increase in the number of Budhists and Jains, Hindus and Sikhs admitted, there was a noticeable decrease in Europeans, Eurasians, and Mahomedans, and the number of prisoners who were employees of Government or of local authorities rose from 490 to 560—a very serious addition.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

The case in which Thomas, "alias" Sonny Pereira, was charged with the offences of kidnapping and abduction, by Kuppuswamy, a butler in the service of Mr. Alexander, an assistant in the firm of Messrs. Volkart Brothers, was called on again on Monday at the Egmore Police Court, before Mr. P. Rajarathna Mudaliar. Full particulars of the case have been already published. Briefly stated. the case against the accused was that he, on the 19th March last, unlawfully kidnapped a girl Kanaka Mariammaul, under fifteen years of age, the daughter of the complainant, for immoral purposes, and that he, for four days thereafter, detained the girl in custody against her will, in a closed room at Mylapore. Mr. Ambrose, who appeared for the accused, argued that the case, as proved by evidence, did not fall within the four corners of the Penal Code. The evidence was, that the girl, for fear of ill-treatment at the hands of her father, ran away from the house, and sought the aid of the accused. At the time she ran away with the accused, the girl was a free agent, and was not under the custody of any lawful guardian. The prosecution should have led unrebuttable evidence as to the age of the girl. The offence of abuuetion could not stand, as the girl went away of her own accord, and, considering the great doubts surrounding the case, the benefit of the same should be given to the accused.

WHITE VS. BLACK.

A Tezpur correspondent writes to the "Citizen" of Dibrugarh:—Mr. Atkins, Asst. Manager of the Gopsadharu Tea Estate in the District of Darrang has complained before Mr. Lees, Deputy Commissioner against Babu Jotindra Chandra Banerjee, Post Master of the Charali Post Office for insult under sec. 504, I.P.C. It is alleged that while he had been to the Post office on a certain day in May to enquire about some parcels, the Post Master insulted him by using abusive language and threatening to turn him out of the office. The Post master's defence is that, without previous intimation, Mr. Atkins trespassed into his private quarters and demanded production of a cooly woman who, he said, was in his compound; he denied all knowledge of any such woman and Mr. Atkins began to abuse him. An altercation then followed as a result of which Mr. Atkins was asked to leave the place. Some witnesses were examined for the prosecution who deposed that there were high words between the Shahib and the Babu. Some said that the Shahib was inside the house first and then came out, and others said he had never been inside the house. The Post Master's witnesses deposed that they heard the voice of the Sahib inside the private quarters of the Post Master but they could not understand what the row was about. Mr. Lees charged the Post Master under sec. 504 and enlarged him on a bail of Rs. 50. The case has been adjourned. We understand the Post Master has reported the case to his departmental authorities. This is a curious case and should be thoroughly enquired into.

THE LATE TAI MAHARAJ'S DAUGHTER.

Mr. A. Lucas, District Judge of Poona, was, on Saturday last, engaged in hearing an application which was made by Sita Bai, the mother of the late Tai Maharaj, for the guardianship of the latter's daughter, a girl about nine years of age. The girl is at present under the protection of Bala Maharaj, whom Tai Maharaj had adopted, and concerning whose adoption there were disputes between the late Tai Maharaj and the executors of the estate which led up to the prosecution of Mr. Tilak on charges of perjury and forgery. Sita Bai claimed the guardianship of the girl on the ground that she was her maternal grand-mother, and consequently the fittest person to take care of her. Mr. Davar, Government Prosecutor, opposed the application on behalf of Bala Maharaj, while Mr. Bhowlikar, pleader, represented three of the executors, Messrs. Tilak, Kharpade and Khumbhojkar. Nobody appeared for Nagpurkar, the other executor. A number of witnesses were examined, including the applicant, Sita Bai, Bala Maharaj, and the girl herself. The evidence of Sita Bai and a couple of witnesses on her behalf generally went to show that she was in a position to maintain and look after the girl. Bala Maharaj claimed guardianship on the ground that he was her adopted brother, and that he had been looking after her from the time of Tai Maharaj's death. The girl in her examination stated that she wished to live with Bala Maharaj by whom she was properly looked after. The Judge considered that Bala Maharaj appeared to be the proper person to be the guardian of the girl, and promised to pass orders on the matter later on.

THE EFFICACY of Chamberlain's Pain Balm in the relief of rheumatism is being demonstrated daily. If troubled with this painful disease procure a bottle at once. One application relieves the pain. Sold by *
Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE 12, 1904.

TIBET EXPEDITION—A CRIME.

ENGLISHMEN, who believe in a good and just God and who have not forgotten Him, and in the Tibetan expedition a crime. They feel that this crime means the wrath of God. This feeling was enhanced by the massacre of the ill-armed Tibetan rabble. The Indians bore no part in this expedition; so there is nothing to disturb their conscience. But, Englishmen, who are piously disposed, feel very deeply the injustice to Tibet, and many of them are condemning the expedition in the strongest language possible.

It is true the Boer war also elicited strong protests from Mr. Stead and others who thought in the way he did; but then the Boers could fight and defend themselves. The Tibetans are too weak to resist the most powerful nation in the world. Our London correspondent, being an Englishman of the type noted above, feels very bitterly the wrong done to the Tibetans, and thus expresses himself:—

AN ORIENTAL LESSON AND ITS APPLICATION.

Lord Curzon, I do not doubt, as becomes a peer of the realm and as a representative in India of Edward VII, Defender of the Faith and Head of the Episcopal Church in England, is a devout Churchman. Like another great English Churchman, the late Mr. Gladstone, it is possible Lord Curzon never misses attendance at daily service. And, if he cannot be present, assuredly he follows at home the service appointed for each day. If such be the case, on Wednesday next, the 25th day of May, whether in Church or in his study, he will find the following oriental story set down as the first Lesson:

"And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab, King of Samaria.

"2. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

"3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

"4. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

"5. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

"6. And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

"7. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

"8. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

"9. And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:

"10. And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him that he may die.

"11. And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them.

"12. They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.

"13. And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones that he died.

"14. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.

"15. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive but dead.

"16. And it came to pass when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it."

I spare the reader the remainder of the story; it is gruesome to the last degree. When Lord Curzon as a good Christian hears, (or reads) this story, will he, I wonder, let his mind turn to the tableland o[illegible] and [illegible] he ask himself in what essential respects his policy towards the Tibetans differs from that of King Ahab? Like the King of Samaria, who had vineyards in plenty in which to disport himself, and out of which to obtain gratification, Lord Curzon in the vast territory stretching from Yunnan to the Persian Eastern border, from Fort Chitral to Cape Comorin, had far more of possessions and of people than he could justly rule. But in the spirit of Ahab, though, no doubt unconsciously he was led to covet the territory of the Dalai Lama, and to secure it he had to adopt measures which had the effect of spilling innocent blood as surely as innocent blood was ever spilt by an earth-hungry policy of the ruler of men. The inherent greed of the majority of English people,—greed which the late Mathew Arnold never tired of denouncing,—finds mournful expression in the Ahab-envy which resulted in the despatch of the Younghusband expedition into Tibetan territory. Lord Curzon—in the spirit of the Samarian monarch, who said, "I'll pay Naboth for his vineyard; I'll find him another vineyard, out of which he can make more money"—may say, "I did not want to kill hundreds of Tibetans; or even one Tibetan. All I wanted was to have full access to the land of Tibet and to have my representative stationed at Lhassa. How unreasonable of the Dalai Lama to refuse this." Unreasonable, or not unreasonable, the Dalai Lama, of course, had a perfect right to say he wished to keep his own house to himself and did not desire Lord Curzon or any of his representatives therein. The ruler of nearly a million square miles of territory, cared nothing for such a protest: the Younghusband expedition played the part of the means employed by Queen Jezebel, and Christian England is in presence of a national crime which, let me fervently trust, Nemesis will not remember and punish as was the crime in far-away Samaria, long-distant ages, punished. Who bore that punishment? Not Ahab himself, but (as was meet, so far as it went) Jezebel the Queen, and Joram his son, who succeeded him as King of Israel.

"And Joram King of Israel and Ahaziah King of Judah went out each in his chariot and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite.

"And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength and smote Joram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot.

"Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, Take up and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the Lord laid this burden upon him;

"Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the Lord; and I will requite thee in this plot, saith the Lord. Now therefore take and cast him into the plot of ground according to the word of the Lord."

So, in like manner, the United States expiated in blood and treasure, in the lives of many thousands of those who themselves had no part or lot in owning and ill-treating human slaves, and Russia is now paying in defeat, humiliation, and shame, for her insensate ambition and massacres in Asia. May England, if not in this generation, nevertheless in a generation to come, be spared to pay the price of her wrong-doing! "The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small," and because they grind exceeding slow not the present authors of the Tibet tragedy but others may be ground to powder."

Our London correspondent should, however, remember that, perhaps no Englishman has suffered so deeply on account of the Tibet affair as Lord Curzon has done, for he has the chief hand in this business. It can, however, be conceded that, he had not the least idea that it would produce such disastrous result. What was, it seems, expected by him was that the Tibetans would submit without resistance, and the peaceful character of the mission would be fully justified. In short, Lord Curzon proposed in one way, but Providence has thought fit to dispose in another way.

WATER-SUPPLY CIRCULAL OF BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

WE have no doubt that Sir Andrew Fraser honestly believes that what he states in his circular, published elsewhere over the name of his Secretary, Mr. Shirres, regarding the supply of drinking water in the rural tracts, is correct; but, we can assure His Honour that it will create the greatest consternation possible in the Province. We never expected that he would venture to dispose of this great problem, which has sorely taxed the brains of successive Lieutenant-Governors, in an off-hand manner, specially as he is yet an utter stranger to Bengal. Beyond paying some flying visits to district towns, he has never been in the interior of the country; on the other hand, as a regular reader of newspapers, he is, we presume, aware that, if the people of Bengal want anything, it is a large supply of drinking water. And yet, because Mr. Baker, the then Financial Secretary, at an unguarded moment, made an assertion in 1899 to the effect that

> "there were very few villages in Bengal which had not in their midst one or more tanks or wells which would be sufficient for local purposes if they were kept in proper order and preserved from contamination,"

Sir Andrew

> "has no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that a deficiency in the quantity of water available in rural areas for drinking purposes is altogether exceptional."

Now, would His Honour be surprised to learn that, we have also, on our part, no hesitation in saying that, barring a very inconsiderable number of villages, there is not one which is not practically without a drop of water worth drinking during the months of May and June, and parts of April and July? Any one who lives in the interior will bear us out in this statement. We wonder, how in the face of this patent fact, which can be ascertained at once, the authorities have the assurance to make such a startling statement.

We very much wish that, our good Lieutenant-Governor, instead of proceeding to the cool heights of Darjeeling, could just now go into the interior of Bengal; for then his eyes would meet spectacles the like of which prevails nowhere in the world, and which would no doubt do good to his heart and soul. It is impossible for the high officials, lolling in luxury and surrounded on all sides by signs of prosperity, to form even a faint conception of the untold misery from which myriads of people are just now suffering in all parts of the Province for want of water. Fancy that in these hot days, when one is apt to be stricken down by apoplexy even in the shade, millions of villagers have to travel miles in the burning sun to bring water to quench their thirst.

It is quite clear that neither His Honour nor his Secretaries know anything of the fact that all the villages in Bengal, with the exception of those few which are situated on the banks of rivers, lakes or beels, suffer from something like a regular and widespread water famine for three or four months in the year. The village tank, as a rule, is exhausted in March, and female residents go to the nearest lake or the beel for water. These lakes are however extremely few in number, and lie far between. The beel dries up in May, and then they fetch water from the nearest river. And tens of thousands of such villagers have oftentimes to carry water from a distance of four miles! We dare say all these facts, which are not drawn from our imagination, were not placed before Sir Andrew Fraser; for, he would have then paused many times before making such a declaration, which affects the lives and health of millions, that there is a sufficient quantity of water in the rural tracts.

His Honour has been told that there is at least one tank full of water, in every village. But His Honour, if he would care to travel a few miles in the interior, could see for himself how preposterous this statement is. A country cannot be governed in this way, surely. The real truth is that, there is scarcely such a tank in an area of several miles. And oftentimes thousands of men, women, and children have to use this single tank for bathing, washing, drinking and culinary purposes. The water of such a tank is simply poison. But there is no help—they must use it for their very existence. The result is inevitable. Cholera appears as a matter of course, and thins groups of villages in a week or two. Malaria and other diseases follow, and thousands of human beings—God's creatures who are taxed more than any other people in the world—are decimated in the course of a few months.

We trust, Sir Andrew Fraser will be graciously pleased to withdraw the circular and institute a fresh enquiry into the subject. Indeed, let us repeat again, the statement of His Honour, namely, that there is sufficiency of water in the rural tracts, is absolutely incorrect. There are other important matters in the circular about which, it seems, there is also great misconception, and which we shall notice in due course. To save Bengal from the disastrous results of pestilence and disease, the people must first be supplied with good and sufficient drinking water. This is *the* problem before the Local Government. The Government can wait for other works of public utility: *water scarcity cannot keep.* And to remove it, a more sympathetic and well-informed circular is needed than the one issued by the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE MISCHIEVOUS CIRCULAR ABOUT WATER-SUPPLY IN BENGAL.

THERE was a misrepresentation and it caused the Indians serious mischief. [illegible] to the effect that the [illegible] Mussalman ladies, when ill, were left to die without medical treatment, because male doctors were not permitted to attend them, and female doctors were not to be had in the country. Upon this misstatement was founded the huge fraud, called the Lady Dufferin's Fund, for the purpose of maintaining an institution of which there is no necessity. Armed with this misstatement, the authorities made appeals for funds in the name of suffering humanity, and the Indians the poorest race in the world, had to respond to them, because they were preferred by the supreme rulers of the land. It is a well-known fact that some of the Indian noblemen and princes had to contract debts to meet the demand, which yet remain to be paid. The large amount of money, thus extorted from the helpless Indian nobles, if properly utilized, might have done some good. But this was not to be. "It was merely thrown into water" as the saying is; and the fund now goes chiefly to provide for some English medical women who have no occupation at home.

We are reminded of this misstatement by another, said to have been made by Mr. Baker, as Secretary of the Bengal Government, in 1899-1900, which the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has adopted without reserve. It is that, if there is dearth of water, the dearth is of quality and not of quantity; and that almost every village has a tank of its own, capable of supplying the inhabitants with the water they require. These two misrepresentations, namely, that Hindu and Mussalman ladies are not permitted to be treated by male doctors, and that every Bengal village has a tank, very much resemble each other. They are both exceedingly mischievous in effect, and they can both be corrected by a slight effort.

We have already shown what gigantic mischief this Lady Dufferin Fund has done. Let us see what the alleged misrepresentation of Mr. Baker is likely to do. It is now an established fact that unwholesome water is the cause of cholera, at least one of its principal causes; and it is known to every one that cholera is decimating Bengal as it is decimating other provinces of India. If any European country had suffered from cholera in the way India has been, that country would have been deserted. It is only the Indians that can stick to a cholera-stricken country like India.

When the Lady Dufferin Fund was founded, we earnestly asked the Government to make an enquiry as to the truth or the falsity of the statement which led to this movement; and we also assured the promoters that if they would condescend to ask the Hindus and the Mussalmans whether they permitted or not male doctors to treat lady patients of their families, every one of them would answer that they did. But the enquiry was not made. In the same manner, if Sir Andrew Fraser had only paused, before adopting the views of Mr. Baker, and made an enquiry, he might have seen that the view was very erroneous. Sir Andrew Fraser has not to ask anybody for opinion on this point; let him only one day visit a few villages in Bengal, selected at random, and he will find in none of them tanks worth the name, or tanks containing sufficient water to supply the villagers all the year round. If he goes through, say, five hundred villages he will see the same spectacle everywhere.

It is utterly a mistake to suppose that every village has a tank. A tank like the one understood by His Honour will not be found after one has traversed through hundreds of villages in Bengal. Of course, there are a few districts which have a few good tanks, such as Burdwan, but yet in Burdwan it will not be possible to find a good tank in one hundred villages. As for wells of the kind, described by Mr. Baker, their existence is practically unknown in Lower Bengal. Considering how cholera and malaria are decimating the province, the matter is too serious to be disposed of by a circular issued by Sir Andrew Fraser.

The "Statesman," in an able article, reproduced elsewhere, referring to the circular under question, observes:—

".....Sooner the Government gives up the absurd practice of distributing circulars such as the one in question the better for the credit of the Province."

The Lieutenant-Governor holds a too exalted position to afford to give utterrance to words before weighing them well. Just see the awkardness of the situation. His Honour has been led to make a statement in emphatic language which every one in the country knows to be utterly unfounded.

THERE was a time when we had the painful duty of severely criticising his Lordship the Chief Justice, not being then awere of the fact that in his heart of hearts, he was a sincere friend of the Indians, and also, because, one of his blunders had created consternation in the country. This blunder consisted in his constituting the Criminal Bench of the High Court with only European Judges. So long there was an Indian on the Bench the people had greater protection and more confidence. But the European Bench gradually came to do its work so wretchedly that motions and appeals to the High Court dwindled day by day. When the scandal really became insupportable, his Lordship came to the rescue of the people and put the veteran Judge Mr. Ghose on the Criminal Bench. The Bench is again European. Of course we have no fault to find with the Judges who are presiding over it just now; but yet, we think, there ought to be an Indian joined with his European colleague on principle. Here is a complaint against the Criminal Bench which we must explain, and to which we beg to draw the attention of the Chief Justice. The executive vagaries have increased very much now-a-days. It was Sir Charles Elliott who thought it a bad policy for judicial courts to interfere with the doings of a district autocrat, however unjustifiable his conduct might be, and since then they have, day by day, been getting, generally speaking, more and more high-handed. The High Court generally quash the proceedings when they are illegal; but that does not put a stop to the Magisterial vagaries. What they have to do is to bring the illegal acts of some of these autocrats, when they are outragous, to the notice of the Government.

TAKE, for instance, the case of Rai Gunput Bahadur of Murshidabad. He gave information that he had been robbed of valuable property; but the Police said it was false and malicious. Thereupon a judicial enquiry was held by a Magistrate holding first class powers, and he found that the information was true. The District Magistrate, defying the law, set aside this decision of a first class Magistrate, arrived at, after a most careful judicial enquiry; and believing the version of the Police, based upon mere opinion, asked the robbed gentleman to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for giving false information. Here we see a man asked to prove himself innocent! But how can a man do it unless there were some distinct charges against him based upon evidence? How can a man prove himself innocent if he is told by the Magistrate that the Police thinks him to be a forger, and that he must prove that he is not one? The High Court quashed the proceedings on the ground that the District Magistrate had no right to interfere with the decision of a Magistrate vested with first class powers and ask Rai Ganput to show cause. But is it not a case of the most outrageous kind which the Hon'ble Judges ought to have brought to the special notice of the Government? The District Magistrate's action will only lead the people of his district to fight shy of the Police if they are robbed. Rai Ganput was robbed and he gave information to the Police. The result was he was netted by the Police, and he could only extricate himself by seeking the help of the High Court and spending a large sum of money! Then, take the Balasore case, in which an Oorya Zemindar is alleged to have been treated, by the Magistrate of Balasore almost in the way the Rajah of Puri was treated by Mr. Garrett. A Rule has been issued in regard to the case, and we are anxious to see how it is finally disposed of by the Criminal Bench. The Balasore Magistrate is no other than Mr. Egerton of Murshidabad fame.

IT is a notorious fact that Sir James La Touche, Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, is a pro-Mahomedan ruler. His predecessor, Sir A. P. MacDonnell, held the balance even by treating both the Hindus and the Mussalmans according to their respective worth; and this kept the members of the two communities in friendly terms. The policy of favouring the Mahomedans at the cost of the Hindus, introduced by the present ruler of the United Provinces, naturally led the former, at least the illiterate classes, to think that the authorities were on their side; no wonder, then, that a serious riot should occur in the district of Azamgarh, where the Mussalman element is very strong. If the riots had been almost a thing of the past, even during the administration of Sir James La Touche, it was due to the result of the beneficent rule of Sir A. P. MacDonnell. But, the unreasonable section of the Mussalman community in the Azamgarh district, apparently encouraged by the pro-Mussalman policy of the present Lieutenant-Governor, have at last broken out with the same relentless fury as they did upwards of ten years ago, druing the administration of Sir A. Colvin. We have already reproduced an account of the riot which appeared in the Lucknow "Advocate." Here is the account of "The Indian People" of Allahabad:—

"According to the version of some local Hindus, on the morning of Sunday, the 29th ultimo, an infuriated mob of 2,500 Mahomedans of Mubarakpur, District Azamgarh, which out of a population of 25,000 consists over 22,000 of Julahas, proceeded to Khaura and looted the Channi (store-house and cattle-shed) of Thakur Ram Bali Singh, severely assaulting the Thakur and an Ahir in charge of the place and seizing two calves, one of which they slaughtered at Babua Saheb's temple in Gujarpara, beating the "pujari" severely. Then they returned to Mubarakpur, assaulting every Hindu they came across in their way, and gathered at old Thakurdwara which was closed from inside. Here they scaled the walls, demanded the keys of the pujari who, on refusal to comply, was nearly beaten to death with two Goshains, living in the same temple, and mercilessly slaughtered the remaining calf and a cow belonging to the temple and robbed the jewellery and other valuables of it. They were unchecked in their atrocities by the local police whose Mahomedan head alleges his utter inability to suppress the mob. On getting information, Mr. Pearson, the District Magistrate, with the District Superintendent of Police and eighty constables, proceeded the very afternoon to the scene of atrocities, saw it and returned to Azamgarh. The next day he came again to the spot followed by the Commissioner of Gorakhpur Division on Thursday. Out of 200 rioters identified by the Hindus and the police, only twenty-one have yet been arrested. The Mahomedans say that they had done so under a grave provocation caused by the aforesaid Thakurs getting two Khatiks to slaughter a swine at their place of worship at Sihta and the Mahomedan Daroga of Mubarakpur police station's refusing to record the report of the incident. The Hindus allege the concoction of the story and say the real cause being the persistence of a Brahmin to build a kucha temple close to the old one in spite of the prohibition of the Mahomedan zemindar."

Our Benares correspondent writes us to say that, many Mussalmans, after having committed the foul deed, appear to have fled for safety in different towns. This he surmises from the fact that some Mahomedans have been arrested at Benares, and he is told, arrests have also been made at Ghazipur and elsewhere. There is, however, this difference between the Azamgarh riot of 1893 and the present one that, the former took place during the "Bukreed" when the Mussalmans were naturally in a state of excitement and openly encouraged by the local authorities, while the latter happened when peace prevailed throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and the Hindus and Mussalmans were apparently living in friendly terms.

SUCH is the luck of India that, though Lord Curzon has taken energetic steps in every direction, he has not moved at all in regard to a reform which, if effected, would have been a real boon to the country. Need we say that this reform relates to the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions? In referring to this matter, when the Police Commission had been taking evidence, Lord Curzon said in his budget speech of 1903: "Reform we must, and reform we shall." And His Excellency then went on to say:

"There is a subject long under our notice, which we hope to deal with in the ensuing year. This is that of the union or separation of Judicial and Executive functions. If any one could stand in my shoes, and with his 10 hours' work a day, could cast a glance at that file, the best part of a foot high, with its mass of opinions from Local Governments, High Courts, officials, and private persons, all waiting to be read and digested, and most of them saying different things, he would probably understand how it is that everything cannot be pushed forward at the same time. But the question is of great importance, and whatever our ultimate decision may be, I should like it to be taken up and dealt with in my time."

But is the question really so difficult as to baffle the keen intellect of such a statesman as Lord Curzon for its solution? If the Viceroy had thrown the opinions of all the Local Governments and the High Courts into the waste paper basket; if he had forgotten all that he had read, learnt, or heard on the subject; and, finally, if he had sat in contemplation for only an hour with a serious and enquiring mind to know all about the reform, light would have come from above to enable him to finger the truth. The question is so simple and the intellect of Lord Curzon is so sharp that he needed nobody's help to find out whether or not the separation of the functions was urgently needed in the interests of both the people and the Empire.

IT seems that, the Local Governments have not yet sent in their opinions on the Police Commission's Report. For, the Indian Secretary of State was again questioned on the subject and he said he had yet no idea when he would be able to make the Report of the Commission public. That being the case, will the Local Governors, specially Sir Andrew Fraser, be pleased to avail themselves of this opportunity to suggest the means by which the separation can be effected? Having regard to the actual working of the present system, as revealed by the evidence before the Commission, it is hard to see how approval can be accorded to an arrangement under which the District Officer is at one and the same time the head of the Police and the head of the Magistracy. It is the duty of a District Officer, as matters now stand, to watch the investigation of the more important cases, to instruct investigating officers, to read police reports and papers as they come in, and finally to decide whether a case should or should not be sent up for trial. There is a strong feeling in the country that it is not fair to an accused person, when his case has been so dealt with by the District Officer, to place him for trial before one of that District Officer's subordinates. Cases have frequently occurred, and have often come up before the High Courts, which show that this combination of the duties of the police and the Magistrate leads to failure of justice, and what is still more regrettable, makes the entire administration less popular than it should be. And competent witnesses have testified to the fact, which is universally believed in the country, that under the present arrangements subordinate Magistrates cannot and do not discharge their judicial duties with that degree of independence which ought to characterize a court of justice.

SEVERAL schemes of reform were placed before the last Police Commission, of which the most important were two. We have already dealt with them, but shall again refer to them in a future issue to refresh the memory of the Local rulers. We shall to-day refer to one historical fact. So long ago as 1838 Sir Frederick Halliday observed with old-fashioned directness of speech: "The union of Magistrate with Collector of revenue has been stigmatised as incompatible; but the junction of thief-catcher with judge is surely more anomalous in theory and more mischievous in practice." That Sir Frederick Halliday receded in 1856 from this position does not impair the significance of his language; for with the full knowledge of his revised views, the Police Commission of 1860 recommended "that as a rule there should be complete severance of executive and police from judicial functions," and this recommendation itself had been suggested by the Government of India, who in their instructions to that Commission took care to point out that, "above all, the golden rules should be borne in mind that Police functions are not to be mixed up or confounded, and that the active work of preventing or detecting crime is to rest entirely, with the Police and is not to be interfered with by those who are to sit in judgment on the criminal." As a matter of temporary convenience the Commission of 1860 recommended an exception to the rule in the case of the District Officer; and it is worth recalling that Sir Bartle Frere in the Legislative Council of the time expressed a hope that, as the exception was based upon "prejudices of long stand-

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

ing," the principle adopted by the Police Commission would at no distant date be fully and completely carried out. And the time has come when effect should be given to the reform.

It is from people like Mrs. Besant and Mr. Dharmapala that some real good can be expected to this country; and, why? Because, their motives are pure and unselfish, and God always blesses the works of such persons. Mrs. Besant is a gifted Englishwoman who, if she had chosen to stay in her own country, might have secured a very high position in her society. Indeed, she and Mr. Bradlaugh had already fought the cause of liberty in a manner which had called forth the admiration of the whole world for them, when she became a Theosophist and the devotee of the Lord Sree Krishna, left England for good, and adopted India as her mother country. Mr. Dharmapala is also an outsider. He is a Ceylonese Buddhist and his love for India is as ardent as that of Mrs. Besant, and like her he too has made India his permanent home. They unfortunately, labour under one great disadvantage. Not being born and brought up in this country, they are not in a position to know what is really needed to improve the condition of the people. It is thus, Mrs. Besant has not been able, in spite of her holy character and immense sacrifices, to carry most of the leading men of the country with her in the matter of the Benares Hindu College.

Like Mrs. Besant, Mr. Dharmapala, after his recent return from America, is going to start a school at Benares with Rs. 10,000 which Mrs. Foster, a lady residing in Honolulu in the Pacific Ocean, has given him. He requires Rs. 20,000 more for buildings and so forth; and has requested us in a letter to appeal to our wealthy men to help him to do this work. Now, considering the high character of Mr. Dharmapala, it will not at all be difficult for him to collect this amount. But before people part with their money, they naturally want to know how their donations are proposed to be utilised. In the absence of any scheme before us, we have not the slightest idea of Mr. Dharmapala's project. All that we gather from his letter is that, he is "convinced that a systematic educational training, if given to the children from their fifth year, a new generation can be expected." It seems that, Mr. Dharmapala is not aware of the fact that, our children are already having a systematic educational training from their fifth year, and this has produced the most disastrous result upon the nation. Indeed, it is this over-education which is one of the main causes of the disappearance of the higher classes of Indians.

Mr. Dharmapala points to the example of Japan, which he says is poorer than Bengal. But the Japanese are a free people, and the Indians are a subject race and have been deprived of all political privileges. He advises the Indians not to approach the Government for help, but find money from amongst themselves for their own improvement. But he forgets that, the money which is in the hands of the Government, belongs to the people, and they will only act like fools if they let the rulers alone to carry out their military expeditions and tax themselves over again for the purpose of starting "excellent industrial and technological schools like those in Berlin, New York, Tokyo, Moscow and Copenhagen".

It will thus be seen that Mr. Dharmapala must first learn the real condition of the country, and then he should try to carry his idea into effect. As we said, it is through persons of the type of Mrs. Besant and Mr. Dharmapala that we expect genuine good to the country; but, to be successful, they must first mix with the leading men, discuss their projects with them, and then, in consultation with them, frame their scheme. Our humble services are at the disposal of Mr. Dharmapala, for, we have faith in him; let him only place before us the plan he has got in his mind for the regeneration of the people.

Dr. Peebles was tired of the claims put forward for the Hindu "Mahatmas" by Theosophists, and, in going to disprove their existence, he refers to the abject condition of the Hindus of the present day in these words:—

"If India has been blessed with the Mahatmas, with the sacred books of the East and the teachings of the masters for long weary centuries, how do you account for the degeneration of India until it is to-day the stupidest, poorest and most superstitious country of the world, or was such till Western Science and enterprise began to arouse it from its deadly torpor?"

We have no desire to take objection to the description of the Hindus by Dr. Peebles, neither are we prepared to prove the existence of the "Mahatmas," having never seen one of them. But the present condtion of the Hindus can be accounted for by other ways than by denying the reality of the Mahatma theory. Thus, for instance, says Professor Max Muller:—

"I confess it has always seemed to me one of the saddest chapters in the history of the world, of the mighty empires of Egypt and Babylon and of their wars and conquests—who wanted nothing from the outside world and were happy and content in their own earthly paradise—to see these happy people suddenly overrun by foreign warriors. Whether Persians, Greeks or Macedonians, or at a later time, Scythians, Mahomedans, Mongolians and Christians, and conquered for no fault of theirs except that they had neglected to cultivate the art of killing their neighbours.....They themselves never wished for conquest—they simply wished to be left alone, and to be allowed to work out their view of life, which was contemplative and joyful, though deficient in one point, namely, the art of self-defence and destruction."

And thus Porus was surprized when he was asked by Alexander how he should be treated. He had no idea that kings fought for material greed—an idea which came from the West, where modern science, which is to elevate the Hindus, is cultivated. Poverty is no crime, yet, during the days of Milton, India was considered the richest country in the world. If it is poor now, the people have the proud privilege of maintaining the costliest rule in the world. The Mahatmas, however powerful, quail before lead and gun-powder.

Scrap.

There is no doubt of it that the fodder difficulty is confronting the Indian peasants and the authorities a good deal. There was a time, when every village had its pasture land to give sufficient food to the domesticated animals but owing to the destruction of all indigenous industries of the country, all classes of people have fallen upon land for their livelihood. The result is, that a villager cannot afford to keep a "cotah" of land fallow. No wonder difficulty is increasing. Elsewhere is published an account of a new American fodder called "Alfala."

The readers of the "Patrika" are aware that some time ago the District Magistrate of Khulna issued notices upon the proprietor and the printer of the "Khulna" newspaper, calling upon them to show cause why they should not be prosecuted for not making a fresh declaration as the place of printing had been changed. We now understand from our correspondent that on the 8th instant the new Magistrate dropped the proceedings, on the publisher giving guarantee that in future the paper would be properly conducted.

So after all Mr. MacBlaine has come to his senses. We learn from Krishnaghur that justice has at last been done to the portrait of Kumar Gopendra Krishna Dev, by Mr. MacBlaine, District Judge of Nuddia. The reader is aware that Mr. MacBlaine objected to the portrait being hung up in his court-room and wanted to remove it from there. There was a tussle over the subject between the bench and the bar. Mr. MacBlaine has since then ordered the restoration of the portrait to its old place.

A sensational paragraph appears in "Truth" of the 28th April, regarding the terrible petroleum fire on a steamer in the Irrawady some weeks ago. On the authority of an "Army Officer in Burma" it is stated that 500 Indians perished and a gruesome picture is drawn of "bodies floating down the stream stranding on sand-banks and washing ashore in quiet backwaters" ten days after the disaster. A very serious allegation is made that the newspapers of Burma made only a passing suggestion that "several persons" were missing and did not reveal the full extent of the loss of life. But the official enquiries showed that about 300 lives were actually lost. Truly, a fearful bill of mortality! The Government of India have the whole matter now under investigation and it is obvious that it must be sifted to the bottom. A question in Parliament will doubtless follow upon the account that has appeared in "Truth." It is really good news to hear that the Government of India have been called upon for an explanation as to why the number of lives lost in the disastrous fire on the steamer Yomah has been kept a profound secret.

Here is a case lately tried by the Magistrate of Bombay which will no doubt give a lesson to those Europeans who think themselves that they are above all laws. Mr. T. J. Edmonds of Reuter's Telegram Company, appeared to answer a charge of assault preferred against him by Bechoo and four others, Purdeshi hamals employed in the Bombay Company. The prosecution alleged that on the evening of the 22nd May, complainants were sitting on the verandah of their office in Apollo Street, when the accused came there and struck them with a stick without any provocation. The defence was that complainants and the other hamals were singing and playing tomtoms, and made such a noise that Mr. Edmonds, who lived opposite to that office and who was unwell at the time, sent his butler to them to ask them to stop the noise. They, however, continued the nuisance. Mr. Edmonds then himself came downstairs with the butler and told the men not to make such a noise. They resented this, saying they were in their own compound and they could do what they liked and he should report the matter to their master. Upon this the accused gave each of them a cut with his cane. The Magistrate said that the provocation was not such as to justify Mr. Edmonds in assaulting the complainants. His worship, however, considered that a nominal fine would meet the case, and fined the defendant ten rupees.

The Gang dacoity case which ended the other day at the court of the Additional Sessions Judge of Bankura, Mr. Delevingue, in the conviction of more than a score of persons, has a sequel which is indeed interesting. It will be remembered that in that case 14 persons were sentenced to transportation for life and 8 others to long terms of rigorous imprisonment. The Judge delivered Judgment in English, a language quite unintelligible to the accused. But when the Pesakar began to read aloud the vernacular translation of it, the dacoits created a scene in court which is awe-inspiring. They began by abusing the Judge in a most outrageous manner. The Judge saved himself by suddenly retiring and went home direct riding his bike. One of the prisoners, a stalwart ruffian, broke the handcuff by sheer force and in so doing he struck a co-prisoner who was standing by his side with such force that he fell down instantly on the ground. Another dacoit kicked a constable which made the latter to roll on the floor. The scene was one of confusion and consternation. Inspector, Sub-Inspector, Head-constable and constables rushed into the room to avert further trouble. The dacoits raised such an inhuman cry that it was impossible to hear anything else. However with much difficulty some order was restored. The next difficulty was how to lead them to jail. Entreaties, persuations, threats availed nothing. They stood obdurate and would not budge an inch. The Jail is only two minutes' walk from the court compound, yet it took nearly two hours to lead them there and not before the constables from the reserve force came in help of the local police. They again created a row at the jail. The gaoler was much afraid and he informed the Magistrate of it. The District officer promptly appeared on the scene and with the help of the jail-warders and the local police succeeded with much difficulty in safely lodging them to the prison. On the following day the prisoners were sent to the Midnapur Central Jail.

In consequence of the attack upon Kangma there will be a strengthening of the garrisons holding posts in advance of the Chumbi Valley, preparatory to the march of the reinforcing column to Gyantse.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

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[*From our own Correspondent.*]

London, May 20.

THE MOST-NEEDED OF ALL LESSONS INDIANS MUST LEARN.

"The English have never placed a conquered people on an equality with themselves, nor have they any conception of the art of conciliating. They only know how to oppress them, make use of them, crush or destroy them."

This is the testimony of an eminent French literary man, who has just published a most elaborate study of the English nation and English characteristics. The first sentence stated above states in a pithy manner, a doctrine which I have preached again and again in these columns. It is that India will never receive full citizen rights, or anything approaching equality, as a gift from the English people. It is simple folks who wait for England to be gracious in act as well as in word. Twice,—in 1833, in Act of Parliament, and in 1858, as an act of grace from a sympathetic woman,—equality was granted in words, but there was, in both instances, great care exhibited that no steps should be taken to change those words into acts. Nor so long as the English remain English will there ever be a change in this respect. There may, to soothe the Indian mind, be words in plenty, but of acts there will be few or none. Never have "the English placed a conquered people on an equality with themselves" says the Frenchman quoted above. I, an Englishman, add "Nor of their own motion will they ever do so." It is contrary to the genius of the nation even to consider the possibility of doing. Those Englishmen who are [illegible] not so act towards their own countrymen who are not in power. Nothing has ever of good grace been granted in the way of enlarged liberties to any section of the English people save as the result of a hard and prolonged fight on the part of those who were determined no longer to be ignored. Why should Indians expect that to be given of free will to them which has never been given to anyone else, not even to those of the household? Mr. Boutney, the Frenchman I have quoted above says, very pertinenty and truly, that English public men, having a complete scepticism about ideas in politics, regard it as their business to wait for outside pressure before they will remedy a grievance. This is profoundly true. A wiser observation concerning political procedure in this country was never uttered. Let the idea sink into the minds of Indians wearily watching for and desiring liberty and equality in their own land, that

English public men . . . regard it as their business to wait for outside pressure before they will do anything.

There, says the proverb, no royal road to learning. In like manner it may be said, there is no short cut to the securement of liberty and equality. Every English subject at home and aboard, if he wants something which he does not possess has got to fight for it. If he isn't ready to fight—constitutionally and by the force of reason, of course—then he will have to do without that which he may want, however badly he may want it. Political agitation is the only road along which the dispossessed can pass so that they may become possessors. "The English" remarks Mr. Boutney, "make for their goal, indefatigably and unweariedly, by the circuitous route of agitation; articles in the papers, distribution of brochures, meetings, demonstrations in the streets, monster petitions; all the trouble they give themselves is a source of pleasure to them. In France we are supremely conscious of the tedium and irritation of these circumlocutions. One thought alone occupies our mind: how to escape from this Gohenna; and with an impatience which is partly due to pure intolerance we hurry forward by the short road of revolution."

Political agitation is better than revolution. They who win by the sword often perish by the sword. Violence in the long run does not pay. Passive resistance is a greater force than active resistance. English history is crowded with examples in proof thereof. Another phase of the question deserves consideration. The English statesman does not resent political agitation. On the contrary he respects those who are prepared to assist themselves, and will give way to them when they have sufficiently impressed him with their earnestness and unflinching determination to attain their ends.

How can one get into the minds of Indians, who now stand shamed and disgraced in the eyes of nearly all the races in the world because of their weak submission to the crying injustice of remaining underlings in their own land—how can one get into their minds a right appreciation of the respect they would secure, the success they would ensure, if only they would unceasingly fight for their rights? It is of no use to trust to the sense of right and justice for right and justice sake. That sense exists with some people, and is exercised by them; it is unknown in ruling circles in England. That is why the National Assembly of France has elected representatives in its midst for every part of Colonial France, and it is also the reason why there is no Indian representative in the British Parliament, nor ever likely to be of good will and voluntarily.

M. Boutney has some illuminating observations in his book as to the recognition by those in authority of the right, and even the duty, of Englishmen to agitate for what they require. These are the terms in which the wise observer expresses himself:—

"Nothing is more remarkable than the kind of fatalism with which the British statesmen witness these demonstrations, watching them grow and preparing to give way to them. This is because they have no abstract principles which might be for them the object of a personal faith, and give them the strength to say 'No' resolutely and definitely. It is also because a courageous and tenacious will, to whatever end it may be directed, exercises in England the influence we only accord in France to right and justice valued for their own sake. Whoever in England desires a thing obstinately and vehemently is on that account alone presumed to have right on his side. When men who have the responsibility of power take the initiative, it is never on the sole impulse of a personal theoretical conviction; they wait until some doctrine or other has taken consistency and solidity among the people themselves, and a *pressure from without*—this is the phrase hallowed by custom—joins its ardent force to the feeble authority of principles."

"Pessure from without." When India applies sufficient pressure she will receive Home Rule in full and abundant measure, and Indians will become as much rspected as are the Japanese. Now Indians are regarded contemptuously, and are treated with contempt. Anything more insulting to self-respecting peoples than Lord Curzon's last speech in the Council Chamber at Government House, Calcutta, is unknown to history and is inconceivable. Yet, save in newspaper articles, every one takes the contemptuousness "lying down." Not a single meeting of protest has been held, not one word addressed to the English people who are read to help if only they are informed and sufficient measure of agitation be applied.

SOME AMAZING "HAMILTONIANS."

I trust I interpret Lord George Hamilton rightly when I proceed, as I am about to do, to put into concrete form an observation recently made by him. According to the noble lord, there are

Indians, "with intellectual capacity fully equal, if not superior, to our own," say	30,000,000
Indians, "in the north of India, equal in fighting power to the best European nations," say	30,000,000
Total number of highly intellectual and very courageous Indians	60,000,000

This is Lord George Hamilton's expression, in the course of a speech at a Missionary meeting over which he presided, as given in "The Times":

"There are tens of millions of Indians with intellectual capacity fully equal, if not superior, to our own; and, in the north, were tens of millions equal in fighting power to the best European nations."

It will be seen that I take "tens of millions" to mean at least three "tens,"—a fair assumption, I think, when the range of "tens" so dealt with runs from two "tens" to ninety-nine "tens." Lord George is as absurd and as inaccurate when he pays a compliment to Indian people as when he says disparaging things about them. Take the intellectual greatness first. There are on my low assignment of his "tens", thirty millions of Indians "with intellectual capacity fully equal, if not superior, to our own,"—that is English intellectual capacity. Now, in 1901, when the last census was taken, there were in India, between the ages of 20 and 55 years, 52,800,000 living men. This total included men of every class, race, and caste. Three, out of every five of these, were, in intellectual capacity, fully equal, if not superior, to the average Englishman. This is a marvellous compliment to Indians, who ought certainly to express their most grateful thanks to the noble lord. At the same time, mark this: the great intellectual copacity thus described is innate, is largely independent of education, for, of the thirty millions whose intellectual prowess he praises, only from two to three millions could have had any education. What mighty intellectual beings you dreadful Indians must be!

Then as to the "tens of millions," say thirty millions, of warriors in the north of India who are "equal in fighting power to the best European nations." The "north" of India, I take it, would include the whole of the United Provinces and the Punjab. The total manhood of these Provinces, from 20 to 55 years of age, in 1901, was seventeen millions. Therefore, according to Lord George, these seventeen millions are, in fighting power, equal to thirty millions of the best European nations! Why, it revives the talk of old days respecting the brave Englishman and the cowardly Frenchman, when one Englishman was esteemed to be as good as three Frenchmen, for Lord George's estimate would make each man in Northern India—the agriculturist, the fisherman, the oil man, the coolie, the landless labourer—actually or potentially a fighter of equal courage and prowess to nearly two Europeans! If one went further, and, to help Lord George out of the mess into which he has fallen, say his "tens of millions" meant only two "tens", then he is in this difficulty:

Actual male population in Northern India aged 20 to 55	17,000,000
Males in Northern India, equal in fighting power to the best European nations, according to Lord George Hamilton	20,000,000

With this *reductio ad absurdum* we will leave Lord George Hamilton and his airy talk of "tens of millions," thanking him for the compliment to the brain and brawn of India, but wondering what can be the worth of a civilisation which permits such an one as to be Secretary of State for India for a long series of years, and, actually, to introduce the Indian Budget to the House of Commons thirteen times!

A SIGNIFICANT FACT.

Spake I not truly when, a few weeks ago, in commenting upon the abominable Curzonian ukase which abolished merit and substituted favouritism for public service in India, I said the whole secret of the act was to be found in the exceptional ability and cleverness of the Indian, and, especially of the Bengali? It is jealousy, nothing more nor less than jealousy, of the intellectual equipment and possibilities of the Indian that is the occasion of all the backward steps which have been taken during the past few years, first by the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal (which goes to prove the truth of my contention), and, much more completely by the present pucca Viceroy. If it were possible to estimate how and by whom the work in the various departments is actually done there could, I think, be little doubt that it is really Indian minds which conceive as well as Indian hands which carry out the real administrative matters of each department. Now and then one gets a glimpse behind the veil which shows by whom and how things were drawn. For example that picture of the Board of Revenue, Madras, or some other department in which the young Madrasi who afterwards became Sir Seshiah Sashi was employed. Practically, we are told by a Madras civilian, the work of the department in all its higher branches was done by the young assistant. That, however, was long ago. As then, however, so now. Occasionally facts are revealed wihch show the great capabilities of Indian (and especially Bengali) assistants in the consummation of a great work. Just now many English papers are attracting attention to the final report of the last Indian Census, a report which, by the way, has been three years in completion. In the introduction to that report Mr. Gait says:—

"In conclusion I have to express my obligations . . to Babu Srinath Chakravarti, my Personal Assistant, who successfully controlled the Calcutta office for the last few months of the operations, and to Babu Prama Nath Sen who was in charge of the compilation of the tables from the very beginning and performed his duties most efficiently."

That is to say, two Bengalis, two Babus, did the real work for which some Englishman will get a C.S.I., or a C.I.E., or, may be a K.C.S.I., or a K.C.I.E. In Ceylon the whole of the Census operations were carried out by a Tamil gentleman, the Hon. P. Arunachalam, a member of the Ceylon Civil Service. It is altogether a mistake to suppose, as Lord Curzon recently alleged—in face of evidence which no one could better appreciate than he—that Indians are incapable of ruling their own country. They did it before the reign of the Hanover dynasty began in England and could do it again. In one respect they would be inferior to the English rulers of today. As to that there can be no doubt. They would not penetrate into Tibet under the guise of a friendly mission and by force of arms compel the Tibetans to accept their presence. No; in land-stealing they would have no chance in competition with their present alien overlords.

WHERE SHOULD THE GIRL GO?

A CASE OF KIDNAPPING.

On Friday, before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, the second Presidency Magistrate, a case of kidnapping was heard, in which a girl, named Sukia, aged 8 years, was the bone of contention between her father, two aunts and her husband. The kind hearted Magistrate patiently heard both sides and was evidently of opinion that the girl should go to her natural guardian, her husband. The facts of the case as stated in court are these. Samdia, the mother of the girl, was first married at Patna and for sometime she lived with her husband in peace and harmony; but subsequently she was entired away by a Rajpoot, by whom she begot this girl. When the girl was of six years of age, her mother was again enticed away by the present complaint who married her in the "sagai" form. Thenceforth the couple began to live in Calcutta with this girl. She died in "Magh" last, leaving the daughter, who was then married to Maira. As the complainant was not her own father, she went away and began to live with her two aunts, the two accused. The complainant then instituted proceedings against the aunts on a charge of kidnapping. Babu Ramesswar Mondal, who appeared for the prosecution submitted that this was a Sessions case. He would prove that the accused had kidnapped her. Babu Jotindra Mohon Ghose, Vakil, for the defence contended that the girl's mother was twice enticed away. The girl was born before this "sagai" marriage of the complainant with her mother was solemnized. The girl too was married, her husband living in Calcutta. He was, therefore, her natural guardian. It could not be a case of kidnapping. She was living, with her aunts of her own accord. On being questioned by the court, the girl said that they were her aunts. The court then enquired what the legal gentlemen on both sides were going to do under the present circumstances. Babu Jotindra Mohon prayed that a day might be given to them, when he would produce the husband before the court. If the husband would take her away everything would be settled. The court agreed with the view taken by the learned Vakil, and adjourned the case to the 24th instant. The aunts of the girl were warned to produce her on that day.

RANGOON ARSON CASE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Rangoon, June 5.

The adjourned trial of Mr. and Mrs. Bride and Mr. and Mrs. Wade and their two sons, for causing mischief by fire and abetment thereof, was resumed yesterday before the Sessions Judge and a jury of 9 men and judgment was delivered in this case. The jury first of all unanimously found the acused A. E. Wade, Gerald Wade, Berlie Wade, Mrs. Cecila Bride and Mrs. Alice Malilda Wade were not guilty of the first charge of having causing mischief by fire. By the same majority of 7 to 2 they found the first accused, J. Bride was guilty of abetting the offence of causing mischief by fire By the same majority they found the accused, 2 and 6 inclusive, guilty of the second charge against them, viz., of abetting the offence of causing mischief by fire. The learned Chief Judge accepted the jury's verdict, which caused great sensation and sentenced the first and second accused J. Bride and A. E. Wade, each to suffer 4 years' rigorous imprisonment. The two sons, Gerald Wade and Bertie Wade, were each sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for two years and Mrs. Cecila Bride and Mrs. Alice Matilda Wade to one year's rigorous imprisonment apiece. When the female accused heard their sentences pronounced they broke down and wept bitterly and had to be helped out of court amidst a sensational scene.

A small cyclonic storm, the centre of which was a little to the norh of Saugor Island, Friday morning, is moving in a northerly direction The barometer at Saugor Island was 29-358 at 8 a.m. on 10th, and the wind N.-W. with a velocity of 18 miles an hour, and nearly two inches of rain fell on the 9th. Humidity 93. Sea slight, but strong winds and heavy seas probably prevail to the south of the storm. The storm will cause general rain over Bengal.

At about 3-30 a.m. on he 8th instant after No. 42 Down mixed train had passed Sonaili Station, E. B. S. Railway, and was approaching Katihar, an axle of the 2nd goods vehicle appears to have broken at a spot about 4 miles east of Katihar. The wagon left the road and caused the derailment of four coaching vehicles. The total casualties are reported to have been three, namely, one third class passengr was killed, one had his leg broken, and one received, a contused wound in the forehead. The District Officers and relief train were quickly on the spot and the road was cleared and traffis resumed at 9 p.m. An enquiry will we understand be held on the 13th instant into the causes which led to this accident.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MADRAS ITEMS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Madras, June 6.

THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

The closing days of last month were one of activity in the Madras Presidency. In the first place we had the Provincial Conference at Ranipet, in the North Arcot District. Last year we had to postpone the Conference since the Congress itself was held in Madras. Apparently it was thought that the Conference would be unnecessary and entailed an expenditure too large to be easily borne. It is, no doubt, true that the good people of Vizagapatam where the Conference should have been held last year complained a great deal and were evidently for holding the session. But the decision of the Madras Mohajana Sabha was final and our District political associations were too loyal to grumble audibly. This year, I believe, more than sufficient amends were made for what it is in certain quarters called the "neglect" of the past. The Conference was well attended and over fifteen districts were represented. The Anglo-Indian Press favoured us with its special correspondents. The editors of both the Indion dailies of Madras were present and took part in the deliberations of the Conference. This was a unique feature of the Conference this year. Hitherto the editors of the "Standard" and the "Hindu" were content to confine themselves to the soft cushioned chairs in their offices and write articles on organised activity and enthusiastic co-operation under the refreshing breeze of the busy "punka." To use Mr. Mehta's phrase they were political "yogees" till now. They were never before the public till now. Thanks to our friends of Ranipet, they have dragged these men into the broad light of public turmoil and activity. It is to be hoped that these two editors will not retire once more into political "yogeeism." There can scarcely be any doubt, whatever, that both are talented young men. Their energy, their strength and their knowledge must be at the service of the public. There is one great reason why it should be so. Our old men are becoming more or less garrulous. With the advance of age they are becoming more and more spiritual and indifferent to earthly concerns. Some of our wealthy men who are all fired with patriotism when the Congress is held in Madras and are anxious to occupy the first row and take part in the meetings of the subjects committee feel themselves more or less disinclined to attend Conferences held in distant places. In the very nature of things, it will not be possible to count much upon the co-operation of such men. Why sir, this time the President of the Conference was a distinguished Indian, no other than the retired Dewan of Travancore. He is a retired Government Official. It is seldom that such people take part in our political associations. It must be very desirable to encourage such people to co-operate with us. And yet when this man presided at the Conference not a single one of our known public men was present. Not one of the Secretaries of the last Congress was present. The people of Mylapore who generally appropriate to themselves all patriotism and think themselves to be the most influential and capable men on the surface of the earth did not condescend to attend the Conference. I tell you this is discreditable. It was left to the editors of the two Indian dailies to fill up the gap. Of course Mr. Veeraraghavachary of the "Hindu" was present and so also Mr. Anantha Charlu the quaint military critic of Madras. In addition there were the Hon'ble Mr. L. A. Govendaraghava Iyer and the Hon'ble Mr. M. Krishna Nair. It is, however, satisfactory that inspite of the indifference of some of our men who ought to be active the Conference was a great success. Next time the Provinciol Conference will meet in Bellary.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

In connection with the Provincial Conference an Industrial exhibition also was held. The general impression throughout the country seems to be that the Congress has become more practical by including the exhibition in its programme. The exhibition was opened by Mr. R. C. Carr, the Divisional Officer of North Arcot. He delivered an exceedingly interesting speech on the occasion. These exhibitions must produce their own good. It is highly satisfactory that officials and non-officials are heartily co-operating to ensure the success of the exhibitions and that not only the Congress but even the Provincial and the District Conferences are arranging for such shows. The present state of our industries are deplorable and any attempt therefore to give a stimulus to our artizans must be highly welcome. I was present at the exhibition and I was truly surprised to see that such a backward district as North Arcot could show so much artistic skill. It was also an agricultural show. I saw improved machinery almost everywhere. There were present a large number of ryots. I only hope that these ryots will understand the great advantage and usefulness of these shows and wherever practicable improve their methods of agriculture. As a direct result of this exhibition an influential Agricultural Association has now been formed at Ranipet. It is to be hoped that this association will work with earnestness and vigour all the year round. Unfortunately we have had to much of tolk. We want action now And signs are not wanting that at least, in this Presidency people are slowly becoming alive to their responsibilities.

THE CHENGLEPUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

I must also say a few words about the District Conference that met at Conjeeveram, immediately after the Provincial Conference at Ranipet. Apparently the editor of the "Hindu" did not find it convenient to be present on the occasion. But the editor of the "Standard" was there and added greatly to the weight and dignity of the proceedings. The Hon'ble Mr. L. A. Govendaraghava Iyer, the President, delivered a long but interesting address dealing with primary, agricultural and industrial education, religious endowments and the Co-operative Credit Societies Act. In connection with the Conference an agricultural show was held. It was opened by the Hon'ble Mr. Castlestuart Stuart who delivered an highly encouraging speech on the occasion. Here also an Agricultural Association has been formed. These are all welcome signs. And there is something in my mind which tells me that the Madras Presidency has begun to do some useful work. I wish that this work will increase in volume and earnestness as time advances.

HOW IS MADRAS.

Your readers may like to know something about the town of Madras. Well, Madras is very dull now. All our schools and colleges are closed. All our courts are closed. All our big men and officials are away from town. Until the return of the Government from Ooty Madras will begin to show some activity. For the present we have only enough of dust and enough of heat. The very waves of the Bay of Bengal are languid. But for some thrilling news now and then from the seat of war, Madras should have quietly slept.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION.

"A DARING CASE OF ABDUCTION."

On Friday, before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, the second Presidency Magistrate, a case of abduction was heard, which was characterized by Mr. Court Inspector Mahapatra, as "a daring case of abduction." A girl, named Kalindi, aged about 10 or 11 years, of the "Baisnav" caste went out of her house in Champatolah in order to make some purchases. After having purchased some eatables whilst she was returning home at 11 or 11-30 a. m. along the Amherst Street, two Mohamedans, named Shaik Ramjan and Shaik Raja, both ticca gharry drivers, came up, all on a sudden, to her and caught hold of her by the arm. A ticca gharry was waiting close by and they gagged and then forcibly put her into it and drove off. They took her to a house in Corrie's Church Lane, where the second accused lived and put her under the charge of a woman saying that if she tried to run away they would kill her outright. Some hours after, the girl managed to come out of the house. Just then one of the accused was coming home. He saw her on the road and having immediately seized her began to drag her towards the house. She screamed and refused to go. By this time a small crowd had collected there. The men questioned what was the matter. The accused said that she was the wife of his friend and was running away. She strongly protested and said that she was not married and entreated the crowd to rescue her from the iron grasp of the ruffian. Some genlemen then rescued her and took her to the thana. Inspector B. L. Mitter arrested the two accused persons and sent them up for trial. After the girl had been examined the case was adjourned.

Interesting Items.

A GIANT TURTLE.

A turtle, which is declared to be the biggest of its kind ever seen, has been caught on the New Jersey coast. Its weight is 1087 pounds. The length of its shell is 10ft. 3in., while its width is 6ft. 7in. A dozen men can stand on its back with comfort. On all parts of its shell barnacles have fastened themselves in big bunches, and seaweed was growing over the monster's body. The turtle is what is known as rubberback, and is seldom found outside of tropical waters. In September the big fellow will, in all probability, be presented to the New York Aquarium by its owner. Fishermen say that the turtle is at least 700 years old.

ELEPHANT SHOOTING.

A writer in the "Field" describes an interesting incident of elephant shooting by night in the Soudan:—"I gave this chap both barrels where I considered his heart ought to be, and down he went. I reloaded at once, and then saw a strange sight. Four elephants nearest the marsh had turned towards it, evidently thinking the danger had come from there, while the other three had got two on one side and the other on the other of the one who was down. Even then I did not realise what was going on till Fudl Esseed whispered, 'Shoot him again; his brothers are taking him away,' and sure enough, the elephant hit was getting up on his forelegs. I fired again and he dropped once more. This time, however, one of the elephants noticed the flash and made for the ant heap, necessitating the precipitate flight of the sportsmen."

PREPARED AIR.

The use of specially prepared air by the medical profession is likely to be extended as a result of further discoveries made by Professor R. P. Pictet, of Geneva University.. Professor Pictet first demonstrated the possibilities of liquefying oxygen, and by a new invention he has shown that it is possible to secure the industrial production of liquid air and the separation of its component parts—oxygen and nitrogen—by fractional distillation. Experiments in England up to the present have been confined to manufacturing works at Manchester, where it has been shown that the invention will be useful for obtaining the high temperatures required in metallurgical works. It is claimed, says the "Daily News," that by its aid it will be possible to supply hospitals, and large buildings with an abundant supply of specially prepared air, richer or poorer in oxygen as may be prescribed by medical advice.

CARPENTER BEES.

Mr. Rennie, in his "Insect Architecture, describes the work of a carpenter bee. First she chiselled a channel in a piece of wood with her powerful jaws, and deposited each morsel at a distance. Then she made repeated journeys to bring in pollen and clay, until she had collected enough to serve as food for the future grubs, and to bar the entrance.

Cutting open the post, he found a nest of six cells, separated by partitions of clay as thin as cardboard, and with sides as smooth as any joiner could have contrived.

Reaumur tells us how the violet carpenter bee bores into wood obliquely for an inch, and then perpendicularly for a foot, scooping out three or four such passages. At the bottom she lays an egg, covers it with a paste of pollen and honey, and a protection of gnawings from the wood. This is repeated until the nest is filled, and a side door at the bottom enables the young bees to come out in due time.

The recent attack upon Kangma has not interfered with telegraphic communication beyond the Chumi Valley, as the Tibetans retired after their vain effor to rush the post.

Reports from Tibet agree in stating that the Tibetans are showing more and more enterprise in attack, and greater stubbornness in defence. They seem to have now quite a considerable number of Lhassa-made rifles, mostly of the Martini type. When Lhassa is reached it will be interesting to see the factory or workshops in which these have been made.

High Court June. 12.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(*Before Justices Pratt and Handley.*)

TROUBLES OF A ZAMINDAR.

Mr. Jackson with Babu Probhash Chunder Mitter, on behalf of Shyamanand Das Peharaj, moved for a rule on the District Magistrate of Balasore to show cause why the proceedings under section 174 should not be quashed or in the alternative why the case under section 174 should not be transferred to some other district.

The facts of the case, as disclosed in the petition presented before their Lordships, are shortly as follows:—

The petitioner who is a respectable zamindar of ancient lineage in the district of Balasore with an income of more than Rs. 15,000 a year, is the owner of a Hat at Baldiapara. There is another Hat at Baghuria, at a distance of about 2 miles. On 9th May 1903 some servants of the petitioner were bound down in a proceeding under section 107 Cr. P. C. not that there was any actual breach of the peace, but that the Magistrate thought that there was a likelihood of a breach owing to the close proximity of the rival Hats. The Magistrate next insisted upon the Hat days being changed, although there was nothing to warrant such action. The petitioner, who was anxious not to incur the displeasure of the Magistrate, agreed with the proprietor of the rival Hat to change the days after 3 or 4 months as a sudden change would seriously injure the Hat. The petitioner after this arrangement, went to Cuttack on 2nd April 1903 and stayed there till 19th January 1904 after leaving instructions with two of his servants to do the needful.

The Magistrate, during the absence of the petitioner, passed an order under section 144 cl. 5 and directed the petitioner to hold his Hat on Tuesdays and Saturdays. But as the petitioner was not aware of it he could not comply with it. The Magistrate next ordered him to be prosecuted under section 188 I.P.C. (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant) for non-compliance with the above order. Two summonses were issued against the petitioner on 4th and 11th January respectively. All these were done during the absence of the petitioner and he was not aware of them. He was next arrested and brought before the Magistrate on 21st January. On the 5th Ferbuary the petitioner submitted a petition, stating that he was not aware of the issue of the summons as he was not present at Balasore at the time, on it the Magistrate ordered "file with records," and he was subsequently convicted and sentenced to one month's imprisonment under section 188 I.P.C. The petitioner moved the High Court and obtained a Rule. The Rule reached Balasore on the 11th of May and on the very next day the Magistrate issued summons against the petitioner under another section, namely 174 I.P.C. (non-attendance in obedience to an order from a public servant.) Before the sumomns was served, the Magistrate on the 18th of May issued warrant and on the 20th May the petitioner was arrested. He applied for bail which was refused and he was ordered to remain in Hajat till the 30th May the date to which the case was adjourned. The petitioner then moved the District Judge of Cuttack and bail was granted.

The petitioner was also prosecuted for an offence said to have been committed under section 58 of the Bengal Tenancy Act on the allegation that he did not give rent-receipts to his tenants, although none of his tenants lodged any criminal complaint against the petitioner. At first he was served with a notice by a Deputy Magistrate and the 6th of March was fixed to show cause. But without waiting for that date the District Magistrate on 29th of February issued summons against the petitioner under section 58 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The petitioner moved the High Court and had the proceedings quashed.

On 1st May, during the absence of the petitioner from home, the District Magistrate issued a search warrant to search his house and he was informed that his house, including his zenana and temple were searched and desecrated by the police. During the said search the police had taken away some very old arms. The petitioner has been informed that proceedings have been taken or are about to be taken against the petitioner under the Arms Act.

PRAYER.

The petitioner does not expect a fair and impartial trial from the said Magistrate or any of his subordinates specially as it is well-known in the district that the Magistrate of the district has been prosecuting the petitioner with great "zid" in various matters.

GROUNDS.

(1) For that the so-called order under section 144 being illegal the present prosecution under section 174 should be quashed.

(2) For that the endorsements of service on the summons said to have been disobeyed show that the summons were not served in accordance with the provisions of law.

(3) For that the Magistrate of the district is not competent to proceed with the trial of the case.

(4) For that in the absence of any proper sanction under section 476 of any preliminary enquiry, the court below is not competent to proceed with the trial under section 174 I.P.C.

(5) For that regard being had to the facts disclosed in the petition the proceedings under section 174 I.P.C. if not quashed should be transferred to some other district.

(6) For that the Magistrate of the district having himself initiated the present proceedings, the case should not be tried by him.

RULE.

Their Lordships issued the following rule:—

"Let the records be sent for and let a rule calling upon the District Magistrate to show cause why the prosecution of the petitioner under section 174 I.P.C. should not be quashed on the grounds stated in the petition; more specially that such a prosecution after what has transpired subsequently and in view of the order of the Magistrate dated the 5th February last 'File with records' is wholly injudicious. In the meantime pending the disposal of the rule all further proceedings be stayed."

Calcutta and Mofussil

Bank of Bengal.—The Bank of Bengal's rate for demand loans remains at 4 per cent.

Supreme Council.—The Viceroy's Legislative Council will probably meet in Simla towards the close of July.

The Plague.—There were three cases and four deaths from plague in the city on Thursday, the 9th instant, the total mortality being 50.

The New Nickel Coinage.—The new coinage for India is not yet ready for issue, but preparations for coinage are being completed in the Calcutta Mint.

An Official Change.—Mr. Hallwood, Inspector of Schools, is likely to officiate as Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, vice Dr. C. R. Wilson.

Gold and Silver Reserve.—The amount of silver coin held in reserve in the Indian Treasuries on the 7th instant, amounted to Rs. 10,19,11,578 against Rs. 17,39,04,791 in gold.

A Mother-in-Law's Complaint.—On Wednesday, before Mr. D. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, one Mrs. M. Watson complained against her son-in-law named W. Deane, alleging that the man came into her house and used criminal force towards her daughter, his wife. It was further alleged that the man was in the habit of ill-treating his wife. The Court after hearing the facts, referred the complainant to put the complaint before the Sealdah Magistrate in whose jurisdiction the occurrence had taken place.

The Bethune College.—It may not be generally known that the least fortunate college in Calcutta in the matter of passing out B. A.'s this year has been the Behune College which is managed by Government at considerable expense. Out of the half a dozen or so who went up this year, it is to be regretted, not one came out successful. Curiously enough mathematics seems to be the one optional subject which finds most favor with the fair candidates all of whom have learnt by bitter experience that it is not a subject to be trifled with. About a dozen who may be expected to go up for the next B.A. no less than three-fourths will have taken up mathematics. However under the wise supervision of the new Secretary Justice Sarada Charan Mitter better results may be achieved next year.

Conviction of a Dangerous Daughter-in-law.—On Friday, before Babu Gopal Chander Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, one Taramoney Dassi, a low class young Hindu widow of Sitalpara was charged with having seriously wounded her old mother-in-law with a fish knife. The complainant owing to her old age became very peevish and quarrelsome and always quarreled with her daughter-in-law, the accused, for domestic affairs. One day the complainant became very troublesome and began to abuse the accused in a very filthy language. At this she was so enraged that she caught hold of her mother-in-law and inflicted a serious wound on her head with a sharp fish knife. The accused pleaded guilty under sudden provocation. The court considering the tender age of the accused sentenced her to four months' simple imprisonment.

Killing an Infant Niece.—On Thursday, before Syed Mohamed Khan Bahadoor, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, one Hari Charan Noscar, a young man of Joynogore was charged with having murdered his own neice aged about four years under the following most painful circumstances. It was stated that on the morning of the 6th instant while the girl was sleeping in her bed, the accused suddenly appeared on the spot armed with a heavy sharp sacrificial knife and he instantly picked the girl up and stretched her on the threshold of the hut and chopped off the head with the deadly weapon exclaiming "Joy Ma Kali." The accused was with great difficulty secured by some neighbours. On the evidence placed before the court disclosing that the accused had been at times subject to fits of insanity, the court directed the accused to be placed under medical observation.

Alleged Defamation etc.—On Friday, before Mr. Donald Weston, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. E. R. D'Souza, clerk in the Telegraph office, and his mother, Mrs. P. A. D'Souza, renewed their application on charges of defamation and using a forged document against Mr. J. J. Radcliffe, of the Customs Preventive Service, E. C. Baker, a guard E. I. Railway, W. B. Gregory, a Government Pensioner and E. Palmer, a student. The Magistrate remarked that a gentleman came to him the other day and said that he did not put his signature on the petition complained of. Mr. Remfry said it was his client Mr. Gregory. Babu Kali Churn Palit, Vakil, proposed to examine Mr. Gregory, who said that Radcliffe wanted him to sign a certificate, but he refused to do so. The court then ordered the issue of a warrant against Radcliffe who surrendered later on and was ordered to sign a bond for Rs. 500 to appear on the 17th instant.

A Tragedy at Moheshtolla.—On the night of Wednesday last an atrocious cold-blooded murder was perpetrated at Moheshtolla under the following most shocking circumstances. It was stated that one Chinibass Keyal, a young man of the locality had some time ago instituted a theft case against one Kedar Nath Mondal and his two sons which was disbelieved and dismissed as a false charge by the trying Joint-Magistrate of Alipore. Kedar in his turn has applied to prosecute Chinibass under Section 211 I. P. Code. Since then Chinibass has been bent up on doing away with his enemy Kedar and his son. On the morning of the occurrence Kedar and one of his sons had come to Watgunge to purchase cows. Chinibass who had watched their movements collected a number of ruffians, got drunk with "toddy" and lay in ambush to waylay them. At about 9 p. m. when the father and the son were on their way back Chinibass struck the son with a "lathi" on the head who fell down then and there. The father rushed to his help and enquired what was the matter, when he himself was belaboured with "lathis" and fell down senseless. Chinibass then chopped off his head with a sharp hatchet and was going to dealt the same fatal blow to the son when some neighbours alarmed by the hue and cry rushed to the spot and caught hold of the murderer and one of his accomplices. They were on Thursday placed on their trial before the Joint-Magistrate of Alipore. The trial is proceeding.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, June 7.

Reuter's correspondent at Chifu says that junks report firing to the north of Port Arthur the whole of yesterday and last night, and believe the Japanese are making a great land attack supported by the warships.

The Bremen-Hansa liner "Hockheimer" has been purchased by Japan.

Reuter's correspondent at Nagasaki says that the Japanese have seized the collier "Aggi," which arrived from Cardiff. No explanation is given.

Admiral Togo has succeeded in clearing the mines at Talienwan sufficiently to make the channel practicable.

A "Times" wireless message says there is not sufficient coal at Port Arthur to enable large warships to take the sea.

London, June 8.

Reuter wires from Tokio that four gunboats made a reconnaissance of Port Arthur on Monday night, and were exposed to a severe cannonade, one gunboat was hit eight times and somewhat damaged, one of the crew was killed and two wounded.

Chifu Junks report continuous firing between Dalny and Port Arthur for several days. The Japanese warships are making Dalny their head-quarters.

Mr. Etgeal the correspondent who was shot is an American and therefore the American Consul investigated the matter and has reported to Mr. Conger that the killing was gross carelessness on the part of the soldiers.

Admiral Alexieff reports that a torpedo boat destroyer struck the rocks at Port Arthur on the night of the 29th ultimo and sank. The crew were saved.

Besides the Russian gunboat which was blown up on the 4th instant in Port Arthur roadstead while searching for mines, it is stated at Tokio that the Russian gunboat of similar type was destroyed about the same time one mile off shore.

London, June 9.

Rumours are prevalent that Port Arthur has fallen. It is certain that a persistent attack is proceeding. St. Petersburg reports state that the Japanese attacks were repulsed.

The Japanese position at Kwantung is precarious.

The Vladivostok squardron has joined the Port Arthur fleet and a naval battle is ensuing. The Japs have lost four ships.—"Englishman."

The Japanese, in clearing the mines at Talienwan, found two Russian vessels submerged. One is believed to be the "Boyarin."

General Kuropatkin reports that a Japanese Brigade attacked Saimatse north of Fenghuangcheng on the 7th and in view of the eyemy's numbers the Russians slowly retired to Fingchuling Pass, losing one hundred killed and wounded.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

The Tibet Expedition.

Gyantse, June 7.

Colonel Brander reports heavy and continuous jingal and rifle fire by the enemy daily, and noisy demonstrations round Palla nightly, but the Mission defences are being strengthened by continuous work, including a covered way between the Mission camp and Palla.

Gyantse, June 8.

Yesterday seven hundred Kham warriors and four hundred of the Lhassa regiment attacked Kangma post whence there is a direct road to Lhassa. Colonel Younghusband, who left Gyantse on the way to Chumbi with the Mounted Infantry escort, was present fortunately. It has always been realised that Kangma is liable to attack, and the post was accordingly strongly fortified. The attack was made at dawn, the Tibetans coming down the hill in two solid masses. The majority of our troops however were astir. A portion of the yak envoy had already started to march with the Mounted Infantry ponies saddled. The Tibetans disclosed themselves by uttering loud yells. Such of our men as were outside the fortifications immediately ran back under cover, except a sepoy of the 2nd Gurkhas escorting the yaks who refused to budge. The whole seven hundred Tibetans came upon him. He shot five, and then was cut down by swords-men. In spite of the heavy fire from the post the Tibetans rushed on and reached the walls over which they attempted to climb, hacking the men at the loopholes with swords. Some seized muzzles of protruding rifles, attempting to wrench them away, and those behind kept up a furious fire with matchlocks and Lhassa rifles. The attack was maintained for half an hour with the utmost ferocity and determination. Finally, after a number were killed the enemy withdrew. The garrison then pursued, killing some more. Fortunately our men at all times were well under cover. The casualties were only one sepoy killed and six wounded. During the fight about a dozen of our horses stampeded. The Tibetans in Gyantse have bombarded us to-day more heavily than usual, killing one Sikh.

Gyantse, June 10.

Last night the Tibetans made a vigorous demonstration from the fort and kept the garrison standing to arms for some hours. At midnight about a dozen riflemen stole up within two hundred yards of the camp and kept up a persistent sniping for about an hour. Then the weird Tibetan war cry from hundreds of throats was heard in the direction of the Gurkha outpost. This cry was not a shout of revenge and triumph but a kind of shrill chuckle full of devilry and malice. The Tibetan leaders could be distinctly heard urging their followers to attack the outpost. The Gurkhas reserved fire till the Tibetans attempted to rush when they rapidly emptied their magazines. The Tibetans withdrew leaving five dead. The Tibetans prowled round the Sikh outposts on the right, and one was killed after the repulse of the attack on the outposts. The enemy did not withdraw entirely, but kept on sniping into the main camp for a long time.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

A THEOSOPHIST'S EXPERIENCES AMONG THE SPIRITS.—I.

While on a visit to some relatives (two sisters) in Manchester, I began discussing Theosophy with them. They had little knowledge of it except what they had derived from conversation with me and what I had written in a few letters; consequently their ideas on the subject were crude. They were indeed a jumble of Spiritualism and Theosophy, and required much unraveling. During one conversation the name of a Mrs. Peters was mentioned as a medium who had considerable "powers." I was shortly after this introduced to her, and although a stranger to me she at once began to tell me what she saw about me, and described what she called spirits around me but what were evidently in some cases thought-forms. She described Maori child-spirits who had been helped by me and who desired to show their love for me; she also described a beautiful female form which she said was my "guide." As I did not believe in spirit guides this did not impress me, and as I did not feel justified in rudely saying so, I listened politely to the description given: "Some one who had been near and dear to me in this life, but it was not my mother." I replied that I was like Thomas the doubting disciple, and wanted to put my finger in the print of the nails, and would like to see for myself. Mrs Peters wrote my sister the following day that she had obtained tickets for a materialising seance, to be held on Sunday evening at a private house, that of Mr. S. Searle, of Hyde, some 8 miles from Manchester, and that two of us could go with her.

On reaching the house, we—my sister, a widow of two years standing, and myself—were introduced to Mr. Searle. He kindly allowed me to examine the room, which had solid walls, plastered and papered, and was in size about 14 by 16 feet. In one corner were two ordinary damask curtains hung across, leaving just room for a small chair to stand. The medium, a delicate looking lady of about 35 or more, was dressed in a light-stuff dress. There were twenty-four persons in the room. My sister and I sat at the corner opposite the cabinet formed by the curtains. I am sure that fraud was out of the question, as I examined the walls, ceiling and floor while the lights were shining brightly. When we were all seated there was a small space of about eight feet radius from the corner where the cabinet was. A lamp was placed near the opposite corner of the room. It was turned low, and a piece of orange-colored fabric, such as photographers use in the lighting of a dark room, placed over it. There was sufficient light for us to see the outline of the assemblage.

After singing several hymns, the medium announced that she saw a spirit building up in the cabinet and a few minutes after, the curtain opened and a tall "presence," which I could not see very well, appeared. He was greeted by several—"Good evening, Geordie." The form thereupon answered in a strong broad Scotch accent, "Good evening, friends, I am glad to see you here, and to once more be able to demonstrate to you the truth of an existence out of the physical body." He (or it) went on to say that although the medium was slightly out of health, the conditions seemed fairly good and he hoped those present would receive help and have confidence in the truth of what he and those helping him had come to demonstrate. This presence I will call "Geordie." Geordie then retired behind the curtain and in a second or two another presence came who was announced by Geordie, from inside the curtains, as Dr. Brittain who was recognised by several there. I personally could see nothing more than the white appearance, the shape of a very big man. This spirit (I will call them all spirits for want of a better name) spoke in a low, hoarse voice to several persons in the room. I do not remember the tenour of the remarks. Several other spirits manifested and were generally recognised by some one or other of the circle. About half-an-hour after the circle started I noticed a little black form about six feet or so from me. I also heard a rattling of the fire irons and saw this little black girl who was called "Cissy" carry the fire shovel from the fire place across in front of the curtains to Mr. Searle, the host of the evening. She let the shovel drop as she got to him and took a small packet of lollies from the hand of a lady and put one of them in her mouth. The lolly dropped on the floor, but not till I heard a sort of effort to bite it. She returned to the cabinet, and shortly came over to the fire place again, and again took the shovel which had been replaced, evidently (but I must confess to not having noticed this being done). Cissy then came to the side nearest where I was and I said: "Will you shake hands with me, Cissy?" She stretched over her little black hand till it was within an inch or two of mine. I was reaching over Mrs. Peters' chair as far as I possibly could, but unfortunately I could not touch her, but as I watched, Cissy slowly dematerialised through the floor, apparently!

During the evening many hymns had been sung and now when a request for more music came from Geordie, a lady suggested a Scotch song and began "Annie Laurie," singing the words—"I'll lay me doon and dee," as "doon and die." When all was over, Geordie said, "Thank ye kindly, for that; It's a fine song, but I dinna think varra much of the Scotch accent!" It sounded very quaint, and the more so as my sister and myself were the only two Scotch people in the room.

During the evening a figure of a fairly tall man came and announced himself as George H—, and said he was my brother. I said "I have not and never had a brother George; there must be some mistake." My sister whispered to me, "Don't you remember little Georgie who died?" I whispered in a low tone, "But he was a baby." "Ay, and so were you. Do you not think that folk grow here as well as in the earth life?" replied Geordie, who had the most acute sense of hearing I have ever known of. One time he was speaking of a place in Scotland, Edinburgh, I think, and my sister whispered to me. "And a nice place it is too!" Geordie at once said, "Ay, its a real fine place."

This seance, although I am quite convinced that the manifestations were genuine, did not appeal to me in the manner that later seances have, and I was constrained to say to my sister in a low tone, "I would very much like to see the medium and Geordie together." Almost immediately, Geordie said to her. Come outside lassie, and stand beside me and let the folk see us thegither." "I can't I am so tired, Geordie," said the medium in a pleading voice. "C'way, C'way (come away) oot, they want to be sure that I'm no' you." Thereupon she came out and stood beside Geordie and as she did so he seemed to grow brighter and I distinctly saw his features and long gray beard.

After two hours seance, during which many appearances came, but none that I could recognise, we drove home.—F. D. Hamilton in the "Theosophist."

RELIGIOUS FRACAS AT DELHI. FURTHER PARTICULARS.

(The "Imperial Fortnightly" of Delhi.)

Below we give the promised account of the case which sprang out of the assault on some of the "Baratis" who attended the widow-remarriage procession on the 12th of last month.

No such assault or affray was in the least expected by the "Baratis," and hence no adequate Police protection was obtained for the procession. Only 2 or 3 Policemen (not in uniform) had joined the "Barat" probably of their own accord. It was not at all on account of the intervention of the Police, as the "Morning Post" of 22nd ultimo liked its readers to believe, but it was simply on account of the general good sense and spirit of toleration on the part of the "Baratis" that the unfortunate occurrence did not assume any vast proportions. The Police appeared on the scene about a quarter of an hour after everything was over and the "Baratis" had reached their destination.

The police enquiries began the same evening and continued till 3-30 a.m. The next day was again spent in police enquiries which chiefly consisted in taking down the depositions of the various accused and witnesses. At about 5 p.m. that day bail was accepted from seven of the accused namely those who assailed the procession party, while the injured "Baratis" were released without bail. The next morning, i.e., on the 14th May, Saturday, chalan was prepared and sent to court along with the accused and witnesses. The case however was not taken up that day. Late on Monday evening (the 16th May) information was received by the injured "Baratis" that bails would be required of them as well. Accordingly bails for three were given on Monday evening, and for the rest on Tuesday morning when another chalan was prepared and sent to court.

The case came up for hearing before the Deputy Commissioner on Wednesday, the 18th May, at about 12 noon. Nearly four hours were taken up in examining the accused of both parties, three of whom were acquitted. The charge of riot (Section 147) against the two parties was changed by the magistrate to that of affray (Section 160).

The case was then adjourned to the 24th May for delivering judgment in the case framed out of the first chalan, and for examining Rai Radhika Narain, Executive Engineer, Punjab, and Lala Raghubar Dayal, M.A., Professor of Sanskrit, St. Stephen's College, Delhi, as witnesses in the case framed out of the second chalan.

On Sunday the 22nd May, after prolonged negotiations the accused of the two parties consented to settle the matter amicably between themselves, in he presence of some of the leading raises and citizens of the city. It was at the Dewan Khana of L. Isri Prasad Khazanchi, the well known Rais of Delhi, that gentlemen like Lala Sultan Singh Sahib, Lala Jawaher Lal Sahib, both raises of this city, bers of the local Bar, Rai Bahadur Sagar Babu Piare Lal Sahib, one of the leading mem. Chand Sahib, Lala Rang Lal Sahib, B.A., Bar-at-Law, together with the accused of the two parties and their friends assembled to remove all grievances on either side, and settle this unfortunate incident amicably. It did not take much time for the two parties to get reconciled, and it was resolved that a committee of seven leading gentlemen of the city should attend on the Deputy Commissioner to ask him to acquit both the parties, who no longer cherished any ill-feeling against each other.

It was with this object that several leading practitioners of he local Bar were present before Major C. G. Parsons, when he resumed the case on the 24th May.

We are really glad to note that the pleadings of the barristers and pleaders, including Lala Raj Narain, Bar-at-Law, who addressed the court on the subject on behalf of the accused did not go unheeded. Our sensible and sympathetic Deputy Commissioner did not hesitate in accepting this request, and thus endeared himself the more to the Delhi public. In announcing the acquittal of both the parties accused he made a very reasonable and impartial speech.

He rightly remarked that while the British Government or local authorities were not in the least opposed to the widow remarriage reform, he could not permit such affrays to pass unnoticed or even unpunished. On the other hand, he said, it was his intention to inflict an exemplary punishment in this case, so that no one should dare to repeat this sort of disturbance of public peace in future. In acquitting he urged the reformers that they should in future desist from singing hymns along with the marriage processions in public streets, while he made the other party to promise that they shall never meddle with or obstruct widow-remarriage processions.

In spite of the physical argument employed by anti-reformists another widow-remarriage was celebrated with due ceremony a few days later. And this in a conservative town like Delhi.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF KISSES.

Someone with plenty of time on his hands has conceived the idea of hunting through the works of all the well-known English novelists for the purpose of gathering all the adjectives with which to qualify the word "kiss." The result of his labour is that kisses can be as follows:—

Cold, warm, icy, burning, chilly, cool, loving, indifferent, balsamic, fragrant, blissful, passionate, aromatic, tearful, bedewed, long, soft, hasty, intoxicating, dissembling, delicious, pious, tender, beguiling, hearty, distracted, frantic, fresh as the morning, breathing fire, divine, glad, superficial, quiet, loud, fond, heavenly, devouring, ominous, fervent, parching, nervous, soulless, stupefying, slight, careless, anxious, painful, sweet, refreshing, embarrassed, shy, mute, ravishing, holy, sacred, firm, hurried, faithless, narcotic, feverish, immoderate, sisterly, brotherly, and paradisaical. The task seemed interminable, and he gave up at this stage.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY OF GERMANY.

A striking sentence appears in an article written by Mr. A. Eltzbacher on the "Chemical Industry of Germany," the progress of which he traces, and the reasons for dominating position of which he seeks to elucidate. It is: "Every British chemist is an island." Thus, though England has produced great chemists, and chemists whose contribution to industrial chemistry have been of the greatest importance, such as E. C. Nicholson, W. H. Perkin, A. G. Green, and R. Meldola, not to speak of Hofmann, whose work was done for English colour firms, and whose pupils were English; yet steadily and irresistibly the German organised chemical industries have forced the once more powerful English industries back to the wall. The reason is clear. In industrial chemistry no process can be kept secret for long nor any patent preserve a monopoly indefinitely, because the universal dissemination of chemical knowledge and formulæ assures that the result arrived at will presently be reached by other, and by a great variety of other, processes. Even trusts, and conventions between great manufacturing firms will only keep up the price of a new industrial commodity for a short time. Consequently a chemical factory can maintain its position only by co-ordinated effort on the part of a school excellence, by making constant improvements by effecting constant economies, by constant research. Its position depends, not on any isolated success or happy stroke of fortune, but by co-ordinated effort on the part of a school of chemists. Every great German manufacturing firm employs chemists not as single spies but in battalions. Theirs is the method which owed its birth to Liebig sixty years ago, but which in England is only now beginning to be recognised as a method.

EFFECTS OF ALTITUDE.

A very interesting physiological experiment on the effects of altitude has been made by M. Raoul and Madame Jeanne Bayeux [illegible] Blanc. The observations were [illegible] Paris on August 6 last year and were continued at Chamonix. From thence the observers visited the two observatories set up by M. Janssen at Grands-Mulets and on the summit of Mont Blanc, which they reached on August 31. The observations, over five hundred in number, were taken at seven different altitudes and were of six subjects. The frequency of the pulse and the frequency of respiration were found to increase the higher the observers ascended, the quantity of oxyhæmoglobin in normal blood increased as they ascended and as the pressure of the atmosphere diminished, while the rapidity of its reduction diminished. In other words, the activity of the exchange between the blood and the organs of the body was hindered by the lowering of the barometric pressure. The temperature of the body also diminished the greater the height attained. The pressure of arterial blood did not follow quite so distinct a law, but tended to increase with altitude. The quantity of oxyhaemoglobin in the blood and the quickness of its reduction was estimated by the spectroscopic examination of the thumb-nail. Previous experimenters in this field have differed on the question in the chemical activities going on in the blood diminished or increased with altitude. M. Bayeux's result confirms the former conclusion, and indicates that there is a diminution in the chemical activities going on in the body at high altitudes.

AIRSHIP COMPETITIONS.

Few recognised aeronauts having shown any desire to compete for the St. Louis Exhibition aeronautical prizes, and several of them having plainly expressed their intention of being absent, the Aeronautical Committee of the exhibition has at last consented to modify some of the conditions. Even so they are of a kind which will prevent anyone from winning the grand prize of $100,000 for airships. This prize is for the airship which makes the best time in three journey's over an L-shaped course of fifteen miles, Balloons are to be placed at the corner and the ends of the L, and the airship, starting from the corner, must circumnavigate these balloons in opposite directions. No doubt M. Santos Dumont could do that, and he is the only aeronaut in the last fifteen years who has shown that he could. But the committee adds a condition to the effect that the average rate of progress must not be less than thirty kilometres, or 18¾ miles an hour. This is a reduction from the previous thirty-two kilometres an hour, but is still a rate which has never been consistently maintained over a triangular course by an airship. M. Santos Dumont, it is true, claims in his recent book that his No. 10 will do this and more, but No. 10 has still to show that it can, and we do not think that either No. 9 or any of the previous airships with which M. Santos Dumont has experimented has shown a net speed (that is, without assistance from the wind) greater than seventeen miles an hour. In short, the revised regulations of the contests willl probably result in keeping all competitors away, except the gliders, the kite-flyers, and the balloonists. It is a pity, for in other respects the Committee of St. Louis shows a genuine desire to attract aeronauts, and offers both to provide free hydrogen and to admit balloons, etc., without customs examination.

The Report of the Protector of Immigrants, Jamaica, for the year 1903 upon the Indian labour in the Island, is on the whole a very satisfactory one. No immigrants returned to India during the year, and 659 arrived, all in fair wealth, in spite of there having been a considerable amount of sickness on board the ship Dahomey on the voyage. The death-rate during the year was lower than the year preceding being only 1.92 as against 3.40 in 1903, a very substantial fall and special care was taken in treating all the new arrivals by the Dahomey during their period of acclimatisation. For the first half of the year the wages earned by indentured immigrants were satisfactory, but since the disastrous hurricane of 11th August last, which destroyed the entire banana cultivation of the island, the immigrants' earnings have dropped considerably, and it is feared that this will continue to be the case until the fruit is on the trees again. This is due to the fact that the coolie earns his highest wage during crop time in the congenial work of cutting, heading, wrapping, and carting the fruit; but he is now limited to the less remunerative task of weeding the cultivation with the hoe, a labour which is at all times distasteful to him. His earning capacity has also been seriously affected by the considerable amount of sickness which has prevailed generally among the labouring class since the hurricane.

"ALFALFA:" AN AMERICAN FODDER.

The question of fodder and how to get a plentiful supply of it, is one of the most paramount importance to India. From that land of great scientific agricultural experiments and of great agricultural achievements—the United States of America—we learn that quite a revolution has been caused in the agricultural world there by the quiet introduction of the new forage plant Alfalfa. The plant was introduced into California about fifty years ago, and for a time its culture was mainly confined to that State, but it has recently been found to thrive throughout the whole mid continent, and has nowhere in all that region proved a failure. Its original home seems to have been Central Asia. The Greeks and Romans knew it two thousand years ago. The Romans cultivated it as a forage plant, and carried it with them in their African campaigns.

Alfalfa was first introduced into Mexico by the Spaniards, and when it came under the investigations of the Government Agricultural Stations in the United States, the plant was thought to be a South American one. It seems to possess just those qualities which vast agricultural tracts of territory in India urgently require. It is a drought-resister and feeds so deeply that only the most protracted dry weather can possibly have any effect upon it. It feeds from ten to fifteen feet down into the most compact soils, and is said to have a capacity of going even fifty feet into loose soils. The young plant consists of a number of low branches, springing from a simple stalk at the crown of the roots. On the old plant the robust stems will grow underground and become new plants. That is, the plant has the power to multiply itself by sidegrowth.

It will grow in any soil from the sea level to seven thousand feet elevation. It adapts itself to limestone, but prefers a light and sandy loam with a loose subsoil. The one demand it makes is for good drainage, and hence there are considerable districts in Bengal where Alfalfa, or lucern, as it is also called, would not flourish. Water must not be allowed to stand on a field of this fodder plant for more than forty-eight hours, for if the ground becomes saturated and remains so for any length of time the roots will decay. On suitable land rich in lime and potash where the subsoil is drained, the plant becomes permanent; resist droughts of the severest nature, and yields three crops a year without failure. Like clover, alfalfa is a nitrogen collector, and by growing it the ryot would not only secure large quantities of excellent hay or fodder but he would at the same time enrich his fields instead of exhausting them. If the crop is ploughed under it supplies a vast amount of nitrogen to the soil.

Alfalfa yields considerably more than double the average hay crop. The amount of hay that can be cut per acre from the new plant is from four to six tons—from three successive cuttings. In some of the Southern States of the Union, seven cuttnigs have been taken during the year. On one field in Mexico, which has been under alfalfa continuously for over sixty years, the plants are said to be in as good condition to-day as ever they were. The hay from alfalfa is worth as much, weight for wenght, as any other kind of hay, and it is suitable for all farm animals. The most profitable plan to use the hay and fodder as rations—not to turn the animals in amongst the pasturage. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that a single acre of alfalfa will furnish forage for twenty hogs throughout the season.

The Department of Agriculture of the United States will be glad to supply all the necessary information which the authorities in India, or others interested, may desire regarding alfalfa and its cultivation, and from the same quarter also, a plentiful supply of seed may be obtained.

WATER-SUPPLY CIRCULAR OF THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

In the Circular on the Water-Supply of Bengal just issued, Sir Andrew Fraser says he has no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that a deficiency in the quantity of water available in rural areas is altogether exceptional. It is not very easy to share the Lieutenant-Governor's assurance on this point, although no one need be at pains to deny the extremely obvious remark that the efforts of Government and of the local officers should be directed chiefly to improving the sources of supply and removing causes of contamination. The fact is that in both the rural and urban areas of Bengal the deficient quantity and unsatisfactory quality of the water-supply are a disgrace and a menace and the sooner the Government gives up the absurd practice of distributig Circulars such as the one in question the better for the credit of the Province. The difficulties connected with an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water in the mofussil, we are told, have engaged the earnest attention of successive Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal for a number of years past. We do not doubt it; it is the way of such questions to disturb the earnest repose of heads of Provincial Governments one after the other. But it might perhaps be suggested that in an epoch of unexampled reform when "irresponsible wielders of the pen"—the phrase is Lord Curzon's—take pleasure in assuring us that "efficiency" is inscribed over every department of administrative work in India, so urgent and so comparatively manageable a matter as the water-supply of Bengal ought to have been advanced at least a few steps towards improvement. Instead, however, of a few suggestions towards a policy, or even a reasonably practical comment upon the situation as it stands, we are put off with the present harmless Circular which, we assume, is at this moment being assimilated with weary half-amusement by the Commissioners of Divisions to whom it has been addressed. It refers at the outset to the undertaking given by the Lieutenant-Governor during the Bengal Budget debate to the effect that, if in any case the local authorities would contribute one-third of the cost, and the public another third, the Government would contribute the remaining third up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 for any district or Rs. 50,000 for the whole province. This we take it, is to be regarded as embodying the Government's idea of "reasonable liberality." The Circular then makes the following suggestions or concessions: that the District or Sub-Divisional Officer, who may in his rounds discover that all is not right with the tanks of a village, should take the initiative by making an immediate contribution of not more than Rs. 50; that there seems little practical objection to allow the District Board (under Section 76 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act) "to take over and repair or improve works which are really for the benefit of the community;" that when additional tanks or wells are required the zemindars concerned should be induced to modify the conditions—often enerous and unduly restrictive—which are usually imposed in such cases. There is also another suggestion, namely, that when the people, in disregard of the rules of health, fail to maintain the salutary distinction between drinking water and water for bathing, washing clothes, and watering cattle, the Government "must look to the influence of precept and example gradually to lead their fellow-countrymen in a more excellent way." Lord Curzon lately condensed his ideal of Government in India, in respect of a certain great department, as the establishment of self-governing institutions with the Government watching parentally in the background. Should the eye of the ex-Viceroy light upon this Circular, will he not rejoice to see in how interesting and excellent a way his theory is finding practical expression in the policy of the Bengal Government?—The "Statesman."

A SIALKOTE SENSATION.

The sensation of the day is the prosecution of a Barrister-at-Law for the alleged kidnapping of a young Arain girl from lawful guardianship under section 363, Indian Penal Code. A search warrant was issued, and two articles of clothing, claimed by the prosecutors to belong to the missing girl, were found in the house of the accused.

RAVAGES OF WILD ANIMALS IN THE PUNJAB.

According to the official records only three persons in the Punjab were killed by wild animals last year as against 41 in the previous twelve months, a tiger, a leopard and a wolf being responsible. Human deaths from snake bite also decreased by 170, and numbered 797. The number of cattle killed by wild animals and snakes was 1,210 more than in the previous year, though it was under 2,000 altogether; the leopards of Kangra district were responsible for no fewer than 1,219 of these deaths, and the wolves of Mianwala for 434. The total number of wild animals destroyed was 564, or 742 less than in 1902.

CLIMBING DOWN.

"The Indian People" of Allahabad says:—We are glad to learn from our Punjab correspondent that the District Judge in the Punjab who recently held some choice language to a Barrister appearing before him—he is a son of Mars, and the unedifying conversation between the Judge and the Counsel was fully reported in the "Indian People" of the 26th May—thought on reconsideration that discretion was the better part of valour and apologised to the counsel for his unbecoming treatment of him. We are further glad to learn that this amicable closing of an incident which might have developed into a public scandal was due to the good offices of the particular Divisional Judge concerned.

CHARGE OF STEALING GOLD AMALGAM.

A European, named Albert Vardon, an assistant millman of the Ooregaum Mine is taking his trial at Bowringpet before the Special Magistrate of the Kolar Gold fields on a charge of smuggling an ounce of gold amalgam, valued at Rs. 55. The prosecution allege that on the defendant leaving the mine he helped himself to some amalgam which he secreted to his coat pocket. He was suspected and searched by the Superintendent of the Mine who found the amalgam. The accused in answer to the charge says he had his coat left out while at work for eight hours and that as he had enemies they must have planted the amalgam in his pocket. When the superintendent searched him he had no knowledge that he had any gold in his pockets.

ZEBRULE BREEDING IN INDIA.

The zebra is claiming some attention just now and the great British public are asked not only to admire his beautiful marking but to consider the possibility of his utility. The cross between the zebra and the horse or donkey rejoices in the name of the zebrule, and it is this animal that enthusiasts think may prove useful for military transport purposes. In England Professor Cossar Ewart has been experimenting in breeding, and in India similar steps are now being undertaken under the supervision of Colonel Morgan, head of the Civil Veterinary Department. Four zebras, undoubtedly belonging to the second variety of Burchell's zebra and named after their first discoverer Chapman, have lately been received at the Hissar Government Farm for the purpose of carrying out certain experiments with regard to zebrule breeding. These animals were captured in a kraal and further particulars are being awaited from the authorities in East Africa as to the exact locality in which they were taken. They arrived in excellent condition, and at first were inclined to show temper and to "savage" their attendants; but in two or three days, after constant handling and petting, they settled down and became perfectly docile and tactable. They stand about 12 hands and are very sturdy, compact animals as their photographs, now in Simla, serve to show. Some forty carefully selected pony and donkey mares have been procured to mate with them.

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INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, May 17.

THIBET.

Earl Spencer called attention to recent events in Thibet, and asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had any information to give to the House. It was not quite a month since they had had a debate of some length on this important subject; but since then some grave, and he might almost say disastrous, events had taken place which impelled him to ask for further information before the holidays. Recent events strengthened their belief that the views expressed on that side of the House as to the policy which led to this mission were right. He should, not, however, refer to the points then raised. He was afraid that from the very first it was impossible to expect that this mission would continue to be a peaceful one. He understood now that time after time there had been serious conflicts, in which happily we had not incurred any great loss, but in which the unfortunate Thibetans had suffered very seriously. There had been, he feared, greater complications. The mission had been again attacked, and our troops, the escort of this peaceful mission, had been obliged to clear the villages round in self-defence, and very serious fighting had taken place. The noble earl referred to what he called the several stages of this subject—Oct. 6, when there was a question of advancing to Gyangtse; Nov. 6, when the advance was sanctioned under very special conditions; April 13, when the Prime Minister declared that he contemplated no such unhappy contingency as a permanent occupation of Thibet; and the subsequent debate in their lordships' House, when the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made a similar declaration of policy—and asked whether the policy enunciated on those occasions was the Government policy of to-day. He would like to hear what the noble marquess had to say as to the policy which was hereafter to guide us in reference to this subject. That was a matter of the utmost importance in view of similar occurrences in India in years gone by which had led to serious disaster. He accepted in full what the noble marquess had stated on a previous occasion with reference to Russia, and would not now further refer to that phase of the matter. But he should like to know what our relations were with China; whether we were in close touch with the Chinese Government at Pekin; whether they were helping us to settle this difficulty, and whether any attempt had been made by the Amban to try to influence the Thibetans and prevent these attacks upon us. He hoped the Government would be able to give the House information both with regard to the position of the mission at this moment and to the future policy they intended to carry out.

The Earl of Hardwicke, having recapitulated the events which led up to the advance of the mission to Gyangtse, said the hostility that had been shown towards the mission by the authorities at Lhassa did not prove that the policy of his Majesty's Government was wrong, but rather that they had a danger to face, and made it more easy for the public in this country to realise that danger. The noble earl had tried to show that the policy of his Majesty's Government, as declared by the noble marquess and by the Prime Minister in another place, had undergone a sudden change in the decision that had been taken to allow the mission to advance as far as Lhassa if within a reasonable time Thibetan emissaries did not arrive at Gyangtse. So far as he was aware, nothing had been said by any member of the Government which debarred the mission from going to Lhassa if all their efforts to negotiate at Gyangtse failed. (Hear, hear.) The Government had clearly declared their view that it was not desirable permanently to occupy Thibet or permanently to interfere in the internal affairs of that country. But it was necessary to point out that circumstances had changed during the last few days. We were no longer in Thibet on a peaceable mission; we were at the present moment at war with Thibet; and until we had by force of arms vindicated our position and shown the Thibetans that we were not to be trifled with the Government ought not to be called upon by noble lords opposite to give any definite pledge as to what form the settlement would take when hostilities were concluded. It was very difficult for any member of his Majesty's Government to explain the exact position of the Chinese Amban. He was still at Lhassa, and had declared that he was doing his best to get transport, and would come to Gyangtse at the earliest possible moment. But they had to face the fact that he never arrived, and that some servants of a Chinese official had been brutally murdered. They were the servants of Capt. Parr who was in the employ of the Chinese as a Customs officer, and was, he believed, under the orders of the Chinese Amban. With regard to the question as to Chinese co-operation, which was also difficult to answer, he thought he was correct in stating that the Chinese were anxious that we should come to a settlement with the Thibetans. They recognised that the Thibetans had given us grave cause for dissatisfaction, and that unless we were able to persuade the Thibetans to allow the Chinese representative to come to Gyangtse to discuss matters with us we should be justified in advancing to Lhassa to conduct the negotiations there.

Lord Tweedmouth said the noble lord had endeavoured to turn the questions of his noble friend by starting fresh points and asking what was their view of the policy of the Government. They found fault with the Government for having embarked on this mission without having fully realised what the mission was certain to lead to. Was it worth while, for the sake of the advantages that might be gained, to run the grave risks which such a mission involved? It seemed to him that the chances of difficulty and danger were far greater than the possibility of benefit either to India or to Great Britain. He recognised the difficulties of the situation whichever way they turned. If they retired the dangers as well as the difficulties were patent to the most casual observer; but if they advanced to Lhassa and found the Lama was not there at all, were they going to follow him? A great deal more explanation was required than the Under Secretary had given. How far, too, had the Government received the support of the Chinese Government from Pekin or elsewhere? And how did China look upon these worlike operations within the territory of its vassal? If the Government called for the support of men of all parties to get them out of this trouble, the least they could do was to take the country into their confidence and tell them exactly the position and policy they meant to pursue.

The Marquess of Lansdowne: The noble lord who has just sat down has attacked Col. Younghusband's mission from its first inception, and not for the first time we have had it suggested that the causes which led to the despatch of that mission were causes so trivial and insignificant that we might well have declined to take notice of them. Well, no doubt, if you take them one by one they are small matters; but it is the cumulative effect of these acts of insolent aggression that the Government of India has had to take into consideration. I do not think it is just to the Government of India to suggest that they dealt in a precipitate or vindictive manner with the aggressive conduct of the Thibetans. On the contrary, the Government of India showed itself extremely long suffering—(cheers)—and it was not until its patience had been tried to breaking-point that it was determined to take some measures to vindicate our authority on the Thibetan frontier. So far from failing to realise the seriousness of the task which lay before us, it was because we realised that Col. Younghusband's mission was a service of danger and might involve us in collision with Thibet that we sent with Col. Younghusband that considerable escort, the presence of which was so much criticised by noble lords opposite as inconsistent with the peaceful character of the mission. But for the presence of that considerable escort the mission would undoubtedly be at this moment in a position of danger which I hope I may say it actually is not. The suggestion appears to be that we should turn our face to the smiter and allow the Government of India to be absolutely contemned. In regard to our relations with China in connection with Thibet let me repeat again that from the first we have done our utmost to secure the co-operation and concurrence of China; and we certainly did secure the concurrence of China before the earliest steps were taken. And at this moment so far as professions go, China is doing what she can to bring the Tibetans to reason. It is with that object the Amban has been sent to Lhassa. It is the presence of the Amban which is the outward and visible sign of such power as China has. If the Amban has not arrived at Lhassa until after interminable delays and wanderings in remote regions, if at this moment he is at Lhassa desiring to come down and negotiate with Col. Younghusband and unable to do so because the Tibetans steal his transport from him—all that is evidence which proves conclusively how impotent the Chinese Government is to control the action of the Thibetans, and how little we can rely upon their aid in extricating us from the position in which we now find ourselves. We are in constant communication with the Chinese Government. We have given them every opportunity of assisting us, through diplomatic channels; but I am afraid that the measure of their ability to assist us is the power of the Amban, who, as we all know, is more or less a prisoner at Lhassa. I take it the leader of the Opposition has brought this subject on because he desires to elicit once more from us a declaration of our Thibetan policy, not in setting up the mission, but so far as the future is concerned. As the representative of the India Office has said, our policy remains the same. I venture to suggest it is not likely that when his Majesty's Government have deliberately adopted and announced a policy they should be driven from it merely because their mission has been attacked by a lot of ragged barbarians in a remote region adjoining the Indian frontier. We do not so lightly as that abandon the policy we have arrived at. With regard to the advance to Lhassa, the noble earl suggested that in itself denoted a change in policy. I express the contrary opinion. It seems to me that, whether at Gyangtse or at Lhassa, the policy remains the same policy—the policy of obtaining a satisfactory settlement from the Thibetans and reparation for the injuries they have done to us. (Cheers.) So far as we are able to reassure the noble earl by telling him that our policy remains what it was, I am very glad to give him that reassurance; but, of course, so far as the operations now in progress are concerned, we must reserve to ourselves a certain amount of discretion in carrying them to a conclusion which will be honourable and satisfactory to ourselves. (Hear, hear.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, May 13.

The Thibetan Mission.—Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: What has been the cost already incurred by the Thibetan mission; what is the estimated cost of the Advance to Lhassa; and what number of troops is proposed to be employed.

Mr. Brodrick: I am awaiting from India a statement of the cost already incurred and estimates of the future expenditure. The reinforcements proposed by the Government of India, with a view to the possible advance to Lhassa, consist of four companies British infantry, four companies Native infantry, two 10-pounders Royal Art., two seven-pounder mule guns, and one mule corps.

Monday, May 16.

The Chinese War Indemnity.—Mr. McCrae asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could now state if the annual instalments of over 300,000l. receivable in respect of the Chinese war indemnity would after the private claims of British subjects had been satisfied, be applied to the reduction of debt according to the terms of the undertaking of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1902.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain): The instalment receivable from China at the end of next month is expected to suffice for paying off the balance of the private claims. The remaining instalments will be applicable to the discharge of the British Government claim and of certain claims in respect of damage to the Northern railways, which were included in the Government claim. It has not yet been settled in what manner the railway claims are to be liquidated. Pending settlement on that matter, it would be premature to propose to Parliament to decide as to the ultimate application of the receipts.

The Thibetan Mission.—Mr. Trevelyan asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government would wait to give final sanction to the advance on Lhassa till the Chinese Amban had arrived at Gyantgse and the report of his dealings with our Commissioners had been published.

Mr. Flynn asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the despatch dated Nov. 6, 1903, sent to the Viceroy of India, the contemplated armed expedition to Lhassa would be delayed until the House had an opportunity of deciding on the propriety of taking such action.

Mr. Brodrick: As I stated in this House on the 12th inst., the advance on Lhassa has been actually sanctioned unless, within a period to be fixed by the Government of India, the Chinese Amban arrives at Gyangtse accompanied by a competent Thibetan negotiator. If this condition is not fulfilled the advance will take place without any further sanction.

Mr. Trevelyan asked who among the Indian Government would sanction the advance in Lord Curzon's absence.

Mr. Brodrick said that the government of India devolved on the next senior officer—namely, Lord Ampthill. The Government had not yet been informed what the period fixed by the Government of India was.

Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: What was the effective fighting strength of the expedition now at Gyantse, with the number of guns, rifles, and ammunition; for how long was it provisioned; whether supplies were available in the country; what was the length of the communications, the strength of the forces on them and what was the nearest British force available should the expedition need relief.

Mr. Brodrick: The hon. member asks a series of questions calculated to elicit information which I think he will realise it would not be in the public interest to give. General Macdonald informed us on the 14th inst. that the mission is safe at Gyantse. His Majesty's Government have sanctioned the despatch of any reinforcements which the Indian Government may consider necessary for the safety of the mission and its communications.

Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: What was the period fixed before which the Thibetan expedition would proceed to Lhassa; where was the Chinese Amban to whom notice was to be given; how it was proposed to communicate with him; and what was the character of the Chinese suzerainty in Thibet.

Mr. Brodrick: I have not yet been informed by the Government of India of the date they will name in the communication to be sent to the Chinese Amban for the advance of the mission in the event of the Thibetan Government failing to send competent negotiators to Gyangtse.. The Chinese Amban is not reported to have left Lhassa. The communication will, I presume, be sent to him there in the same manner as previous letters to him. The character of the Chinese suzerainty in Thibet is shown in Prince Ching's Note of Dec. 5, 1902, explaining the instructions sent by the Chinese Government to the Amban at Lhassa. It is printed at page 147 of the Thibet Blue Book.

The European Troops in India.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: What are the numbers, officers and men, of that portion of the British Army consisting of the European troops on the established strength of his Majesty's forces in India for the current financial year; and what is the estimated cost of these troops as paid for out of Indian revenues.

Mr. Brodrick: The strength of the European force in India is about 74,000. The Indian military estimates are not prepared so as to show separately the cost of the European and native troops; but the charge for pay and allowances to the European force is 3,290,333l.; and the net charges payable by India in this country in respect of that force amount approximately to 1,600,000l.

Tuesday, May 17.

The List of General Officers, Indian Establishment.—Sir Carne Rasch asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the list of general officers for the Indian Establishment is made up; and, if not, when the vacancies will be filled.

Mr. Brodrick: There is an establishment of generals for the Indian Army which is at present full. Under the Royal Warrant, except during a period of war, the maximum number of lieutenant-generals is five, and of major-generals 22. The actual number is governed by the number of promotions to these ranks necessary to fill appointments by selection or as a reward for distinguished service.

Wednesday, May 18.

The Thibetan Mission.—Mr. Lambert asked whether, as the House was debarred from discussing the Thibetan Question on the motion for the adjournment for Whitsuntide, the Prime Minister would give an opportunity for discussing the new development.

Mr. Balfour: There is no new development that I am aware of, nor can I make any promise with regard to a day. No doubt, should the necessity for a debate arise, an opportunity will be found for it.

Thursday, May 19.

Lord Kitchener's Memorandum.—Sir Howard Vincent asked the Secretary of State for India: If the recent Memorandum of Lord Kitchener upon the Army in India and the Volunteer Force in India can be issued for the information of members.

Mr. Brodrick: I will lay on the table copies of Lord Kitchener's memorandum on the Indian Army if my hon. friend will move for them. I am not aware of any memorandum by Lord Kitchener upon the Volunteer Force in India, but I have seen a report of a speech in which he urged Europeans in India to join in the Volunteer movement.

Subsequently Sir Howard Vincent moved for the memorandum, and the motion was agreed to.

The following motions were also agreed to:—

Sir H. Fowler.—Address for copy of the correspondence between the India Office and the Colonial Office with reference to the British Guiana Ordinance, 1891.

Address for return of Indian Financial Statement for 1904-1905, and of the proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General thereon.

The Thibetan Mission.—Mr. Flynn asked the secretary for India whether China, as the suzerain Power, has yet officially intimated its assent to the proposed armed expedition to Lhassa; and, if so, on what date and through what official channel was such assent conveyed to the Indian Government?

Earl Percy replied that it had not been considered necessary to make a formal communication to the Chinese Government on the subject of the intended advance to Lhassa.

Mr. Flynn: Is it not a fact that the Chinese Government, though they sanctioned an advance to the frontier have not yet sanctioned the advance of an armed expedition to Lhassa?

Earl Percy: We have not received any communication from the Chinese Government on that subject. The hon. member will see from the Blue Book that the Chinese Government formally notified their assent to the holding of a conference at Yatun.

Mr. Flynn: But has the Chinese Government notified its official sanction to the expedition to Lhassa? (Nationalist cheers.)

Earl Percy: I have said that we received no communication whatever on that subject.

Indians in South Africa.—Sir M. Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he was aware that in the matter of an application to the Supreme Court of the Transvaal of a British Indian resident for an order to compel the local authorities to grant a trading license, the Government there offered opposition, citing in support of their contention a decision of the old Boer Court, against which the Colonial Office itself had protested at the time; that the Supreme Court did not regard that decision as binding, and gave judgment in favour of the applicant: whether the action of the local Government in this case has been approved by the Colonial Office; and, if not, would he ask the local Government to explain why they were having recourse now to old Boer decisions and legislation to which the Colonial Office had formerly objected in matters concerning British Indian residents.

Mr. Lyttelton: The position is as my hon. friend states, except that no protest was, so far as I am aware, made against the decision of the High Court of the late South African Republic by the Colonial Office. I am informed that the Supreme Court of the Transvaal has given judgment in a test case brought on behalf of the British Indian traders to compel the Government to issue trading licenses, and that the Court gave judgment in favour of the applicant, refusing to be bound in the matter by the decision above mentioned of the High Court of the late South African Republic. The action of the local Government in having their position argued on the basis of the existing law and its interpretation by the late Supreme Court was not referred for approval by the Colonial Office, and I do not see what other course they could have followed. The attitude of the local Government and the reasons for it were made clear by the despatch from Lord Milner of May 11, published in Cd. 1,684. The position to be taken up by his Majesty's Government in the matter has been the subject of correspondence between the Colonial Office and the India Office, and the judgment of the Supreme Court will now be taken into consideration in arriving at a decision on this difficult subject.

Mr. T. G. Bowles: Then, I understand that British subjects from India are in the meanwhile deprived of their rights in the Transvaal in the matter of trading?

Mr. Lyttelton: I am not aware of that. On the contrary, the test case brought by the Indian subjects in the courts of the Transvaal has been decided in their favour, and so far as that is concerned their rights have been asserted and established.

The Official Secrets Bill.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state the two points in the Official Secrets Bill which were objected to by three of the members of the Select Committee.

Mr. Brodrick: I would refer the honourable member to the report of the Select Committee, which he will find in the "Gazette of India" for Feb. 6 last. A copy of the "Gazette" is in the library of the House.

The Police Commission.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India whether he is now in a position to say when the Report on the Police of India will be laid upon the table of the House.

Mr. Brodrick: I have nothing to add to the answers I gave to the hon. member for West Bigshire on April 20 and the hon. Member for Hull (Central Division) on the 21st idem.

ATTITUDE OF THE BOERS.

Mr. Stead went to South Africa. He gave a speech at Johannesburg, which was denounced in certain quarters as seditious. He has now returned to England and, referring to the attitude of the Boers, he had the following conversation with a representative of the "Daily News":—

"Was your Johannesburg speech correctly reported?"

"Very fairly, although briefly by Reuter. The Boers of that city presented me with an address, and in return I gave them an earnest plea for the acceptance of the British flag, based upon the assumption that South Africans will be allowed the same privileges and liberties as the Canadians and Australians. As I was almost the only man from whom my brother Boer would receive such a discourse I thought it my duty to make the most of the opportunity. As a reward I find I am denounced as a sedition-monger, who has been devoting himself to incite the Boers to rebel. That is the way the public at home is befooled?"

"What about the Boers? Are they being reconciled? Can they be reconciled?"

"The Boers are behaving admirably. There is not a whisper of revolt. The leaders of the Boers are behaving irreproachably. Their attitude is one of expectancy."

"Expectant of what?"

"They are waiting to see whether England will pay her debts and keep her word. If we do both—and there are still millions of money due to the people of the new Colonies for compensation which we have promised to pay but which we have never paid—then we shall have no trouble from the Boers. If, however, we continue to trick them out of their money and violate the promises which we have made to them, then we shall lose South Africa, and we shall deserve to lose it. A cheat, a trickster, and a liar has no Imperial Mission either in South Africa or anywhere else."

"What promises do you refer to?"

"First, promises to pay, signed by British officers, countersigned by British Generals, and publicly endorsed by Mr. Chamberlain. 'A British officer's receipt,' said Mr. Chamberlain, 'is as good as a Bank of England note.' Holders of dishonoured receipts, who find every resource of chicane resorted to in order to evade payment may be forgiven if they think they are dealing with Jeremy Diddler rather than with John Bull."

"Then you do not refer to the promise about responsible Government?"

"That comes second. First let us pay our debts; then let us keep our word."

A return has just been issued of all loans raised in England under the provisions of any Acts of Parliament, chargeable on the revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended the 1st March, 1904, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon and the date of the termination of each loan the debt incurred during the half-year, the moneys raised thereby during the half-year, the loans paid off or discharged during the half-year, and the loans outstanding at the close of the half-year, stating so far as the public convenience will allow the purpose or service for which moneys have been raised during the half-year.

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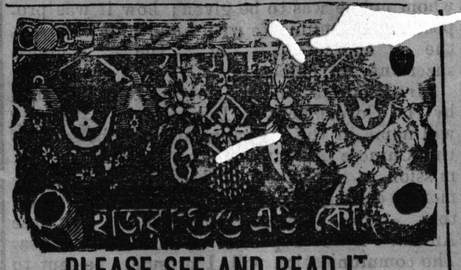

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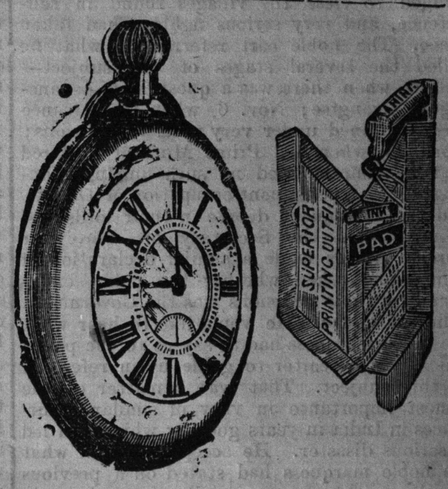

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Hindu marriages are so familiar to us, and the attendant ceremonies and festivals so similar in each case that, as a rule, there is nothing of special notice to chronicle in regard to them; but when one is told that the expenses of a particular wedding have run into laks, one's interest is immediately roused, and the question follows "how could so much money have been spent." A short account of the weddings of the grand nephews of Raja Gokuldas, the well-known millionaire of Jubbulpore (in the Central Provinces) may therefore not prove to be altogether uninteresting, seeing that not only were several laks of rupees spent on the festivities, but that the festivities themselves were unique in character, and almost regal in their splendour.

Though it is somewhat late to publish an account of events that transpired about a month ago, yet, considering that one of the bridegrooms had been very seriously ill at Bhopal and could not be moved to Jubbulpore till the 20th May, it would have been a questionable taste to write of gaieties and festivities when one of the principal actors in the celebrations was lying dangerously ill, his life almost despaired of.

ENTERTAINMENT TO TENANTS.

The wedding festivities began at Jubbulpore in the early part of the year, by a general invitation to the tenants of the Raja's extensive zamindaries in almost all the districts of the Central Provinces to come in and partake of his hospitality. Between 500 and 1000 daily availed themselves of the generous invitation. After partaking of a sumptuous repast and before leaving, each received from the Raja's own hands a present of either a shawl, a piece of broad-cloth, dopatta, or some other useful article of clothing ranging in value according to the social position of the recipient. The guests were likewise treated to nautch parties, got up in their honour and held nightly during the whole time the festivities lased. It is c[illegible] to say "en passant", that Raja Gokuldas, with his usual large-heartedness, made it a point not to accept wedding presents in any shape from his tenants.

ENTERTAINMENT TO RESIDENTS.

The entertainment to the residents of Jubbulpore began with an evening party at the Raja's new palace, in honour of the Honorable the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, who, with his popular Chief Secretary, Mr B. Robertson, I.C.S. C.I.E, the C.C's, staff, and the élite and gentry of the town, both European and Indian, graced the occasion by their presence. Outside, on the terrace above the marble entrance to the palace grounds, the Band of the Native Infantry discoursed sweet music, while, within, in the magnificent reception hall a beautiful dancing girl from Benares delighted the eyes and ears of the Indian gentlemen by her melodious singing and graceful dancing. It goes without saying that the viands provided for the delectation of the illustrious company were the best that could be procured in Calcutta and Bombay, Pelitis confectionery being specially appreciated. All present seemed to thoroughly enjoy the entertainment, and after a grand pyrotechnic display on the Hanumantab, and submitting to the customary garlanding and Pan Attar, the company dispersed not, however without wishing the bridegrooms every happiness and prosperity.

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT.

This general entertainment was followed by several special ones in honour of the different communities of Jubbulpur. The Parsis, Mahomedans, Bengalees, Parwars, Agarwalas, Bhargawas and other sections too numerous to mention as also the Bench and the Bar, from the highest to the lowest, all were feted in turn, not even the menial servants being overlooked by the generous Raja, who, in addition to feeding, presented each guest with a Cashmere shawl.

ON THE WAY TO SOBHAPUR.

Next in order of time came the "Barath party to Sobhapur, a village situated in the Hashangabad District, and about 7 miles from the Peparia station of the G.I.P. Railway. The wedding party from Jubbulpore alone, numbered over 3000 guests besides a numerous host of retainers; and as the ordinary mail and passenger trains were not sufficient to convey so large a company, special trains had to be run at the Raja's expense. Thanks, however, to the excellent arrangements made, all the guests were met by the Raja's representatives at the station provided with the tickets, and comfortably placed in the trains which conveyed them to Peparia, where, on arrival, they were personally received by Kuar Jeewandas, treated to light refreshments and sent off in the Raja's private carriages to the Sobhapur camp. The Jubbulpore guests were by no means the only ones that responded to the invitation. Every up and down train that stopppd at Piparia from the 17th to the 23rd of April brought between two and three hundred, some from remote parts of India. A faint idea of the number that attended may be gathered when it is known that somewhere about 150 horse carriages including landaus, barouches and Victorias, 100 tongas and 500 bullock carts had been requisitioned to deal with the traffic, and that these were kept busy the whole time.

THE SOBHAPUR CAMP.

The road from Piparia to Sobhapur had been specially repaired for the occasion and was marked off on either side with flags and lamps in order that both the day and night arrivals might not lose their way. En route, too, the convenience and comforts of guests had been fully considered. Wells had been sunk and servants stationed at intervals of a mile or so apart to supply Sherbet, cold water and light refreshments to all who chose to partake of them. At the camp, though to the casual observer all seemed bustle and confusion, yet as a matter of fact, everything was being done most methodically, for immediately on arrival attendants were forthcoming to take charge of and conduct the guests to the particular portion of the camp that had been previously allotted to them, and to anticipate all their wants and wishes.

A description of the camp itself here, may not be out of place. It was pitched on a level plain to the left of the Sobhapur-Sohagpur road, immediately adjoining the village of Sobhapur and covered an area a mile square. In the centre on a plot 500 feet square stood the Sabha Mandup, an imposing Shamiana capable of seating 7000 people, and erected on a raised platform. It was tastefully decorated with flags and streamers on the outside, and beautiful satin and lace curtains, artistic chandeliers, huge mirrors and pictures by famous Indian artists on the inside. Velvet pile carpets and rugs in profusion laid on pure white floor cloth gave the whole an air of luxurious refinement, and at night, when the structure was lighted by powerful Kitson lights, the effect was exquisite in the extreme! A magnificient triumphal arch and gateway with real clock tower spanned the road leading into the camp on the east and on either side of the carriage drive skirted by lawns and flowering plants, up towards the Sabha Mandap 8 temporary dwellings had been erected, each 212 feet; by 30 feet in dimension on the west or opposite side of the Sabha Mandap and extending north and south about 500 large tents had been pitched in positions harmonizing with the general plan of the camp and surrounding the whole was a neat pallisade of painted bamboos. At the northern boundary stood the Hindu cooking and drinking rooms and on the southern the Mohamedan, while the English camp was pitched to the south east and the camps of Rai Bahadoor Ballubhdas and Kumar Jeewandass to the north and south respectively of the main entrance. The whole camp was lighted by numerous Kitson lights under the charge of a skilled European mechanic, and as special water-works had been established and miles of pipes laid on all over the camp, the supply of that most essential commodity, pure water, was unlimited. I had almost forgotten to mention that opposite to the Sabha Mandap facing the Entrance Gate were a beautiful fountain, and an immense flag-staff with the flag of all nations floating gracefully from its summit, while at its base was a raised dais on which the Rewah State and Meerut Brass Bands performed in turns.

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY.

The great event of the whole Tamasha was undoubtedly the triumphal entry of the bridegroom's wedding procession into the Sobhapur camp! It formed up at a village 2 or 3 miles from Sobhapur and it is no exaggeration to say that when the leading elephant reached Sobhapur the last of the carriages had barely left the starting point! As to the procession itself. Why it would be impossible to adequately describe it. One was almost completely bewildered at its magnitude and magnificence. Stately elephants, the leading one being ridden by the bridegroom with velvet and cloth of gold trappings, surmounted by silver howdahs; numberless camels clothed in crimson and green; prancing horses bedecked with costly jewellery and ridden by the father, uncle and friends of the bridegroom; a body of the Kuar Sahib's Native Lancers on white chargers, another on boys; the European stable assistants well mounted and clerks in their becoming uniforms, banner bearers, brass bands; gold and silver palanquins, state carriages and lastly, innumerable bullock coaches—all combined to make a pageant the like of which could not possibly have ever been witnessed by any body present, nor indeed, could such have been attempted but by very few private individuals.

We do sometimes hear of and read that in the "good old days" weddings of Rajahs and princes were celebrated with great pomp and eclat, but it is certain that in these latter days such exhibitions are extremely rare, and are only indulged in by those who have bottomless purses and as large hearts as our worthy Raja Sahib seems to possess.

GUESTS AND AMUSEMENTS.

Now a word as to the guests present, and the amusements provided for their entertainment. It is estimated that at a low computation 20,000 people partook of the Raja Sahib's hospitability. Among the Europeans present being Brigadier General Denning, the General Officer commanding the Nurbudda District and Mrs. Denning; Mr. Debrett I.C.S., the Deputy Commissioner Hasangabad, C.P., Mr. Halifax I.C.S., Divisonal and Sessions Judge of Jubbulpore and Mr. Crosthwaite I.C.S. The Bench and the Bar of Jubbulpore and other places were well represented and all the Raises of the Central Provinces with very few exceptions accompanied by their followers lent a charm to the proceedings by their presence. The amusements consisted chiefly of Nautches and theatrical performances. For the former, well renowned girls had been brought from Lucknow, Benares, Patna and Calcutta; some of whom are noted for the excellence of their singing while others again for their superb skirt dancing. Most noticeable amongst them was one of two Lucknow sisters who on account of her personal charm of manners, her sweet singing, her elaborate expensive toilet and the blaze of jewels that decked her person seemed to be the one most appreciated. An additional and attractive feature of her performance being the singing by her in English of English love songs. The Indian comedians were very amusing in their way and judging from the merriment that resulted from their witty sallies, it was quite apparent that their efforts were much appreciated.

A PRINCELY GIFT FOR WORK OF UTILITY.

The commissariat arrangement for so vast and varied a company were perfect, abundant supplies and special cooks being engaged for each community. The services of a chief were procured from one of the leading hotels in Bombay for the English camp which was under specially capable European management. Not a single case of serious illness was reported during the whole of the festivities and this speaks volumes for the purity of drinking water, excellence of food and effectiveness of conservancy arrangements. The Government police assisted by the Kuar Sahib's private sepoys did excellent work in maintaining order, and there were no reported breaches of the law due possibly to the respectibility of the crowd as a whole. One specially pleasant incident occurred one night just before the nautch began and shortly before the breaking up of the camp and which must not be allowed to remain unreported was the offer made by Kuar Jeewandass in a neat little speech, on behalf of his father, of a large sum of money to be devoted to some work of utility in connection with the village of Sobhapur and in commemoration of the happy event then being celebrated. Mr. DeBrett, the Deputy Commissioner, who was present accepted the gift and warmly thanked the Rajah for his generosity promising to consult the District Board as to the best method of utilizing the money. A grand display of fireworks concluded the entertainment and most of the guests hurried off to their homes to attend to whatever pressing business awaited them previous to setting out for Bhopal where the second wedding was to be held.

AT BHOPAL—ILLNESS OF THE BRIDEGROOM.

Unfortunately the bridegroom took ill before the ceremonies had commenced and it was with the utmost difficulty that the marriage itself could be performed some of minor rites having to be temporarily abandoned. Everything had of course been arranged on the same magnificent scale as at Sobhapur. The procession was quite as brilliant and the guests if any thing more numerous but anxiety like a thick pall hung over the camp and though the amusements were there, the spirit of the guests would not rise to the occasion. The bridegroom fell ill, rather, seriously; and as the child's condition grew more and more critical the guests very wisely elected to disperse. Prayers were offered both day and night for the recovery of the patient and it is rumoured that the Raja, Rai Bahadoor Bullubhdas and Kuar Jeewandass now bowed with grief spent large sums of money in alms in order to propitiate the deity.

Her Highness the Begum, too, I am informed, very graciously ordered prayers to be offered in all the Mosques and thank God, the universal prayer was heard, and the sickness of the lad abated. On the lad's perfect restoration to health, I am told that some at least of the suspended gaieties will be resumed; but be that as it may, all rejoice with the Rajah R. B. Bullubhdass and Kuar Jeewandass at the lad's recovery and trust that he may soon be perfectly restored to a more perfect health than hitherto enjoyed.

A FEW WORDS IN PRAISE.

Before concluding I am constrained to add a word on praise of Kuar Jeewandass. The success of both functions was due almost entirely to his wonderful foresight and grasp of details, his excellent taste and indomitable energy. It was he who designed the Sobhapur camp and superintended its erection, conceived the idea of the water-works, and under his magic w[illegible] the desert place was made to a veritab[illegible] like the rose, and a waste howling wilderness [illegible]as transformed for the time being into a gay modern city. Messrs. E. A. Russel and A. Wright ably assisted him in all that was done, and they too earned the thanks of the guests for whom they catered so successfully. H. H. the Maharajah of Rewah and H. H. the Begum of Bhopal both placed the resources of their respective states at Raja Gokuldas's disposal, and nothing could have exceeded their disinterested kindness and liberality. Private individuals, too, vied with each other in their offers of help in both the times of rejoicing at Sobhapur and of sorrow at Bhopal.

INDIAN "NIHILISTS."

Yet, strange aye, and almost impossible as it may appear, there were some present as guests and others who did not accept the Raja's invitation who begrudged the Raja his well-earned happiness at the success of the Sobhapur festivities and rejoiced at his Bhopal sorrow! Rich men all over the world we know, have their enemies those who would prey on them and are not permitted to do so. Those who without means or inclination themselves of doing good, set themselves to work mischief and to harm the reputation of others more fortunate than themselves! Such men in Europe and America band themselves into secret societies, having for their avowed object the spoliation of the rich man of his wealth or life. In India the nihilist is not usually so desperate as his European "confere," and when he does not succeed in taking a rich man's cash, he generally satisfies himself by taking his character instead. As previously stated, there were some present who tried to mar the harmony of the proceedings, by indirect methods, of course, and bring discredit on the management of affairs by Kuar Jeewandass. But their efforts failed signally before the universal and ungrudging testimony of all, that the Sobhapur and Bhopal weddings of the grand-nephews of Raja Gokuldass were the grandest and best managed that they have ever witnessed and that the reception and treatment of the guests by Raja Gokuldass, Rai Bahadoor Bullubhdass and Kuar Jeewandass could not possibly have been excelled.

NOTES FROM ULUBERIA.

Uluberia, June 5.

AN ALLEGED MURDER.

One Sreemanta Purkait, of village Baidyanathpore in thanna Bagnan, was arrested by the police and sent up to Uluberia on Friday last in police custody on the charge of having murdered a married girl, of about ten years of age, named Kusum. The deceased, who wore some silver ornaments is said to have been taken by the accused to an out of the way place, where, it is alleged, she was put to death by the accused and her ornaments taken away. The Divisional Inspector of Police, aided by the local police, is pushing on the investigation of the case with commendable zeal and energy. The accused, I understand, confessed his guilt before the Sub-divisional Magistrate on the very day on which he was sent up to Uluberia. The case has created great sensation in the village where the murder took place.

A FALSE PERSONATION CASE.

The Sub-Registrar of Uluberia, Babu Tarak Nath Biswas, and some amlas of his office appeared before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Uluberia three or four days ago as witnesses in a case in which one Joynaddi Shaik, of village Rabibhag, in thanna Bagnan, and one Bhiku Shaikh, also of the same village, were charged, the former with having falsely personated one as Sadaraddi Shaikh, the real executant of a deed of a lease, and with having in that assumed character, presented the deed before the Sub-Registrar for registration and the latter with having identified Joynaddi. As the Sub-divisional Magistrate had to do other work on the day the case was adjourned to the 10th instant without any evidence having been entered into.

A BAD-LIVELIHOOD CASE.

There is now pending in the Court of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Uluberia a case in which one Jeauddi Shaikh, One Ali Shaikh and two others of village Bainan in thanna Bagnan were asked to show cause why they should not enter into recognizance bonds to be of good behaviour for one year. About 25 witnesses were examined for the prosecution and the case was finally adjourned for the examination of defence witnesses.

OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT AT A BATHING GHAT.

TRIAL OF THE ACCUSED.

Very seldom people hear of outrageous conduct on the part of a man at a bathing ghat. The public could forego multitudes of sins in a man but they can never pardon one who sports with female modesty. A sensational case cropped up in the Police Court, in which the police charged a young man named Bhuban Mohan Haldar with committing an indecent assault on some ladies bathing in the Ganges. The facts, as alleged, by the Court Inspector Mr. Mahapatra, who opened the case, are as follow: On the last full moon day there was a large concourse of ladies in Jaggernath Ghat to bathe in the river. There is a separate ghat for the males and some of the gentlemen, all on a sudden noticed the confused condition of the female bathers. They were not long in the dark to devine the cause of it. They saw the defendant in taking a dive into the water and to touch the persons of female bathers who naturally were panicstricken and in a state of utter confusion ran in different directions. The gentlemen then caused the arrest of the man by the Port Commissioner who was doing duty there at the time and then made him over to the police.

The case was heard by Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, the Second Presidency Magistate. Babu Tarak Nath Sadhu with Babu Lalit Mohun Dey appeared for the defence. At the outset Babu Tarak Nath submitted. If it is a true case, I have no sympathy for the defendant, rather I am always willing to put down such crime and to bring the defendant to book."

The ifollowing witnesses were then examined—

Santoram examined said:—On the 29th of Bysack last, I was bathing at the Jaggernath Ghat. It was the full moon day. There are two ghats one set apart for the females and the other for the males. I saw the accused. I saw him diving and seizing and putting hands on the breasts of some women. He did so 10 or 15 times. They were crying and shouting out. I called the attention of the durwan of the ghat, Jagroo, to the conduct of the accused. Jagroo got into the water and caught hold of the accused and made him over to the "parawalla."

Cross-examined witness said:—I have a book shop. There was a large crowd of people bathing that morning. I was four cubits away from the accused. There is no partition between the two ghats. I went to the thanna at 8 a.m. with the constable.

To the Court:—I saw the accused 10 or 15 times putting his hands on the breasts of the women before I commenced to bathe. They were all respectable women bathing there. I cannot identify those women for there were many there that morning.

Jagroo Upadhya examined said:—I am in charge of the bathing ghat and am employed by the Port Commissioners. There are two ghats there—one for the males and the other for the females to bathe. Men are not allowed to bathe where the females bathe. I remember the last full moon day. Many women were bathing at the ghat that morning on account of the full moon. I saw the accused at the ghat. He selected a good looking w[illegible]man and then took a dive into the water and [illegible]nt up to her and laid his hands on her bre[illegible] He did this, on several occasions with several women. They moved away from him and said "who is this man who is coming up to us" and they ran away. I saw nothing more. I called the accused to come to me on the ghat but he refused to do so. Then I went into the water myself where the females were—and I caught the accused and brought him out. I did not notice that he was drunk. I made him over to the "parawalla."

Cross-examined the witness said:—I was on the landing stage at 7 a. m. about 20 cubits from the water where the women were bathing. The "parawalla" took the accused to the thann[illegible] The police asked many women about the accused's conduct. The sergeant made the enquiry and asked the women's names but they declined to give them. The Babus also did not give their names. I was fined once for assaulting a Constable.

Jagroo Khan, Durwan, Port Police, was next examined and cross-examined.

Sew Churn Tewary examined said:—I am a durwan doing duty at the ghat. I saw the accused. I saw him taking liberties with the ladies who were bathing. I saw him to do this three times. The women began running away here and there and avoiding him. The other durwan arrested him.

Cross-examined said:—My attention was first drawn to the accused when I saw him bathing with the women and taking liberties with them.

After the examination of the witnesses for the prosecution, the Court framed charges under section 294 I. P. Code and section 68 of the Police Act of 1866.

Accused pleaded not guilty. The case was adjourned to the 14th instant for defence. Accused was ordered to be enlarged on bail of Rs. 800 in the meanwhile.

INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION 1904.

Rules for competition for Annual prizes for Essays on Railway Subjects.

1. In order to encourage the study of Indian Railway problems, the following prizes for the the essays will be awarded annually by the Indian Railway Conference Association:—

1st prize—Rs 300 and a silver medal.
2nd " —Rs. 200 and a bronze medal.
3rd " —Rs. 100.

II. The competition is open to employees of any Indian Railway belonging to the Indian Railway Conference Association.

III. Eight subjects will be selected each year by the President, who will issue a list in due time and in order that the staff in all Departments of the service may have an opportunity of competing a wide range of subjects will be chosen.

IV. Each competitor may submit one essay on any one, but not more than one of the eight subjects.

V. The essays will be judged by the President. If technical works are referred to, or quoted, the author's name must be given.

VI. The subjects for the year 1904 are as follows:—

(1) The relative merits of wooden and metal sleepers as regards cost, maintenance and efficiency.

(2) The re-laying of track with rails of heavier section and renewal of girders on single lines under heavy traffic, with special regard to economy and safety and avoidance of speed restriction.

(3). Economical working of passenger and goods traffic.

4. The wants of the third class passenger in India, and the best method of meeting them.

5. Workshop practice in an Indian Railway locomative, or carriage and wagon, workshop.

6. The consumption of coal and wood-fuel on Locomotives, how to economise and save fuel, both on the engine and in the fuel yard, the proper method to be adopted in dealing with fuel in the fuel yard.

7. Suggestions for a simple method of keeping the accounts of a branch line distinct from those of the main line, both as regards earnings and general expenditure.

8. The working of a Railway Store Department to suit present day requirements in India.

VII. All essays must be in English written or typed upon paper of foolscap size, and be sent to the Secretary, Indian Railway Conference Association, in sealed envelopes marked "Essay for the Indian Railway Conference Association Prize Competition," so as to reach him not later than 1st Nov., 1904.

(Sd) S. Finney, President,
Indian Railway Conference Association.
Lahore 29th April 1904.

The escort and survey party of the Aden Hinterland Delimitation Commission have now returned to Aden, as the survey has been completed to the Red Sea. The Commission will now have several months before them in which to prepare their maps, and Colonel Wahab, the British Commissioner, goes Home at once.

HOW MEN HAVE MISSED MAKING FORTUNES.

It is astounding how many men may everywhere be found who are discontented—who feel instinctively that they were born for better things; who in some way, they scarce know how, have allowed life's golden opportunities to pass them by, failing to achieve what they believe might have been, nay should have been, theirs No one can point to any definite defect in them yet they have failed.

Why have they failed?

To the expert observer the cause is very obvious. Success is achieved only by energy, and energy is what they lack.

Now, energy, whether of the hand or the head, is produced by food. A starved man can neither dig the ground properly nor think out a matter clearly.

Has a man, therefore, in order to become energetic, merely to be supplied with good food?

No; unfortunately the case is not so simple as that. The food that he eats must do its work properly; must make rich, pure blood, and repair the waste which is continually taking place in his system. Food can only do this when the digestive organs are in perfect working orper. In qersons whose bigestion is impaired food stagnates, creates gases in the stomach, and not only fails to properly sustain them but aggravates their complaint and poisons the system.

It is just here where Motner Seigel's Curative Syrup comes in. It is the one thing that cunes indigestion, and all the numerous maladies of which it is the paent, and in that way may be regaded as an unrivalled source to energy.

"When in Tasmania four years ago I was attacked by a seriocs ilness," says Mr. Bowden, of 23, Pring Street, Wolloomoolo, Sydney, N. S. W., "I could neither eat, sleep, nor rest. A doctor wnom I consulted said I was suffering from dyspepsia, and gave me some medicine, which patched me up for anhile; but I was soon as bad ever again. Another doctor attended me for two months; but I received no benefit from his treatment, nor at the hospital where I afterwards went. My appetite almost ceased, and the little I ate disagreed witn m. I became dull and languid, and everything was a trouble to me. Accepting the advice of a friend to try Mother Seigel's Syrup these toubles soon disappeared. After a few doses, I felt better than I had done for months past. By the time I had taken five bottles I was restored to health and energy."

Just so. That is precisely the effect tnat Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup produces. Not only does that medicine eradinate disease; it promotes health and energy, those absolutely indispensable qualities in all who are called upon to fight life's battle. It is a purely natural tonic, composed of fruits, roots, and herbs, containing no mineral substance whatsoever. For thirty-five years it has occupied the first place among all medicines whatsoeven; and evidence as to its curative power is constantly forthcoming from the sixteen principal countries of the world.

Indigestion and biliousness are what some medical authorities term "root diseases;" that is to say, if those complaints are neglected, tney develop into others even more serious. More often than not, medicines supposed to be remedies are at first restored to. Some times these are persevered with for considerable periods, resulting in loss of time and needless suffering, besides rendering the subsequent cure by Mother Selgel's Syrup more difficult. In these circumstances Mr. Bowden is to be congratulated on having his attention so early directed to Mother Seigel's Syrup, and upon the happy result of his use of it.

Many a man wnois poor to-day would be wealthy had he not been held down by ill-health. But there is bright hope for all such when once they clearly understand mny they are so, and how they may unloose their bonds.

A DANGEROUS DISEASE.—Every one knows that cholera morbus is one of the most painful and dangerous disease known to humanity. The fact that it is so swift and so often fatal in its results makes it more to be feared than almost any other malady. It often terminates in death before a physician can be summoned or medicine procured. Attacks of cholera morbus come unexpectedly and every family should be prepared. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa. Remedy is a reliable and effective medicine, and if given in time will prevent serious consequences. This remedy never fails and is pleasant to take. Every household should have a bottle at hand. Get it to-day. It may save a life. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdeel Rahaman and Abdeel Karrem Calcutta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT.

We cull the following from the annual report of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, for the year 1903-04:—

Economic Work.—The interest taken by the public in plants yielding useful fibres has continued to be great and, in connection with this, progress has been made with the enquiry into the various species of "Agave" that occur in India. The sucessful introduction through this garden of "Agave Sisalana," the species that yields the most esteemed fibre of this class, has been recorded in the reports for 1891-92 and subsequent years, and a review of the results so far obtained has been alluded to in the report for 1899-1900. The Sisal "Agave" does not thrive equally well or give equally well or give equally remunerative results in all parts of India, and in certain districts species of "Agave" other than "Sisalana," already so completely naturalised as to appear indigenous thrive so much better than Sisal and yield fibres commercially so little inferior to the best Sisal fibre that their systematic cultivation offers a hopeful field for investment. The idea that any "Agave" is a native of India is a mistaken one; all are introduced. The belief that all the "Agaves" naturalised in India belong to one or, at most, two species, "Aagve americana" and "Agave vivipara," would now also appear to be incorrect; it seems that, while, as a rule, more or less well-defined areas have particular species well established, the prevailing species in one area often differs from that most plentiful in another area. Moreover, it is found, when attempts are made to utilize the fibre of these local "Agaves," that some what diverse results are obtained; at times the fibre extracted is reported to be nearly up to the standard of Sisal, at other times it proves too weak to be worth extracting. The explanation of these facts appears to be that other species of "Agave" share with "A. Sisalana" the peculiarity of adapting themselves readily to certain localities and thriving less vigorously in others. The original object of the introduction of all the species was to provide secondary lines of defence round stockades, forts and strong villages; in more settled times they have been chiefly used as hedges bordering highways and lines of railway. Vigour of growth therefore has been the only quality considered in selecting plants within any particular area; the nature of the fibre has not till recently attracted attention. It is too soon yet to say how many different "Agaves" have really become naturalised; by what characters they may be most certainly distinguished; or which of them are best for fibre-producing purposes, but sufficient information has already been obtained to show that considerable caution must be exercised by those desirous of laying down extensive plantations of local "Agaves," and all the information so far available has been freely afforded to numerous enquirers during the year. A similar but less marked confusion prevails with regard to the species of "Furcræa" or "Mauritius hemp," of which certainly two, and probably three kinds have so far become established in India. Steady progress has been made with the investigation referred to in last year's report into the sources of "Indian hemp." Seeds received from gentlemen interested in this trade from parts of India so remote as Coconada, Lower Bengal, Central India, and the United Provinces have been grown experimentally with the result of proving that fibres which in the trade vary in value, according to locality of origin, from £9 to £18 per ton are derived from the same plant, "Crotalaria juncea." What is still more interesting is the result that when the plants in question are grown side by side, cultivated under identical conditions, and their fibre is extracted in the same way the difference in value almost disappears. The greatest variation experienced was of £2 per ton only, and it was reported that all the fibres submitted for valuation could have been sold under the same mark. These experiments are to be repeated during the ensuing year on a more comprehensive scale so as to put the results on a wider and firmer basis. The work of cultivating living tubers or bulbs and of growing seeds for the purpose of identifying the sources of economic articles on behalf of the Reporter on Economic Products has gone on as usual during the year, as has also the preparation of grafts of fruit-trees and the raising of stock of trees for planting by Government officers on roadsides and elsewhere. At the request of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture the Superintendent paid three visits to Bihar to inspect various centres of experimental cotton cultivation; he also paid a visit to Burdwan in connection with the experimental cultivation of jute by the Agricultural Department.

Herbarium.—The botanical explorations made during the year included a visit by the Superintendent to Independent Sikkim and Tibet. The journey was undertaken by the invitation of Colonel Younghusband, and with the consent of Government, in order to organise Botanical Survey operations in Tibet in connection with the frontier mission. The results of the visit were very satisfactory. Captain Gage, Curator of the Herbarium, was deputed to Assam in order to make a systematic survey of the district of Cachar with the object of linking up the results obtained in the course of the investigations already made in the Lushai country. The visit gave very satisfactory results, but some time must elapse and more exploration work must be undertaken before it is possible to give a connected account of the botanical features of the country lying between the velleys of the Barak and the Irawaddy. Collections by means of native collectors were made in Lower Burma. The number of named specimens distributed to other Herbaria during the year has been 16,110. The number received has been 20,976. These include collections presented by the Director, Royal Gardens, Kew, 128 specimens; Botanic Garden, Zurich, 161 specimens; Imperial Museum, Vienna, 110 specimens; Botanic Garden, Berlin, 544 specimens; Botanic Garden, Durban 108 specimens: also by the following private contributors, C. B. Clarke, Esq., London, 300 specimens; Mons. E. Mouillefarine, Paris, 1,002 specimens; S. A. Prince Roland Bonaparte, 391 specimens; J. Baagoe, Esq., Denmark, 44 specimens; C. F. Baker, Esq., California, 628 specimens; C. G. Pringle, Esq., Vermont, U. S. A., 280 specimens; H. H. Smith, Esq., Pittburgh, U. S. A., 1,890 specimens. In India the chief donors have been C. G. Rogers, Esq., Port Blair, 203 specimens; B. B. Osmaston, Esq., 138 specimens; C. E. C. Fischer, Esq., 93 specimens; F. B. Manson, Esq., 82 specimens; H. H. Haines, Esq., 76 specimens; T. F. Bourdillon, Esq., 32 specimens; J. S. Slater, Esq., 195 specimens; P. Bruhl, Esq., 190 specimens; J. Marten, Esq., 162 specimens; J. L. Lister, Esq., 72 specimens. The thanks of Government are due to all of these institutions an individuals for their valuable contributions. Some specimens were also acquired by purchase and those obtained through the agency of this institution included 1,960 specimens collected in connection with the Tibet Frontier Mission viz., 797 by Col Younghusband and Mr. J. C. White and 1,163 by the Superintendent during his visit to the frontier, and 1,641 specimens obtained by the Curator of the Herbarium and by native collectors in Assam and Burma. From the Seistan Boundary Commission, 127 specimens were received.

Interchange of Seeds and Plants.—The number of packets of seeds distributed during the year was 6,152. The number of packets received was 1,677. These included valuable contributions from Australian Botanical establishments of seeds of Eucalypati; a fine collection of Japanese seeds from the Imperial Garden at Tokio; most interesting contributions from Mexico, by Mr. J. C. Harvey; from Europe, by M. Robertson-Proschowsky of Nice, and Signor C. Sprenger of Naples; from German East Africa, by the Agricultural Department at Dar-es-Salaam. They also included over 200 different seed packets received from the Reporter on Economic Products for experimental cultivation and subsequent identification. The number of plants distributed during the year was 38,887; these included a collection of useful species (340 plants) issued to the Rev. Dr. Russell Scott on behalf of an industrial Mission Colony that is being established in British East Africa; over 2,000 issued to assist in the development of Uganda; a collection of the various kinds of pine-apples grown in India (87 plants) sent to Jamaica at the instance of His Excellency the Viceroy; economic plants asked for by the Bureau of Agriculture, Manila; representative collections of the various "Agaves" naturalised in India to the Directors' lands Plantentuin, Buitenzorg and to the Director de l'Agriculture, Saigon; a further consignment of representative Indian oranges to the Government of West Australia and a collection of "Hevea brasiliensis" plants to the Consul-General for Italy at Calcutta on behalf of the Italian Government. The number of rhea plants issued in India was 12 only, indicative of the fact that those interested in cultivating this plant have now received sufficient supplies; on the other hand, over 2,000 plants of rhea were issued to our Central and East African Colonies. The number of fibre plants other than rhea issued included 2,014 "Agaves;" 2,225 "Furcræas;" and a few plants of "Sanseviera," or "Bowstring hemp." The number of plants received was 11,019. These include a very interesting collection of 68 plants received from the Director, Royal Gardens, Kew; an instructive collection of the "Agaves" established in Upper India from the Superintendent of the Botnaic Garden, Saharnpore, a fine collection of orchids from the Salween Valley presented by Captain H. Wood, R.E., of the Survey of India; a [illegible] able collection of economic tugers from [illegible] Nagpur by the Rev. Father Cardon; a fine collection of pine-apple suckers by R. G. Girard, Esq., some interesting and valuable tubers presented by the Bureau of Agriculture, Manila; and over 6,000 tubers, bulbs and cuttings, mostly for the purpose of cultivation with a view to subsequent identification on behalf of his department, from the Reporter on Economic Products.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.—The condition of this garden has been satisfactory throughout the year. The Curator again visited personally the higher levels in connection with the collection of Alpine seeds, with once more very satisfactory results. During the year a consignment of Valerian roots was collected on behalf of the Agricultural Chemist to Government in connection with investigations regarding the preparation of an insecticide.

The money allotted for contingencies for the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, was spent in full. There was a saving of Rs. 371-14-9 under the allotment for establishment charges and of Rs. 462-14-6 under that for travelling allowance. In the corresponding allotments for the Lloyd Botanic Garden there were savings under contingencies of Rs. 92-8-6 and under establishment of Rs. 149-7-9. The revenues for the Royal Botanic Garden of Rs. 935-11, and for the Lloyd Botanic Garden of Rs. 857-10-6 have been paid into the treasuries at Calcutta and Darjeeling respectively.

The Durbhanga-Somastipur section of the Tirhoot State Railway, which is laid with light rails, weighing 41½ lbs. per yard, is, we hear, to be relaid with the heavier section of rail (50 lbs. per yard) which has been adopted by metre gauge railways with a fast heavy [illegible]

The following units have been ordered to be held in readiness for despatch to Sikkim on receipt of orders from Army Headquarters. Two sections of No. 27 Mountain Battery Abbottabad; No. 1 Company, 1st Sappers and Miners, Rurki; 19th Punjabis, Ferozepore; and 33rd Punjabis, Jubbulpore. These additional units, is sent, will raise the total of the force under General Macdonald's orders to about 5,000 men, which was the number recently indicated in our columns as likely to be eventually required. More could not be employed with advantage in any case.

Mr. Ernest Lund, a European planter of Belur, in the Mudgere Taluk Mysore, lodged a complaint in the Court of the Amildar Magistrate of Mudgere against one Mahomed Hayath, charging him with the offences of assault, insult and wrongful restraint that the accused, on the 5th May, held the bridle of the horse which Mr. Lund was riding between Mudgere and Kotigehar, threatened to strike Mr. Lund, and used abusive and vile language. These assaults and insults were gratuitous, and it was with great difficulty that Mr. Lund refrained from taking the law in his own hands and chastising the aggressor as he deserved. The Amildar Magistrate, Mr. Abdul Hakim, convicted the accused of the said offences and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for three days and a fines in default of payment, to hard labour for three weeks. Mr. Lund feels that adequate justice has not been done, and he intends to refer the matter to the Chief Court.

BLIGHT OF EMPIRE.

OFFICIAL RECORD OF OUR DWINDLING BIRTHS.

A surprising story of steadily declining birth-rates—confirming to the full the recent articles on the subject in the "Express"—is told in the Registrar-General's report on London and other large towns for 1903, which was issued last night.

The figures suggest a social problem of great magnitude. Taking, in the first instance, the case of London only, they show that since 1893, although the population has increased from 4,340,000 to 4,613,812, the number of marriages only increased by 3,099.

The birth-rate during the same period has gone steadily down, the rate per 1,000 being:—

1893 ...	30.9 ...	1899 ...	29.6
1805 ...	30.6 ...	1901 ...	29.0
1897 ...	30.2 ...	1903 ...	28.4

This last is the lowest rate ever recorded for London.

Shown in figures, the decline appears even more remarkable. The total number of births in the six specified years was as follows:—

1893 ...	133,062 ...	1899 ...	133,134
1895 ...	134,155 ...	1901 ...	131,829
1897 ...	134,187 ...	1903 ...	130,906

The period when the most marked decline set in is thus fixed at 1897-8.

The decline in the popularity of marriage dates from approximately the same period, In 1893 there were 37,016 marriages in London. By 1897 the number had risen to 41,217. Thence onward the figures are as follows:—

1898 ...	42,043	1901 ...	40,037
1899 ...	41,876	1902 ...	40,866
1900 ...	40,510	1903 ...	40,215

From the maximum marriage period of 1898 the rate has fallen from 18.8 to 17.4 per 1,000.

DECREASING DEATH-RATE.

It will be observed that, notwithstanding the reduced birth-rate, the increase in the population has gone on much the same as before. The explanation lies in [illegible] decreasing death rate, that fe[illegible]—15.7 per 1,000—being, like the birth rate, but in a more marked degree, the lowest on record.

The subjoined table gives the highest and lowest London death rates in the last fifty years:—

	Highest		Lowest.
1854 ...	29.4	1889 ...	18.4
1866 ...	26.5	1894 ...	17.8
1872 ...	21.5	1899 ...	20.0
1875 ...	23.6	1901 ...	17.7
1890 ...	21.4	1902 ...	17.7
1893 ...	21.2	1903 ...	15.7

The chief causes of death in London are returned as foll[illegible]:—

Consumption ...	7,347	Diphtheria ...	752
Violence ...	3,109	Influenza ...	644
Diarrhoea ...	2,958	Enteric fever ...	387
Measles ...	2,054	Scarlet fever ...	362
Whooping cough	1,631	Small-pox ...	13

The decrease in the number of deaths from small-pox is the most remarkable feature of the table, the number in 1902 having been 1,314, while in 1901 it was 229.

It is also noteworthy that the deaths from consumption compare well with an average for the previous ten years of 8,176.

An analysis of the 3,109 deaths from violence deaths, 306 were those of persons run over and killed in the streets.

Suicide accounted for 568, homicide for 58, and executions for six deaths.

SACRIFICE OF INFANT LIFE.

Infantile mortality is again startlingly high, the number of deaths of infants under one year reaching a total of 17,213, or 131 per 1,000 births. Of this total 534 were those of infants who were suffocated by their parents in bed, while 24 met their deaths by homicide.

In the seventy-six great towns of England and Wales containing populations of 50,000 and upwards the birth-rate was 29.7 per 1.000 as against 30.0 in 1902, and the death-rate 16.3, against 17.4.

The highest and lowest birth-rates are shown in the subjoined table:—

Rhondda ...	41.1	Torquay ...	16.0
St. Helens ...	38.8	Hove ...	17.3
Merthyr ...	38.4	Bournemouth ...	17.8
Middlesbrough	36.6	Leamington ...	18.1
East Ham ...	34.5	Southport ...	12.2

The highest death-rate was 22.2 (in Wigan); the lowest, 7.9 (in Hornsey).

Dr. John Taylor, writing in the new number of the "Medical Press," declares that the fashion of small families has "spread like a blight over the middle-class population of the land.

That which used to be, and still should be, the highest and noblest function of the married woman—the rearing of sons and daughters to the family, the nation, and the Empire—is very largely handed over to the lower classes of our own population, and to the Hebrew and the alien."

This limitation, he declares, may cause both sudden danger and chronic disease, and slowly undermine the health and the mental and moral stamina of parents, while it brings about "a debased and stunted education" for solitary, isolated, and self-centred children.

CURE FOR RATTLE SNAKE POISON.

What scientists have long been seeking in vain, namely, a positive antidote to rattle snake venom, has apparently been discovered by Dr. Noguchi, a Japanese physician. This interesting announcement was made at the annual dinner of the American Physicians' Association in Washington. Dr. Noguchi has been making a series of experiments at the Serum Institute in Copenhagen with funds supplied by the Carnegie Institution, and he now declares that he has obtained a serum from the blood of goats.

GHOSTS IN THE CITY.

TALE OF A SPIRIT THAT ROSE OUT OF THE FLOOR.

The "Daily Mail" to hand by the last mail has the following interesting ghost stories:—

Yesterday was ghosts' day.

From early morning until near midnight people endowed with the rare faculty of conjuring up spirits occupied South Place Institute in the City.

No actual "conjuring" was performed, as the mediums are enjoying a well-earned rest after their winter activities. But an admirable substitute for the invocations was the recital by "pioneers" of their experiences with denizens of worlds unexplored.

Mrs. Gleave, who, as Mrs. Mellon, was a notable medium, related how at a private seance in Sydney she evoked the spirit form of a lady out of a luminous patch on the floor.

"The spirit form became so strong that she walked across the room and shook hands with all of us. Her hands were icy cold. Her features were perfectly formed, and she permitted us to feel her tresses of rich brown hair. Then little Cissie" (no clue was given respecting the identity of "little Cissie") "made her appearance, danced and walked about quite freely, and at my request clapped her hands and threw kisses."

Then the Rev. J. Page Hopps recounted a "creepy" experience with Mr. Eglington, a medium known throughout (at least) this world. Mr. Hopps's flock included a young lady who rather resented being called by her surname. She thought it would not undermine the conventions if he called her by her Christian name. The reverend gentleman, however, persisted in observing the formalities, and she was always "Miss Brown" to him. Unhappily, the lady died.

Some years after, when in company with Mr. Eglington, Mr. Hopps wrote upon slips of paper the names of various people. Then he crumpled the papers into pellets. Thereupon the medium placed a scrap of pencil between two slates, upon one of which the name "Lucy" was immediately written. "Lucy" was the Christian name of Miss Brown, who from the spirit world was still remonstrating with Mr. Hopps for ignoring her wish to be called "Lucy."

CAPTURED BY BRIGANDS.

—:o:—

ENGLISHMAN AND AMERICAN HELD FOR RANSOM.

Mr. Perdicaris, an American resident at Tangier, was attacked by the bandit chief Raisuli, at his summer house, three miles from Tangier, and was carried off. His stepson, a British subject, named Varley, was also captured.

It is believed that the objects of the brigands is to obtain a ransom, and to bring about the removal of the troops from the district. The assault is the outcome of the dilatory action of the Government in failing to punish the robbers and the bandits who captured Mr. Harris. These miscreants, emboldened by their immunity from prosecution, now come into the market here without concealment.

Excitement prevails among the Europeans in Tangier.

Raisuli has written to Mohammed el Torres, the Sultan's representative for Foreign Affairs, at Tangier, stating that he requires the removal of soldiers from the district, the removal of the present Basha of Tangier, and the release of several of his men who are prisoners here. When these conditions have been complied with he will notify Mohammed el Torres what he proposes to do with captives.

Mr. Gummere, the United States Consul at Tangier, has sent a cablegram to the State Department at Washington, stating that he and the British Minister, acting together, have despatched information of the capture of Mr. Perdicaris and his son-in-law, Mr. Varley, to the Sultan's representative for Foreign Affairs. The Consul adds that he and the British Minister have insisted that Raisuli's terms shall be granted, in order to secure the release of the captives.

Mr. Loomis, Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has consulted the Navy Department with reference to the despatch of a warship to Tangier, to support the American consuls' demands. Although a large fleet of American warships is now on its way to European waters, there are none there at present. There are, of course, a number of British warships available near Tangier, and it is understood that, as the British and American representatives are co-operating, Great Britain will not hesitate to send a warship to the Moorish coast.

MARITIME TRADE OF BENGAL.

Mr. B. Foley's Report on the Maritime trade of Bengal in 1903-04 was issued to the Press on Friday afternoon, and shows the satisfactory result of an increase of Rs. 12,58,39,866 in the aggregate trade over that of the previous year, the total being Rs. 24,27,06,575. Foreign imports rose from Rs. 41,78,63,199 to Rs. 47,38,32,924 and foreign export from Rs. 54,83,77,029 to Rs. 60,49,11,505 giving a total increase of Rs. 11,25,04,201. Coasting trade imports decreased from Rs. 6,49,03,959 to Rs. 6,25,18,288, but the exports rose from Rs. 8,57,22,522 to Rs. 10,14,43,858, leaving a balance on the right side of Rs. 1,33,35,665. Owing to the reduction of the salt duty the net Customs duty receded from Rs. 4,36,78,280 in 1902-03 to Rs. 3,76,96,415. The aggregate sea-borne trade of Bengal has risen in the past year by 11.2 per cent. in value, and represent the highest aggregate total since 1875-76. The foreign trade rose in value by 11.6 per cent, and the coasting trade by 8.8 per cent. In the former both merchandise and treasure have risen in value, with the exception of exports of the precious metals. In the coasting trade imports of foreign merchandise and of silver alone declined. Calcutta absorbed 97.3 per cent. of foreign trades, Chittagong 2.3 per cent; and the remaining ports .3 per cent. Of the aggregate value of the coasting trade 89.3 per cent. appertained to Calcutta, 7.2 per cent. to Chittagong. Amalgamating both the foreign and the coasting trade of the Presidency, Calcutta appropriated 96.3 per cent., Chittagong 2.9 per cent., Balasore 4 per cent., Cuttack 2 per cent., Puri .06 per cent., and Narayanganj 1 per cent. The aggregate value of the trade of Calcutta during the year was Rs. 1,19,65,16,000, against Rs. 1,07,83,96,000 in the previous year, the increase in the aggregate foreign trade being Rs. 10,37,56,000 and in the coasting trade Rs. 1,43,46,000. Trade rose in value in the past year by 10.95 per cent., and the aggregate total is higher than that of any year since 1875-76. Both the foreign and the coasting trade participated in the increase. Treasure is shown separately in the table, and the result of the movements of both bullion and specie in the foreign and coasting trade was a net importation of 7½ crores, or an increase of 81.6 per cent. on the previous year. In the foreign trade the net importation was 9½ crores, or an advance of 95.5 per cent.: large quantities of gold were received, and a slightly greater amount of silver and, at the same time, the exports of both the metals were much smaller. Movements of treasure in the coasting trade culminated in a net exportation of 2 crores: a large quantity of both gold and silver was sent to Burma mainly by the State. Merchandise exported in the foreign trade was greater than that imported by 20 crores, or 54.04 per cent., and the aggregate trade of both combined was greater by 22 crores, or 52.2 per cent. Imports of merchandise from foreign countries were greatest in April, August, and October and lowest in June, July, and December. Similarly exports of Indian produce attained their greatest values in the months of October, November, and January; the smallest business was transacted in April, May, and June. In the coasting trade the value of goods imported rose by 2.8, and that of goods exported by 6 per cent., the aggregate trade showing a rise by 4.5 per cent. In imports of Indian produce, kerosine oil and cocoanut oil increased considerably, but there was again a large falling off in grain and pulse and cotton twist and yarn. Exports advanced in value through larger shipments of grain and pulse, oils and provision, but a shrinkage occurred in jute manufactures, opium, tobacco leaf and cotton goods. There was a strong reaction in the past year from the fall in prices of the two previous years. Compared with the previous year the aggregate total has risen by 4.2 per cent., and the total was only 2.6 per cent. less than the standard year. Both imports and exports have risen in average price; the former by 3 and the latter by 4.9 per cent. Under imports only iron sheets and steel have fallen in price in the past year. Exports have decreased in so far as coal, indigo, rice, wheat, raw jute, gunny-bags, linseed, and raw silk are concerned. Taking the aggregate volume at the average values ruling in the previous year, it will be perceived that the average actual aggregate value for the past year's trade has risen by 4.6 per cent. imports increased by 7.7 and exports by 3.7 per cent.

SUPERHUMAN TASK.

—:o:—

CAUSE OF RUSSIA'S WEAKNESS REVEALED.

A correspondent writes to the "Express" from St. Petersburg, on May 16.

Russia is now beginning to realise, with some clearness, the magnitude of the task she has set herself in the Far East, and the air of confidence so long manifested in official circles is fast disappearing.

Since the opening of the great Trans-Siberian Railway, that grant undertaking has been the pride of all Russians. It was thought capable of anything and everything in the way of transport, but the officials now recognise the serious limitations imposed by a single line of railway running for over 6,000 miles through a country which for the greater part of the distance is barren and almost uninhabited.

Englishmen, with the memory of the South African campaign fresh in their minds, have doubtless realised these difficulties before now. They will remember the superhuman efforts that were required to transport a quarter of a million men over one thousand miles of rail, through a rich country, teeming with supplies and all the appliances of the latest civilisation.

SINGLE LINE OF RAILS.

It must be remembered that practically the whole of the Trans-Siberian is a single line of rails, and since the capacity of a railway is, like that of a chain, the capacity of its weakest part, it is obvious that to "pour" men into Manchuria is no easy task. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the resources of the railway are equal to the carrying of sufficient men to make up for the inevitable "wastage" of war.

It is extremely unlikely that Russia has more than 200,000 men, at the outside, east of Lake Baikal. The "wastage" on this number would be roughly 4,000 men weekly, and if access to the official transport records were possible, it would be found that during the fourteen weeks the war has been in progress the total number of men sent east has not been much more than 4,000 a week—or 64,000 in all.

And the Russian difficulties are increasing rather than diminishing. The wastage—quite apart from losses in fighting—is growing, and by July the amount of sickness among the troops will be very much greater than it is now.

This, then, is the secret of the apparent inactivity of the Russian army. It is not strong enough to attack the advancing Japanese forces nor successfully to hold the positions which have been taken up. Concentration, therefore, at Mukden or Harbin is its only hope.

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