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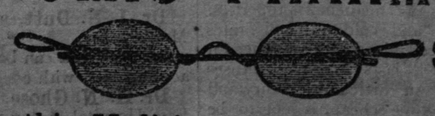
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS. 5.

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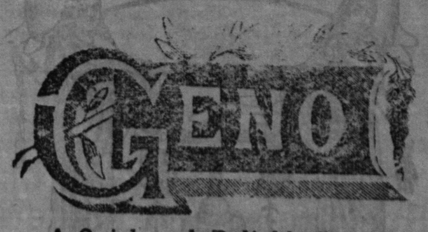

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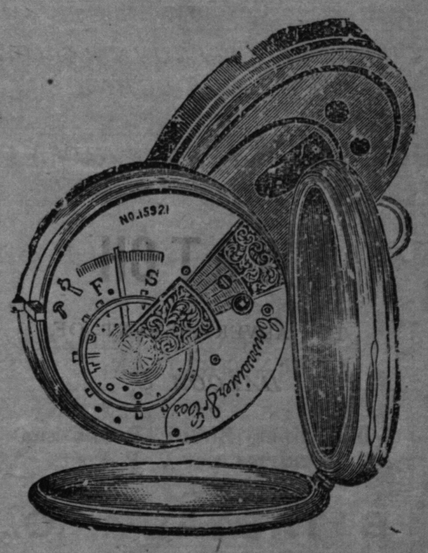

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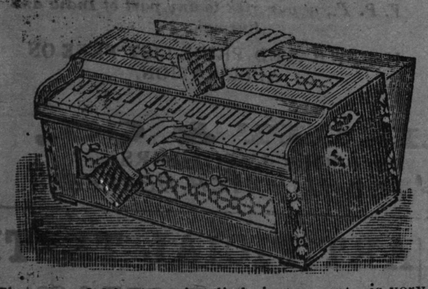

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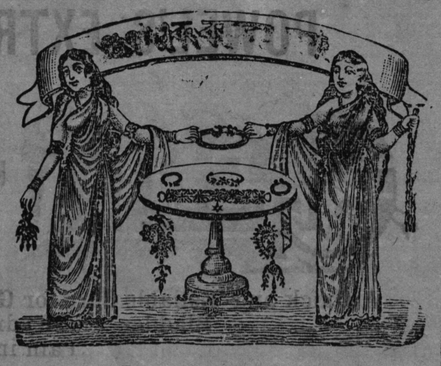

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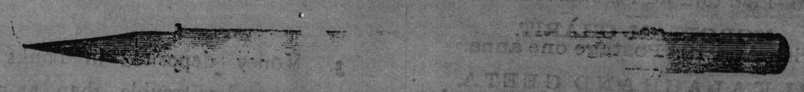

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 16, 1898.

LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES ON LIBERTY OF SPEECH IN INDIA.

DESPATCHES by the last mail from the ruling country show that the Liberals in England are very much against the stringent measures that the Government has introduced in the Legislative Council for the restriction of liberty of speech in this country. According to them, it is a suicidal step which the Government has chosen to take, and they apprehend disaster from it. There is no doubt of it that it is a measure which is un-English in character, and which embodies principles foreign to British instincts and constitution. That being the case, when the Government is going to carry out such radical changes in the constitution, prudence and good sense require that the authorities should, first of all, seek, for their innovations, if not unanimous, at least the almost unanimous, consent of all parties concerned.

Half of England are Liberals, and the other half, Conservatives. The latter half is just now in power, only by an accident. They propose radical changes, which are, as we said, not only antagonistic to British constitution but obnoxious to the other half of their countrymen. In the case of Mr. Burns, the proceedings of which were published in our last issue, the Judge earnestly recommended the jury that they should never forget that, on no consideration whatever, liberty of speech ought to be interfered with. Is it, therefore, a sane proceeding on the part of the one-half of England to introduce changes, which the other half opposes, and which are repugnant to the instincts and the genius of the British nation?

The Liberals say that the Tories belong to "the stupid party." This, of course, is a little too severe. But the Tories, on the other hand, ought to concede that the Liberals are Englishmen, and have some sense and some patriotism. How do the latter, then, venture to enter into an enterprise against the wishes of one-half of their countrymen, who are fully their peers and who are as much interested in the welfare of the Empire as they themselves are?

The authorities are going to introduce an innovation. That being the case, it is their duty to convince their opponents of the righteousness of their case. The *onus probandi* lies with them; and since they have not been able to convince their opponents of the absolute necessity and wisdom of the innovations they are seeking to introduce, they ought to stay their hands.

Indeed, their case can not be very strong. Firstly, they have not been able to convince their opponents of the necessity of the measure. Secondly, their friends were obliged to resort to gross misrepresentations for the purpose of inflaming the minds of the English people against the native papers. The Indian correspondent of the *Times* actually adopted the trick of telegraphing the supposed sentiments of the *defunct Modavrika*, the editor of which is now in jail, to justify the proposed measure! This shows that the basis, upon which the authorities found their innovations, is not strong. Here *en passant* let us remark that, it is intolerable that the wretched people of India should allow the *Times* Indian correspondent to injure them in this manner, by his gross misrepresentation, when a cost of only few hundred rupees would have enabled them to expose the absurdity of his announcement.

Now, what is the position of the three hundred millions of Indians here? One-half of the English people are for the restriction of the Press, the other half, for its liberty. The Tories are by a chance now in authority, and, therefore, they are in a position to carry a point. But if the Tories are now in authority, the three hundred millions of the Indians are on the side of the Liberals. Are the votes of these three hundred millions of intelligent human beings to go for nothing—absolutely nothing? And is this the position to which the three hundred millions of the loyal subjects of Her Majesty have been reduced?

Of course, we don't want the supreme control of the affairs of the country. But what we urge is this, that some consideration, at least, however small, ought to be paid to the wishes of these myriads of India. It would be a little bit extravagant to vote these three hundred millions as mere ciphers. And if they are not voted, as such the wishes of the Liberals and the myriads of India ought to outweigh those of the Tories.

Of course, the Conservatives and the Liberals do not agree; but let those who are in power, remember the Indian adage, viz, when buffaloes fight, it is the reeds that suffer. Let not the people in India be made to suffer on account of party strifes in England. Yet we cannot but view with pleasure the way India is getting to be a party question in England. When that time arrives when India will become the chief subject of discussion on the British platform, the country will be adequately protected.

INTENTION AND OTHER SAFE-GUARDS ABOLISHED.

THOSE who are for changing the existng Sedition Law, should never forget the act that the Explanation, attached to Section 124A, emanated from Lord Macaulay, the father of the Indian Penal Code,—a Code which, in the clearness of language, the analysation of the criminal mind, and the scientific arrangement of criminal offences, has not yet been surpassed by any in the world. The Explanation was the outcome of the deliberations of a master mind, and of a body of able Law Commissioners appointed in 1837. Let us reproduce it here again for ready reference:

Such a disapprobation of the measures of the Government as is compatiable with a disposition to render obedience to the lawful authority of the Government, against unlawful attempts to subvert or resist that authority, is not disaffection. Therefore, the making of comments on the measures of the Government, with the intention of exciting only this species of disapprobation, is not an offence within this clause. (Act XXVII, 1870. s. 5.).

Now a happier and more expressive word than the expression, "disposition," could not have been conceived. It includes both the subjective and objective tests. It comprises intention and a general state of the mind. If the disposition of the man is to render obedience to the lawful authority, he, according to the Explanation, must not be convicted of sedition, even though his words or writings had produced violence. In one word, without a seditious intent no crime is committed.

Sir James Stephen, when introducing section 124A in 1870, accepted the Explanation and made the question of "intent" as plain as possible. One sentence from one of his speeches, will make the point clear:—

The question on trials under this section would always be as to the true intention of a speaker or a writer, and this intention would have to be inferred from the circumstances of the case.

In England also, "in order to make out the offence of speaking or writing seditious words," to quote the words of Justice Cave in the case of Mr. Burns and others, "there mnst be a *criminal intent* upon the part of the accused, there must be words spoken or written with a *seditious intent*."

The other striking feature in the Explanation is that it makes it incumbent upon the prosecution to prove that the feeling, excited against the Government, must be so strong as to produce violence. Sir James Stephen took care to make this point also very clear, when introducing section 124A. This is what he said in 1870 in the Viceregal Council:—

So long as a writer or a speaker neither directly nor indirectly suggested or intended to produce the use of force, he did not fall within this section (124A).

In England, also, the offence of sedition or rather seditious libel, must suggest the idea of physical force. Justice Fitzgerald thus defines "sedition" in the case of *R. vs. Sullivan*:—

Sedition is a crime against society, nearly allied to that of treason, and it frequently precedes treason by a short interval.

The same Judge says again:—

Sedition itself is a comprehensive term, and it embraces all those practices, whether by word, deed, or writing, which are calculated to disturb the tranquillity of the State and lead ignorant persons to endeavour to subvert the Government and the laws of the Empire. The objects of sedition generally are to induce discontent and insurrection, and to stir up opposition to the Government, and to bring the administration of justice into contempt; and the very tendency of sedition is to incite the people to insurrection and rebellion. Sedition has been described as disloyalty in action, and the law considers as sedition all those practices which have for their object to excite discontent or disaffection, to create public disturbances, or to lead to civil war; to bring into hatred or contempt the sovereign or the Government, the laws or constitution of the realm, and generally all endeavours to produce public disorder.

Mr. Justice Cave, when charging the jury in the case of Mr. Burns and others, also refers to violence over and over again. Says he:—

If you come to the conclusion that language was used by the defendants or any of them upon the occasion of that meeting in Trafalgar Square and that it was their intention to excite the people to *violence*, to *a breach of the law*, why then, that would undoubtedly be the uttering of seditious words.

Again:—

There is another point, however, which does affect the question which you have to try, and it is this, as to the language used by the defendants. Was it used with the intention to produce *violence*?

In his History of Criminal Law of England, vol II, Mr. Justice Stephen expressed the same thing in his usual terse language. Says he:—

In one word, nothing short of direct incitement to disorder and violeuce is a seditious libel.

Compare the amendments of Mr. Chalmers with the foregoing, and a child will be able to see that their object is to knock on the head the two safe-guards provided by the Explanation of Lord Macaulay and Sir James Stephen, and the English law on the subject as interpreted by eminent English Judges. The Explanations, drafted by the present Law Member, take away completely the idea of "force" and "intent." Mr. Chalmers does away with the subjective test altogether, and lays down that words, even when spoken or written with the best of intentions, are criminal, if they produce violent results! The idea is simply preposterous and repugnant to all eminent jurists.

Says Mr. Justice Stephen in his History of the Criminal Law: "It is one thing to write with a distinct intention to produce disturbances, and another to write violently and recklessly a matter likely to produce disturbances." Says Mr. Justice Cave; "It is one thing to speak with the distinct intention to produce disturbances, and another thing to speak recklessly and violently of what is likely to produce disturbances." But "intention" is nowhere to be found in the amended Section and Explanations of Mr. Chalmers. The objective test is the only test which constitutes sedition under the amendments of Mr. Chalmers. Under the terms of Mr. Chalmers' measure, the *Pioneer* is guilty of sedition, because he violently attacked the worthless Generals who mismanaged the frontier wars.

The other safe-guard, namely, incitement to physical force, is also taken away by the proposed amendments. To create a mere feeling of contempt or hatred against Government, nay, to promote only a feeling of enmity or ill-will between classes, without any incitement to violence, is enough, in the opinion of Mr. Chalmers, to bring a man within the purview of the section. Surely, that was not the view taken of the offence of sedition by such illustrious men as Lord Macaulay or Sir James Stephen, or any Judge in England. And yet Mr. Chalmers was pleased to say that he was not going to make any alterations in the law in force! Does the Law Member yet hold that opinion? Need he be reminded that he is taking away the two safe-guards from the section, which are absolutely necessary in the interests of good government? We cannot conceive that he is really unconscious of the fact, that if these safe-guards were removed, the freedom of speech and the liberty of the press would be practically gone and that the best-intentioned and most loyal men would find no escape from the clutches of his measures.

THE *ENGLISHMAN'S* APOLOGY AND THE HISTORY OF SEDITION.

THE European editor of the *Lucknow Express* had to leave his post, because he could not give absolute satisfaction to his masters, who were Indians. We don't, however, blame him for it. Considering the state of feeling that is unfortunately, day by day, pervading the country, it is a most difficult feat for a European editor to furnish work, that would be absolutely satisfactory to his Indian masters. It is, however, quite possible for European editors in independent charge, to produce better work than some of them are doing now.

It is one thing to support the Government, right or wrong; it is another thing to give the Government honest advice. A European editor who follows the former policy, not only prostitutes the sacred functions that he is by honour pledged to perform, but does a good deal of mischief to humanity in various other ways. In this nineteenth century, the editor of a newspaper may now and then wield greater power than Parliament, King or Prime Minister. He is the instructor of his fellows and the custodian of public morality. With such sacred work in his hand, if an editor sells himself to the power that be, he loses all the innumerable opportunities he possesses of serving his fellows. If all European editors here had done their duty properly, the country would have been governed better and millions rendered happier than now.

Elsewhere is published a paragraph from the *Morning Post*, a European paper, for which we entertain respect, showing that the *Pioneer* has at last condemned the plague policy of Government. The *Pioneer* now frankly admits that the Government committed a great blunder in enforcing the plague rules "for the sake of a dubious sanitary principle." Here the *Pioneer* goes to the bottom of the affair. What the Government did, was to create disaffection in carrying out sanitary measures, the utility of which was doubtful. If the Allahabad paper had said the same thing before, probably Messrs. Rand and Ayerst would not have been murdered, the press prosecutions would not have been inaugurated, and the sedition measure not introduced.

Elsewhere will be found the apology of the *Englishman*, why our contemporary, being an Englishman and in charge of an independent paper, finds himself in the ranks of those, who are for the un-English measure of taking away liberty of speech. The gist of his long article is this; *viz*, we, Anglo-Indians, have nothing to fear, and who cares if the seditious niggars do?

Now, we "niggars" of India expect more sympathy from Englishmen, who are independent, than what is displayed by the *Englishman*. If he cannot rise so far as that, is he also prepared to deny justice to the said "niggars?" When he says, let the seditious niggars suffer, we have nothing to say, to find fault with his pious wish. But would it not be unjust, if niggars were made to suffer who were not seditious? And that is all that we want. The law has been made so comprehensive and so pitiless that, under its terms, no man, however loyal, who uses strong language or adverse criticism, is safe. Criminal intent is a safe-guard which is allowed to the criminals in every part of the world. But we showed yesterday that even this safe-guard is to be done away with in the contemplated measure of Mr. Chalmers. What we urge is this: let the Government provide against sedition, but let it not interfere in the slightest degree with freedom of speech. Let not freedom of speech be destroyed in the name of sedition.

Ler us now trace the origin of this sedition measure. Plague broke out in Bombay and the *fiat* came out from the India Office to stamp it out. But, how to do it? "Segregation is the only remedy,"—came the response. "Segregate and stamp out the plague"—came the peremptory order. The Bombay Government feared opposition, nay, resistance from the people; and, therefore, British soldiers were employed to carry out this idea of segregation at all hazards. This employment of British troops is a proof positive that the Government was aware of the unpopular nature of the work. When complaints reached the authorities, they refused to listen. For, how can they carry out the autocratic order if they listen to complaint?

When Messrs Rand and Ayerst were foully murdered, every one could feel that the double tragedy was due to the enforcement of the plague operations. The Government of Bombay felt it and kept quiet. But something must be done, to avenge the murders; and thus the later proceedings were instituted.

The Natu brothers were arrested and newspaper editors hauled up, because the Government was urged to do something to avenge the murders, and also under the notion that possibly they had some direct or indirect hand in these foul deeds. If Damoder had confessed earlier, neither the brothers nor the editors would have been molested in any way.

The confession of Damoder took away the basis upon which the arrests and the State prosecutions were justified. The Government, therefore, to justify the proceedings, had to keep up the cry of sedition. And it is to this policy, we owe the present sedition measure. Of course, we all know that there is no sedition in the land, and that if the earlier administrators had been able to rule the country without a law providing against it, those of the present day can also do it without fear of any danger from that quarter.

So the Chalmers amendments would not have been proposed if the plague had not broken out, if the plague rules had not been so rigorously enforced, if the officials were not murdered, and if Damoder had confessed earlier.

THE *New Dispensation* says:—

We are glad to observe that neither the threatened Press Act nor the proposed Law of Sedition has terrified the editors of newspapers in our country. Instead of being depressed and giving up the management of newspapers by the persons concerned, we see a marked improvement and fresh courage in many a paper conducted by the Indians. We venture to say that this is an indirect but very convincing proof of the loyalty of the editors and managers. Why shall those fear law who mean no evil? Guileless loyalty and boldness are proved by the fact that the *Behar Herald* has become a bi-weekly and the *Lahore Tribune* a tri-weekly, and the *Patrika* has two issues besides the daily edition.

Certainly, no newspaper has any need to fear the Sedition Law, who is not seditiously inclined. There is a proviso, however: when the Government is in temper, it will do things which it will not do when it is in good humour. Who does not know that the Government would never have prosecuted the newspapers if Messrs. Rand and Ayerst had not been murdered? Suppose, the Indian newspapers attack the administration, say, of a Magistrate, who is imbecile or despotically-inclined. Suppose, the official, after being thus criticised, is murdered by a miscreant; will not, then, they apply the new law to some purpose? The fact is, Damodar has given the newspapers a fright. There is no knowing whether there are other Damodars or not. This being the state of affairs, the safest course for the Indian newspapers would be to give up making adverse comments. The curious problem is, however, whether Englishmen will relish the spectacle of every newspaper praising every one of them, from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. The probabilities are, they will be soon disgusted with incense, and hanker after the good old days when they heard honest expressions of opinion from the natives of the soil.

LIKE attracts like, and, therefore, it is no wonder that Sir P. Hutchins should find himself in the India Council. Unlikes repel each other, and thus Sir Charles Turner has been removed from the Council as Sir Barnes Peacock was in days gone by from the Viceregal Council in India. They are all now for progress; and law, justice and all such nonsense, are naturally considered as obstacles.

THERE is only one Indian newspaper which has English columns, which is opposed to the Congress, namely, the *Rast Goftar*. It is clear, therefore, that with a liberal education, it has not been able to appreciate the efforts of his fellow-countrymen to better their condition. That paper, however, is doing good service to those Anglo-Indian papers which do not like the Congress. For, the latter can transfer its strictures bodily to their columns. One of the *Rast's* announcements is that Mr. Caine has cut off his connection with the British Committee of the Congress, and the *Pioneer* welcomes it reverentially as a choice blessing from heaven. We are sorry to say that there is no truth whatever in the statement.

THE only Indian appointed on the Famine Commission is Rai Bepin Krishna Bose Bahadur, C. I. E., Government Advocate, Nagpur. He owes this distinction not only to his talents which are great, but to a report on famine matters, which he had submitted to the Government and which Mr. James considered the best he had received on the subject. The Commission is to proceed to Bankipur and Buxar from where the members will come back to Calcutta, and then move towards Madras. The Commission will thence pass through Bombay, Bilaspur and Nagpur, and ultimately reach Simla where they hope to finish their business by April.

SOMETIME ago, that is, in our issue of 23rd December last, we announced the rumour that the Government was contemplating vital changes in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality. With the measure of the amendment of the sedition section before us, we did not choose to go into details and thus distract public attention. The *Bengalee* has chosen to publish the skeleton of the proposed measure that Sir A. Mackenzie intends to introduce in his Council, and which has already been reproduced in these columns. We would here venture to offer a piece of suggestion. As the Government is desirous of passing the sedition measure this session, and its organs have given out that the business is likely to be finished in the course of a month, the best thing would be to let the municipal measure alone for the present. We can guarantee this, that when this measure is introduced, the incident will create a profound sensation not only in Calcutta but throughout India. If, therefore, the measure be introduced after the sedition law is passed, the people will not be able to offer much opposition, either by speech or writing. The Press Act of Lord Lytton was condemned by the Liberals, and they attributed the measure to the desire of the Viceroy, to stop the mouths of the vernacular papers

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from condemning his Afghan policy which had been universally voted as a failure. The authorities will, no doubt, derive one advantage by practically gagging newspapers and independent expressions of opinion. They will not be any longer disturbed, when the law is passed, by discordant sounds of disapproval.

IT is to the credit of Sir A. P. Mac Donnell that the members of the British Indian Association at Lucknow have at last been able to get rid of the European editor of their organ, the Lucknow *Express*. This gentleman got his pay from the members who are Indians, and conducted his paper not exactly on the lines his bread-givers wished. But what could they do? He was a European, and the Association did not venture to part company with him. The advent of Sir A. P. MacDonnell, however, gave them the requisite courage to be able to do it. To be candid, this is the first time after the Mutiny that the people of the North-Western Provinces have, under the rule of Sir A. P. MacDonnell, found an opportunity of breathing freely.

Two dozen years ago we came across Mr. Grattan Geary in Bombay. He was a Liberal of Liberals, and he prided that he, of all Engiishmen in India, knew how to hold the balance even between the natives of the soil and Europeans. He was a man of great enterprise. He once drove a balloon, or properly speaking, was driven by it, to the sea. He crossed the Asia Minor for the purpose of seeing the Mussalman life in its native home. How does he feel now? Is he not the same Liberal of Liberals as he was before, or has he become wiser with age? People say that he is now in charge of the *Bombay Gazette*. Perhaps he does the printing; for, the editing does not show much of the liberal spirit which was the boast of the young editor.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers says that he is going to give us the English law on sedition. Well, this English law on sedition, we believe, was embodied in a Criminal Code drawn up by Sir James Stephen, with the permission of Earl Cairns, then Lord Chancellor, and introduced into Parliament in the Session of 1878 by the late Lord Holker, then Attorney-General. A Commission, consisting of Lord Blackburn, Mr. Justice Barry, Lord Justice Lush and Sir James Stephen, was appointed to report upon the Draft Code of 1878. The report was issued in 1879, containing, by way of appendix, the Draft Code as revised by the Commissioners. This was introduced into Parliament in 1879, but not carried, because it excited a good deal of opposition.

Section 102 of this Bill defines seditious intention, words, libel, and conspiracies. We shall quote below the exact wording of the section :—

A seditious intention is an intention to bring into hatred, or contempt, or to excite disaffection against the person of Her Majesty, or the Government and constitution of the United Kingdom or of any part of it as by law established, or either House of Parliament, or the administration of justice; or

to excite Her Majesty's subjects to attempt to procure otherwise than by lawful means the alteration of any matter in Church or State by law established; or

to raise discontent or disaffection amongst Her Majesty's subjects or

to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of such subjects:

Provided that no one shall be deemed to have a seditious intention only because he intends in good faith to show that Her Majesty has been misled or mistaken in her measures; or

to point out errors or defects in the Government or Constitution of the United Kingdom or of any part of it as by law established, or in the administration of justice, with a view to the reformation of such alleged errors or defects; or to excite Her Majesty's subjects to attempt to procure by lawful means the alteration of any matter in Church or State by law established; or

to point out, in order to their removal, matters which are producing or have a tendency to produce feelings of hatred and ill-will between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

Seditious words are words expressive of or intended to carry into execution or to excite others to carry into execution a seditious intention.

A seditious libel is a libel expressive of or intended to carry into execution or to excite others to carry into execution a seditious intention.

A seditious conspiracy is an agreement between two or more persons to carry into execution a seditious intention.

Section 103 provides punishment for seditious offences, and here it is :—

Every one shall be guilty of an indictable offence, and shall be liable upon conviction thereof to two years' imprisonment who speaks any seditious words or publishes any seditious libel or is a party to any seditious conspiracy.

The section about sedition provoked, as a matter of course, a good deal of adverse criticism, specially from Chief Justice Cockburn. It was pointed out that not only was incitement to violence not clearly embodied in the section, but that the promoting of feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects was not law. Mr. Chalmers is apparently trying to fasten upon the unfortunate Indian public the worst portion of this section,—the poison without the antidote—though the poison with the antidote was rejected by the English people. For, though the creating of bad feelings between class and class or the bringing the Government into hatred or contempt, is sedition under section 102, the offence is a first-class misdemeanour in England, and the punishment, provided for it by section 103, is only two [illegible] imprisonment. Then, again, in deciding sedition cases, the Judge is required to take into consideration the intent of the alleged offender. But, Mr. Chalmers is going to provide, for the Indians, transportation for life or ten years' hard labour for the same offence, while the best-intentioned writer or speaker has no escape, if his writings or words produce a mere feeling of hatred or contempt against the Government, or inflame one class of people against another! There are two courses open to the Law Member, if he wants to act as a sound and impartial law-giver. If it is his intention to thrust the sedition law, as drafted by Sir James Stephen in 1879 and rejected by the English public, upon the hapless people of India, let him do it in its entirety; that is to say, let him provide two year's simple imprisonment for the offence, and let the accused be tried by a jury composed of his own countrymen. But if he is not prepared to do it let him not disturb the existing section 124A, under the plea that he is going to give us English law.

THE life of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce seems to have gone out with the death of Mr. S. E. J. Clarke. If he were alive, he would have never allowed his Society to take the suicidal step of supporting the amendments in the Criminal Procedure Code; for, he was a far-sighted statesman, who knew that any tampering with the independence of the press and freedom of speech meant great harm to the Empire. What a pity that his successor is not following in his foot-steps! So, in the opinion of the Chamber, Magistrates are quite competent to try sedition cases. But, when the Judges of the High Court have failed to give satisfaction, how will it be possible for Magistrates, who have no legal training, to deal with the intricate points which are sure to arise out of a sedition case? In England, a seditious libel is never tried by a Magistrate. It is the Jury and a Judge who dispose of such cases. The Chamber, as an intelligent body of Englishmen, ought to have given their reasons why a different procedure should be followed in this country, specially where the executive officials are not famous for their judicial frame of mind. Here was an opportunity for the Chamber to gain in the estimation of the Indians; but, they have chosen not to avail of it. All that we can say is that by helping the Government in its policy of repression, the Chamber have not served the interests of the Empire.

A MOST horrible murder was committed in the heart of the town of Bhagulpore on the night of the 7th instant. Babu Ram Chander Marwari, a very rich and popular banker and the first cloth-merchant in the town, was killed with a sword by a ruffian a little before midnight, while returning from his shop to his house. The Police have not yet been able to find out the murderer who is still at large. The manner in which this popular man was killed in the most crowded part of the town, has created a panic amongst the residents, especially the Marwari community. It would have been satisfactory if some special detective officer of experience had been deputed to investigate the case and bring the offender or offenders to justice. We hope, the Government will take notice of this and take necessary and prompt steps in the matter.

MR. A. N. FANSHAWE, Director-General of the Post Office of India, who recently proceeded to Simla, came to town yesterday morning.

THE Government of India have directed all Local Governments and Administrations to arrange the exhibition, at very prominent places, of the rules for the prevention of the spread of the bubonic plague by railway passengers.

BABU PRAFULLA CHANDRA BANNERJI, Officiating Deputy Post-Master-General, Eastern Bengal, reverts to the Superintendentship of the Burrisal Division, his place being taken by Mr. F.B. O'Shea, lately of the Kashmere Postal Department.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has ordered his thanks to be conveyed to Mr. E. Good, late Vice-Chairman of the Chittagong Port Commissioners, and Captain Milne, for their valuable services in connection with the recent cyclone at Chittagong.

THE rising on the Mekran coast seems to have assumed serious proportions. From the reports that have reached us from Karachi and Lahore, it would appear that the main camp of Captain Burns, of the Trigonometrical Survey, was attacked on the night of the 9th at a place, called Murjihor, a few miles from Chambar. All the guard and survey peons were killed, and the Government treasure, amounting to over Rs. 13,000, as well as a number of rifles, were looted The attack appears to have been made by a Chief, named Baloo Khan, in conjunction with the noted Baluch free-booter, Jaffir Khan. The raiders must have come in strong force. Captain Burns rode a distance of about 150 miles in 36 hours on camel-back into Ormara, and being unwell at the time, was completely knocked up. The Telegraph staff at Ormara, fearing an assault on that station, are said to have had boats in readiness for instant flight. The gentleman who had gone out on inspection duty from the Karachi side at the time of Mr. Graves' murder, also connected on to the wire some distance inland on Thursday night, and reported fears of his small party being attacked, upon which he is said to have received orders to retire promptly upon the nearest large station, Sonmeani.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, DEC. 21.

THE *PIONEER'S* SEDITION.

REUTER telegraphs to-day that the total number of killed and wounded, up to date, in this miserable frontier war, amounts to 433 and 1,321, respectively. If these terrible figures related to some war in which there were material interests at stake, of Imperial importance, they would be accepted as a sad necessity and made the best of. But as it is, they serve to deepen the indignant disgust with which the insane forward policy is being viewed by the ordinary Englishman. But with this melancholy bill of mortality, Reuter telegraphs the substance of an article which has appeared in the "Pioneer", containing an uncompromising censure of Sir William Lockhart and his staff. The "Pioneer" talks of ruined reputations and disappointed expectations, calls upon the chief to weed out of his staff generals who have signally failed in their commands, and officers who have been incompetent for their duties. The editor declares that the occasions of serious blundering have been numerous; that there have been cases of gross carelessness and bad disposition of forces, by which the Afridis have constantly scored, that while villages have been destroyed, the tribesmen have had ample revenge in actual conflict, and so forth. He calls for a weeding-out of the staff forthwith, without any consideration to personal feelings. This article only arrives this morning; and I am not therefore able to tell you how it has been received by public opinion here, but I am greatly mistaken if it does not create a great sensation. Of course, Mr. Editor, if you had written such an article as this, you would find yourself in front of a District Magistrate, and the Tory press would clamour for a sentence of penal servitude for want of affection towards the new Commander-in-Chief. But the "Pioneer", the great semi-official organ of the Government, to write such an article, is a very different pair of shoes indeed! It is a pretty state of things if some 35 millions sterling can be spent upon our British and Indian armies, and the result is the scathing censure of the "Pioneer." I shouldn't wonder if this article should prove the death-knell of the forward policy. There seems to me, however, very little to choose between the "isedition" of the *Pioneer* and the "sedition" of the *Modavritta*.

THE INDIAN ART SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Society for the encouragement and preservation of Indian Art was held yesterday at the Imperial Institute. Sir M. E. Grant-Duff, president, took the chair. This is a very useful and energetic Society, incorporated under licence from the Board of Trade, whose object is fully denoted by its title. It has done excellent work during the past year, by getting together a very interesting exhibition at the Crystal palace of Indian arts and manufactures, bringing over a considerable number of native workmen, especially silk-weavers, and by promoting sales of Indian art-work, the profits of which were devoted to the relief of sufferers from the late famine. I am always glad to welcome any movement which promotes a taste, in this country, for any of the beautiful art products and handicrafts of India, whose existence is threatened by the cheap and very inferior imitations produced in this country and in Germany. I believe, a muchlarger trade could be done, if Indian traders could ignore caste difficulties and prejudices and themselves find their way to this country with specimens of the finest loom-work, brass and copper-ware, pottery, jewellery and silversmith's work. They would then be able to discover for themselves the dimensions and patterns which would best suit the Western markets. If India's master craftsmen were as enterprising as the Japanese, there is no reason why crores of rupees worth of Indian art fabrics should not find their way into the houses of wealthy Englishmen, Americans and Europeans. I remember, 'on one of my visits to India I persuaded a relative of mine who was building himself a fine mansion, to give me £300 to lay out for him on Indian art manufactures. I shall never forget the delight with which he and his wife unpacked the cases in the presence of admiring friends, and their exclamations of wonder and admiration, as carpet and curtain embroideries and brocades, kincobs and muslins, brass, silver and copper plate unfolded themselves to view. Their drawing-room, filled with rich and glowing Indian colour, is famous in the country in which they reside.

A CONFERENCE OF MAHOMEDANS.

A representative Conference of Mahomedans resident in Great Britain was held in London this week, which was very largely attended. Mr. H. S. Khalil presided, and the following resolution was moved by Moulvi Rafiuddin Ahmad, supported by Mr. Ghazanfer Ali Khan and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, with unanimous adoption, when put,

"That this Conference deplores the loss of so many precious lives both among the Queen's loyal Indian Army and the brave Pathan tribes during the frontier war, and earnestly hopes that there will be no necessity for the renewal of the expedition next spring; that this Conference urges upon Lord Salisbury's Government to arrange, peacefully and amicably, all differences between the Indian Government and the tribesmen, and to conclude a treaty with them, by which the brave tribesmen will be converted into the staunchest friends and allies of the Indian Government; that the best mode of dealing with the tribesmen is to guarantee solemnly the local independence of the territories occupied by them, and the preservation of the rights and privileges enjoyed by them since time immemorial; further, in view of the dire visitations—plague, famine, war, and earthquake—which have brought untold miseries upon the people of India this year, this Conference resolves that the Imperial Parliament, in fairness, justice, and commiseration to the unhappy people, will be pleased to order all expenses incurred during this war to be paid by the Home Government; and that this Conference joyfully shares the general pride with which all classes of the Queen's subjects in the Empire have noticed the valour and devotion displayed by the native Indian troops during the course of the campaign, and desires the Queen's Government to confer the Victoria Cross upon native Indian officers and soldiers entitled to it by their personal bravery and heroism, and considers that their exclusion from such soldierly honour consitutesa just ground of resentment against such a practice.

BALFOUR AND FOWLER.

Mr Arthur Balfour is not behaving very handsomely to Sir Henry Fowler. It was he who made the attack upon the late Secretary of State for India which brought out in reply the publication of the now historic telegrams which passed between him and Lord Elgin *anent* the Chitral evacuation and the implied breach of faith. Mr. Balfour specifically demanded that these documents should be produced and given to the world, and he based a strong attack upon Sir Henry Fowler and his colleagues upon their retention. Many days have passed since their production, but Mr. Balfour is as silent as the tomb. Is he satisfied with them or not? Every one who has read the attack and Sir Henry Fowler's defence by these telegrams,—and they are millions—,is entitled to demand that a statesman in Mr. Balfour's position should either maintain or withdraw the accusation of which Sir Henry so justly complains. If his silence continues unbroken, it will fully justify the belief that he has been completely answered. But it is a piece of cowardice, quite unworthy of Mr. Balfour's high reputation for honour.

MR. A. M. BOSE'S WORK.

Mr. Annunda Mohan Bose, of Calcutta, addressed a large and enthusiastic public meeting in Sout London this week, got up for him, and presided over by Mr. W. S. Caine. He charmed the audience with his eloquence, and awakened their hearty sympathy in both Congress and Temperance questions. Mr. Bose is very anxious to make himself as useful as possible to the British Committee of the Congress during the four or five months he is in this country; and I trust, they will utilize him, to the utmost of his willingness, in the agitation which, no doubt, the Committee will soon commence with regard to the forthcoming Parliamentary battles. I am glad to hear that all over the country, Liberal M. P's. who are at this time of the year meeting their constituents, are giving some prominence to the Frontier policy. There is no question that rouses such warm indignation just now in any Liberal meeting.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

MONETARY.—Exchange rates were steady on Thursday and closing quotations were 1-4-3-8 for six months and 1-4-3-32 for demand.

A SUDDER TREASURY.—The Local Administration of Assam has been directed to establish a Sudder Treasury at Aijol in the Lushai Hills District.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Babu Kumud Mohan Das Gupta, of Dacca, has been elected a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

A SIGNIFICANT ORDER.—The Government of India have issued instructions to Local Governments and Administrations to take steps for the prevention of female labourers working near soldiers' barracks.

FLATS ON FIRE.—News was received in town on Thursday afternoon that two flats, Hansooa and Rotang, were on fire in the Sunderbunds. Both flats were on the trip down from Serajgunge and were laden with jute.

A PROTEST.—Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee, of Utarpara, has petitioned to the Bengal Government, protesting against the acquisition of his lands for brick-burning purposes of the East Indian Railway Company.

INSPECTION OF OBSERVATORIES.—Sir Norman Lockyer, after the eclipse, will, at the special request of the Government of India, inspect the Indian Observatories,—a task which will occupy him for about six weeks.

THE ORISSA MEMBER.—The Hon. Mr. Madhu Sudan Das vacates his seat on the Bengal Legislative Council on the 11th proximo. It will be the turn of the group of Municipalities in the Chittagong Division to elect a representative in his place.

WORTH KNOWING, AFTER ALL.—The anxiety of the Government of India to get the first word in at home about the amendment of the Indian Penal Code is shown by the enormous length of the telegram sent to the *Times*, which contains about 230 lines, or about 1,600 words. This, at one rupee a word, is Rs. 1,600. The Indian correspondence of the *Times* at present is apparently merely a department of the Government of India.

LEGISLATIVE.—The Select Committee on the Indian Penal Code Amendment Bill are now sitting daily, but the measure is so extensive that they are not likely to complete their labours for some time to come. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Municipal Bill has not yet left the hands of the Bengal Government, but we understand that considerable progress in drafting has been made. It will, no doubt, be introduced into Council during the present session, but is unlikely to be passed until later.

UNWELCOME GUESTS.—This year quite a bevy of cosmical wanderers are timed to appear in our skies. The Pons Winnecke comet should open the list by appearing in April, after an absence of about 5½ years. In May the celebrated Eucke comet is due. This comet has a period of only 3¼ years, and its frequent re-appearance has been the means of astronomers discovering a great deal about comets and their wanderings through space. In June we should have two of these cosmical visitors—Swift's and Wolfe's comets, the former after an absence of six years and the latter, a trifle longer. Temple's comet completes the visitors' list, by arriving towards the close of the year.

FILIAL PIETY IN CHINA.—On the 26th of November last, says the *Hopao*, a Chinese paper, a young man of eighteen, named Hsu Takou, was executed at Canton on the charge of murder. The execution ground was crowded, and much sympathy was felt for the condemned, for, it was well-known that he was innocent, the actual murderer having been the man's father. In order to save his parent and satisfy the law of "life for life", young Hsu gave himself up as soon as he knew that his father had done the deed, and confessed to the murder. As the Chinese saying has it: "He sealed his filial piety with his blood." The affair will be recorded in the town history of Kiungchou Hainan Island, as proof of the lengths to which true filial piety will go.

LETTING HIM DOWN GENTLY.—It is impossible, writes the *Pioneer*, to dissociate the Commander-in-Chief entirely from the errors of organisation and selection to which in a large measure such misfortunes, as befell the Tirah Field Force, are generally ascribed. Here a rose has fallen from His Excellency's chaplet, and though that chaplet was so full that the loss of one flower, the missing of one opportunity, cannot spoil the splendour of the whole, it would be affectation to say that Sir George White's reputation is greater in the eyes either of the public or of the army at the close of the Frontier operations than it was at the beginning. But that, as we say, need not prevent our congratulating him heartily on his new honour.

"LINSEED COMPOUND," Trade Mark of KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE OF LINSEED.

"LINSEED COMPOUND," a demulcent expectorant for Coughs, Colds, and Chest Complaints.

LINUM CATHARTICUM PILLS, digestive, corrective, and agreeably aperient.

KAY'S CUE CEMENT.—Tips Billiard Cues firmly. "Your Cement is the best I have ever used."—JOHN ROBERTS (Champion), 1866.

KLINX.—New white inorganic Cement, almost hydraulic, for Pottery, Porcelain, &c.

COAGULINE.—Transparent Cement, for all broken articles. Manufactory, Stockport, England.

CHESHIRE BIRD LIME.—For Mosquitoes and noxious insects. In tin boxes. To spread on paper, [illegible] Stockport, England.

In re ELECTRIC LIGHTING.—The Bengal Government has now received the report of the joint committee of both Houses of Parliament on the electric lighting of Calcutta.

AN EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION.—Certain sages in astral lore predict another earthquake in Cawnpore, on a much more serious scale than last year's and at a startling early date, *viz.*, between the 29th of the current month and 30th, that it will last for one hour, and that 10 per cent. of the population only will survive the seismic disaster.

OFFICIAL.—The Hon. Mr. G. Tonybee, who will succeed to the permanent vacancy in the Board of Revenue on the retirement of the Hon. Mr. C. C. Stevens, C. S. I, on the 1st proximo, will shortly proceed on leave of absence. The officiating appointment will, it is understood, be bestowed upon Mr. P. Nolan, Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division.

COL. OLCOTT AND MISS EDGER.—Miss L. Edger, M. A., of New Zealand and Col. Olcott landed in Calcutta on the 12th instant. They will stay here a week. Colonel Olcott stops at Messrs. Tellery and Co.'s, and Miss L. Edger at Loudon Street, as the guest of Mrs. Salzer. They will receive their friends at their respective residences. During her stay, Miss L. Edger, M. A., will deliver the following public lecture, in addition to the two at the Royal Bengal Theatre on Friday evening and on "The finding of God" at the Dalhousie Institute yesterday: "The Theosophical Life", in the Star Theatre, Cornwallis Street, on Monday, the 17th at 6 P. M. The public are welcome at the meeting. Tickets for free seats and reserved seats can be had of Messrs. Dey Mullick and Co., 20 Lalbazar Street. Reserved seats are at Rs. 2 and Re. 1 respectively.

EARTHQUAKE IN ASSAM.—Earthquake shocks have occurred here, says a Shillong telegram, dated the 10th instant, every day since June 12th; but the biggest since August 22nd occurred at nine o'clock last night without warning, in the shape of a rumbling noise. The shock was felt at Gauhati and Cherrapoonjee. No material damage was done to buildings, but the joints of several water-supply pipes of small diamater were dislocated, and the spindle of the valve of a hydraulic ram was snapped in two. A good diagram was obtained on Mr. La Touche's seismograph. This makes 193 shocks recorded on this instrument since Mr. La Touche erected it on July 28th; but this represents by no means all the shocks we have had, for the instrument is not sensitive enough to record them all. No pillars of the seismometer, an insensitive instrument, fell; but the seismograph put up here by Mr. Oldham last month, recorded the shock.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH.—At the Investiture Ceremony on Thursday last, his Excellency the Viceroy said:—The year which has just closed has been for us in a special manner one both of joy and sorrow; joy, in the great event of our Sovereign's reign which we have celebrated, sorrow in respect of the many and grievous troubles which have come upon the Empire of India. It is not inappropriate that under these circumstances the list is long of those whose efforts in her service Her Majesty has been pleased to recognise. This fact makes it impossible for me to individualise or to undertake the pleasing task of addressing to each one of you, gentlemen, a few words of congratulation. Yet I do not like to dismiss you in silence, and there is one characteristic of this particular occasion which, I think, will come hometo all.

Amid all the distractions of this eventful year we have known that our Sovereign has never for a moment lost sight of us and of our troubles. I have again and again had the honour of receiving messages—which I have done my best to convey to those for whom they were intended—messages of personal sympathy, alike to the ryot suffering from want; the gallant soldier who had shed his blood in defence of the Empire; and the victims of great convulsions of nature or of epidemic disease.

But there are two messages which appear to me peculiarly appropriate for this meeting of the Imperial Orders. Her Majesty has charged me to make known to the Princes and Chiefs of her Indian Empire her deep sense of the loyalty and devotion with which they have tendered the services of their troops and the resources of their States in the time of emergency. I have had no previous opportunity of making known in public Her Majesty's commands; but it gives me special pleasure to do so now, in the presence of a Chief who not for the first time has shown his readiness at a moment's notice to give the Government most valuable assistance. The Maharaja Sindhia will forgive me if I say a word of an incident which perhaps attracted less public attention than it deserved. Public spirit we except from His Highness, and knowing his energy, we are not surprised to find him accompanying his men to the banks of the Indus, where their work was to commence; but I never forget how then, without a word of remonstrance, the Maharaja turned his back on the military operations, in which it was the dearest wish of his heart to share, to resume his place in that battle from which he has now, I trust, emerged triumphant,—the battle with scarcity, in which my distinguished friends, the Maharajas of Rewah, Benares and Durbhanga have nobly shared and have proved themselves the champions and protectors of their people,—the battle which has called forth so notable a display of official and unofficial effort and charity, in the forefront of which we welcome to-day Sir Charles Lyall and Sir Francis Maclean.

And if Her Majesty has throughout sympathised with us, she has also felt deeply the sympathy which, in all loyalty and respect, we have offered. I desire to give this massage from the last letter I had the honour to receive in Her Majesty's own words: "The Queen-Empress wishes to say how much she is touched and gratified by the immense number of very loyal and kind addresses sent by the Princes and people of India in such beautiful cases and caskets, and she would wish the Viceroy to state openly what she has said above."

You, gentlemen, to whom it has been my privilege to hand the outward tokens of Royal favour, will rejoice, I think, in the consciousness that they come from a Sovereign whose devotion to the people of India is as deep and heartfelt as your own; and I now offer you all my personal and most sincere congratulations.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PHOTOGRAPHING THE ECLIPSE.—One of the members of the British Astronomical Association, who has come out to India to observe the coming eclipse, has brought with him a powerful cinematograph camera which will produce five or six photographs in a second. By the aid of this instrument, if it works satisfactorily, it will be possible to obtain the most complete series of simulacra, ever produced, of the corona surrounding the sun, which should help to settle whether changes take place in the corona during the brief moments of eclipse.

BENGAL CROP PROSPECTS.—There was slight rain at Darjiling, but none elsewhere in the Province during the week ending the 10th instant. The general prospects of all crops continue favourable. The harvesting of winter rice is being rapidly completed, and that of pulses and other early rabi crops is in progress. A little rain is required for the rabi crops in a few districts, and for the late-sown poppy plants in Monghyr. The cultivation of boro or spring rice has begun. Prices show a tendency to fall. Cattle-disease is reported from parts of Midnapur, Hugli, Nadia, Purnea, the Sonthal Parganas, and Palamau. Fodder and water are everywhere sufficient except in the flooded tracts of Chittagong and at Kurigram in Rangpur.

OFFICIAL LEVITY.—A certain officer, not a hundred miles from Kinchinjunga, writes the *Darjeeling Times*, has been introducing a lively spirit into official correspondence. The important question of the distance of Kalimpong arose between him and the Accounts Department. The latter objected to his estimate of the distance and laid down that it was only—— miles "as the crow flew." The officer rejoined that he "was not in the habit of riding a crow." This levity, we hear, has been frowned upon by those in authority, which seems a pity, as official correspondence stands woefully in need of lightening, and would be all the better for a little humour which "Departments" in general and the Accounts Department in particular are so apt to rouse in the ordinary red-tapeless individual.

RIVER DACOITY AND MURDER.—Mr. Caspersz, presiding at the Alipur Criminal Sessions, on Thursday, disposed of a case in which Kobeer Bagdi and four others were charged with dacoity and murder. It appears that on the night of the 9th November last, one Hurry Churn Mondol was coming to Calcutta in a boat laden with fishes down the river Bidyadhori. When the boat neared Tardah, the accused, with the gang in the pirate boat, fell upon and attacked the complainant's boat, brutally assaulted the crew, threw them into the river, and then sailed away with the captured boat to Balliaghatta for the purpose of disposing of the looted fish. One of the crew is missing and his dead body has not yet been recovered. One of the accused confessed his guilt before the Judge. The accused were undefended. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty against all the accused on a charge of dacoity. The Judge sentenced the first three accused to seven years' and the rest to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

FREAKS OF A "MUST" ELEPHANT.—A fatal accident occurred last week, caused by a "must" elephant at a mill at Botataung, British Burma. It appears that the elephant was shifting a log of timber, when the feeder, who was below, gave chain as usual. The elephant made a rush for the man and seizing hold of his leg, threw him down, although the mahout did his best to draw the animal back. The elephant seized the feeder and before help could arrive, inflicted terrible injuries on the unfortunate man. Inspector Spears was sent for at once. He made enquiries and had the injured man sent to the hospital, but he died shortly after he left the mill. The man, mounted on the animal, could not get off till 1 o'clock the following morning when Mr. Spears and others got the animal's legs secured. In connection with this elephant, a rather unusual incident is related. About three weeks ago, the animal had to shift a huge log of timber, which it could not do. Two other elephants from a neighbouring mill were brought in to do the work. On seeing these animals, the elephant attacked them, chased them out of the yard, and then went to the log and dragged it into position with case.

IT is amazing to see in the Allahabad paper the following passages in an article on the plague rules in Bengal:—"We plead for gentle treatment so far as may be of a people who in the mass are not disloyal, but very credulous and fearful. And we should ask in regard to rigorous action whether the object is worth the sacrifice." It is, indeed, a sad pity that these views were not uttered at the time of the Rand murder, when Poona was being treated with a harshness not equalled in any other part of India. And the inconsistency does not end here. For, in those days, the "Times of India" was informing all its readers that the plague was being stamped out in Poona with a degree of success not secured elsewhere, because of the sensible and efficient measures that were taken. These measures which had cleared out half the city consisted in breaking open the houses of those who had fled, and leaving their small property to took after itself, in examining women in the street, and so on. Mr. Rand himself said, the only listened to "specific complaints" and the solitary instance of a specific complaint that we know of that claimed attention out of all the memorials sent in was that regarding the examination of women in the street. Now, in those days the Allahabad paper echoed with elation the words of its Bombay contemporary regarding the successful stamping out of the plague. But now let us hark to the words of wisdom: "And can the severity of the plague at Poona be attributed to futile efforts to carry out home segregation? Were it merely a question of sanitary kriegspiel we should join in demanding sanitation in its fullest equipment, and most varied forms. But is it wise or politic to run the risk of certain political trouble for the sake of a dubious sanitary principle?" So now the Poona measures which were "certain to involve political trouble" were based on a dubious sanitary principle. And, again, seeing that the measures were certain to provoke political trouble, the statement that the seditious press caused the trouble, falls to the ground. We may in another week see our Allahabad rival advocating the release of Tilak and the restoration of their property to the Natu brothers.—*Morning Post.*

SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held Friday at Government House. There were present:—His Excellency the Viceroy, president, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the Hon. Sir J. Westland, the Hon. M. D. Chalmers, the Hon. Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collen, the Hon. Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon. C. M. Rivaz, the Hon. Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani, the Hon. Pandit Bishambar Nath, the Hon. Joy Gobind Law, the Hon. C. C. Stevens, the Hon. Sir H. T. Prinsep, the Hon. Ananda Charlu, the Hon. J. J. D. LaTouche, the Hon. F. A. Nicholson, the Hon. Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon. tGangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis, and the Hon. Allan Arthur.

CURRENCY BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the issue of currency notes in exchange for gold received in England.

The object of this Bill is to afford a means of relief to the severe stringency which now exists in the money market. Section 13 of the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1882, authorises the Governor-General in Council to direct that currency notes shall be issued by the Paper Currency Department in exchange for gold coin and bullion received in India at the office of issue. The Bill extends this provision so as to allow the issue of currency notes against gold received in London by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, if he consents to receive the gold and to transmit it to India.

In moving for leave to introduce the Bill, the Hon'ble member said: It is well within the knowledge of Honourable Members that the Indian money market at present is passing through a period of extreme stringency, and that there is a demand for money for the purposes of trade which local resources are for the time unable to supply. I had to introduce a measure for the relief of a similar state of things in December, 1896, and I am informed that the necessity for relief now is even greater than it then was, while the same measure of relief, namely, the transfer of money from the Currency Reserve to the uses of trade, is not for the time open to us.

The causes of this scarcity of money are not far to seek: they are, shortly, the withdrawal of no small portion of the European capital which has been employed for banking purposes in India. With the exception of the capital of the Presidency Banks, and of one or two others, the capital of the larger banking institutions in India is sterling capital; and the continual fall in the value of the rupee and the consequent depreciation of such sterling capital as was held in the form of money in this country, has induced these Banks (and many of their constituents also) both to remit home to England much of the capital they used in this country, and to adopt the policy of keeping as little of their capital as they can help, employed in India. This policy was adopted by the Banks before the currency legislation of 1893, and is in no sense the consequence of it. If the policy of that legislation is pursued to a successful end, it will provide a remedy for the state of things I describe, as it will give the Banks and other capitalists the assurance that whatever capital they bring to this country for any temporary purpose they will be able to remit back without loss. But while we are still in the condition of advancing towards the attainment of the sixteen-penny rupee, the very success of our efforts militates for a time against the transfer of sterling capital to India. At the present moment, for example, when the rupee is even above sixteen pence, the only effect of the rate upon the Exchange Banker is to convince him that the less he remits to India the better for himself, for he is bringing out his money at the top of the market; he cannot possibly remit it at better rates, and he may have to do so at worse rates.

It must be understood that I do not for a moment lay any blame for this state of things on the Exchange Banks. They have their functions to perform, and they must perform them on commercial principles. Exchange Banks are not benevolent institutions, and cannot be expected to run the risk of loss for the general advantage of Indian trade. I am merely sketching the general condition of things which has led to short supply of money in the trade centres, and describing the extreme unwilliggness of those who have, till recently, supplied money for trade requirements, to keep in India any margin whatever against possible developments of trade demands.

I see people sometime discuss these subjects as if it were in the power of Government to interpose at once in some effectual way, and, as by a magician's wand, to restore ease and confidence to the Banks and to commerce. There is really only one way in which any relief can be given, and that is by making money available; and it is considered that Government possesses somewhere boundless stores of money which it has only to let loose upon a suffering commercial world, when everything will be at once put straight. Now I am not going to discuss in this place the obligations of Government, if there are any, to place funds at the disposal of the Banks for the commercial community, but I wish to give a distinct denial to any allegations that we are playing the Banks, as it were, that is, wilfully keeping back money with the intention of starving commerce and forcing up rates of exchange. We have told the Secretary of State what money we have, and the extent which he can draw against it; and we must claim the right to do what every sound trader does, namely, keep available under our control sufficient funds to meet the Bills he has drawn upon us, and means to draw. To this extent, and to this extent only, are we at present keeping any available money out of commercial employment. And if Banks and others will be good enough to remember the heavy demands that have fallen upon us in respect of Government expenditure during the past twelve months,—demands so heavy that we were obliged for the time to ask the Secretary of State not only to intermit his drawings but to send out money to our help,—it will surely be understood that we are not rolling in wealth, while we are refusing aid to others, and that our inability to advance money (admitting for the moment that such a policy was desirable on other grounds) is due not to any wilful obstinacy, but to want of adequate means.

The position then of the money market is this. Everybody has realized now what they did not sufficiently realize a month ago, namely, that the demand for money for trade is, and is likely on the immediate future to be, extreme. The exchange banks who under the old system could bring out as much as they liked (for if Council Bills were not available they had only to buy silver in London and have it coined at our Mints) will not bring out a single rupee which they can avoid bringing out; and we cannot advance money from our reserves. The Secretary of State, of course, cannot draw on us for more than we are able to pay. The fear is therefore that the market may reach a point where money will become actually unavailable, and merchants will find it impossible to sell their Bills. Gold, of course, can be procured in any quantity, and can be sent out to India and under existing circumstances, can be exchanged here for rupees; but the operation takes three or four weeks, and therefore this means of remittance provides remedy that may prove too trady to be effective.

Under these circumstances, I propose, with the permission of the Council, to introduce a measure which will have the effect of assuring the public that there is at least one point beyond which the pressure will not go; that there is at least one ultimate means by which immediate supplies of money can be obtained. We have a large quantity of money locked up in our Currency Reserve, and under existing legal conditions, we can make part of it available by issuing it in exchange for gold. At present, however, as I have just explained, supplies of gold (beyond what happens at the moment to be in India) cannot be obtained until three or four weeks have passed. I ask the permission of Council to abolish this interval by enabling me to issue money from the Currency Department against gold received on account of that Department by the Secretary of State, which he, receiving, will immediately send out to this country. Pending the arrival of that gold (if any is so tendered to the Secretary of State), the Currency Reserve will, so far as immediate availability is concerned, be deficient to the extent of its value. But as I shewed last year in introducing a Bill for the investment of a portion of that reserve, the amount we have in hand is ample for the purpose of the assurance of the convertibility of our notes, and there is no risk, from a currency point of view, in the operation. In fact, the full amount of the reserve will be actually in existence and under our control, although like the silver bullion we used to hold on it, not immediately producible in the form of coin in hand.

We do not know, and perhaps we need not care, whether the facility, which I ask the Council to enable me to give, will be actually availed of or not. The feeling that the stringency of the market can never reach a point where money may actually become unavailable, may give the market the relief it wants, and matters may not reach the stage where, council drawings or telegraphic transfers on our Treasury funds being insufficient for the supply of the market supplies, by the projected means through the medium of the currency reserve become necessary.

For that is the form in which the measure will actually operate. The Secretary of State will draw on the Treasury, if required, to the full extent to which Treasury funds are available, but if the demand continues beyond that point, he will then, in issuing his telegraphic transfers, set apart the money received on their account, in the form of gold, and will take steps to transmit it to this country.

The measure which I propose to the Council then takes the form of expanding the provisions of section 13 of the Currency Act. That section gives the Governor-General in Council authority to issue notes against gold, as well as against silver, received in India. The present measure goes one step further in authorizing the issue against gold not actually received in India, but received in England, to be as soon as possible transmitted to the Currency Department in India.

I may state that I am warranted in saying that the proposal now laid before Council has the support both of the Banking and of the commercial communities in Calcutta. I have consulted both these communities in framing the scheme, and I would not recommend any measure of the kind unless it had their support and approval. On the other hand, this approval will, no doubt, go a long way in commending the measure to the Council.

It may be desirable to mention, in asking permission to introduce this Bill, that we have found it unnecessary to make so great use of the currency reserve in aid of coinage reform in Bhopal, as we anticipated would be required, when the Act bearing on the subject was passed last Calcutta Session. We have advanced 40 lakhs of rupees in all, and more than half of that amount has been received back in the form of silver now awaiting re-coinage in our Mints. I do not know if it will be necessary to make any further advances, but in any case the account will be closed by the end of March, and any further operations in Bhopal, after that date, conducted without aid from the currency reserve.

The question will very naturally be asked in this connexion, what steps the Government have in contemplation, with the view of carrying into final effect their currency policy of 1893,—by what actual steps they mean to introduce the gold standard into India. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce have addressed to us this enquiry, expressing the opinion that the policy of waiting may involve an indefinite prolongation of the period of transition. I am afraid I am unable at this moment to give a final reply. One thing is clear, namely, that a great advance has been made, in respect of the condition of our Indian currency, in the direction in which it was contemplated by the authors of the policy of 1893 that the introduction of a gold standard would become possible. Many points which were then obscure and doubtful have been determined by actual experience. The disasters of the past year, by seriously affecting all Indian trade, set back for the time the current of advance, but bountiful harvests and the renewal of trade-activity have restored the position with a suddenness for which I think I may say that the commercial world was not prepared. A distinct advance has also been made in another and most useful direction, namely, that the discussions that took place last autumn have prepared public and official opinion in England for the possible necessity of a measure which may involve the actual diversion for Indian purposes of a certain amount of gold from the general available stock. As to the precise measures to be undertaken, all I can say is that the subject is under consideration, not by any means for the first time; but that in a matter of such importance, which has yet to be dealt with by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, it is not possible at the present state to make any definite announcement or to bind Her Majesty's Government by giving rise to any particular expectations. I have further to add that we are perfectly alive to the grave commercial bearings of the subject, which are alluded to in the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, and we believe the mercantile community require no assurance from us that their interests as well as those of the Government will have anxious attention at our hands. We are no believers in the theory that what is bad for the interests of Indian commerce can be of advantage to the interests of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arthur said:—My Lord, with reference to the remarks which have fallen from the Hon'ble Sir James Westland, there is no doubt that the Bill, which he proposes to introduce to provide for the issue of currency notes in exchange for gold received in England, will be welcomed by the banking and mercantile communities of India. The proposed Bill, whether the facilities it will give are availed of or not, will tend to allay the anxiety which prevails in regard to the extreme stringency of the Indian money market. The Finance Minister, as he has told us, is able to meet the drawings of the Secretary of State by telegram only to a moderate extent; and the powers, which he asks the Council to give him, will enable him to supply the Exchange Banks, if necessary, with an unlimited quantity of rupees with which to finance the trade of the country at a known cost. While the proposed Bill will have this effect, it will in no way tend to stop the fluctuations in exchange, which it was claimed that the legislation of 1893 would lessen, and which, since that legislation, have been just as violent and often more unexpected than before. My Lord, I should like to point out to the Hon'ble Member, who has told us that he is unable to give any definite reply to the enquiry which was receutly made as to what measures are being contemplated for the establishment of the gold standard, that the present high bank-rate has seemingly no attractions for those people in this country who have ready money. They are remitting it in thousands of pounds to England where it would appear they are content with a return of 2½ per cent. on a gold basis as against the present return of 11 per cent. or more in this country on undoubted securities even on Government Paper. While the policy of waiting, to which the Hon'ble Member refers, will not tend to improve this state of matters, it is satisfactory to note that this very grave question is having the anxious attention and consideration of the Government. The mercantile and banking communities will welcome any sound currency system which will result in loanable capital being attracted to and not drained from this country, as is the case, and never more so than at the present time under the present system. Policy I mean, my Lord, not system. Paragraph 25 of the despatch of the Government of India of last September declared that there is no curency system in India.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland replied to the above, after which the motion was put and agreed to. The Hon'ble member then introduced the Bill and moved for its publication in the "Gazettes" in English. The motion was agreed to.

The Council then adjourned for a week.

THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Commission, appointed by the Government of India to formulate for future guidance the lessons taught by the famine experience of 1897, have now assembled at Calcutta and will sit at the places, named below, on or about the dates mentioned against each, for the purpose of hearing the evidence of witnesses from Bengal:—

Bankipur ... ... 27th January to 2nd February.
Calcutta ... ... 3rd to 7th February.

2. The Commission desire to make it known that they are ready to receive the evidence of witnesses who consider themselves qualified, and desire to give evidence touching the subject-matter of the Commission's inquiry. The points referred to the Commission for inquiry and report, are those mentioned below, and all evidence must be strictly confined to those subjects:—

(*a*) Departures from the prescriptions of the Bengal Famine Code which have occurred in the Province during the recent famine.

(b) The degree of success which has attended the measures adopted, considered primarily with regard to the relief of distress and the saving of human life, and secondarily, with regard to economy.

(*c*) Advice as to the measures and methods of working, which seem likely to prove most effective in future in those two respects.

(*d*) Other recommendations or opinions thought likely to be useful in the case of future famines.

3. Witnesses offering evidence, will be required to confine themselves strictly to these subjects and to send their evidence in written form, and in English, to the Secretary to the Commission at the Imperial Secretariat Building, Calcutta, as soon as possible. In so doing, the witnesses must give full particulars of their race, age, profession and residence, and of the opportunities they have had of forming an opinion on famine and famine relief questions.

4. As the time at their disposal is limited, the Commission do not bind themselves to invite all such volunteer witnesses to attend and be examined. Witnesses whom the Commission desire to hear, will receive notice by post, and any witness, appearing in reply to such invitation, will be paid his travelling expenses. No witness should attend for examination without an invitation from the Commission. In the case of witnesses who are not invited to attend, their evidence will be examined and placed on the record.

H. J. McINTOSH,
Secretary to the Famine Commission.

A PUNITIVE force of thirty police has been sent to Sanywe township, Tharrawaddy district, for six months.

LALLA RADHA CHARAN, a pupil of the Muir Central College, has established a record in the examinations of the Allahabad University. In less than twelve months, he passed the B.A., C. Sc. and LL B. examinations. Lalla Radha Charan is twenty-three years old and belongs to the Vaish community. He began his English lessons in the Farukhabad Mission High School in 1886, when he was eleven years old h

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

THE Chamlawals have signified their willingness to submit. General Blood was to have moved over the pass with his Head-quarters Staff on the 11th.

GENRRAL JEFFREYS, with the Head-quarters of the Second Brigade, the Buffs, 21st Punjab Infantry, and the 16th Field Battery, marched to Katlang on 9th instant.

A RAIDING party, believed to be Sipahs, has killed twenty coolies in an enclosure below the Pioneer picquet at Mamani, and carried off six donkeys and a pony. It is now believed that Sergeant Walker is actually on his way to Jamrud.

COLONEL ADAMS reconnoitred Jowar on Sunday and found a large village, with good water supply and open camping ground. General Meiklejohn marched there on Wednesday with the Highland Light Infantry, 20th Punjab Infantry, 31st Punjab Infantry and the Guides Cavalry. The cattle have been driven off by the villagers, but large quantities of grain are available.

GENERAL JEFFREYS reported from Surkhabi on Thursday that he moved with six companies of the Buffs, the 21st P. I. and No. 5 Company Madras Sappers, to Surkhabi, leaving a Field Battery and two Corps of Buffs at Rustam. Reports have been received that the Boners ntend to oppose a further advance and have e-occupied the Ambyela Pass.

A MASSENGER from the front states that Muhamed Sher, malik of the Sipahs, has forcibly taken Sergeant Walker from his original captors, Hazrat Noor, at Sandapal, and started with him at ten on Monday morning to Bara *en route* to the camp. He may, therefore, be expected any time at Bara, Jamrud, or Mamani.

THE 1st Brigade with the exception of a half battalion of the Buffs and part of No. 4 Company Bengal Sappers is concentrated at Tursah. A reconnaissance on Wednesday went to Nawedan and Giralai Passes. The Salaryai and Asherzai have submitted, and there appears little doubt that the rest will do likewise. The number of the enemy believed to be killed on the 7th, is fifty, chiefly by artillery fire.

A PESHAWAR correspondent writes: On the night of the 5th some Afridis made a simultaneous raid on both ends of the Station. Several shots were exchanged with our sentries, but I have not heard of any casualties, although I believe it was sharp work for a few minutes at the Commissariat mobilisation godowns, which are near the city. It is surprising to everyone here that no raid has been made on the transport lines yet, which are at a camp called Budin, about two miles from the fort.

WHATEVER may be the final decision with regard to Tirah, the Government is apparently of opinion that no return can be made to the old system of paying the Afridis to keep the Khyber open. General Ottley, R.E., who is now at Lundi Kotal, has submitted a scheme for the erection of posts and block-houses, to be garrisoned, we suppose, by our own troops, all along the line from Lundi Kotal to Jamrud, and General Symons is now engaged in discussing the plans with him on the spot.

A RECONNAISSANCE has been made towards the Ambeyla Pass with two half battalions of Infantry and Cavalry detachment, and the next camp has been selected east of Surkhabi. Major Blunt, R. E., examined the road to within three miles of the Pass and no enemy was seen. The road as far as projected to the camp, is easy and practicable for field artillery, but further on, it is impracticable, and it will be difficult to prepare for the camels.

GENERAL BLOOD, with the Head-quarters Staff and No. 2 Mountain Battery, arrived at Kingar Garli, on January 11. General Meiklejohn is still at Jowar. The Salarzai are very submissive, and their surrender and that of other sections is now being arranged, after which General Blood will proceed to Tursak with half the Buffs and two mountain Batteries. Kingargali will then be left. General Meiklejohn will meet General Blood with the remainder of the force, and Tursah will then probably be worked from as a base.

ONE Peary Lal, a Zamindar of Badaun, is under trial for torturing a tenant.

CAPTAIN GOODRIDGE of the Royal Navy, has been appointed to succeed Admiral Sir John Hext as Director of the Royal Indian Marine.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. G. King, Sanitary Commissioner, has been appointed by His Excellency the Chancellor of the Madras University, to deliver the Convocation address.

THE extension of the TransCaspian Railway from Samarkand to Tashkent, will be open next month. The branches to Andijan and Ferghana are not expected to be completed until February, 1900.

NEWS from Dera Ismail Khan states that Ahmad Khan, Chief of the State of Sori Lund, died from dysentery on the 8th instant. He has left no male issue, but no difficulty about the succession is apprehended.

"MISS MARIE CORELLI is," writes the *Empire's* lady correspondent, "I understand, shortly to visit Ceylon. How proud Ceylon should feel! Admirers of Marie Corelli are in hopes that she will lay the scene of her next novel in their beautiful island.

THE third General Memorandum on the Indian cotton crops, states that the conditions have not been substantially modified since the issue of the second memorandum in October. On the whole the area sown is somewhat below the average; there is a large deficiency in Bombay, and the area under cotton in Madras and the North-Western Provinces is also not equal to the average, the decline in all cases being due partly to the unfavourable conditions which existed at the beginning of the season, and partly to the replacement of cotton by food-grains in tracts where reserves of ood had been exhausted. The area amounts to about 12,916,000 acres, being about 7 per cent less than the average of the previous five years, the deficiency in the provinces mentioned above having been compensated in some degree by the sowing of an average or large than average are in other tracts. Some injury was done to the crop in most provinces either by late heavy rain or by locusts; but prospects are reported to be on the whole fair to good everywhere, or at least they were so before the failure of the north-east monsoon in Madras created apprehension for the crops in parts of that Presidency.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, JAN. 11.

The War Office has approved the regulations whereby Commissions in the Army will be opened to Colonial Officers or students. Six Commissions aunually will be open to Canada, two to each Australian Colony and the Cape Colony, and one each biennially to Natal and Tasmania.

The *Times* says that it is believed in well-informed quarters that the Indian Government contemplates an arrangement with the Bank of England whereby the Bank will accept deposits of gold and hold the same for the Government's account as a security for the issue of notes to be made by the Indian Paper Currency Department to depositors or their representatives.

Mr. Balfour, speaking at Manchester, said that the war on our Indian frontier was necessary for the defence of British interests, and that while, not desiring to interfere with the independence of the tribes or tribal laws, we must have command of the military routes through the mountains. Moreover, Great Britain was, he said, bound by treaty to defend the Amir against external attack. Referring to China he said that our interests in that quarter were commercial and not territorial, and that Great Britain claims equal trade opportunities for all.

Reuters learns that the parleying with China for the British loan is likely to be protracted, as China is procrastinating and raising various difficulties. Moreover, it is uncertain whether adequate security will be forthcoming.

LONDON, JAN. 12.

Germany has chartered two trading steamers to ply between Kiaochau and Shanghai.

The tone of the German press has latterly been markedly more friendly towards Great Britain.

The *Times* is informed that a Bill will be introduced into the Viceregal Council on Friday, empowering deposits of gold to be received in London and the issue of notes against the same in India.

The capital town of the island of Amboina in the Moluccas group has been demolished by an earthquake. Fifty persons have been killed and 200 injured.

The *Globe* publishes the Boer plan of campaign, the execution of which was only prevented by the rinderpest. It was arranged, it seems, to declare war suddenly on some pretext, and then within 48 hours to seize Kimberley and Newcastle and two other strategic points, and hold them until terms were made, including the effacement of the imperial factor in Natal and Cape Colony.

PARIS, JAN. 13.

M. Meline announced in the Chamber today amid cheers, the intention to prosecute M. Zola, who has published a letter in which he furiously denounces M. Billot and other Generals for combining to perpetuate the conviction of Dreyfus and to exculpate Count Esterhazy.

LONDON JAN. 14.

The Niger Company has commenced extensive operations against tho Ibouza tribe in the middle of the Niger Territory, and purposes stopping human sacrifices.

Lord Charles Beresford has been returned for York by a narrow majority, and a recount has been demanded. He polled 5,659 against 5,648 polled by Sir Christopher Furness. the Liberal candidate.

LONDON, JAN. 14.

The Bombay Infantry will probably return when the Punjabis reach Uganda.

The verdict of the jury in the case of the murder of Terriss is that the prisoner is insane.

Money market and Trade.

Calcutta, January 14th 1898.

Government Loans.

Per cent	... 90	Nominal
3½ per cent Loans	... 95	0 to 95 1
One month's sight	... 96	0 to 96 1
Small sums	... 95	8 to 95 10

Calcutta Port Trust Debentures.

4½ Per cent of 1881-1883	...	Rs. 110
5½ per cent of 1883	...	,, 126
4 percent of 1895	...	,, 108

Interest and Discount.

Bank of England	from 14th Oct.	1897	3%
Bank of Bengal	from 11th Jan.	1898	11%
Bank of Bombay	from 11th Jan.	1898	12%
Bank of Madras	from 7th Jan.	1897	10%

Exchange on London.

Bank Wire	...	1-4	1/16
Demand	...	1-4	1/16
3 Months sight	...	1-5	3/32
4 do	...	1-4	3/32
6 do D A	...	1-4	3/8 Steady
3 do D A	...	1-4	9/32
6 do D P	...	1-4	7/16
do D P	...	1-4	5/16

Calcutta Municipal Debentures.

			Rs.
5 Per cent of 1878	(1903)	...	109-8
5 Per cent of 1884-85	(1905)	...	108
5 Phr cent of 1885-86	(1915)	...	113
5 Per cent of 1886-87	(1916)	...	114
5 Per cent of 1887-88	(1918)	...	115
5 Per cent of 1889-90	(1919)	...	116
5 Per cent of 1890-91	(1920)	...	117
4 1-4 Per cent of 1882	(1902)	...	103
4½ Per cent of 1891-92	(921)	...	109
4½ Per cent of 1895-96	(1910)	...	100
3½ Per cent of 1896	(1911)	...	96

The following transactions were reported to-day :—

Howrah Mills (Ordinary) 131-8

Baranagore ,, ,, 70 and 71

English Quotations.

London, January 12th, 1898.

Consols 2¾ per cent	...	112 3-16
Silver in London	...	26 1-2
Rentes 3 per cent	...	103 1-4
Enfaced Rupee paper—		
3½ per cent	...	62 5-8
3 1-2 per cent Sterling Loan	...	117
Silver in America	...	57 1-2

TOOLSIDAS ROY & BROTHERS,
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THE CRITICS ON SEDITION.

(Englishman.)

IT would have been the easiest thing in the world to forecast the observations of the native press upon Mr. Chalmers' "sedition" amendments to the Penal Code. The liberty of the press, the freedom of speeeh, the entire position of the Indian subject before the law—it was certain that everyone of these well-known cries would be raised and reiterated until our contemporaries were hoarse. And the inevitable has indeed happened. The chorus is by this time in full swing; the volume of journalistic denunciation which beats upon Mr. Chalmers' head, is almost terrific, nor will it abate night or day until the special legislation, now before the Viceroy's Council, is finally enacted. A dead silence will then supervene, but before that period is reached the Government has much to undergo. Parliament will have opened. Sir William Wedderburn will have asked more questions within the next few weeks than he has asked since he was returned to the House of Commons; and in the Council in Calcutta, the *Mirror* threatens us in the last resort with the scourge of Mr. Ananda Charlu. While the native journalist is apoplectic in his wrath and terror, the Anglo-Indian press is for the most part coldly hostile. "We are now asked," says one paper, "to go back to the times when corrupt Judges laid down bad law; when there existed offences called praemunire; when, as under Henry VIII, false prophecies were made capital (an Act only repealed in 1863); and when juries were told that the Court and not the jury were to determine the character of the matter published." Another writer blames Mr. Chalmers for declaring that we "welcome all fair, candid and honest criticism, and speaking for ourselves, we care very little as to the terms or language in which such criticism may be expressed." That is not right says the newspaper. The Government ought to care a great deal, because, as a matter of fact, an article published in the average vernacular print has quite a different effect upon the measure and reputation of the Government, from that of an article published in an English journal.

In short, the measures by which the Government proposes to grapple with sedition, would have been received with unanimous expressions of disapproval by the organs of public opinion in India if it had not been supported in these columns and this notwithstanding the fact that some of those writers who are now depreciating Mr. Chalmers' Bill, were the most vehement a few months ago in demanding that its suggestions should be actively carried out. The curve they have taken is a sharp one, but is not, perhaps very much to be wondered at. When a danger seems imminent, the natural impulse is to seek a remedy, the more drastic the better. When it is over, the question of the cost of the remedy becomes more relevant than the danger itself. Let us go back to the beginning for a moment. Can we, without imperilling the Empire, permit seditious sentiments and ideas to be flaunted up and down India, as was the case a year ago? No sensible person would have admitted the proposition at any time during June or July or August last. We cannot see that the situation has changed since then, except in so far as events have proved our legal machinery to be at fault,—to be too clumsy,—for the purpose of crushing disloyalty the moment it is brought to notice. That is why so much pressure has been put on Government to alter the law. Now that Government has responded to these urgent appeals, some Anglo-Indian journals are inclined to draw back, and for an obvious reason. They fear that they themselves may be the first to suffer from the change. Even if their misgivings were justified, that would not affect the Bill on its merits; but a moment's reflection will show how incompatible is the idea with the whole theory of the British occupation of India. What is the object of the proposed legislation? Its object is to strengthen British rule in India by checking every movement, whether journalistic or popular, which aims at its overthrow; in other words, it is directed against sedition, pure and simple. That being so, surely nothing could be mere self-evident than that it does not, and in the nature of things, cannot, apply to any member of the Anglo-Indian community, whether he be a journalist or a Secretary to Government, unless he chooses to ally himself with those whose interests are opposed to the British occupation. The white man depends for his livelihood, for his very existence in the country, upon the preservation of Her Majesty's authority within its boundaries. To accuse the Anglo-Indian press of deliberately plotting to injure or undermine the Government, would be preposterous. To charge the journalist with errors of judgment and inaccuracies as to fact, would be a very different indictment from that of treason, nor would he be the only servant of the public against whom the same accusations might be brought. In Bengal we have not to go far back for more lamentable errors on the part of the Secretariat—errors more seriously compromising the commercial and other interests of the country than have ever been committed by any journal in the land. When Government is committed through the folly of a Secretary to an untenable position of the kind, from which it has to beat a hasty and undignified retreat, are we to suppose that the law, as modified, can be turned upon the peccant official? Can a Secretary to Government be prosecuted under the amended law for blunders which threaten to bring about the boycotting of the port of Calcutta by the trading world?

Say that a newspaper publishes a report that plague cases have occurred in Bengal,—is that, with all the stretching in the world, "seditious?" In a certain quarter, we are given to understand, it is fondly believed that such statement would come directly under the law, and there is joy at the prospect. But, alas, the dream of a short cut to retaliation, is delusive. It is not such a statement that Government under the new law either can or will resent, even allowing for the irritation of officials who have blundered through the shortest possible interregnum with the longest possible list of mistakes. It is not an Administration which proposed to make Calcutta the dumping-ground for the plague-ridden fugitives from the Western Presidency, that can take violent measures against a newspaper for a guarded reference to possible cases a hundred miles inland. "But," we are told, "look at the powers which will be given to solitary Magistrates." We have looked at them, and we can see no other provisions than are necessary to enable the authority on the spot to deal instantly with indications of unrest which, if allowed to develop for even a few weeks, might work irremediable mischief. The same immunity as attaches to the Anglo-Indian press, to which disloyalty is unnatural and impossible, will be enjoyed by those native papers, whether published in English or in the vernacular, which refrain from inciting the people of the country to conspiracy or rebellion. Such at least is the presumption, both from the character of the amendments and from the speech of the Legal Member. It will doubtless be repeated that both press and public will, after all, be at the mercy of individual officials, who may put the law in motion out of caprice or misapprehension or spite. The same might have been said at any time since British law was introduced into India. The strength of the chain of Government is measured by its weakest individual link. It is the individual worth of the men engaged in governing India, that has enabled British rule to withstand every shock up to now. If the time has come when that tradition is no longer to respond to the test; when wounded vanity and petty tyranny blind the rulers as to their true friends and their real enemies; when legitimate criticism is to be confounded with virulent treason, and to be visited with penalties in the same kind and degree, we shrink from contemplating the sequel. Conduct so weak and perverse, would herald our rapd decay, and proclaim to the world that British rule in India was tottering to its foundations.

THE SERAMPORE MUNICIPAL CHAIRMAN'S CASE.

THE rule, obtained on behalf of Rai Bahadur Kedar Nath Chatterjee, Chairman of the Serampore Municipality, who was convicted, under section 15 (g) of the Factories Act, and sentenced by the Sub-divisional Officer of Serampore to pay a fine of Rs. 200 out of the Municipal funds, owing to the privies and cesspools of the Hastings Mills being in a filthy condition, came on for hearing on Thursday.

Mr. Caspersz who appeared in support of the rule, took three objections to the conviction. In the first place he said, no sanction under the Factories Act had been given. Originally all the Commissioners were prosecuted; but when it transpired that the medical officer of the station, who was the prosecutor, was also himself a Municipal Commissioner and the principal witness in the case, the absurdity of the prosecution was seen and the case was proceeded with against the Chairman alone but without further sanction. The sanctlon, however, was virtually against all the Commissioners as the fine was directed to be levied by a distress warrant against the Municipal property. Secondly, the entire proceedings were irregular and misconceived, seeing that there was no express provision of the law either in the Municipal Act or the Factories Act, by which either the Chairman or the Commissioners could be prosecuted for neglect of the Municipal mehters, Under the Municipel Act the Commissioners had to maintain an efficient staff of mehters and no one who paid Municipal taxes, could be prosecuted. It was shewn that such a staff had been maintained, and it was ridiculous to apply against Municipalities these provisions which were vested in them to enable them to prosecute private persons. Again under section 17 of the Factories Act, the occupier was primarily liable, unless he could show that the neglect was due to some other person acting without his knowledge or consent. This Act obviously applied to persons connected with the management of factories such as managers, and the like Then, as to the merits, it appeared the cess-pools of the mill were in a filthy condition. The Manager had been prosecuted, but was discharged for same reason. Then the Municipality were prosecuted. It was not shown that the Manager had discharged himself from his primary liability or that the Municipality had not done everything that was required of them by law. It was the Manager's duty to see that the mehters did their work well. The learned counsel submitted that the conviction and sentence were wholly wrong. No one appeared to show cause.

Their Lordships reserved judgment.

THE Paropakarini Sabha,—the Supreme Council, so to say, of the Arya Samajes of India, have elected His Highness Colonel Mahaiaja Dhiraj Pratap Singh of Jodhpur as their President for the year.

THE Jodhpur, Sirmur Jhind, Kapurthala, and Patiala Imperial Service troops are now returning to their respective states. The Nabha infantry are moving to Mardan as a reserve regiment for the Boner operations.

THE Hyderabad (Sind) Municipality, finding that it is not possible to raise a loan in the market for Rs. 1,15,000 at 4 per cent. owing to the stringency of the money market, will shortly make a fresh application to Government for permission to obtain the required loan at 5 per cent. interest instead of 4.

A WONDERFUL Buddhist road has been found by General Blood in the Boner country which seems to be very similar to the one over the Malakhand It is a very steep fine-foot, graded packroad, leading over what is known as the old Tonga Pass Long stretches of it are disused and covered with jungle, but the revetments are still in fair condition

A TELEGRAM from Poona states that His Highness Aga Khan was inoculated against plague with Dr. Haffkine's prophylactic on the 12th instant. The inoculation was performed by Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel McConaghy, Civil Surgeon of Poona. Dr. Hafkine has arrived in Calcutta.

THE Island of Amboina which has been visited by an earthquake which destroyed the capital town, is the chief of the Dutch possessions in the Moluccas. The earthquake is nothing extraordinary, for, the Moluccas lie on the line of that great volcanic ridge which sweeps round from Japan and the Philipines to Sumatra, and is supposed by some to be continued thence by way off Arakan into Tippera. Several active volcanoes still exist in the Molluccas, and one of them, Ternate, is the most restless in Malaysia. Another, Api, was the scene of a terrible eruption in 1825, when many thousand lives were lost. It is stated that the scattered and fragmentary state of these islands is due to continuous volcanic eruptions. Amboina will always be remembered as the scene of the infamons massacre of English settlers by the Dutch in 1623. The last great volcanic outburst in this region was at Krakatoa, a small island between Java and Sumatra.

WHAT MAKES THEM CRY?

You have a very sore finger, let us say. It may be a hurt, a boil—or, worse still, that fearfully thing, a felon. Oh, my! oh, my! what a time you have been trying to protect that poor finger. It is all the time getting hit or knocking against something. Simply to keep it out of harm's way worries you more than doing a day's work; and you don't succeed—and wouldn't, even with a dozen policemen to help you. You are scared of a fly threatening to light on it.

That is the principle on which Mrs. Elizabeth Allen couldn't bear the least noise. She had no sore finger, but she had what was still more sensitive—a body full of sore nerves; weak, starved, unstrung nerves. So the prattle of children, the closing of a door, the momentary roar of a waggon in the street, the clatter of dishes in the kitchen, the thousand and one sounds and noises that are in the air constantly—why, the smallest of them struck her like a blow from a club. Noises which are not regarded by a well person are like volleys of musketry to one in this condition. Millions of women know all about it, and plenty of men, too—crowds of them. You recognise them on sight—those who are subject to this affliction. Their lined foreheads, their bright, suspicious eyes, their self-protecting gestures and manner—you've seen them. Perhaps you are one of them yourself. If so, you'd give all your money and mortgage your future to have a stronger set of nerves, wouldn't you? Let's talk about it two minutes, first quoting the lady's letter, which is dated May 11th, 1893, and written from her home, 263, Syston Street, Leicester.

"For many years," she says, "I suffered from indigestion and weakness. After meals I had a great pain in my chest. Every few days I had an attack of sick headache, and had to be constantly lying down on the couch; I strained and heaved a good deal, and spat up a sour nauseous fluid. As time went on I got very weak and nervous, andcould'nt bear the least noise.

"I took all sorts of medicines and consulted doctors, but nothing did me much good. Later on I came to hear of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and after taking it a short time the disease left me, and I was able to relish and digest my food. Owing to the virtue of this remedy I now keep in good health. (Signed) Elizabeth Allen."

And here is Mr. W. Nash, who says: "For fully ten years I suffered from periodic attacks of billousness. At times a severe headache, preceded by excessive drowsiness; at other times, vomiting, and retching for a whole day; at other times, sleeplessness, pain in the chest, side, and stomach, coated tongue and bad breath—that was the way it acted with me. I grew very melancholy, and was not able to follow my business. I consulted doctors and used tonics, &c., but they only made me worse.

"I had constantly heard of your wonderful remedy, Mother Seigel's Syrup, but didn't believe in it. Then I read in *Wit and Wisdom* of a case like mine that that the Syrup had cared; so I tried it, and the first bottle acted like magic. The pains left me the first week, I repeated my food no more, *and in a month all my ills were gone. Bless Mother Seigel for ever*, I say.—Yours gratefully, (Signed) W. Nash, 331, Goswell Road, E. C., London, October 2nd, 1893."

Now, where is there room enough on paper to sufficiently praise a medicine that will do what this one did for these two good friends of ours? All pain, remember, is nervous pain, and in the above case it was the foul and inflamed stomach which, by stopping digestion, starved the nerves and made them cry out. What won't cry out when it is starved? Babies will, men will, women will, nerves will.

Mother Seigel's medicine set the stomach order and gave the nerves some food. The what? Why, quiet, comfort, strength, rest joyment.

"Bless Mother Seigel," indeed.

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The warrants are in course of preparation, for which purpose the Register of members of the Company will remain closed from the 1st to 8th instant, inclusive, agreeably with the provision contained in clause 40 of the Bank's Articles.

(By order of the Board)
F. D. Stranack
Offg. Secretary & Treasurer.

Head Office, Thumbu Chetty Street,
Madras, 5th January, 1898.

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BY KOKILESWAR BHATTACHARJEE, M. A.

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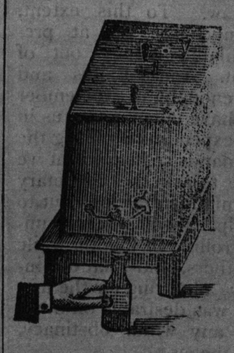

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Professor, Presidency College.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE INVESTITURE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

AN Investiture of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India and the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire was held on Thursday night at the Government House. A huge pandal was erected for the purpose. It was tastefully decorated and brilliantly illuminated with electric lighting. There was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen, and all members of the two Orders present in Calcutta attended.

On His Excellency the Grand Master, who entered the pavilion in the usual of procession, on taking his seat on the "dais", the Secretary of the Orders reported the business before the assembly.

His Excellency then, in accordance with Her Majesty's commands, invested His Highness Maharaja Vyankatesh Raman Sigh Bahadur, of Rewa, and His Excellency General Sir George Stewart White, G.C.B.,G.C.I.E.,V.C., with the Insignia of the First Class; and Charles James Lyall, Esq., C.S.I.,C.I.E.,I.C.S.; William John Cunningham, Esq., C.S.I.,I.C.S.; Major General Montagu Gilbert Gerard, C.B., C.S.I., Indian Staff Corps; Richard Udny, Esq., C.S.I., I. C. S; Colonel Howard Melliss, C. S. I., Indian Staff Corps; and the Hon'ble Mr. Arther Charles Trevor, C.S.I., I.C.S., with the Insignia of the Second Class, of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India; and decorated John Molesworth Macpherson, Esq.; the Hon'ble Mr. Charles Walter Bolton, I. C. S.; Surgeon-Major-General James Cleghorn, M.D.; Colonel Thomas Gracey, Royal Engineers; Colonel James Aloysius Miley, Indian Staff Corps; Henry Babington Smith, Esq.; Robert Steel, Esq.; Sardar Bahadur Kashi Rao Sarve; the Hon'ble Mr. Michael Finucane, I. C. S.; James Austin Bourdillon, Esq., I. C. S.; and Thomas William Holderness, Esq., I.C.S., with the Badge of the Third Class of the same Order.

At the next ceremony His Excellency the Grand Master, in accordance with Her Majesty's commands, invested the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Lachhmeswar Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Darbhanga, and His Highness Maharaja Sir Prabhu Narayan Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Benares, with the Insignia of the First Class; and Rear-Admiral John Hext, C.I.E., Royal Navy, Colonel Thomas Hungerford Holdich, C.B., C.I.E., Royal Engineers, and the Hon'ble Sir Francis William Maclean, Kt., Q.C., with the Insignia of the Second Class of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire; and decorated the Hon'ble M. R. Ry. Panappakkam Ananda Charlu Vidia Vinodha Avargal, Rai Bahadur; Colonel Algernon George Arnold Durand, C.B., Indian Staff Corps; Charles Henry Reynolds, Esq., M.I.E.E.; Lieutenant-Colonel Beauchamp Duff, Indian Staff Corps; the Revd. John Husband, F. R. C. S., E.; Dr. Waldemar Mordecai Haffkine; Augustus Frederick Rudulf Hoernle, Esq., Ph. D.; Rastamji Dhanjibhai Mehta, Esq.; Risaldar-Major Baha-ud-din Khan, Sardar Bahadur; the Hon'ble Sahibzada Muhammad Bakhtiyr Shah; and Duncan James Macpherson, Esq., I. C. S., with the Badge of the Third Class of the same order.

The Secretary then represented that there was no further business before the Assembly.

A procession of the Grand Master and the Members of the two Orders was thereupon formed, and left the Darbar Tent and returned to the Robing Tent in the reverse order to that in which it entered. A Grand March was performed and the Guard of Honour presented arms.

THE ELEVENTH KAYESTH CONFERENCE.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

GAYA, JAN. 5.

NEVER before in the annals of Gaya, was witnessed such a large gathering of Kayesths from all parts of India as on the occasion of the last Kayesth Conference. Delegates began to pour in from all directions from the 22nd December, although the sittings were to commence from the 25th. A very big and spacious *shamiana* which could contain 2,000 seats, was very kindly lent by the nine-anna Tikari Raj. This was used as a pandal. On one side of it was built a *pucca* platform which contained seats for the President, important office-bearers and distinguished visitors. Behind this was placed the portrait of the Queen in a prominent place. On the right side of it, were the seats for the members of the Reception Committee, and on the left, were seats for the members of the Sudder Sabha and officers of Government. The remaining three sides were guarded by *pucca* galleries in two rows, exclusively reserved for ordinary visitors. Immediately below the *dais*, was the Reporters' table, and the remaining space in the middle was occupied with chairs for the delegates. The President's platform had another canopy, well-laced and embroidered all over. The floor was decently covered with *kalins* and carpet. The arrangements for lamps. chandeliers and other lights, quite in keeping with the oriental style, were complete. In short, the whole pandal presented a magnificent sight. Behind the pandal were pitched tents for such of the delegates who came here with their respective officers, *viz.*, the Mutual Pension Family Fund, the Marriage Provident Fund, the Trade and the Sudder Sabha. Tents were also pitched for those of the Reception Committee. A photographic studio was established, and a printing press too. The Intelligence Office, the Post Office, the Granary Office, the Volunteers' Office were also in the same compound. Kayesth Allopathic and Homoeopathic Doctors were there, quite ready at a moment's notice to attend to the delegates requiring their assistance.

The main gate was double-arched and also served the purpose of a *Nobut Khana* (music house.) It was an exquisite piece of workmanship, worthy of the taste of the Secretary, Pandal Department. Flags, banners and pinnacles were not wanting. The two sides of the road, leading from the *Pir-mansoor durgah* to the pandal, were beautifully decorated, and were constantly watered to keep down dust. The Dharma Sabha building was utilized for the services of such of the delegates as were in frequent touch with the movement. Babu Balgobind Lall, treasurer, although not a Kayesth himself, kindly placed his magnificent building at the disposal of the Conference Committee. Babu Kedar Nath, General Secretary, made grand preparations to keep the President as his own guest. Other houses belonging to the Gyawals, were engaged as near the pandal as possible for the delegates.

Volunteers were stationed at the Railway station to receive the delegates, and take them to the Intelligence Office. Another detachment of Volunteers got them registered, and assigned to them their respective lodgings, where a third batch was ready to serve them and to look to their comforts. In short, nothing was wanting on the part of the members of the Reception Committee to make the Conference a grand affair.

Raja Inder Karan Bahadur, son of Raja Murli Manoher Bahadur Nawazwant Asatgaji, Comptroller-General to His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, was the President-elect of the Conference. Although the business of the Conference began on the 25th December, urgent business prevented him from arriving on that date.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The spacious pandal was full before 1 P. M., and the audience numbered about 3,000. Precisely at 2 P. M., the business began; and according to Oriental customs, Brahmanand of Dinapur offered prayers to God in Sanskrit to crown the meeting with success.

Babu Hariharnath, President of the Reception Committee, delivered his address amidst deafening cheers. His speech was full of rich and practical suggestions. He likened the Conference to the dawn of the new day, and thanked the delegates, who in spite of the severity of the Plague regulations, had come to join in the social cause. He said that the Conference was not a *mela*, nor a religious nor a political assembly—it was purely a social movement to do away with bad and pernicious customs that had crept into the Kayesth community. Its aim was to regain its lost position, and not to improve that community. He then reviewed the previous Conferences, naming the places where they were held, and the work done by them. He also met the objections of its detractors by saying that the Conference laid down rules of conduct, but could not enforce them by penal clauses. The Kayesths themselves could see the innumerable advantages, and give them a practical shape by obeying them. He also advised the Kayesths to take to other departments of profession, besides service, such as, Trade, Medicine, Telegraph and Engineering.

Babu Kedarnath, General Secretary, then welcomed the delegates and laid before them long list of deaths and casualties. He especially mentioned the sad and untimely death of Rai Jai Prakash Lall Bahadur of Dumraon, of Rai Gooder Sahai of Bakhra, and of Babu Raghunandan Prasad, of Gaya. He also thanked the non-Kayesths, to wit, the nine-anna Tikari Raj, the Babus of Pandui and Mirgunj, the Mohunt of Bodh Gaya and Qazi Farzand Ahmed, for material help and support. Of all the members of the Reception Committee, he especially thanked Babus Ram Prasad and A. Laksmi Narayan, to whose indefatiguable labour and exertions, he said, was due the present Conference in Gaya. M. Bhikari Lall, Joint Secretary, then read a number of telegrams and letters of sympathy from officials and non-officials, notably amongst whom may be mentioned the letter of the Commissioner of Patna. The Magistrate and the Judge of Gaya had also spoken in very high terms of its objects. Rai Ram Anugraha Narain Singh, Deputy Magistrate of Patna, and others were also referred to.

Babu Hariharnath then asked the delegates to elect their President.

On the motion of Babu Buldeo Prasad, of Bareilly, seconded by Babu Gajadhar Prasad, of Patna, Babu Narain Prasad, M. A., L. L. B., vakil of Agra, was selected to act as President in the absence of Raja InderKaran of Hyderabad.

The President delivered a short address, mostly meeting the objections of its critics and explaining the necessity of strengthening the Sudder Sabha which is the executive body of the Conference and which keeps alive all the year round what the Conference does for three days in the year.

The sitting was adjourned till 1 P. M. next day. A representative Subjects Committee was then formed. A telegram was received from the Private Secretary to the President-elect, intimating the Raja's arrival at Gaya by 11-30 train on the 26th December.

The Temperance Branch held its sitting in the Conference pavilion. Babu Ram Prasad offered prayers to God and Babu Baldeo Prasad, of Bareilly, gave a masterly and soul-stirring speech in well-chosen words and eloquent style on the evil effects of wine. He attributed to it all the poverty, degradation and misfortunes of the Kayesth community. In short, his speech was very much appreciated by the audience who listened to it with wrapt attention, although it was late at night.

At 9 P.M. sat the Subjects Committee, and they settled the list of business for the next day till 12 P. M.

ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF COURT BY A HIGH COURT PLEADER.

IN the matter of the rule obtained by Babu Sarat Chunder Roy Chowdhury, a pleader of the High Court, calling upon the District Magistrate of Rajshahye to show cause why the proceeding of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Nattore, calling upon the petitioner to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under sections 228 and 186, I. P. C., and why proceedings should not be taken against him under section 13 of the Legal Practitioners Act, their Lordships Justices Hill and Stevens Wednesday on elivered the followin jugdgment:

This is a rule, calling upon the Magistrate of the District to show cause why certain proceeding instituted by the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Nattore should not be set aside upon the ground stated in the rule. The proceeding in question was drawn up by the Sub-divisional Magistrate on the 16th October against the petitioner who is a vakil of this Court. It seems that the petitioner was retained about the 29th September last for the purpose of defending one Arman Sircar against whom an enquiry was proceeding before the Sub-divisional Magistrate in relation to the offences of dacoity and murder, or, to be more accurate, against whom a complaint had been made, of which the Sub-divisional officer was taking cognizance. On the 29th of September the petitioner presented a petition to the Sub-divisional Magistrate, asking for the postponement of the enquiry in order to enable his client to apply to this court for the transfer of the enquiry to some other Magistrate. This petition appears to have been presented before the prosecution had entered its appearance in the case before the Sub-divisional Magistrate. The Sub-divisional Magistrate passed no definite or conclusive order upon it, but expressed his doubt as to whether the provisions of section 526A, Cr. P. C., were applicable at that stage of the enquiry, but as the court was about to close for the DurgaPujah holidays and would not re-open until the 10th October following, he pointed out that under the circumstances the enquiry need not be proceeded with and may be postponed. In the interval a consultation seems to have taken place between the petitioner and his counsel, with the result that it was determined that this Court should be moved, as soon as it resumed its sittings after the Durga Puja holidays, for the transfer of the proceeding in which Arman Sircar was concerned, as well as all the other cases, more or less allied to it, which were then pending before the Sub divisional Magistrate, to some other court; and in consequence of this as soon as the Sub-divisional Magistrate resumed the enquiry on the 12th October, the petitioner put in an application for the postponement of his case for three days, in order to enable his counsel in this Court to move for the transfer. In this application he pointed out that no final order had been passed by the Sub-divisional Magistrate upon the application on the 29th September. This second application for postponement was refused by the Sub-divisional Magistrate. The grounds stated by the Sub-divisional Magistrate for his rejection being that he had already, in passing order on the previous application, said it was doubtful whether the provisions of section 526A were applicable to the case. Later on the same day, the petitioner presented a further application to the Sub-divisional Magistrate for the postponement of the case during the course of the day in consequence of his having received a telegram from the Government Solicitor, Mr. Eddis, informing him that counsel was then ready to move this Court in the matter of the transfer, but that as the Court had not sat, as was expected, on the 12th, he was unable to apply; and that the telegram was sent with the permission of Mr. Justice Bannerjee, who was then sitting as one of the Vacation Judges. This application was also refused, the Sub-divisional Magistrate expressing his regret for not being able to accede to its terms. On the same day a further petition was put in by the petitioner in relation to a different matter. He asserts that when the complainant and certain other witnesses on behalf of the prosecution were under examination, the Sub-divisional Magistrate did not record their statements *in extenso* but recorded merely the substance of what each witness stated, and being apprehensive that it might be to the disadvantage of his client by reason of the statements of the witnesses not being recorded in full, he, at the first instance, requested the Sub-divisional Magistrate to record them in full; and afterwards he put in the petition just referred to, making the same request, in a more formal manner, to the Sub-divisional Magistrate, and it is in relation to these petitions that the proceeding of the 16th October has been drawn up by the Sub-divisional Magistrate, and by that proceeding he calls upon the petitioner to show cause, in respect of the petitions to which reference has been made, and the arguments addressed to him by the petitioner in support of his petition, why he should not be proceeded under sections 228 and 186, I. P. C., and why proceedings should not be taken against him under section 13 of the Legal Practitioners Act. With respect to the Legal Practitioners Act all that we think it necessary to say is that section 13 of that Act has no application to a Vakil of the High Court, and that the preceedings of the Sub-divisional Magistrate, in so far as it sought to make that section applicable to the petitioner, were *ultra vires* and bad in law.

The question remains whether materials upon which the Sub-divisional Magistrate required the petitioners to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under the sections of the Penal Code, which we have mentioned, are sufficient to justify him in taking the course. In our opinion they were quite inadequate. Dealing, in the first place, with the petitions for postponement, we have no doubt, that the statement of the petitioner, upon which the rule was granted, is correct when he says that he was concerned only in making three applications for the purpose to which he refers, and that the Magistrate was mistaken in supposing that any application for postponement was made by him on the 13th October, and that the petitioner was concerned in the making of it. There can, of course, be no question that the petitioner acted with perfect propriety in making the application on the 29th September, and in supporting to the best of his ability by argument kis application on the terms of section 596A, Cr. P. C., under which the defendant is authorized to do so in the Court of a Magistrate. As to the first application of the 12th October, it would seem that the petitioner did reiterate the argument which he had advanced on the 29th September, but that circumstance may be accounted for by the fact that the Magistrate had passed no final order upon that petition, and the presentation of the petition itself seems to be justified by the circumstance to which we have referred, namely, that it was put in consequence of the advice of the counsel who had been retained for Arman Sircar during the Durga Puja vacation. Turning to the petition itself, so far as its language is concerned, there is nothing which appears to justify the strictures that the Magistrate passed upon it. As to the second petition for postponement for that day, it was presented on fresh material which, whether the Magistrate was of opinion that he could or could not act upon it; we do not think the petitioner could well have refrained, under all the circumstances, from bringing to the notice of the Magistrate. We certainly see no reason for supposing from the mere circumstances of the petition having been made that there was any intention on the part of the petitioner to obstruct the business of the court, or to treat the court otherwise than with the deference due to it. So much then for these petitions of postponement, which have been made the foundation of the charge by the Magistrate in his proceeding of deliberate contempt of Court by reason of the persistent manner in which the petitions were presented in Court, notwithstanding his expressed doubt as to his ability to interfere. In regard to the last petition, presented on the 12th October, if we were of opinion that the Sub-divisional Magistrate was perfectly correct in the view as to the circumstances under which the petition was presented and as to the intention of the petitioner in presenting it, the case would, no doubt, present itself as one of considerable gravity; but on a consideration of the application of the petitioner, of the explanation of the Magistrate, of the petition itself, and of the order passed on that petition by the Sub-divisional Magistrate, we cannot help thinking that the Magistrate betrayed certain inaccuracies and that the reason for which the Sub-divisional Magistrate seems to have taken so serious a view of the terms of this petition, and as to the fact of the presentation, is hardly warranted by all the facts. The Magistrate does not deny that such a conversation as is described in the 20th para. of the petition, did actually take place between him and the petitioner in regard to the manner in which he was recording the evidence of the complainant and the witnesses for the prosecution; but he states both in his proceeding and in his explanation that the petition was put in when the complainant had made only two statements, and before any other witness for the prosecution had been examined. Undoubtedly if this were so his inferrence would be justified that the petition had been prepared before the examination of the witnesses concerned, and if that were so, there could be but one conclusion as to the object with which it was made. But the petitioner asserts in his petition that several witnesses for the prosecution had been examined before he put in the application in question. It is stated in the petition itself that that is so,—the words of the petition, so far as they are material to this question, being "plaintiff and everyone of the witnesses generally say things in the manner of a story, the Court does not write any thing at the time, but afterwards, as far as comes to recollection, or by asking one or two words, the evidence is noted down."

It seems difficult to suppose that the assertion was made which by implication would have been made to the Court before which the evidence of the witnesses was being taken, unless it were in fact true; and then there is the order of the Magistrate upon the petition, in which he states that the allegation that the witnesses were not being properly examined, is false. He goes on, it was wrong to say that the evidence was not being recorded as it was exactly being stated by the witnesses. He himself refers to the evidence not only of the complainant in this order, but also that of other witnesses, and he certainly does not say that the petition is false in respect of the statements it contains as to the witnesses for the prosecution having been examined. There seems to us, therefore, no reason for supposing that the petitioner is incorrect in saying that he made this application after the complainant and certain of the witnesses for the prosecution had been examined; and if that is so, it seems to us to answer sufficiently the suggestion made by the Magistrate that the petition had been preferred before-hand and was put in designedly for the purpose of creating evidence in favour of Arman Sircar with a view to secure a transfer of his case from the Court of the Sub-divisional Magistrate. It may be observed, that at the time, when this petition was presented to the Sub-divisional Magistrate, the application for the transfer of Arman Sircar's case had already been made to the High Court.

Having given the case very full consideration we are of opinion that the grounds put forward by the Sub-divisional Magistrate as the basis of his proceedings of the 16th October, were quite insufficient to warrant such a proceeding, and we accordingly set it aside.

MEXICO'S MARVELLOUS RUINS.

THE following, written by Mr. William Nevin, an American explorer, now in Central America, was recently published in the New York *Herald*, cannot fail to interest some of our numerous readers abroad.

It is one of the remarkable finds in America, which belongs to the new order of things. Still greater discoveries than this will follow, which will prove the existence of a high civilization—ante-dating that of Egypt and India.

CAMP NEAR RUINS, via CHILPANCINGO,
Mexico, Nov. 5, 1897.

I am again in the heart of the wilderness of South-western Mexico, and am encamped beside the ruins of a pre-historic city that had evidently fallen into decay long before Columbus discovered America. Before my eyes stretch away acres upon acres of the remains of this mysterious civilization, and as I look out from my tent door, I see on every hand evidences of the mightiness of this now utterly lost race.

Our camp is near the same neighbourhood that I touched at last year, but where I was not able to remain long, owing to the climate and lack of help. My journey to this wild spot on that occasion was by the merest accident. I was travelling in quest of minerals, when some natives came to my tent one night and showed me a number of wonderful stone idols, war implements and pieces of jewellery, which they said they had found in the ruins of a great, mysterious, unknown and half-buried city that lay crumbling in decay in the unexplored wilderness beyond.

I induced one of the natives to guide me to the spot For several days we travelled through a wild and uninhabited land, that was so unpropitious that I began to doubt the faithfulness of my guide. So wild was the country as we journeyed inward that I was on the point of abandoning the quest, when the native pointed out to me what appeared to be an artificially levelled path, and said that it had once formed a road-way leading up to the ruined city. It was so overgrown with trees and underbrush that it was only by the greatest difficulty we were able to follow, Passing through vast tracts of swampy wilderness and dense tropical forests, we at last came upon the site of the wonderful ruins.

Through vast extents of crumbling remains the guide took me, and on every hand I saw the evidence of a great buried nation. I saw at once that it was a discovery of great archaeological importance, but had not the necessary equipments and assistance to excavate the remains. So I made a careful study of the location and returned to New York for the requirements necessary for a prolonged stay. Equipped with arms, ammunition, tools and provisions, I again set out for the ruins last Septembes.

Our journey was a rough one, but we reached here all right. We had some trouble in finding the old roadway, but finally struck it, and shortly afterward began to encounter the little detached groups of ruins that I had noticed on my previous trip. Presently, as we began to get near the great mass of decaying grandeur that once formed the ancient metropolis itself, I for the second time got a good view of the ruins. They seemed to me even more wonderful than before. It must have been an immense nation, and this city, or district, I should judge, was fully as large as Babylon or Thebes or other famous cities of remote antiquity. Its buildings, save those that were built on the tops of huge pyramids. were of rather low construction, but exceedingly massive.

As we journeyed along through the tangled underbrush, we could see the faint outlines of a great mass of ruins that rose majestically up from the plain some distance ahead of us. This we have since found out to be an immense arch or doorway, and it seems probable that it may at one time have been one of the chief entrances into the city. It is made of great unhewn stones, piled closely together and held in place by a clay substance resembling cement.

A few minutes before the sun finally sank, we reached the first of the crumbling structures, and clambering over great masses of fragments of stone, mounted a little hill and looked out over the remains of the fallen nation. I wish it lay within the power of my pen to give some idea of that wonderful sight. There, all bathed in the red glow of the sinking sun, were miles upon miles of ruins—fragments of shattered columns, portions of temple walls and the last remnants of what had once been shrines and palaces of kings, varied here and there with patches of green bush and tangled underwood.

After viewing the impressive scene for some time, we descended to the ruins, and, selecting a spot beside the crumbling walls of a great temple, pitched our tent. Our equipments and provisions were then moved up and we made our preparations for a long stay. After establishing the camp as comfortably as circumstances would allow, we unloaded the mules, and, wrapping ourselves in our blankets, were soon fast asleep. The next day we began explorations in earnest. We came upon the foundations of huge buildings in a fast decaying state, and that I have no doubt within the next few centuries will have crumbled away altogether, and upon the walls, that had sunk until now only a few feet remained standing above the ground. Many of these measure from forty to one hundred feet square.

We made a general survey of the place and on every hand encountered monuments and walls of the greatest interest. In many places great mounds of decaying stone marked the sites where huge structures had once stood. We finally began excavations upon the site of what appeared to have been a building of great importance. The plan of this structure measures three hundred by two hundred feet. In the centre of it we found a huge altar of solid masonry fifteen feet square by nearly twenty feet high, and in a remarkably good state of preservation. There are many such altars scattered throughout these ruins. They appear to have been used for sacrificial purposes, and some of them are built upon the very apex of huge pyramidal piles, evidently constructed solely for their foundation.

At each corner of the foundations of the building mentioned, we unearthed circular towers six feet in thickness, and most remarkably designed. We endeavoured to take potographs of them, but, owing to the trees and the thick tropical underbrush, it was impossible to show them as they really appeared. In fact, the dense growth in places almost buried the great walls from view. Trees as large around as a man's body, grew straight up beside them and almost right out of the stones themselves. For hundreds of years this unrestrained growth of wild vegetation has been going on, until some portions of the ruined structures are so entwined with vines and weeds that it was only with great difficulty that we could remove them without displacing the stones themselves. In many instances we found the underbrush actually growing out of the walls.

After digging through a thick layer of masonry, we effected an opening and found ourselves in an immense circular chamber filled with dust and fragments of timber. This wood had remained so long sealed up here, that upon contact with the air it became soft as tinder and crumbled as the slightest touch. The chamber also contained a quantity of broken plaster, painted in brilliant red and white, and which had undoubtedly once formed the coating of the inner walls. The pigment appeared to have been of excellent quality. Mixed with this debris were large bowlders, gravel and many parts of broken statues. In the centre of this remarkable building was a long carved altar, and in an adjoining chamber we were astonished to find skeletons and human ones.

We cleaned out the chamber, and on the floor, lying under a mass of crumblings, found large quantities of stone beads, idols, masks, and heads made of diorite. These idols are of various shapes and appearances, but all of them, even the most weird-looking, have the human form. Some of them are fairly well proportioned, while others are of the most hideous conception, with huge heads and abnormally long faces. Others, again, have small bodies and exceedingly large legs, each leg being almost as large as the entire rest of the body. Then, there are still others with small heads, small legs, and great wide bodies, while others, again, do not bear resemblance to any form of beings known of to-day. These idols undoubtedly represent the religious worship of this forgotten people. The masks which we have found, are mostly of stone, and in nearly every case the face bears a stolid expression, with the mouth wide open. They vary in size from that of a man's head down to but a few inches, and all of them seem to have been very carefully made.

TWO REMARKABLE PYRAMIDS.

Some little distance south-east of these ruined buildings, are two wonderful pyramids, one being no less than sixty feet high. Here the ruins are rich in treasure in the shape of personal ornamentations, *terra cotta* seals and various other objects. Here also we found an idol with the most curious markings on the breast—a design of fire, and on the face, a striking expression of pain. A little further on, we excavated in what seemed a particularly inviting spot, and dug up a quantity of bone and shell ornaments, and within a space of twelve inches no less than two dozen finely-formed lance-heads and two small masks. Close to this spot, is a layer of human bones six inches thick and twenty feet in length. The skulls appear perfect, but are so frail that they fell to pieces at the slightest pressure. A similar deposit of bone is visible from a canyon twenty-five feet below. We have also explored a few miles north of what appears to have been the limits of the city itself, and have found a number of structures similar to those in the city proper, but smaller and almost entirely buried.

We are pushing our excavations with all possible despatch, and in a short time hope to be able to find something that will give us a more definite clue to the relationship of this wonderful people to the rest of the human race, and in what period of the remote past they inhabited this continent.—*New Century.*

OBJECTS MOVED WITHOUT CONTACT.

FROM the Supplement to *Cosmos* (Sydney, Australia) of October 20th, we take the following certificate, as demonstrating the existence of a force which, in obedience to the will of the operator, moves ponderable objects without contact:

"We, the undersigned, were this day called at half-past 2 o'clock P. M. by Dr. McCarthy, 223, Elizabeth-street, Hyde Park, Sydney, to witness the closing of a door without bodily contact, and in the full daylight, by the agency of what is called psychic force. In front of the door of his study, he placed a female servant of his, by name Maggie Power, who held her hands within a few inches of the door, the doctor also holding his hands similarly. A cord was attached by one end to the door handle, the door being party open; the other end of the cord was attached to a fixed spring-weighing ouncel, with a self-registering index, the ouncel being graduated up to a 25lb. limit. By means of a pin stuck into the floor against the door margin, the cord was made taut to the extent of registering 1 lb. on the index. The other doors and also the windows were closed, and other precautions taken to prevent the possibility of draught, even though the day was particularly calm. The atmosphere in the room was consequently perfectly still. One of us (Mr. Burke) was placed in front of the door edge, so as to watch the hands, and also to see that nobody pulled from the outside. Another (Mr. Henry) watched the hands as well as the index. Another (Mr. Roberts) watched particularly the feet. The door was previously and carefully examined by all of us, and found to be an ordinary door without any mechanical or other contrivance attached. After a few moments the door shook or vibrated, and the doctor, saying he believed the power was not yet sufficient, caught hold of the servant's hand, standing back with her fully a yard from the door, when suddenly, quite unexpectedly and with great force, it closed, pulling the register to its utmost limit. This was repeated three times over, each time the index having been pulled to its limit, 25lb.

T. SHEKELTON HENRY, A. R. I. B. A.,
London.
FRANCIS BURKE, 38, Elizabeth-street,
Sydney.
HUGH E. ROBERTS, Dental Surgeon,
169, Harris-street, Sydney.

July 6, 1893."

"I hereby further certify that I have this day professionally examined the door lining, hinges, &c., of Dr. McCarthy's study, and also examined and superintended the fixing of the registering balance, and am satisfied that there were no concealed springs or any other mechanical appliances in the room, and that the above tests were properly carried out.

T. Shekelton Henry, Mem Royal Inst.
British Architects, London.

38, Elizabeth-street, Sydney, July 6, 1894."

Dr. McCarthy adds the following, in view of the probable utility of this force:

"Given," he says, "a force that can register the enormous pressure of 36 lbs. on a massive door; given also that it is correlative with heat, magnetism, electricity, &c., and transmutable like these; that it is permeable or penetrating; that probably it presides over certain phases of hypnotism, and above all, that it is projected from the human organism, and we at once must admit the possibility, nay, almost certainty, of its being utilised either as a force-giver or restorer, or of being somehow applied to the relief of bodily suffering."

The Doctor has already performed several cures by this force.

ON New Year's day the treasurer of the Bombay Theosophical Society found in the charity-box fixed in the Lodge premises a currency note of Rs. 500 dropped by some unknown person, with a chit attached to it, saying that the sum might be spent either in the general Lodge expenses, or to form the nucleus of a building fund.

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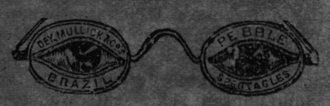

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