

আমৰ বিপদেৱ নিমিত্ত গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ চেষ্টা।

গত ডিসেম্বৰ মাসে লড' নথক্রক আগ্ৰা হইতে তখন কলিকাতায় আসেন, তখন ভাগলপুরেৱ কৰিশনাৰ তাছাকে জ্ঞাত কৰান যে ভাগলপুরে একপ অনেক গুলি মধ্যবৰ্তী সোক আছে যে তাছাদেৱ চুৰ্ভিক্ষ উপস্থিত কি শসা হৰ্ষ্যলা হইলে বিশেষ কষ্ট হইবে। ইহারা মুটিৱা মুজুৱেৱ ন্যায় খাটিতে পাৰিবে না। বৰং ইহারা অনাহাৰে মৱিয়া যাইবে ভুলুলিদিগেৱ সঙ্গে কাজ কৰতে স্বীকাৰ কৰিবে না, সুতৰাং গবণ্মেণ্ট রাস্তা, রেলওয়ে প্ৰত্তি যে সকল চুৰ্ভিক্ষ নিৰাবক উপায় অবলম্বন কৰিয়াছেন তাহা দ্বাৰা তাহাৰা কোন সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হইবে না। লড' নথক্রক ইহার উন্তৰে ইহাই বলেন যে, এই সকল দৱিদ্ৰ মধ্যবৰ্তী প্ৰজা যে সকল জমিদাৰেৱ জমিদাৰীতে বাস কৰে, সেই সকল জমিদাৰেৱ দিগেৱ কৰ্তব্য যে তাছাৰা তাছাদিগকে সাহায্য কৰেন। যে সকল জমিদাৰদেৱ তত অৰ্থ সংগতি নাই তাছাৰ গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ নিকট হইতে টাকা কজ্জ' কৰিয়া লইতে পাৱেন এবং উহা প্ৰজাদিগকে ধাৰ দিয়া বথেক উপকাৰ কৰিতে পাৱেন। তিনি আৱে বলেন যে গবণ্মেণ্ট সাক্ষাৎভাৱে প্ৰজাকে তকাবি প্ৰদান কৰিতে পাৱেন না। জমিদাৰ, গবণ্মেণ্ট ও প্ৰজাৰ মধ্য স্থলে সুতৰাং জমিদাৰেৱ দ্বাৰা প্ৰজাদিগকে তকাবি দেওয়া যে কৃপ সহজ ও স্বীকৃত একপ গবণ্মেণ্ট দ্বাৰা হইতে পাৱেন। বিশেষতঃ জমিদাৰেৱ যদি গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ নিকট দায়ী থাকেন তবে গবণ্মেণ্ট যে গতিকে হয় তাছাদিগেৱ নিকট হইতে টাকা আদায় কৰিয়া লইতে পাৰিবেন, কিন্তু সাক্ষাৎভাৱে প্ৰজাকে তকাবি দিলে হয় ত গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ অনেক টাকা অনাদায়ী হৰ্ষ্যা গড়িয়া থাকিতে পাৱে। কিন্তু গবণ্মেণ্ট এই সুবিধা খুঁজিতে গিয়া যদি জমিদাৰ ও প্ৰজাকে আৱ একটি অমুখকৰ সহজে আবন্ধ কৰেন তাহা কোন ক্ষমেই বাঞ্ছনীয় নহে। যদি পুৰোৱে ন্যায় জমিদাৰে ও প্ৰজাৰ পিতা পুত্ৰ সমন্ব থাকিত তাহা হইলে গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ আৱ এই বিষয়ে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰিবাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হইত না, জমিদাৰেৱ আপনা হইতেই প্ৰজাদিগকে রক্ষা কৰিত ও আপনাৰ পৰিবাৰেৱ ন্যায় তাছাদিগকে ভৱণ পোৰণ কৰিত, কিন্তু ইংলিশ গবণ্মেণ্ট সেই সমন্ব ভাস্তৱা দিয়াছেন, জটিল ও অনিষ্টকৰ আইন সকল দ্বাৰা জমিদাৰ ও প্ৰজায় একশণ অহিনকুলতা ভাব হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে। একশণ আৰু আৱ একটি আইন দ্বাৰা প্ৰজা ও জমিদাৰকে খাঁতক ও মহাজনেৱ সমন্ব স্থৰে আবন্ধ কৰিলে ইহাদিগেৱ পৰম্পৰে বিবাদ বাধিবাৰ আৱ একটি পথ প্ৰস্তুত কৰা হইবে। লড' নথক্রকেৱ নিকট আমাদেৱ এই নিবেদন যে তিনি যেন প্ৰজাদিগকে আমৰ বিপদ হইতে বৰ্কা কৰিতে গিয়া তাছাদিগকে আৱ একটি স্থায়ী বিপদে নিঃক্ষেপ না কৰেন।

অতঃপৰ গবণ্মেণ্ট জমিদাৰদিগকে কৰ্তব্য কৰ্ম বুৰাইয়া দিতে যেকপ বাস্ত হইয়াছেন, সেই কৃপ নিজেৰ বৰ্তব্য কৰ্মেৰ উপৰ বেন তাছাদেৱ দৃষ্টি থাঁকে। সমুখে সমুহ বিপদ দেখিয়াও গবণ্মেণ্ট এখন পৰ্যন্ত প্ৰজাদিগকে শোৱণ কৰিতে হচ্ছিতেছেন না। এখন অনেক স্থলে পথ-কৰ আদায়েৱ ধূম লাগিয়াছে। সে বিস হগলী জেলাৰ লোকেৱা 'ৰোড-সেম স্থগিত রাখিবাৰ জন্য দৰখাস্ত কৰিল কিন্তু তাহা প্ৰাপ্ত হইল না। সতা, গবণ্মেণ্ট আদেশ দিয়াছেন যে, যে সকল স্থানে চুৰ্ভিক্ষ হইবাৰ সন্তোষন। দেখানে কমিসনৰ গুৰুত্বে কৰিলে রোড-সেম আদায় আপাততঃ স্থগিত রাখিতে পাৱেন। কিন্তু এ আদেশটি কেতাবেই লিখিত আছে, কাজে তাহীৰ কিছুই হইতেছে ন।

আমৰ শুমিলাম স্থানে রোড-বেমেৱ নিমিত্ত

প্ৰজাৰ ব্যতিব্যন্ত হইয়া পাইয়াছে। ত হাৰা এ দিকে ছাৰ্ভিক্ষেৰ ভাৰনাৰ অস্তি, তাছাতে আবাৰ সেম কালেক্টৰেৱ অত চাৰ। অন্তৰ গবণ্মেণ্ট পাইচ বন্ধ কৰিতেছেন না। এ দিকে জমিদাৰদিগকে প্ৰজাৰ নিকট খাজনা না লাভতে বলা হইতেছে, ও দিকে আবাৰ তাছাদেৱ লাটেৱ খাজনা স্থগিত কৰা হইতেছে না, গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ বে এ কিৱেন সাধুত তাহা আমৰা বুৰাতে পাৰিব। প্ৰজাৰ খাজনা না দিলে জমিদাৰেৱ গবণ্মেণ্টকে কৰ দিবাৰ সাধা নাই। গবণ্মেণ্ট জমিদাৰদিগকে যত ধৰীই বিবেচনা কৰুন, কিন্তু প্ৰকৃত প্ৰকাৰে প্ৰজাৰ এক কিস্তি খাজনাৰ বন্ধ কৰিলে তাহাৰ বিষয় সন্তুষ্টিপূৰ্ণ হয়। জমিদাৰদেৱ অনেকেৱই পুৰোৱে ন্যায় ধন নাই, ঈশ্বৰ্য্য নাই, প্ৰতুত ইহাদেৱ অনেকে খণ্টণ্ট ও কষ্টে স্থলে আপনাদেৱ পদ মৰ্যাদাৰ কৰিয়া থাকেন। গবণ্মেণ্ট জমিদাৰদিগকে ধৰণাবী বলয়া যদি তাছাদিগকে খাজনা আদায় বন্ধ কৰিতে উপদেশ দেন, ক'বে গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ সৰ্বাগ্ৰেই দৃষ্টিভূত দেখান কৰ্তব্য কেন না সবণ্মেণ্ট সৰ্বাপেক্ষা ধৰী। গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ এক কিস্তি কি তুই কিস্তি খাজনা যহুকুপ কৰিলে তত অহিমে যাইব না, কাৰুণ রাজকোৱে বিস্তু টাকা সংজুত আছে এবং তাহাৰ কিয়দংশ খৱচ কৰিলে অনাদায়ে চলিতে পাৱে। কোন মুকু বিগ্ৰহ উপস্থিত হইলে গবণ্মেণ্ট মজুত টাকা খৱচ কৰিতে কোন আপত্তি কৰেন না, সেখানে ছাৰ্ভিক্ষেৰ ন্যায় তয়ানক বিপদ উপস্থিত হইলে বেন উহাতে আপত্তি কৰিবেন তাহা আমৰা বুৰাতে পাৰিব। রাজকোৱেৱ সংক্ষিত ধনৰাশি যদি এই সময় কাৰ্য্যে লাগে তবে আৱ কোন সহয় লাগিবে।

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চুৰ্ভিক্ষ সহজে গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ বিপোট।

আৱ চুই মাস পৱেই স্পষ্ট বুৰা যাইবে যে, দেশে প্ৰকৃত চুৰ্ভিক্ষ হইবে কিনা। কিন্তু গবণ্মেণ্ট এই বিষয়ে যে সকল রিপোট সংগ্ৰহ কৰিতেছেন তাহা দেখিলে আশক্ষিত চুৰ্ভিক্ষ সহজে একটি বিৱৰণ প্ৰকাশ কৰিতেছিলেন। একশণ উহাতে প্ৰতি পক্ষে প্ৰকাশিত হইতেছে। কিন্তু উহাতে যে সমুদায় ঘটনা সন্ধিবেশিত হয় তাহা এত অসংলগ্ন ও অমপূৰ্ব বলিয়া বোধ হয় যে তাহাতে সহস্রা আস্থা হয় না। আবাৰ রিপোটে আমৰা শস্যেৱ অবস্থা সহজে যে সকল কথা পাঠ কৰি তাহা গোপন অনুসন্ধান কৰিয়া দেখিলে অনেক সময় ঠিক বলিয়া বোধ হয় না। ফল গবণ্মেণ্টেৱ রিপোটেৱ উপৰ যে বিৰাম কৰা যায় না তাহাৰ একটি বিশেষ কাৰণ আছে। জেলাৰ কালেক্টৰ বটে বেঙ্গাল গবণ্মেণ্টকে সমুদায় সংবাদ প্ৰেৰণ কৰেন, কিন্তু মাজিষ্ট্ৰেট স্বয়ং এই সংবাদ সংগ্ৰহ কৰেন না, তাছাকে পুলিষেৱ হেড কনেক্টবল কি চৰ্কিদাৰেৱ কথাৰ উপৰ নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিতে হৈয়, আশক্ষিত চুৰ্ভিক্ষ সহজে ঠিক গণনা কৰিতে হইলে আমাদেৱ প্ৰথমে এই কৱেকটি বিষয় দেখিতে হৈবে, অৰ্থাৎ কত জমিতে শস্য বপিত হৈয়, এই জমিৰ অবস্থা কিম্বা, কি জমিতে কত শস্য উৎপন্ন হয়, প্ৰতি বিষাতে গড়ে কি পৰিমাণ শস্য জমো, বিলান জমি কত, উচ্চ জমি কত ও মাঝাৰী গোছেৱ জমি

অম্বত বাজারপত্রিকা।

ADVERTISEMENT.

NATIONAL THEATRE.

Saturday, the 24th Jan. 1874

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL

বীর-রসায়ক নাটক

হেমলতা।

To conclude with

A humorous Representation of the
NEW MUNICIPAL MARKET.

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

CALCUTTA—THURSDAY, the 22nd Jan. 1874

If the Muffosil Associations have any desire to make any representations to Government regarding the Criminal Procedure Code they ought to lose no time, for the matter has been already referred to the Select Committee. We hope they will not let slip such an opportunity. Such an opportunity may not again come for years.

It has been found that cotton-mills may do very well in India and can successfully compete with those in Manchester. His Highness the Holkar first pointed out the path, and while at Poona the Prince praised the people for their endeavours to revive our manufactures. Cotton-mills have sprung up in various parts of the country, in Indore, Bombay, Surat and Calcutta. This is a real progress in the right direction. But here again the interests of the people clash with those of their English masters. Manchester, Lancashire and Liverpool have ruined our manufactures and the whole weaving caste of India has been thrown out of employ. The Englishman publishes an abstract of articles subject to duty, from which it appears that the normal rate of duty is 7½ per cent. But there are some exceptions such as cotton twist, cotton and woollen piece goods, linen, canvas and naval stores, floor-cloths, iron and railway materials. All these articles represent powerful English interests, and the result is that they come in at a lower rate. Now that these mills have been established in different parts of the Empire, Manchester and Lancashire demand a further lowering of the rates. We are rather anxious to see what effect this clamour of the selfish British merchants has upon Lord Northbrook.

Mr. Hogg was prevented by the Justices from expending any more money for the market as the law did not allow it. Upon this Mr. Hogg submitted a letter to the members of the special committee requesting them not to mind the law as a new law will be enacted as soon they will request the Government to do so. He requested the members therefore to take the responsibility upon their shoulders of expending more money as they need not fear the consequences. But he goes further and says:

However, if the Committee is of a different opinion I am prepared to hold myself personally responsible for all cash expenditure until the Justices have time calmly to consider the matter, provided the Committee agrees to support me, and will adjust matters with the butchers, to accomplish which no money is required.

We believe if Mr. Hogg is prepared to hold himself personally responsible for the sums thus expended he may as well expend them without the sanction of the members of the special committee. The confidence of our Chairman proves these two things that he is the absolute lord of Calcutta and that he knows it. It does not speak well of the citizens of Calcutta.

SIR GEORGE'S SPEECH—The speech of Sir George Campbell delivered at the Social Science Association has a double interest comes as it from the Governor of a province and a man of genius and new ideas. But new ideas or sentiments we do not find in the address because as Sir George says he had no time to conceive, mature or develop them. He was of opinion that in no country social freedom was enjoyed in a or a more complete degree, and therefore

India was the most fitted of all countries where social science could be cultivated with the greatest success. We do not precisely understand what does Sir George mean by our enjoying social freedom in this country in a greater degree, but we admit his conclusion. India is eminently fitted for the cultivation of the science of social economy. India is a field for all sorts of experiments. The British nation is experimenting upon the science of Government here in this country as young Surgeons first learn their art by practising upon dead bodies. If any new measure fails there is none here to cry down the Government or rise in rebellion, and if it succeeds it can be immediately transplanted in England. Thus at present India is a field for political experiments because it is a conquered country. But it is fitted by nature to be a field for experiments in social philosophy. India, or a great portion of India, was peopled by a dwarfish and a black race of barbarous people worshipping their wood gods. Then came the tall and fair Aryans who gradually mingled their blood with the inferior race. Then came the *datyas*, *danabs* and *ashoors* who were supplanted by the Bramhins but were at last converted by them. Then came Buddhism with its levelling effect and the bloods of all these races were intermingled. The Javans probably the Greeks followed and they merged amongst the Buddhists, so at the present day a trace of them cannot be discovered. The Greeks were followed by the Mahamudans who also established themselves in the country, influenced the Hindoos and were influenced by the Hindoos in return and the mixture of the two races would have been most thorough sooner or later had not the English come and kept by their policy the line of demarcation intact. Thus myriads of men of different races with different religions, languages, customs, manners and ideas have poured into this country from different parts of the world in successive periods and the result is a heterogeneous mass presenting innumerable phases of human society. Here in this country you will find the white, the yellow and the black; the tall and the short; the cannibal and the ascetic; the Bramhin and the Khund. Here in this country you will find the celibate, the monogamous, the polygamous, the polyandrous and the free lovers. Here you will find the institution of caste with its advantages and disadvantages and the effect of such an institution upon human society. In short, laws regarding society in every conceivable form are in force in this country from a long time amongst the different tribes. So every conceivable experiment regarding social science has been made and now is the time for philosophers to collect facts and deduce principles. The social science association has therefore a grand work before it, and it can make by comparatively slight efforts, great discoveries benefiting humanity. But before the members move in the matter they ought to possess a complete, elaborate and comprehensive census of the country, for upon an accurate and comprehensive census alone can the science of social economy be founded.

Sir George complimented the Bengalies and said that they have received a highly intellectual education and are eminently fitted to take part in the cultivation of social science. He called the Bengalies who have received the highest culture the Scotchmen of the East. What in common the Scotch have with the Bengalies we do not know, neither do we think that the Bengalies will take it as a compliment if they are compared with the Scotch. The Scotch are grave, unsocial, stern, fierce, blood-thirsty, hardy and foolish and the Bengalies light, social, easy, timid, weak and intelligent. There is only one point of agreement, and even there we cannot meet in one common ground. The Scotch made over the destiny of their country to the English and we made over the destiny of our country to the same nation, but they gained immense advantages by that act, we wish our gain were as immense. Sir George entertained a hope that the Social Science Association may turn, if the members were active, into a Social House of Parliament and our grand children may see the change. We could also entertain the same hopes if the Association were not conducted by foreigners and renegades we mean by those who have no influence in society. But mark one thing.

Sir George entertains the hope that we shall have a Social Parliament as for a Political Parliament that is out of the question. His Honor says that it is impossible that we should have political freedom in this country. So Lord Mayo said that the British Government shall endure for ever in India, and so philanthropists no sooner they touch India than abandon the politics of the country to take care of itself and devote themselves heart and soul for our social progress. With a heart overflowing with love for us, English philanthropists come to help and benefit us; they see our political chain and affect not to see it, and fail to teach us how to dress and dine and then abuse us for our perversity. Thus far thou shalt go but no further. You must dress decently and thousands of Englishmen will come with their advice gratis how to dress, and to discover what dress is best fitted for us. Talk of the liberty of females and thousands of Europeans will most graciously offer themselves to dance with your wives and daughters. Denounce caste and hundred thousand Englishmen will cheer you on, and 50 thousands will undertake to give speeches describing the evil effects of that barbarous institution, how it demoralises and enslaves a nation, but talk to these philanthropists of your political slavery and they are in a body dumb. Their philanthropy will instantly evaporate from their heart and they will forsake you. Thus far thou shalt go and no further. What is the use at all of a social Parliament if we have no political Parliament of our own? If you wish, these philanthropists will gild your cage, if you wish they may even go the length of feeding you with cream, but you must never think of coming out your cage. You can sing, you can play, you can cry and you can breed while in the cage, but you can't expect to come out of it. If you wish to fly, fly with your heart's content as far as the cage allows you. But God has implanted in the human breast desires and aspirations which it is impossible to stifle. While the master thinks of the cream with which he feeds his creatures, the encaged creatures never offer a thought to the cream, but is always trying to break thro' the cage. To those Englishmen who have any love to offer to the people of India we request to leave us alone in our social matters. We can manage our social matters without their help, let them only place themselves in our position and think that if it is not mockery to talk to us of the liberty of females when they have usurped the liberty of the males? Give us our political liberty and keep us under your protection and then God will bless you, but don't talk of our caste system, and our Zemana system while you do not allow us any hand in the administration of our own country.

SEAL vs HOGG—Indigo planters are not naturally bad men but the system under which the cultivation was carried on made them bad. Such was the opinion of an experienced planter who gave his evidence before Government long ago. Either the planter must give up the cultivation or his ideas of honor, and in such a case the love of self generally prevails and for self every other consideration is forgotten. We have now to see what effect the Calcutta municipal market establishment has upon the Chairman of the Justices. Never was a man in a more awkward position. The wise men who proposed and carried out the proposal of a municipal market forgot one great fact. Markets do not spring up spontaneously whenever the buildings and sheds necessary for them are constructed. Markets must be established, that is, you must make efforts to secure the attendance of purchasers as well as purveyors. Simply the attendance of purchasers may not do and simply the attendance of purveyors may not do. How they manage things in other countries we do not know, but in this country we establish markets by a very simple process. We collect *lattials* and plunder the rival market. We station sentinels on the way to the rival market and force the men to the new. In the beginning we do not tax the purveyors and we purchase all the articles that remain unsold and we undersell articles to secure the custom of the public and then indemnify the purveyors. This is the way we establish markets in this country and perhaps this is the only way to establish markets.

how far is Mr. Hogg prepared to go in this matter? Least he can, for he has enough men; men he can drag, for physical force he has with him; he can fully indemnify the purveyors, for he has the purse of the tax-payers at his disposal; the question is, whether he is prepared as a gentleman, as the Mayor and Police Commissioner of Calcutta to apply all these divers forces that he has at his command. So you see in what an awful fix he is, if he is not prepared to go to such lengths he must give up the idea of breaking the Dhurmota market and founding a new one upon its ruins. As rate-payers we ought to have every sympathy with the Chairman. The municipal market has cost us 6 lacs or an additional burden per cent, and if the market does not succeed Mr. Hogg says that an additional burden of 1½ per cent will be necessary for the debt. If the market succeeds it will be a source of gain to the Municipality and lighten the burden of the taxpayers, and viewing from this stand point the Chairman ought to be supported by all rate-payers. But wonder of wonders the rate-payers do not sympathise with him but with the proprietor of the rival market. Here is the difficulty no 2. His third and greatest difficulty is that the Justices themselves are thwarting him in every possible way. The Justices first sanctioned an additional grant of 50,000 Rs for market purposes, but now they learn that they are bound hand and foot by law and cannot expend a cowrie above the 6 lacs first sanctioned by law. The grant of 50,000 Rs has been therefore placed in abeyance. He had proposed for a further loan of 20,000. Of course that was negatived too. What was Mr. Hogg to do under the circumstances? And as if to verify the adage that misfortunes never come singly, Babu Hera Lal Seal has sued him as private individual and not as Chairman in the Civil Court for damages laid at a lac of Rupees, so that he will have no means to defend himself by the cost of the rate-payers. But all these difficulties he has brought upon himself by his own blunders. The British Indian Government was founded by a company of traders, and since then Government has never been able to free itself from its trading proclivities. Municipalities in India, except the one recently established in Scampore are in fact Government institutions, and as such they should never embark on speculations. But as the Government has a flourishing printing office of its own, several Municipalities have their own printing establishments where they not only print their own works but secure by force of authority the works of other Municipalities which have no presses of their own. Now this Municipal market is a pure speculation, and for a governing body to embark on a speculation in competition with private individuals is either to fail or to abuse the power they possess. Private individuals can manage their own business better at a much smaller cost than any governing body whose direct interest is not touched. If the Municipal market fails it will not interfere with the private interests of Mr. Hogg, but Babu Hera Lal Seal has great interests at stake. Then Mr. Hogg and his Justices call themselves guardians of our interests, we mean the interests of the rate payers. We beg their pardon. Neither Mr. Hogg nor the Justices are the custodians of our interests. We never gave them that authority, we never elected them our guardians. The Government appointed them, never asked our consent when appointing them, and now these so called guardians come to claim our sympathy, speak in our name, and guard our money and spend it according to their sweet pleasure. What have the rate payers to do with the Municipal market? It is purely Mr. Hogg's business. Surely the money was taken from them for the purpose, and more will be taken if the market fails, but the people could not and cannot now help it. A pretty large sum was squandered away for the Municipal tramway by those guardians of the rate-payers' interests, and what could the rate-payers do? If the Municipality were elective then the people would have been responsible for the blunders of the Justices and would have gone along with the Chairman and the members. But then the proposal of a Municipal market would have never been carried out. As we said the Municipal market is purely Mr.

Hogg's business, the public never sanctioned the proposal of a Municipal market and will never sanction the mean practice of enticing away purveyors by bribes and by the so-called persuasion of the Police. Mark again the spirit in which he enters into the business. He tells to the Justices in their meeting of the 15th instant and to Babu Heera Lal Seal who was present that Hera Lal is very proud of his riches but he was richer. He did not care for Heera Lal; if Heera Lal wishes to fight let him fight, he was prepared to fight out the battle and see who wins. He will establish the market at whatever cost, at whatever risk he will establish it, even if it be necessary to drive Heera Lal out of the field. Now these childish vaunting do not enhance one's respect and is not calculated to secure sympathy of the public. It is an easy task to spend others money, and Mr. Hogg has that power. He should have not vaunted of that power. If Mr. Hogg is such a hero, let him throw off his feathers with which he has been decked by Government and then fight out the battle himself. But being head of the police, of the Corporation, it was not, to say the least, in good taste to give vent to such expressions. Add to this the rumours that his mamyonds, no doubt without his authority, have been abusing their powers and being guardians of the peace breaking it to break the rival market. All these circumstances have made the people forget their 6 lacs of money. It is neither their money now. As soon as the money leaves their hand their connection with the money ceases and they cease to take any interest in it. Their interest will be served if the market succeeds, but a higher interest will be served if it fails. If Babu Heera Lal Seal wins, the doom of despotism is sealed. The constitution of our Municipality will be thoroughly remodelled, the example will impart a salutary lesson to other Municipalities and the future generation, and the Justices and Chairman will be more careful of their trust in future. If these boons can be secured at a cost of 6 lacs we shall make a cheap bargain.

OUR RICE MERCHANTS—The first consciousness of an impending famine is past. The first excitement has naturally abated. The overwhelming anxiety attending the first launching into a troublesome affair does, as a matter of course, give way to a slackness of emotion as we get on longer and longer in it. That is the case with our apprehensions regarding the impending famine. That is the case, we believe, with the anxiety of Government also. Many may deceive themselves that the comparative coolness of their mind is the result of a discovery of a more hopeful state of things. But it is not actually so. No hopeful circumstances have been to our knowledge discovered since the moment of greatest alarm. Of course it is now as uncertain as it was then, as to what the extent of the impending calamity may be. But that great suffering awaits the country is as certain now as it ever was. Nay more, circumstances are daily more and more confirming the fear. When a person is first seized with a terrible disease, the friends of the patient are anxious beyond bounds. They cannot and should not continue in the same extreme height of uneasiness. But the thing to be feared is that in the chronic form they may get unconsciously too careless so that the patient may through neglect come to the verge of death while they are lulling themselves in ease and security. True, we have not as yet observed such extreme coldness to the threatening scarcity as would fully warrant the above remarks. But there will yet be two or three months before great suffering may prevail, so we should see that we do not lull ourselves into sleep in the meantime.

As regards the conduct of Government, Sir George Campbell has not, we believe, abated at all in his anxiety and concern. Of course official manifesto must have an end. And we do not wish to see such manifesto going on at heels. Much of what the Govt. can say it has already said. We as well as the country generally have one point of difference with the Government and that is the question of stopping the export of rice. We cannot help repeatedly insisting on Government to stop exportation of food grains.

Does our good Governor General decline to stop exportation fearing lest it should entail injustice on any one? On whom will it entail injustice? On the English merchants? They would buy rice at any price. If they are not allowed to buy it here, they will buy it elsewhere or they will have the money to use as they like. Will it cause injustice to the English people? We already pointed out in a preceding number that the people of England always enjoy an artificial advantage over the people of India in respect

of internal trade. Price which is the natural adjuster of balance of trade is kept artificially low in India owing to the export of a large sum of money to England in the shape of salaries, annuities &c, &c. So India has annually to send to England large quantities of export for which, on account of the above circumstances she gets no return. The late Mr. John Stuart Mill has clearly pointed out this economic disadvantage of a conquered nation in his treatise on political Economy. It is in fact obvious to reason. And if England ever enjoys such an artificial advantage over India with what grace can she or any one for her plead that it will be an injustice to her if in anticipation of a dire calamity she be made to forego a part of the advantage she has been enjoying?

Will it occasion injustice to the Indian merchants? It may indeed be said that when an Indian merchant exports rice he does it at a profit and if Government would prohibit him from doing so he would lose that profit. This may be put forth as an argument in support of non-interference policy. But the argument is not strong. Merchants will not lose by being made to refrain from exportation, when the price of rice is sure to rise very high in this country. 'But are they not the best judges of that?' will exclaim the other side. We can safely answer that they are not the best judges of this at this crisis. The whole public, the whole governing body is staggered to estimate the extent of scarcity that will prevail. Can the wits of a poor native trader easily comprehend it? And the result is that for a moderate ready profit he foregoes the prospect of a very large profit. And what harm is there if Government uses its patriarchal power to protect him and the country against his want of foresight? Traders with all their instincts of profit and loss are often found to be extremely averse to speculation however reasonable and prudent such speculation may be. They would many of them never part with a small ready and certain profit for the hope of large profit in future. The present crisis requires the grain traders to keep food grains in the country with an eye to future gain. Many of them have not the prudence and heart to do this. This is the reason why exportation is yet going on. It is not because the country can yet afford to export. The injustice then which Government would do the risk to do to the native merchants so is very improbable that Government may at once leave the idea alone. And supposing that there is a little risk of occasioning a little loss to some individuals is that worthy of consideration while in the other alternative there is the risk of loss of some human lives for that.

Thus we see Government by stopping exportation has to do no injustice properly speaking. On the other hand by the omission of this measure the principal acts of Government with reference to the famine are stultified. Government is importing rice from distant parts to ameliorate the sufferings of the poor and to save their lives. This well intended measure is going for nothing while exportation is not forbidden. As Government is importing rice into Bengal it is by that very act sending at least some rice out of Bengal, for the effect of the importation by Government is that the bazar is kept at the exporting level which probably would not otherwise have been the case. And supposing by importing Burmah rice in a certain quantity Government facilitates the export of a corresponding quantity of the country rice, what is the bargain we make for so much trouble on the part of the Government? It is this. We shall have a quantity of Burmah rice, i.e. rice plus illness for the same quantity of country rice, i.e. rice with health. Moreover in the case of the Burmah rice we shall have to pay an additional tax. Of course the above is on an extreme supposition. But the injurious effects of the omission to stop shipment will more or less neutralize the benefit of the importation of rice by Government.

