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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩৷৷০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

অনুরাগবল্লী।

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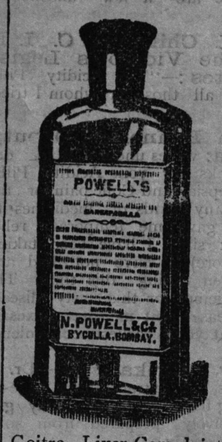

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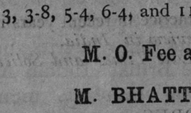

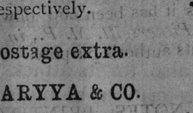

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Babu Bhobo Tosh Bannerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca: writes under date the 6th March, 1898:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills. I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pain for the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some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

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Babu T. K. Baksi, Professer Government College, Jubbulpur, writes Dr. Biswas's edicine for acidity and dyspepsia has been tried in our family with marked efficacy and I can safely declare that sufferers who may give it a fair trial are sure to derive much benefit from it.

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RETURN OF MR. A. M. BOSE.

RECEPTION AT THE HOWRAH STATION.

THE Howrah station presented a unique spectacle on the night of the 5th instant on the occasion of the return of Mr. A. M Bose from England. It was about six months ago that Mr. Bose went to England in connection with some private affairs, and being once there he took hold of the opportunity with his usual energy to lay before the English public the matters which were then agitating or rather convulsing the Indian people.

When it was announced that he would shortly return to India there was a propasal to give him a fitting reception on arrival. An influential committee was formed for the purpose, but nothing more seemed to have been done by it than the issuing of some cards to some of the residents of Calcutta, inviting them to be present at the station. The immense gathering that was present at the station last night testified to the fact that it was not all the work of the committee that such a successful reception was held. It was the outburst of a spontaneous desire on the part of the people to appreciate the work of one who had voluntarily taken upon himself the task of pleading their cause before the English people. When it was announced that Mr. Bose had arrived at Bombay and had received an enthusiastic reception there, the people of Calcutta rose from the slumber and by a hurried preparation made

THE GRANDEST DEMONSTRATION

that has taken place in recent years at the Howrah station to welcome home Mr. Bose.

From 4 o'clock the young graduates and under-graduates of our University collected at the College Square and within one hour about a thousand of them could be seen with banners and flags with mottos of various descriptions on them. The body then formed into a procession and wended its way through Harrison Road and the Bridge to the station compound. This immense gathering of students—an unusual sight—evidently frightened the station people and their entrance to the platform was forbidden. The spacious ground in front of the station was occupied by them like the guard of hour stationed outside on the occasion of a distinguished official arrival. At the platform a large number of the leading men of Indian society was present. There were besides several thousands of other people, persens of all grades of all society, who occupied the station platfrom. The time of the arrival and the distance of the station from the town were considered by many, and not unreasonably, as prejudicial to the collection of any decent gathering and from experience of a similar occasion when the demonstration was but a complete failure many were afraid of a similar result. But no, at half past six, it wat evident when innumerable rows of carriages and pedestrians were bent towards the station, that the people were alive of their duty to honor one by honoring whom they would only honor thomselves and the great cause he advocated. So without any street advertisements, the usual course adopted on all such occasions, barring a few newspaper paragraphs, a large concourse of people was collected at the station and Mr. Bose was offered a most

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION

on arrival. On alighting from the car amidst defeaning cheers from those present on the platform, he was received by his friends, but the crowd was so great and so pushing that hardly Mr. Bose could stand a second to speak to his friends. He was carried to a carraige and four which was awaiting outside for him. Here he was garlanded and continued to be cheered lustily. After the storm of cheers was over he found a breathing time to speak to his friends, who had all along been plying him with innumerable questions about his health. Mr. Bose looked healthy and vigorous and not in the least worse for the journey he had undertaken for the last fortnight. Owing perhaps to the cold he had caught before leaving England his voice was a little husky or it might have been the result of the sence that presented itself before him of his countrymen struggling to have a gimpse of him. This must have touched him and with a voice considerabiy affected he returned the greetings of his fellow-townsmen. The carriage was then slowly driven and amidst a beautiful torch light procession got up through the untiring energy of Babu Lalit Mohun Ghosal, with the help of the students, and amidst constant vociferous cheerings, it wended its course through the bridge to the city. The arrangement though made hurriedly was all that could he desired, but the want was felt by many of a band to accompany the procession striking the note

'LO, THE CONQUERING HERO COMES."

A distinguished correspondent writes on the same subject:—

The demonstration held last evening at the Howrah station in honour of Babu Ananda Mohan Bose was a grand affair. People began to pour in an hour before the arrival of the Bombay mail train, which was to have brought Babu Ananda Mohan; and by six 6 o'clock all the platforms and the open space near the station were filled with all classes of men. A procession of young men about a quarter of a mile in length was formed, carrying flags with the words "welcome home". A special carriage was kept in readiness for the service of the honoured guest of the evening. It is simply impossible to estimate the number of people who were present; but, at the lowest computation, upwards of five thousand men came to greet Babu Ananda Mohan, amongst whom were hundreds holding leading position in Indian society. As soon as his arrival was announced, the sky was rent with hurrahs from thousands of throats. The crowd was so dense that it was with great difficulty that Babu Ananda Mohan could be brought from one platform to another, where, it was arranged, he would wait for some time and converse with friends. This was, however, not possible; the mass of people having rushed to have a sight of his face, endangered the lives of many who were on the point of being crushed to death. Babu Ananda Mohan was then driven home amidst deafening cheers and followed by a torch light procession. Such a scene was never before witnessed at the Howrah station in connection with according we come to an Indian returning home from England.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER 8, 1898.

THE TOWN HALL MEETING IN CALCUTTA.

THE great difficulty about the meeting was to get hold of a Chairman. There was a time when the people of India had no fear of holding public meetings and of criticizing the measures of the Government. But the proceedings, inaugurated at Bombay and concluded by an enactment providing against so-called sedition, created a terror in the minds of the boldest amongst them. We saw the other day how the declaration of plague in Calcutta was followed by a stampede which has no parallel in the world.

A new idea has got hold of the public mind, which is that the rulers of the present generation do not like any sort of opposition, and that the safest course for the Indians is to keep quiet, whenever they feel that they have a grievance. Now at a public meeting the observed of all observers is the man who presides over it. And thus if a public meeting is held to condemn a proposed measure, and if such opposition is disliked by the rulers of the land, the natural result is that even the boldest shrink from taking the most prominent part in it.

Now, it may be urged that there is no law under which a man can be hauled up for having presided over a protest meeting. But there is such a law, viz, the Regulation of 1818. The fact is, ever since the deportation of Natu brothers the minds of the higher classes amongst the Indians have got unsettled. If Lord Sandhurst could detain the Natu brothers in prison, though everyone in the world knows that they are innocent, there is nothing to prevent Sir J. Woodburn from catching the president of a public meeting by the leg, and dragingg him to prison. And it was thus there was a difficulty about a president. Raja Benoy Krishna, however, agreed; and we hope, he will be able to maintain the leading position which the house, to which he belongs, has ever been able to hold in the country.

By the-bye those in Bengal who have yet a fear that there is any chance of the Bengal Government imitating the Bombay method in this province, may rest assured that there is no such chance, so long Sir J. Woodburn is at the helm of affairs. Sir John came here, while the people were yet under the influence of a frightful experience. A notion prevailed that it was he who had encouraged the Bombay Government to adopt the strong measures last summer. There was also the fact that he had, in his Minute, on the Simultaneous Examination question, expressed himself in a way which a friend would have never done.

The appointment of Sir J. Woodburn therefore gave us alarm—nay, it alarmed everyone. Referring to this appointment, *India* wrote: "We cannot profess to regard this appointment with anything but profound regret, &c, &c.!" In our alarm, we asked of those who had known Sir J. Woodburn intimately their opinion of the man. A European who had known Sir J. Woodburn for more than ten years, wrote to us that "he, Sir J. Woodburn, is one of those rare officers of high thoughts and noble feelings, who are yet full of charity whose goodness is diffusive &c., &c." Now the certificate, though gushing, came from a European, one of the honestest and best in the country. Then the Hindu and Mussalman friends of Sir J. Woodburn were consulted by us; and they too assured us that the description, given by our European correspondent of the character of Sir J. Woodburn, was rather short of the reality!

We then announced the glad tidings that Bengal should rejoice at the appointment of Sir J. Woodburn. And who in Bengal now does not know it? What do we care whether the Liberals or the Conservatives rule the Empire so long we have a good man for our ruler? Thank God, there is no chance of a Natu-brother scene or the scene of a British soldier examining a native female, being enacted in a province ruled by Sir J. Woodburn. What should the Indians care if they were ruled on despotic principles, provided the rulers used their powers for the welfare of the people?

THE RECEPTION GIVEN TO BABU ANANDA MOHUN BOSE.

THE Queen's Proclamation in 1858, and the subsequent public declarations of British statesmen, have shown one fact conclusively, viz, that the intentions of England as regards India are honourable and generous. Of course, individual rulers here and there failed to carry out the generous policy, laid down for their guidance by the English people; but yet, there is no doubt whatsoever of the fact that the settled policy of the alien rulers of the land is to make the people forget the loss of their national independence, by conferring on them inestimable blessings, never enjoyed by them before.

If the helm of affairs is put into the hands of unsympathetic rulers, the noble intentions of Englishmen towards India are frustrated. The policy of repression was introduced during the rule of Lord Lansdowne, and it has ever since been continued. Of course, there was a momentary check of this sort of rule when Lord Kimberley was put in charge of the India Office. It was this noble Secretary of State who vetoed the Jury Notification of Sir Charles Elliott. But the policy of repression was again taken up with re-doubled vigour when he left office.

The policy of the British Government has ever been to inspire the people with confidence about its integrity and good intentions. The policy of repression that was introduced, chilled and well-nigh destroyed that confidence. Let thoughtful men amongst British statesmen observe with attention how this policy has affected the people, and the result will supply them food for serious contemplation.

Everyone must admit that the best policy of British rule consists in inspiring the people with hope and confidence, and the worst, in destroying them. The policy of repression, followed since the advent of Lord Lansdowne, has well-nigh destroyed hope and confidence. Three hundred millions of people without hope and without any definite idea as regards the intentions of their rulers, is a state of affairs which is not desirable. The people of India just now do not know where they are, and what the intentions of the rulers are towards them. On the other hand, they have come to know one stern fact that they are utterly helpless, and their wishes carry very little weight with the rulers.

When Raja Surya Kanta incurred the displeasure of a Magistrate, he challenged the latter to do his worst. He said that he would only fear the frowns of a Magistrate then when he had committed a crime; but as long as he was innocent and committed no offence he could dare the Magistrate to do his worst.

When the Raja made this declaration, he confessed his absolute confidence in the innate sense of justice of the British Government. We fear, he has not now the boldness to make the same declaration, *viz*, that so long he is innocent he has no fear of a Magistrate.

The other day some writings appeared in the *Pioneer*, charging the *Guzrati*, an Anglo vernacular paper of Bombay, with sedition. In days gone by, the editor would have treated the charge with contempt. But he dared not treat it in the same fashion now. He wrote to the *Pioneer*, giving "explanation"; he wrote to all Indian papers to see that justice is done to him, &c. &c. He trembled with apprehension, though he knew he was innocent, simply because an Anglo-Indian paper had brought a charge against him.

The fact is the people previously knew that the *Pioneer* was no more a Government than they themselves were. But they have now lost that confidence. The editor of the *Guzrati* thought that if the Bombay dailies could so influence the Government as to lead it by the nose, what is the wonder if the *Pioneer* should be able to do the same once again? The *Guzrati's* knowledge of his own innocence did not give him any great assurance of his safety.

It has now been laid bare that the lower classes have come to regard the Government not as a *ma bap*, but sometning very different. They objected to inoculation; for, they feared that the object of the Government was to kill them! The simple act of the declaration of the plague in Calcutta led the citizens to fly in wild terror in all directions from the town. This does not show much confidence in the rulers.

As for the higher classes, they never doubted the good intentions of the Government for one moment But they had doubts of the good intentions of some petty officials, put in charge of plague operations. They had doubts also whether their just representations would be listened to by the Governmen. So they fled too.

All the four lacs who fled from Calcutta,—the higher and lower classes—might have remained in the town and sent a joint petition to the authorities. But they had no hopes that any representation from them would receive any consideration.

When Babu Ananda Mohan Bose arrived at the Howrah Station on Monday, he found that many thousands had assembled to bid him welcome. And why? He was not the bearer of any news of "peace with honour." Nor had he brought Home Rule for his country. What he had done was only to speak to English audiences of the grievances of his country. The people were so gratified at this piece of service that they ran to welcome him. That movement shewed the utter state of despair which has seized the people.

Babu Ananda Mohan did bring one piece of good intelligence, which was that the heart of the English people was absolutely sound.

We hope, the troubles of the people are over. We hope, God has already taken pity upon the people of India. Bengal has got a good and sympathetic ruler. The Bombay Government seems to be in a penitent mood. The North-West is also blessed with a sympathetic ruler. The Madras Governor has his excellent points, as his plague policy shews. Assam is in charge of Mr. Cotton.

Lord George Hamilton has a grievance. His Lordship complains that the native papers abuse him. But he has his revenge; he calls the natives "savages." He hurls also his thunderbolts. But the fact is, the unambitious, domestic, law-abiding and gentle people of this country have very little concern with the big folks at Simla or the India Office. Their concern is with the local rulers. When the local rulers are good, they care not who presides over the India Office, or if any repressive enactments are thrust upon them.

The duties of the local rulers at the present moment are very plain before them. Their predecessors have shown the strength of their hands and destroyed the absolute confidence that the people had in British rule. It is now the duty of their successors to construct that which was destroyed, and to restore that confidence.

THE Town Hall meeting brought the following points to prominence. It is not a fact that no public meeting can be brought about in Calcutta without the active help of "the professional agitators." These so-called professonal agitators, beyond offering advice and suggestions, which, as citizens, they were bound to do, kept themselves studiously aloof from the movement; yet, speaking of the meeting, even the *Englishman* was obliged to admit that it "was an immense gathering of the native residents and rate-payers." Besides, the student element was absolutely absent from the meeting. This proves conclusively that the so-called professional agitators had very little hand in the demonstration.

The members of the Marwari and Mussalman communties who, as non-political classes, never take part in political movements, mustered very strong on the occasion. The speeches were also very good, though they were delivered by others than "professional agitators." The speech of Babu Sita Nath Roy, the Sheriff, was a masterpiece of its kind. He was followed by Raja Benoy Krishna Bahadoor, whose delivery was as excellent as the sentiments he uttered. No, doubt, the Raja has a brilliant future before him. Babu Protap Chander Mozumdar is a practised speaker, and he maintained his reputation fully. Except on some rare occasions, Dr. Rash Beharee Ghose had never before appeared as a platform speaker; but his powerful speech made a deep impression upon the minds of the vast assembly. His utterances were full of sound sense, and the attitude he took was simply unassailable. We shall quote a few sentences from his speech to show how he dealt with a favourite argument of Mr. Risley:—

Now Mr. Risley has told us—and Mr. Risley is an honourable man (laughter) that he is a friend of local self-government, but he does not like the idea of three Hindu gentlemen sitting on one Mahomedan gentleman and one European gentleman. This would have been a lamentable state of things only if it was true. But how does Mr. Risley propose to reform the present state of things? Why, by instituting a Committee of eight, possibly all Europeans, who will sit upon four elected Commissioners! (Laughter and applause). This, according to Mr. Risley, will be the very ideal of local self-government.

Those who spoke in the vernaculars,—Bngalee, Hindi and Urdu,—also did their parts exceedingly well. The speech of Mr. A. Choudry deserves some special notice, not only on account of its high merits but also for its attack of the British Indian Association, he himself being one of its members. In a vigorous speech, he condemned its attitude towards the Municipal Bill. The situation is unique—a public meeting of Indians condemning an Indian Association of such respectability! The fact that Mr. Choudry was vociferously cheered, is a proof positive that the public agreed in the views expressed by him. And what are these views? They are that the Association has betrayed the interests of the country! But as we said the other day, the members of the Association are all right. It is the Association which is all wrong. Mr. Choudry himself is a member, and a trusted member too, of the Association, he having been appointed a delegate by it on several occasions. The Sheriff himself is a member, and there were also present at the meeting others who belonged to the British Indian Association, as, for instance, Rai Jotendra Nath Rai Choudry, Kumar Radha P. Rai, Kumar Monindra Mullick, Babus Gagendra Nath Tagore, Chandi Charan Law, Gopal Chander Gupta, Radha Charan Pal, Kali Nath Mittra. &c. &c. We have come across several important members of the Association, and they are all violently opposed to the Municipal Bill.

Mr. A. Choudry can blame the Association, but he cannot blame the members without blaming himself. The Association just now is in the hands of officials, and the members have been ignominously ousted. And that is the secret of it. There was a fight between the wasps and a hornet. The latter, single handed, attacked the wasps repeatedly in their nest. This continued for some time, and then seeing that their opponent was too strong for them, the wasps left their nest and built up a new one. The members of the Association should build a new nest, leaving their old one to the hornet: that is the moral of it.

OUR correspondent, "Deputy Magistrate," three or four days ago, has done a great public service by bringing to light the arrangement made to fill up the post, vacated by the death of the late Babu Umesh Chundra Batabyal. Here are the facts of the case, as placed at our disposal. Babu Umesh Chundra Batabyal was originally a member of the Statutory Civil Service. When a Joint Magistrate and officiating as Magis- and Collector of Maldah, he chose to transfer himself to the Provincial Civil Service. His name was accordingly removed from the list of the Joint-Magistrates and placed among the Deputy Magistrates. In due course, he was confirmed as a Magistrate and Collector; but, in the Civil List, published by the Bengal Government, his name was placed neither among the Indian Civil Servants nor among the Statutory Civilians, but under a separate heading, namely, Members of the Provincial Civil Service, holding higher appointments &c. However, it was understood that the post, occupied by Mr Batabyal, belonged to the Deputy Magistrates and not to the members of the Indian Civil Service. To the surprise of the Indian public, however, it has been notified in the last *a cutta Gazette* that Mr. Maddox, a Civilian, has been confirmed as Magisirate and Collector, *vice* Mr. Batabyal, deceased. Now the Subordinate Executive Service contains some of the brilliant men of the country. They are in no way inferior to the average Civilian. As a rule, it is the Deputy Magistrates who carry on the administration of the country, the District Magistrate being engaged in supervising and controlling their work. It is no exaggeration to say that most of the District Magistrates cannot move a step without the help of the members of the Subordinate Executive Service. Unfortunately the door to enter the Civil Service is closed against them. They begin as Deputy Magistrates and end as such. Very few of them even succeed to rise to the first or the second grade of their service; for, the promotion is so slow that they are compelled to retire under 55 years' rule before they have passed the third grade. It is thus injustice all round with regard to this most useful class of servants. When Mr. Batabyal was taken as a Deputy Magistrate, the members of the Subordinate Executive Service were naturally led to believe that the bar, that stood in their way to rise to the higher appointments, had been taken away. The appointment of a Civilian in his place, however, goes to show that they were only tantalized. The members of the Uncovenanted Service were similarly tantalized with regard to another important appointment, namely, the Post Master-Generalship of the N. W. Provinces. That post was reserved specially for a pure Indian, belonging to the Uncovenanted Service; but it has been in the possession of a Civilian since the past ten years. Here is an opportunity for Sir John Woodburn to do a bare act of justice and earn the gratitude of the people. Will His Honour be pleased to institute an enquiry into the matter, and take such steps to remove the alleged wrong as he deems fit?

A FURIOUS mob brutally murdered an Austrian under the impression that he was a plague inoculator. The case created great sensation, not only on account of the atrocious manner in which the foul deed was committed, but also because the victim was a European and a stranger. A special jury was empanelled to try this case, and European witnesses were brought to identify the accused. But the jury yet could not help feeling that the identification was not complete, and therefore they had no help but to acquit the prisoners. The Sessions Judge of Howrah, disagreeing with the jury, referred the case to the High Court. And Mr. Justice Amir Ali, who heard the reference along with Mr. Justice Henderson, soundly rated the gentlemen of the jury for having given what he thought a perverse verdict. Mr. Amir Ali distinguished himself on the criminal bench when he was in charge of it. We are, therefore, the more surprised to find him taking such an attitude towards the gentlemen of the jury, who are fully his peers in judging a question of fact. They were picked men; the prisoners were up-country-men and not Bengalees; the crime committed, was atrocious. They had, therefore, not the slightest motive in feeling any sympathy for the accused. No doubt, the crime was atrocious, and there was a strong desire in their mind to see that the perpetrators of the deed were punished. But according to their judgment, it was not proved that the prisoners before them were the perpetrators of the murder. That being the case, they had no help but to acquit the prisoners. Of course, Mr. Justice Amir Ali and his colleague think that they are guilty, but the jury say they are not; and, as outsiders, we must say that in this matter the public would rather go with the latter than the Judges. On the whole, Mr. Justice Amir Ali had no reason whatever to use the strong language that he was led to do, to condemn the special jury, composed of some of the best men of the country who, besides, had better opportunites of arriving at the truth than himself.

A EUROPEAN gentleman writes to us:—

In an article in a recent issue of your paper you speak of the custom of hanging several men for the murder of one. I am sending you in a separate cover, a printed petition to the Government of the N. W. Provinces, bearing on the subject. The principle is not teeth for tooth and eyes for eye, but tooth for tooth and eye for eye. But alas! who cares for principles?

You will find that Sir A. P. MacDonnell was pleased to commute the sentence of death to one of life imprisonment. The Officiating Lieutenant-Governor has been again petitioned, and, if justice is done, the three men should be let off.

It is a great pity even the Judges of the High Court should be so careless of human life. It is beyond the means of poor men to have justice secured to them What with the fees of counsel and other expenses, everybody and anybody cannot go up to the highest tribunal; and the result is that hundreds of poor people are simply trampled upon with impunit

The facts of the case, as stated in the petition alluded to above, are so extraordinary that it is simply incomprehensible to us how they were convicted at all, much less sentenced to be hanged. We are sorry, the petition is not drawn up with that care which the importance of the subject deserves: what we gather from it, is, however, this Three young men of a certain village in Meerut, sons of a respect able person, were charged with having killed a sweeper, named Juma, in March last, under the following circumstances. The three men, it was alleged, had raided the house of one Dharm Sing, a co-villager, for the purpose of committing a theft. Juma, the sweeper, tried to prevent their escape. Hence he was murdered by them. The prosecution, however, found it imposible to prove that thieving was the object of the accused, who belonged to a respectable family; so they shifted their ground and suggested that the reason why they entered the house of Dharm Sing at night was to give that man a beating, as he and these men were enemies. The Judges accepted this theory, convicted the prisoners and passed death-sentences upon them. It appears from the petition, however, that far from bearing any enmity to Dharm Sing, the three young men were deeply attached to Dharm Sing's wife, their aunt, she having nursed them in their infancy and having always looked upon them as their own children. What is, however, still more important is that the servants of one Kissen Lal, a well-to-do neighbour of Dharm Sing, deposed before the District Superintendent of Police that they had seen one Budha Sing—who made the first report at the Police Station, charging the accused with having killed Juma—and Mare, the other Choukidar at Dharm Sing's house, beating the deceased and dragging him in. Then the deceased's brother, named Jhunda, petitioned the Magistrate to the effect that the above-mentioned Mare had murdered his brother Juma on account of the latter's wife. This petition, as well as Kisen Lal's servants who were witnesses for the prosecution, were not produced in the Sessions Court; and the prosecution thought it best to evade all mention of them. Now if these statements are true, a greater miscarriage of justice can not be conceived. The petition discloses other equally startling facts which make it incumbent upon the Local Government, in the interests of justice and humanity, either to release the prisoners, or put them again on their trial, if that is possible. And these three men, who had no motive to kill the deceased even according to the prosecution, were sent to the gallows by the Allahabad High Court for the murder of a single man, and would have been hanged but for the merciful interference of Sir A. P. MacDonnell! Where are the people to go if they are denied justice by the highest tribunals in the land? The other day, we drew the attention of Sir John Woodburn to the case of Soshi Palui who should never have been sentenced to be hanged and yet the extreme sentence was passed on him; and unless the Lieutenant Governor interferes, the young man, who, we are told, has barely passed his teens, will be launched into eternity. Such severity does not suit a non-criminal race like the Indians. It only creates a disgust and aversion fo th administration of justice in this country. Mr. La Touche, we hope, will see his way to complete the work of humanity, begun by Sir Antony MacDonnell. Sir Antony commuted the death-sentences passed on them into that of life imprisonment. It remains with Mr. La Touche to let them off as they are apparently innocent and render a desolate family happy.

WHICH is more difficult—to rise up or to come down? Certainly, to rise up. Who is higher—the Liberal or the Conservative? Certainly the Liberal; for, it is easier to convert a Liberal and bring him down to feel like a Conservative than to convert a Conservative into a Liberal, and instil liberal principles into his heart. It is the easiest thing in the world to convert a hot-headed Radical and make him feel like Lord George Hamilton. And what is the process? It is to bring him to India and give him a high appointment! Mr. Morley, we are told, as yet retains his Liberal principles intact. But let him be appointed, say, as Agent to the Governor-General in the Central Provinces. Let him, as such, be made to hold a *darbar*, attended by the 70 Princes under the Agency. Let them attend the *darbar* to offer their homage to him. Let him have a procession, preceded by chopdars, flag-bearers, and so forth, and followed by the 70 Princes all on the backs of elephants. Let his be the biggest and painted. If Mr Morley be subjected to this course of training, he is sure to be cured of his Radicalism in a short time. In an article in the *Fortnightly Review* on "Mr. John Morley" the following sentence occurred:—

Mr. Morley was offered the India Office n 1894. Had the offer been accepted, Mr. Morley might have become as Imperial, in the best sense of the word, as Sir Henry Fowler, who, till he went to the India Office, was one of the most pronounced of Radicals.

Is Sir Henry Fowler aware that he is not what he was? Possibly not, though the world knows, and his best friends know, it. If he had known that after leading an active life for a score of years in the service of God and man, he had at last, by serving in the place of the Great Moghul, only fitted himself to ride a painted elephant, he would have bade adieu to his office. Who is to convince Sir H. Fowler of the faet that

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no longer a Liberal? Mr. Pickersgill concluded his speech on the Indian Sedition Debate in Parliament with the following remarks :—

In conclusion, he could not refrain from drawing attention to the absence to-day of the right hon. member for Wolverhampton (Sir Fowler). Under a Liberal Government he had been Secretary of State for India and he (Mr. Pickersgill) thought that he ought to have been present, to lead the members of the Opposition n this debate (Cheers.)

FROM the elegram, published in another column, it appears that the Puri Municipality is determined to commit certain acts, which, rightly or wrongly, will create a profound sensation throughont the Hindu world. There is scarcely a Hindu who will not shudder if you propose to him to kill a monkey. No Shastric text is needed to show that the slaughter of monkeys and baboons, specially in a Hindu shrine, is a gross sacrilege. These animals are held in such veneration by certain classes of Hindus that they are worshipped as gods. It seems, the Municipality not only permitted this sacrilege, but is determined to stick to it. The latrine outrage is equally monstrous. Will His Honour be pleased to save the Hindu population from these outrages, if the Municipality persist? We think, it is quite possible to carry sanitary reforms without hurting the religious susceptibilities of the people. If a special latrine is needed for the inmates of the Temple, construct one by all means; but, why select a site which is sacred to the Hindus? Both the monkey-killing and the latrine questions are very delicate ones; and as the members of the Municipality have committed themselves in one way or the other we think, the best course for the authorities as to appoint a third party, and get them settled. We quite recognize the fact that monkeys are now and then a great nuisance. But that is no reason that they should be killed outright. These animals are just like men in many respects. They will fondle a child of their own and weep when it is dead. To the Hindu mind, to shoot them dead is almost as shocking as to shoot human beings. They can be, however, scared away by blank fires and several other bloodless means; and the Municipality may resort to them, if it likes to rid the town of these animals.

BOTH the *Bengalee* and the *Indian Nation* declare that Babu Raj Kumar Sarbadhicari, the Secretary of the British Indian Association, went over to Raja Binya Krishna to persuade him not to preside at the recent Town Hall meeting. We are further assured that if the Raja had any hesitation before in accepting the trust, the action of Babu Raj Kumar removed it at once. The *Rast Goftar*, an Indian paper, expressing its exultation at the supposed difficulties of *India*, the organ of the National Congress in England, and Babu Raj Kumar Sarbadhicari coming privately to Raja Binya Krishna to persuade him not to help those of his countrymen who are striving to protect themselves from the encroachment of a late ruler of the land, are incidents which fill the mind with despair. Yet we know Babu Raj Kumar has always been a patriot, and a warm patriot, too. What we mean is this that the cause of the country is not to be advanced in this manner.

THE *Indian Daily News* has very rightly drawn attention to the scandalous condition of the roads in the town and specially in the Suburbs. For several months the public have been loud in their complaints of the manner in which the roads are being restored and reformed by the contractors, who are entrusted with the work of laying Drainage and Water pipes, under the Municipality. Under the terms of the contract, the contractors are bound to fill up the trench, to properly reform and restore the road surface, and to consolidate the filling, and to maintain the road in a proper condition, free from all settlements, for a year after the work has been completed. It is to be borne in mind that the contractors are paid for this work which is included in their rate for the works. It is the duty of the Engineer's Department to see that all the conditions of the contracts are fully carried out; but this has not been done. We do not understand the reason why the Engineer's Department, which has a public duty to perform, should be remiss in their duties. The Commissioners have over and over again drawn attention of the Executive to the deplorable state of affairs, but in vain. The Engineer's Department, instead of enforcing the conditions of the contracts strictly, have been repairing some of the roads which have been utterly spoiled by the contractors. On this point, we quote from the Report of the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Chapman :—

The Engineer stated that most of the roads, already sewered and completed, had been lately well repaired, and there was no fault to find with them; but he would wish to say that Messrs. Martin and Company's remarks, in the closing paragraph of their letter, dated 6th April, 1898, should be qualified by the following statement of facts, that is to say, that in almost every road that has had sewers laid to any considerable depth, the road surface, to varying widths on either side of the actual excavation for the sewers, has been cracked and has sunk, and in any case such operations as sewering a road are under the most favourable circumstances, not conducive to maintaining a good road surface over the portion left ...ched; besides, in most cases, unfiltered ... has been laid also; so practically the whole road had been opened up The only remedy that he could suggest was that these roads be thoroughly metalled by about the end of the rains, so as to give time for consolidation of the filling. It would be a mistake to do anything except patch-repairs just at present.

It will be seen from the above that most of the roads under which sewers are laid, had been well repaired, and, no doubt, considerable sums of money had been expended over the same, and in spite of the expenditure incurred by the Commissioners, the roads are now made almost impassable by the contractors. The remedy suggested is that the roads should be thoroughly metalled by the end of rain; and this expenditure will, no doubt, be defrayed from the funds of the Municipality. We strongly object to this. We wonder how this can be coolly proposed and supported by the head of the Department.

WE accord a hearty welcome to Babu Ananda Mohun Bose who returned home from England on the last Monday evening. The reception accorded to him at the Howrah station was on a right royal style. It is said that big men are not honoured in their own country. This has been belied in the case of Babu Ananda Mohun. The pick of the Indian society mustered strong at the Howrah station to greet him, and many of those who could not come sent letters or words of apology. This shows that Babu Ananda Mohun has endeared himself to all classes of his countrymen by his services in England. This is the first time that a Bengali returning from England has been honoured in this unprecedented way at the railway platform. Various parties came with addresses of welcome, but these could not be presented to Babu Ananda Mohun on account of the density of the crowd. It was, in fact, a sea of faces all around. One of these addresses was in Sanskrit and prepared by the students of the distinguished Kaviraj of the town, Pundit Bijoy Ratna Sen.

THE following letter from Sir Alexander Mackenzie appears in the *Englishman*:—

Sir,—When presiding at the Assam Dinner in June last, I was not informed of the presence of a reporter, and only became aware of the fact when a copy of the *Colonial Mail* or some such paper was sent me a week later. The report of my speech was so inaccurate that I prepared from my notes a revised copy, as some of the matters dealt with were important. I did not include in this the remarks I made in reply to the toast of my health; and I see that *Capital*, in its issue of the 28th of July, has made characterist c capital out of a misprint in these. I did not, of course, say that no "respectable" European had ever been connected with the Calcutta Municipality, but that under the present regime it was impossible to get "representative" Europeans from the commercial community to serve—a trite truism—as everybody knows.

As regards the misreported phrase, I owe no *amende* to the Editor of *Capital*—his style entitles him to none—but I offer this explanation to any other persons who may have been hurt by the misreported words.

A. MACKENZIE.

London, Aug. 17.

The letter speaks for itself; yet some notes may explain it better. Sir Alexander says, he owes no *amende* to the Editor of *Capital*. That is because when Sir Alexander's Assam Dinner speech reached Calcutta, *Capital* offered the following comments upon it :—

But we think we have said enough to show how ill-conditioned Sir A. Mackenzie' remarks are, and we dismiss him with th contempt which he deserves. We would only point out to him that, as far as Bengal is concerned, he has of late proved an absolute failure; that while he was Lieutenant-Governor, he went on leave for six months and so allowed things to be hung up, and that it is commonly believed that he only returned so as to draw his pay during that period and for three more months during which he was of no use whatever to the Province.

Such comments as the above, would have deterred any man of spirit from noticing the writer who indulged in them. But Sir A. Mackenzie's spirit, it seems, is utterly broken. He wants his Municipal Bill to be passed, and he relies entirely, for the consummation of his pious desire, upon the support of the European residents of Calcutta. So he cannot afford to offend them, not even *Capital*, which doubted his "truthfulness" and called him "mean," "contemptuous" "ill-conditioned", a "failure," and insinuated that he drew his pay without doing any work. The probabilities are, however, that he did use the words attributed to him; for, they are just like some of his other utterances. Besides, the man who took them down, was on the spot and had done it immediately after delivery. But Sir A. Mackenzie confesses that he wrote the above letter long after the delivery of his speech. But there is no doubt, Sir Alexander is sorry that any sentiment should be attributed to him, which would hurt the sensibilities of the Europeans in Calcutta, on whom he solely relies for the consummation of his pious wish. One would fancy, from reading the letter, that Sir A. Mackenzie has a heart which is so kind that it abhors hurting any one's feeling. But that cannot be. In the report of his speech, he was made to call the Bengalee Commissioners "adventurers" This he does not consider a misprint; and so he admits it. But he has not a word for the Bengalee Commissioners. Are the Bengalee ommissioners adventurers, because they live in their own city—live and die here? We fancy, ordinarily Sir A. Mackenzie would not have much cared whether his speech offended the Europeans in Calcutta or not, whom he had left for good: but the Municipal Bill? What is to become of the Municipal Bill if the Europeans take offence? Indeed, his letter is more a request to the Europeans not to forget his Municipal Bill than to forgive him. Yet, why did he commit the mistake of ignoring the *Indian Daily News* which is the warmest supporter of his scheme?

IT was, we believe, the *Englishman* which said that Messrs. Theodore Beck and Theodore Morrison, of the Allighur College, "have found more than a match in Mr. Alfred Nundy, a Eurasian Barrister practising in Gorukhpore." Mr. Nundy is not an Eurasian; neither is he ambitious of being called one, or, for the matter of that, an unadulterated European. He is a pure Indian and is proud of being born of Indian parents. This is, however, by the way. It may be remembered that the two Theodores of Allighur wrote a series of articles to the *Pioneer* on that ridiculous subject, "Is India growing richer?" Yes, the subject is ridiculous, because no one in his senses would now seriously raise a question like that; for, if India were prospering, it would not have been visited by famine every decade, and severe scarcity every half a decade. The sages of Allighur, however, raised it, and the *Pioneer* allowed them large space to argue it in their own way. Mr. Theodore Beck began thus. Akbar took 33 per cent. of the gross produce of the land, whilst other rulers exacted up to 50 per cent. It, therefore, follows, Mr. Beck remarks, that the agriculturists should now be capable of paying more than the 33 per cent. taken by Akbar. But, says Mr. Beck, on the authority of the Famine Commissioners, that the English Government takes only 5 per cent. of the gross produce of the land, that is about 1/6th to 1/8th of what was taken by the former rulers. Does this not prove conclusively, exclaims Mr. Beck triumphantly, that the ryots have prospered under British rule? Mr. Nundy meets him in the following way. Leniency and generosity are all very well; but in these times of extreme pressure, surely Government would be justified in doubling the amount paid by the agriculturists, if they were really capable of paying six or eight times as much as they are paying now. Why does not the Government then do it? On the other hand, says Mr. Nundy, if Mr. Beck were to go to Naini Tal and make this proposal to the Lieutenant-Governor and his Chief Secretary who carried out the settlement in the Gorakhpore and Basti districts respectively, would they not be "making a mental calculation of the number of medical men in Naini Tal who could form a commission of lunacy?" Mr. Nundy then states these stubborn facts for the edification of Mr. Beck, whose knowledge of India is derived from the perusal of some books and who yet thinks that he knows more of the real condition of the Indian people than they themselves do. (1) Settlement officers had often to reduce the assessments of their assistants; and that a small increase of 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. on the rates actually assessed, would have compelled the Zemindar to give up the village as unprofitable to him. (2) With reference to the Madras Presidency where annual settlements are made directly with the ryots and where the Government can increase the rates by 50 or 100 pee cent. by a stroke of the pen, Lord Georgr Hamilton made the following startling statement on May 3rd in reply to a question, namely, that on the average there are 7,000 or 8,000 tenants whose lands are annually sold for default in payment of the land revenue. (3) In the Bombay Presidency, one Commission after another met to devise plans for the relief of the indebted ryots. Indeed, the case is everywhere the same; and very little margin is left to Government to squeeze more money from the land. Mr. Nundy ends by turning the table upon Mr. Beck: "I ask, taking Mr. Beck's facts and figures, whether or not the inference is absurd that the agriculturists are better off when they pay 5' per cent. of their gross produce and are unable to pay more than were their predecessors who paid from 33 to 50 per cent?' The prosperity and poverty question is contained in a nut-shell. Previously the wealth of the country circulated among the people, and now it is drained to other countries. India cannot prosper but must grow poor and poorer under such unnatura arrangement.

THE *Advocate of India* publishes the following telegram, relating to stringent plague orders issued to the Station Master of Poona :—

POONA, SEPT. 3.

Captain Lockhart Mure, plague authority, Poona, has issued instructions to the Station Master not to issue tickets to any person without the production of a pass from the plague authority.

This order will take effect from the 7th instant and will apply without distinction to all, Europeans and Natives.

The Station Master is vested with discretion as regards Europeans travelling on urgent business.

The order is the result of the non-compliance with rules regarding the surveillance of incoming passengers.

The Station Master is vested with discretion regarding European passengers; and, by implication, the inference is, he has no such discretion with regard to the Indians. It is these petty invidious distinctions which provoke resentment and embitter the feelings of the latter against the ruling race. If Europeans on urgent business are to be allowed to travel without pass, why should not the Indians have the same privilege? That plague is no respecter of colour, has been amply proved in Poona, Bombay and Kurrachee. Judging from the cases which occurred in the above towns, it would seem that respectable Europeans are more susceptible to the disease than respectable Indians. So, plague measures are going to be enforced again with all their rigour at Poona. But have not these measures been tried and found wanting? Did not they prove a source of unmitigated suffering to the people, without being able to check, in the least, the progress of the disease? Why, then, revert to them again, and create unrest?

SIR M. BHOWNAGEE talked of the necessity of encouraging technical education in India and Lord George Hamilton could not let slip such an excellent opportunity of giving vent to his feelings regarding India. He took that opportunity of insulting the educated Indians. He has thus a low opinion of those who are educated. As for the rest, they are savages. And this is the official who holds absolute sway over the whole of India! Can not England give us a ruler who has a less pronounced antipathy to the people of this country?

THE STATE OF THE ROADS.

MR. R. T. Greer, Officiating Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, has addressed the following reply to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dated 26th August:—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 116, of the 17th instant, referring to alleged irregularities in the work of the Engineering Department of this office.

It is possible that excessive caution was observed in the retention of the bamboo fencing in Clive Street for an unduly long time. Two sudden subsidences had taken place at intervals of ten days after heavy rain, the sub-soil at the place being textremely faulty. It is to be regretted that the operation caused considerable inconvenience to the public.

Enquiries are being made to ascertain the exact cause of the regrettable accident in Wood Street. It has been represented that the horse on the occasion was bolting and beyond the control of the rider, and that the gentleman fell off although the animal did not come down or receive injury of any kind. The iron traps on the road have since been put in order, and I trust no further cause of complaint will arise in connection with them.

The attention of the Executive Engineer, Calcutta Division, has been called to the subject of your complaint regarding the Strand, the road being in the charge of the Public Works Department, Bengal Government.

The Municipal Engineer has represented that, in common with other bodies in Calcutta, the Corporation has experienced considerable difficulty in retaining labourers and obtaining a sufficient number of carts, claiming some allowance on this account. It is admitted, however, that a system of repair of roads in the town is not satisfactory; the strength of the existing staff is insufficient and better supervision is required. The subject came to the notice of the Commissioners on a late occasion, and it is hoped that a necessary revision of the Engineering Department will be carried out at an early date in the interests of the public and the Corporation.

The various suggestions at the close of your letter will receive due attention.

SIR W. J. CUNNINGHAM will accompany H. E. the Viceroy on his Burma tour.

IT is considered probable that Mr. Merck, C. S., will be appointed Commissioner of the Peshawar Division on Sir Richard Udny's retirement.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM GALBRAITH commanding the Quetta District, officiates in command of the Bombay forces, *vice* General Duncan, deceased.

FOLLOWING the procedure in former year's brief summaries of the principle measures of Lord Elgin's Viceroyalty are now being drawn up by all the Departments.

MR. FRANSHAWE, Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government, will, on return from leave offictate as Commissioner of the Delhi Division, when Mr. Clark goes on leave this winter.

THE question of transferring the head-quarters of the Bengal Command from Naini Tal to Mussoorie has, it is believed been engaging the attention of the Government of India.

MR. BIGGS, Accountant-General, Madras, has proceeded at his own expense, with the sanction of the Government to Ootacamund, where he will continue to to discharge his dut es for the next two or three months.

MR. HAMMICK, Inspector-General of Police, Madras handed over charge of the Department to Mr. Harold Stuart on Monday. If plague spreads, to the Madras Presidency within the next few weeks, Mr. Hammick will be appointed Plague Commissioner, otherwise he will proceed on furlough.

THE official forecast of the Coorg coffee crop, just issued estimates 2,730 tons for Europeans, and 1,470 tons for natives. The total yield is 4,200 tons, compared with an average of 5,300 tons last year.

MR. D'CRUZ, late Postmaster, Mysore, has filed an action against the Southern Mahratta Railway Company for Rs. 20,000 damage for the death of his son, Joseph Aloisius Samuel, age 20, who was killed in the Mulloor bridge disaster last September. The plaintiff sues in *forma pauperis*. The hearing will be before the Chief Court on the 13th instant.

THE first forecast of the cotton crop in the Punjab, dated 20th August, shows a decrease of area of 29 per cent, as compared with last year, and 11·6 short of average. The future of the crop is said to depend entirely on the rainfall in August and September. The area under indigo is 35 per cent. less than last year, and that under sesamum 6 per cent. less. The largest decrease in the latter case is in the irrigated tracts, amounting to 15 per cent.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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MILITARY OFFICE. Colonel Barrow has taken over charge of the Secretaryship of the Military Department from General Maitland, who proceeds on privilege leave.

A MUKTEAR FINED.—Our Khulna correspondent writes:—The other day a Muktear, practising in the Court of Mr. S. C. Mukerjee, Magistrate, was fined ten rupees, for speaking to his client with his back turned towards the Magistrate.

CONVICTION OF FEMALE THIEVES.—The case in which a woman and her daughter-in-law were charged with having stolen a pair of valuable gold bangles, belonging to Babu Sarat Chandar Mitter, under circumstances already reported, was yesterday concluded before Babu M. N. Gupta, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, who sentenced the mother-in-law to one year's rigorous imprisonment. The daughter-in-law was ordered to be confined till the rising of the Court and to pay a fine of Rs. 25.

CUTTING EACH OTHERS THROAT.—Yesterday before Moulvi Seraj-ul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, two coolies, attached to the Kidderpore Dockyard, were placed on their trial on a charge of having attempted to kill each other by cutting their throats with razors. It appears that both the accused used to reside in a cell of the office of Garden Reach Municipality. One of the accused asked a loan of money from the other, which being refused, they fell into a quarrel, in course of which one struck the other, cutting each their throats from ear to ear with razors. The trial is proceeding.

ASSAULTING WITH AN AXE.—Yesterday before Moulvi Seraj-ul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, two cartmen were placed on their trial on a charge of having caused grievous hurt to Fozla Rahaman, a rich general contractor of Ripon Street, with an axe. It appears that the complainant on the morning of Sunday last, came to Kalighat in his private carriage for the contract of some bricks. At the time the accused's carts violently collided with the complainant's carriage which was severely smashed. On the complainant's remonstrating, the first accused severely struck the complainant with an axe, causing serious injury on his hand. The trial is proceeding.

ALLEGED DEFAMATION BY A NEWSPAPER.—At the High Court on Saturday, before Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, Mr. Gregory on behalf of Mr. Barlow, the accused in the case of Lieutenant Lethbridge *vs.*, the Editor of *Indian Planters' Gazette*, applied for the issue of a commission for the examination of Colonel Mathias at Simla who would shortly proceed to Europe. Mr. Hyde for the plaintiff objected on the ground that written statement of the accused had not been filed yet. His Lordship after hearing counsel in both sides decided that upon the materials before him, he was unable to order the commission to issue. Upon Mr. Gregory undertaking to file the written statement by Wednesday, his Lordship promised to hear the application again on Wednesday morning at half-past ten o'clock.

FORGERY OF A CHEQUE.—A forgery of a cheque for Rs. 10,000 on the Bank of Bengal has been detected. On the 23rd ultimo, a cheque for that amount, purporting to have been issued by Messrs. Andrew, Yule and Co., in favour of one Devendra Nath Dutt or bearer was presented at the Bank of Bengal and cashed. On the 1st instant it was discovered that the cheque was forged, and the police were informed. Detective Superintendent Rai Jogendro Chunder Mitter Bahadur was deputed to make inquiries, assisted by Detective Inspectors Ellis and Ahmed Khan. While inquiries were being made at the office of Messrs. Andrew, Yule and Co., one Hurry Ooryah, a bearer, in the employ of the firm, betrayed signs of nervousness, which aroused suspicion. On being questioned he reluctantly admitted having given the firm's cheque-book to one of the junior clerks named Probode Chunder Bhuttacharjee, who was found to correspond exactly to the description given by the Bank of Bengal authorities, of the man who had cashed the cheque. He was arrested, and in his house a newly-purchased gold watch was found, and also a receipt for the purchase of two similar watches. Probode was questioned and stated that the other watch was in the possession of a friend of his named Monmotho Ram Bose. The latter having heard of what had taken place, absconded to Chetla, where he was traced and arrested on Saturday morning. Both he and his accomplice confessed the fraud, and gave up all the money obtained on the cheque, except Rs. 388, which was the price paid for the two watches. After cashing the cheque, which was paid in large notes, the accused took the precaution to go immediately to the Currency Office and have them changed into small notes of Rs. 10 and Rs. 20 each. The two accused will be place before the Magistrate to-day.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MANUFACTURE OF SALT.—His Excellency the Governor-General directs that no person shall manufacture salt in the Districts of the 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Khulna, Backergunge and Chittagong, with the expection of Calcutta.

LECTURE ON "LORD GOURANGA."—The eloquent speech on "Lord Gouranga" delivered by that pious Vaishnava, a young man of 23, at the Beadon Square on Sunday, says a correspondent, "had a thrilling effect upon those who heard him."

LORD ELGIN'S BURMA TOUR.—It is now settled that the R. I. M. steamer "Clive" will convey the Viceroy to Burma about the second week in November, returning from Rangoon about the second week in December.

EARTHQUAKE.—A violent earthquake tremor was felt in Darjeeling on Sunday morning at 8-20. It was not undulating but a sharp severe shock, lasting quite one minute. The direction was from north to south, and no damage was done.

HOWRAH-AMTA TRAMWAY.—Approximate return of traffic and mileage for the week ended 27th August, on 28·62 miles open: total traffic for the week; coaching traffic, number of passengers, 12,506; coaching receipts, Rs. 3,922; merchandise and mineral traffic, weight carried, 4,898 maunds; Receipts, Rs. 167; total earnings, Rs. 4,089.

ANOTHER COLLISION AT BOGOOLA.—Another collision occurred at Bogoola on Saturday, this time between No. 63 up goods train and a relief-train which had gone to Bogoola to assist in the removal of the wreckage caused by last Monday's collision. Details are not yet known at Sealdah, but a European fitter, who was in charge of the relief train and two coolies are said to have received slight injuries and three wagons of the goods train were damaged and derailed blocking the line for some time. Assistance was promptly sent. The 16 down passenger train from Damukdea, which usually arrives at Sealdah at 1-30 P. M., arrived slightly behind time. An enquiry will be held. The result of the official investigation into the former collision held on Friday is not yet known.

LIKE A NOMAD TRIBE.—Our Madhipura correspondent writes: Recently some men have made their appearance here who have got no fixed habitation of their own. They are some 100 in number, including females and children. They load all their necessary household implements, on asses, horses and buffaloes. Their equipment is very large and extended. We had a talk with them. They said that they had come from Muttra City and would be away in a day or two. We had a spaniel dog with us and with a view to get its pair, we wanted to see their dogs. They said that their dogs were not then there and they would call them after a while. On asking for a second time, one of them made a peculiar scream, and, to our utter astonishment, we saw a score of different kinds of dogs running, barking and howling, to the spot where we were, from different sides. They said that these dogs were employed in attacking tigers. Our Sub-divisional Officer has fined one of the females of the batch Rs. 25 for having been found in possession of more than the statutory quantity of opium.

CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEONS.—The *Indian Medical Record* thus comments on the recent Government resolution relating to the pay and prospects of the Civil Assistant Surgeons:—"In short we may state these long suffering servants of the State who asked for bread, have been offered a stone. We shall not pretend to say that we are thankful to the Director-General and others in authority for the niggardliness with which they have treated the prayers and entreaties of our Civil Assistant Surgeon brethren, for we have but to state that the pittance offered in this *Gazette* Resolution to a hoary-headed medical officer of 30 years' approved service, who is the possession of a University degree, namely, Rs. 300, is lower than the salary which the Government pays to the most junior Surgeon-Lieutenant of but one day's service, who may chance to be the possessor of those glorious academic qualifications known as the Edinburgh D. Q. and the L. S. A. of London. This conduct of the Government, harsh and ungenerous as it is, should only urge the members of the local medical profession and the local medical services to more united and determined action in defence of their interests. The medical administration has played its trump card and it exposes a hand that is as ungenerous as it is unjust, and this policy now demands a counter-movement that will expose the failures of our rulers in this country, to those who are in real authority in England."

SATURDAY'S TRAIN ACCIDENT AT BOGULA.—The Government Railway Police concluded on Monday the investigation into the circumstances which attended the collision on Saturday morning between No. 49 up goods train and a relief train which had been despatched for the purpose of clearing the wreckage caused by the previous collision between two goods trains at Bogula, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. It transpired that No. 49 up goods train was taken on the up line, which is blocked by the wreckage of the previous collision, and used as a temporary siding, so that two passenger trains could run through *via* the down line. Meanwhile the relief train, while approaching the scene of the wreck, also got on the up line, the driver being under the impression that that course was the safest, least suspecting that No. 49 up goods train had halted there. So great is the curve at this spot that both trains were unable to determine each other's position from a distance of 100 yards. Those in charge of the goods train as a precautionary measure began whistling and exhibiting the usual red flag, but all to no purpose. Shortly before the collision Messrs. Watson and Reilly, of the railway workshop, and two coolies jumped off the goods train. The native fireman and Jack on the engine, kept their places and but for their conduct the collision would have been much more serious. A vigorous attempt was made to bring the train to a halt, but though unsuccessful in this direction, the speed was so considerably reduced that the fireman as well as the Jack, beyond receiving a smart shock, escaped altogether unhurt. The two engines, three wagons, and a truck were much damaged through the collision.

A MODEL PADRE.—The Coconada correspondent of the *Hindu* writes: The marriage of Miss Wicks celebrated in the English Church on the 10th instant, had an unpleasant incident connected with it. Captain Wicks, who maintains very cordial relations with Hindu gentlemen, invited some seven or eight of them to attend the marriage. In response to the invitation, the following gentlemen, namely, Dewan Bahadur S.V. Ramodoss Nayudu Garu, Rao Bahadur P. Purnayyapantulu Garu, P. Venkatappiah Garu, K. Perraju Garu, D. Seshagiri Row Guro, N. Padmanabham Garu, Rao Bahadur B. Venkataratnam Garu and K. Suryanarayanamurti Nayudu Garu, attended the Church, and after the marriage service was over were still sitting there out of delicacy for the English gentlemen who were crowding at the gate and through whose midst they had to push their way. Then came the Reverend A. E. Stanley, who was then the officiating Chaplain and imperiously ordered the Hindu gentlemen to take off their head-dress. The official gentlemen on the front bench obeyed the order; but the Revd. gentleman seeing that it was not attended to by Mr. N. Padmanabham or Mr. D. Seshagiri Row who were then talking with Mr. Brodie at a short distance, proceeded to Mr. Padmanabhan and repeated the command. On his refusing to obey the order, the Revd. gentleman appears to have lost his serenity and resorted to the use of objectionable language calling them heathen and charging them with want of manners and so on. Not satisfied with this, it is said he even began to pull out Mr. B. Venkataratnam by the hand. Mr. Brodie's interference was of no avail as the Revd. Chaplain, according to his own statement, was the undisputed master within the precincts of the church. Then the Hindu gentlemen left the place in a body.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. A. H. Vernede, Offg Jt. Magte and Dy Coll, Gaya, is appointed to have charge of the Sirajganj Sub-division of the Pubna district.

Babu Purna Chandra Chaudhuri, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Sonthal Parganas, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Gagan Chandra Das, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, on leave, is appointed to have charge of Supaul Sub-division of the Bhagalpur district.

Mr. C. W. Place, Offg Dist and Sess Judge, Saran, is allowed leave for two months and twenty days, Mr A. P. Pennell acting for him.

Babu Nogendro Nath Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Supaul, Bhagalpur, is allowed leave for two months.

Mr. Ambika Charan Sen is appointed to act as Dist. and Sessions Judge of Mymensing.

Babu Kali Prasanna Sircar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Faridpur, is transferred to Nadia.

Babu Soshi Sikar Dutt, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Nadia, is transferred to Faridpur.

Babu Shib Chunder Nag, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Dacca, is transferred to Faridpur.

Babu Gobind Chandra Das Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, on leave, is posted to Dacca.

Babu Hira Lal Sen, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Coll, employed on cess revaluation work in the district of the 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Jnanendra Nath Choudhuri, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Noakhali, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Mohendro Chunder Mozoomdar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Monghyr, is allowed furlough for one year.

Mr. A. J. Ollenbach, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Champaran, is transferred to Monghyr.

Mr. J. Clarke, Personal Assistant to the Inspr General of Jails, is allowed leave for one year twelve days.

Maulvi Abul Fatah Mahamed Abdul Hafeez, Spl Sub-Regr, Saran, is allowed leave for one month, Maulvi Mahammad Zaki Hasan, acting for him.

The following promotion and confirmations are sanctioned in the Provincial Educational Service, with effect from the 14th August 1898:—Confirmed in Class VII: Babu Chandra Bhushan Bhaduri (sub pro tem in Class VII) promoted sub pro tem to Class VII. Babu Bisweswar Sen (Class VII) Confirmed in Class VIII. Babu Hridaya Chander Bannerjea (sub pro tempore in Class VIII). Babu Pramatha Nath Mukerjea, Proff.,-Rajshahi College, is appointed to be a Proff. in the Hooghly College. Babu Krishna Chandra Bhattacharjea, M. A., acting for him.

Dr. T. L Walker is appointed to be Lecturer on Geology at the Presidency College, Calcutta.

Surgeon-Capt E. H. Brown, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Howrah.

Dr. J. A. Fink, Offg Civil Medl Officer of Bhagalpur, is appointed temporarily to act as Civil Medl Officer of Purnea,

Surgeon-Captain J. C. S. Vaugan, Dy. Sanitary Commissioner, Western Bengal Circle, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Burdwan.

Assistant Surgeon Gopal Chander Mukerjee is appointed to act as Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Western Bengal Circle, and is also placed on special duty in connection with anti-cholera inoculation.

Babu Jogendro Lall Chaudhuri, Munsif of Cox's Bazar, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days.

Babu Lal Behari Dey, Munsif of Pabna, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Bijoy Gopal Bosu, Munsif of Bhola, is allowed leave for fourteen days.

Babu Krishna Lall Dey, sub *pro tem* Sub-Dy Collr, employed as Superintendent of Distillery, Chapra, Saran, is allowed leave for one month.

THE sentence of death, passed on Jowar Singh for the murder of Mr. Murphy in Karachee, has been confirmed.

SOONABAI, a Parsee girl, aged eleven years, residing with her father, Kaikhoshro Dorabji, on the second floor of a house at Mint Road, Bombay, was standing near a window in the house about twenty-five days ago, when she was struck on her head with a small slug or bullet, sustaining a slight wound. The wound was dressed and nothing more was thought of the matter. On the 31st ultimo a small tumour appeared and a doctor was summoned to ance it and the bullet was extracted. It is a bullet evidently fired from an air gun. The wound is not serious. Police enquiries are in progress.

MR. HIGHAM'S Report on Irrigation Works in India, published in a recent issue of the "Gazette of India", lends countenance to those who prefer irrigation works to railway construction in this country. The report contains facts and figures which go to prove that irrigation works in India pay more handsomely to the State than railways, and that they confer greater advantages on the general population. On the Major and Minor irrigation works during 1896-97, the net profit to Government amounted to 6·15 and 9·05 per cent. respectively. Seventeen millions acres of land were irrigated, the value of the crops produced in such irrigated lands being estimated at forty-six crores of rupees.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

FROM Friday the 2nd instant to Tuesday the 6th instant there were five fresh cases and five deaths. The total of "true cases" up to the 6th instant was 225 and deaths 185.

THE other day a person who passed himself off as a Plague Doctor was arrested at Fyzabad, on the charge of extorting Rs. 2 from a villager at the Railway Station. The man was sentenced to suffer one year's rigorous imprisonment.

PASSENGERS from Bombay, Bengal, Hyderabad, Baroda, and Mysore will not be allowed to book to Tirupati for the ensuing Brahmotsavam festival for fear of the plague.

AT Wednesday's meeting of the Bombay Corporation Dr. Vieges brought it to the notice of the Municipal Commissioner that it appeared from the daily returns published in the local papers that plague cases were being imported into the city from the suburbs and other surrounding places, and care should, therefore be taken that men suffering from plague, or who were suspected of suffering from malady, were not allowed to enter the city either by land, rail or water. Pressure ought to be brought to bear on Government to see that such men were prevented from entering the city. The Municipal Commissioner said that he was already in communication with Government on the subject.

THE three Mahomedan *budmashes*, who personated plague inoculation officers the other day in Bangalore City, have been convicted and sentenced. The ringleader got four years and the others 18 months' rigorous imprisonment each.

ON the threatened approach of the plague, the city of Bangalore presented a spectacle, the like of which had been witnessed in Calcutta under similar circumstances. All sorts of wild rumours flew in the air; and horrors of isolation, segregation and compulsory inoculation, etc, stalked over the city like grim spectres. In their consternation, the people knew not whom to ask for correct information; for, the authorities were unapproachable. Bangalore, however, did not suffer from this great disadvantage; there the authorities were accessible, and accordingly the other day, people of all sorts and denominations met in their thousands at Bangalore, at which, among others, the British Resident, the District Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police and Mr. Thumbu Chetty, C.I.E, were present. The Resident explained to the vast assembly in Urdu the precautionary measures, adopted by the Government, against plague. He exhorted the people to help the authorities in their attempt to keep off the plague, and told them that they need not be unnecessarily afraid of segregation, and assured them that there would be no compulsion as regards inoculation. Mr. Chetty spoke in Canarese much in the same strain, and announced that people, when need be, might accommodate their patients in their own hospitals. There was a belief in some quarters that those who were admitted in plague hospitals never returned home; but both the Resident and Mr. Chetty declared it to be most unfounded and the merest nonsense. At the meeting three Mahomedans rose and put some questions to the Resident who answered them all, to their satisfaction.

ANGLO-INDIAN DAILIES IN BOMBAY.

(Indu Prakash)

HERE is a splendid example of the vaunted fairness of spirit of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries. Our readers may remember that the *Bombay Gazette* and the *Times of India* refused to publish the proceedings of the case against Messrs. Thacker and Co, the well known firm in this city. These journals have now thought it proper to boycot some of the replies to questions asked by honourable members in the last meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council. Among the interpellations, there were some which referred to the Poona policy of the Government of Bombay. For instance, the Hon. Mr. Mehta asked an ingenious question framed in a manner so as to leave no loop-hole for Government for escape, on the imposition of the Punitive Police on the city of Poona. His question was as follows:—"Will Government be pleased to state if there is now anything, and, if there is, what, in the conduct of the inhabitants of the city of Poona which render it expedient to continue the imposition of additional police for the purpose of either protection or for any other purpose?" We search in vain in Anglo-Indian morning contemporaries for the reply of Government to this question. But this is not the only question the reply to which these fair-minded journals have thought it as calculated to enhance their reputation for impartiality, not to publish. There are many other similar questions the replies to which have been similarly boycotted. What is more in order to avoid the appearance of deliberate injustice, they have also boycotted some other questions of a less discomfortable nature, the replies to which cannot disclose any weak points in the policy of Government. The *Times of India* has also published the reply to the Hon. Mr. Khare's question, on the nurse incident in connection with the Natu affair. But, on the whole, our Anglo-Indian contemporaries seem to have studiously avoided the publication of such questions and answers as must have thrown Government into an uncomfortable situation. The moral of the whole story is obvious enough. It is no use blaming these journals, although as public organs, they are in duty bound to maintain the utmost impartiality. What is necessary is the publication of a daily newspaper edited by eminent natives. We shall not then be required to depend upon the *Times of India* or the *Bombay Gazette* for our information. Is it too much to hope that some systematic efforts will be made by our leaders in this direction. Madras and Calcutta have got excellent dailies conducted by Indians. Why should Bombay not have a similar one? This is a question which requires a prompt reply at the hands of the educated public of Bombay.

THE Collector of Ootacamund, Mr. Butterworth, has applied to Government to sanction the enforcement of the Cattle Diseases Act in parts of the Nilgiri, especially Kandal, where rinderpest has made its appearance. An inspection station and hospital for the treatment of sick animals will be established at Kalhutty.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

BOMBAY, SEPT. 3.

A crowded and enthusiastic public meeting was held this evening at the Novelty Theatre to welcome Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose under the presidency of Mr. Pherozsha Mehta and the auspices of the Presidency Association. All classes were represented and hundreds had to go away for want of space. The Chairman having opened proceedings by suitable remarks, Mr Chandervanker proposed and Mr. Syani seconded a resolution heartily thanking Mr. Bose for his valuable services in England. The Resolution was worded thus: "This public meeting wishes to give cordial expression to the high appreciation to the valuable services, rendered by Mr. A. M. Bose, in placing before the British public the views and feelings of the people of this country regarding the policy that has been recently pursued concerning Indian affairs, and tenders to him the first thanks for his able vindication of the loyalty and attachment to the British Crown of educated as well as all other classes of the Indian community." Mr. Bose thanked, and addressed the meeting for three quarters of an hour. His speech was most eloquent and listened with raft attention. He was frequently cheered vociferously. Mr. Bose gave a short account of his work in England and told his hearers that Englishmen were quite willing to do justice to India if they were made acquainted with the real state of affairs in this country. He said there was no cause for despair; on the other hand, the Indians would gain their object if they could carry on a systematic and sustained agitation in England. He exhorted the Bombay Presidency to send men to England to continue the work begun by himself and Mr. Dutt.

SIMLA, SEPT. 4.

A proposal of re-opening Lock Hospitals in cantonments is now under the consideration of the Principal Medical Officer of Forces in India.

Mr. Gamble, Accountant-General of the Punjab, on leave at present, rejoins his appointment. Mr. Dhobie now officiating for Mr. Gramble, takes two weeks' leave and then rejoins his substantive post in Calcutta.

Mr. Curzon leaves England by the mail of the 16th December and arrives in Calcutta in the first week of January.

PURI, SEPT. 5.

The Municipal authorities here argue, about the newly-elected latrine, attached to the south wall of the Jagarnath Temple, that it will go to redress of a greater defilement, namely, that committed by many within the Temple, but this plausible argument is quite futile, and useless practically, inasmuch as it can accommodate only two persons at a time, but the number of people whose requirements it is meant to meet, are about 500 within the Temple itself, so that the defilement within the Temple will go on as before and their purpose not served at all, while a permanent nuisance will be created to the mortification of millions of Hindus flocking to the shrine from all parts of the Hindu world. The Municipality has also arranged for ordinary mehters entering the Temple for cleaning purposes. Now we need scarcely point out that as these things are not of a local interest merely, but concerns the Hindu people all over India, these practices of the Municipality have inflicted the deep wound into the hearts of all Hindus. The Hindus consider the Temple as a part of the body of the God, so that this is one of the grossest defilements that can be committed. We appeal to the Hindus all over India to protest against such defilements of this grand old national shrine. This is one of the four great Dhamas of India. Why the latrine, whose construction was stopped by the Magistrate's order, has not been demolished as yet, we cannot conceive. It should be put down at once.

The Municipality's order about monkey killing, though suspended for a month, pending the opinion of the Pundit, is being supported by almost all the Commissioners, and it is widely rumoured that they will not care for the opinions and *shastras* at all and are determined to kill the monkeys at any rate. Shall we again have to look at those scenes of merciless bloodshed committed daily? We earnestly appeal to all Hindus to remonstrate against these abominable doings.

SIMLA, SEPT. 5.

A report has reached Kohat that an Afridi Jirga was held in Maidan on the 31st of August, at which Mulla Saiyid Akbar was present, and it was decided that the outstanding rifles should not be surrendered until Government agreed to restore the tribal allowances, reduce the salt tax, and restore the fugitive wives. Reports from the Khyber side discredit the Kohat report, and state that the Jirga meetings were concerned with tribal disputes between the Mulikdin and Kambar Khel sections.

BOMBAY, SEPT. 7.

Tilak released yesterday night at 10 P. M.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

Constant and prolonged interviews between Count Hatzfeld, the German Ambassador in London and Mr. Balfour have evoked various reports as to the nature of the negociations.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that an Anglo-German *entente* has been concluded, providing for an offensive and defensive alliance in certain eventualities, according to the suggestion made by Mr. Chamberlain in his famous speech last May.

The *Leeds Mercury* says the *entente* relates to the Egyptian mixed tribunals, whilst it is reported on the Bourse that Germany has withdrawn her opposition to the purchase of Delagoa Bay by Great Britain. Mr. Balfour refuses all information.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

It is rumoured that the *entente* between Great Britain and Germany comprises the withdrawal of German objections to the purchase of Delagoa Bay, and to the abolition of Egyptian mixed tribunals, the *quid pro quo* being British assent to Germany's colonising schemes in Asia Minor.

Mr. Balfour has sent a sympathetic acknowledgment of the Czar's Manifesto for reducing armaments.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

Telegraphic communication with the Soudan expedition is again interrupted.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

Communication with the Soudan expedition has been restored. Sirdar Kitchener telegraphs that the gunboats have cleared the whole of the right bank of the Nile, demolishing all the forts; also those on Tuti island opposite Omdurman. The guns of the forts were taken. The howitzer practice from the gunboats was excellent.

Latest despatches from the front state that the gunboats captured four guns and partially destroyed the dome of the mosque of the Mahdi's tomb at Omdurman. In the meanwhile the Sirdar advanced to Kerreri on thursday, driving in the Dervish outposts without any loss on our side. When the gunboats rejoined Sirdar Kitchener, the latter sent forward the horse battery and camelry and thereupon the Khalifa with the whole of his force, estimated at 35,000, came out to give battle.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

M. Cavaignac, French Minister for War, has resigned, on the ground of being unable to assent to a revision of the Dreyfus case.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

The German press deny that any alliance has been made between Great Britain and Germany, but admit the possibility of an arrangement of a Colonial nature.

LONDON SEPT. 3.

The Clan Mackintosh, from Calcutta, has been in collision in the Thames, and has been beached at Hole Haven. Her forehold is full of water.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

The accounts of the fighting state that early on Friday the Khalifa's whole army attacked Sirdar Kitchener's force boldly and determinedly, and endeavoured to envelope both flanks, but were repulsed after an hour's fighting. The Sirdar then began his advance on Omdurman, and was again heavily attacked by the enemy on the right flank. The Dervishes were driven off with heavy loss their army which was commanded by the Khalifa in person being completely dispersed by noon. Sirdar Kitchener resumed the advance, and at two o'clock occupied Omdurman after a slight resistance during the afternoon by the forces remaining in the town. The Khalifa, who had returned to Omdurman, fled as the British troops entered into the town, and is now being hotly pursued by the Cavalry and gunboats. The British force is encamped in the desert to westward of Omdurman.

LONDON, SEPT. 4, 4 A. M.

Despatches just received state that Sirdar Kitchener on Friday defeated and dispersed the Khalifa's army after five hours' fighting and immediately after the battle the troops occupied Omdurman. The Cavalry are pursuing the Khalifa. The British loss is given at 100 and the Egyptian loss at twenty. The enemy's loss is not given.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

The only British officers killed in the battle at Omdurman were Lieutenant Grenfell, of the 12th Lancers, and Captain Caldecott, of the Warwickshire Regiment. The 21st Lancers lost twenty-one men killed, and twenty wounded. The Cavalry made a brilliant charge, in which Lieutenant Grenfell was killed.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

At a camp service held to-day at the foot of the Waterloo Column in Hanover, the Emperor William in the course of a speech reminded the troops of their comradeship in-arms with the British at the battle of Waterloo.

His Majesty referred to the victory of the British at Omdurman and called for three cheers for Queen Victoria.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

Colonel Rhodes was wounded in the Battle of Omdurman. The list of wounded has not yet been issued. The dervishes charged repeatedly regardless of the withering fire and were mown down by thousands. The Khalifa's own banner was captured. All accounts dwell upon the huge extent of Omdurman.

LONDON, SEPT. 5.

The remnant of the Khalifa's force has surrendered to the Sirdar, who is now encumbered with a mass of prisoners. The stench at Omdurman is unbearable, and it has been found impossible to remain there.

LONDON, SEPT. 5.

Sirdar Kitchener has visited Khartoum, and was hailed with delight. The city is a complete ruin, but the position is superior to Omdurman.

LONDON, SEPT. 5.

The list of the losses at Omdurman show 23 British non-commissioned officers and men killed, of whom 19 belonged to the 21st Lancers and 99 wounded; 21 Egyptians were killed, and 230 wounded, 12 British officers were wounded, namely, Lieutenant Nesham, 21st Lancers; Lieutenant the Hon. Molynenx, the Bluse; Lieutenant Brinton, 2nd Life Guards; Lieutenant Nicholson, Cameron Highlanders; Lieutenant Colonel Sloggett, Army Medical Corps; Lieutenant Hopkinson, Seaforth Highlanders, all severely; Captain Clarke, Camerons; Lieutenant Pirie, 21st Lancers; Lieutenant Rougemont, Royal Artillery; Captain Smyth Queen's Bays; Lieutenant Micklem, Royal Engineers; and Lieutenant Vandeleur, Scots Guards, slightly. The Dervish losses are estimated at fifteen thousand.

LONDON, SEPT. 5.

The charge made by the 21st Lancers at Omdurman proves to have been a most brilliant feat of arms. Whilst chasing the detached bands of the fugitives after the battle, they found confronting them a dense mass of swordsmen who previously had been hidden by depression in the land. The Lancers charged home hacking right through the mass of the enemy under a whitering fire from the Dervishes. The regiment then coolly reformed sections on the other side. The losses were heavy, as every man falling from his saddle was instantly cut to pieces.

LONDON, SEPT. 6.

The Union Jack and the Egyptian Crescent were hoisted over the Palace at Khartoum on Sunday. A solemn requiem dirge was afterwards held in the Palace in memory of the late General Gordon, at which all the troops were present. When the troops occupied Omdurman on Friday Neufeld and 150 prisoners of the Khalifa were released.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SOME SNAKE STORIES.

"THETA" writes to the *Pioneer* :—

Anecdotes about snakes always have a fascination for young and old, whether they be the latest reports of the Professor's search after antivenine or the boatswain's yarns in the "Boy's Own." The attention is at ones rivetted and the mind interested ; and in this country, which may be called the cobra's paradise, snake stories told to wide-mouthed youngsters under the punkah or in the glooming on the *chabutra* in front of the house, are what ghost stories are in the home-land ; they are quite as creepy at all events. The days are gone by when Verdant Green, newly landed, expected to tread upon serpents every hundred yards, but the beasts are still common enough to fill a chapter in one's recollection. It is in the hot season of the year when the heat of the sun penetrates deep down into the baked fissures of the bare fields, or the familiar ant hill, with its galleries, the cobra's favourite haunt, becomes as hot as the lining of an oven, that cobras *et hoc genus omne* come forth to eat the evening air. Look out now for these visitors in the bath-rooms and in the nieghbourhood of your filter stands, for his snakeship likes a cool spot albeit he is not a pahari. Again when the rains fall and all the earthholes are full, these denizens of the ground hurry forth to escape drowning, as well as to pursue the succulent frog: it is then snakes enter uninvited into the bungalow and are found in all sorts of unexpected corners, on the toilet table, in the pot of palms brought into the drawing-room, behind the ward-robes, &c. In the cold weather only can we hope for immunity from the uncanny visitors.

Do cobras at certain times emit an odour akin to *rotten potatoes* ? I had often heard this asserted and recognised the smell in places haunted by cobras, and so convinced was I of the truth of the theory that I looked upon the phenomenon as akin to that of the rattle snake, a means to warn other creatures of danger! In confirmation of this view I was told the following story :—Mr. X——we will call him—was in his tent one morning when a friend dropped in. The latter seemed uneasy and sniffed about, at last exclaiming "There is a cobra in the tent I am sure. I can smell him." He was laughed at, but persisted, and presently left in some excitement. Mr. X. got up and reached with his feet under his cot for his slippers, but failing to find them, stooped and looked under the bed where he saw coiled up the cobra scented by his friend. A narrow escape for X.

But in 1891 going to a friend's house in Bangalore after dark—(Bangalore is noted for its cobras)—I smelled "rotten potatoe" and at once remarked upon the proximity of a cobra. My friend left my side and plucked the leaf of a shrub which I found responsible for the obnoxious odour, and he said cobras do not emit any smell. My opinion received a shock, but I still think the point worthy of investigation. Mr. Phipson of the Bombay Natural History Society, to whom the question was referred, said there was no evidence of such a thing, nevertheless I know the opinion is held over India.

Another point requiring investigation is—are cobras capable of revenge, as me understand the word, and as we know animals of a higher scale—the elephant for example—indulge in ? Of all hobbies, that of snake culture and snake collecting I think the least attractive—*pace* the late distinguished ophiologist, Dr. Shortt, who described snakes as most beautiful creatures, &c., and His Highness the late King of Oudh who kept a large collection of live ones at Garden Reach. Handling snakes either as play things or in the pursuit of science is always risky, for instance, Dr. Richards of Calcutta was once bit by a cobra, but saved his life by a prompt application of permanganate of potash ; and Dr. Shortt was once in a serious plight through some snake venom having been squirted into his eye. I recall one sad case which had a fatal termination. Mr. D.——a District Superintendent of Police in the entral Provinces, made snakes his hobby, and he would occasionally electrify his clerks and *chabrasis* in office, by taking a snake out of his pocket, or drop it on to the table from his sleeve. He was exceedingly keen in the matter, and would rush out of his house or office at a moment's warning to secure a specimen. One morning while out for a walk he spied a splendid cobra which he secured without much trouble ; as he held its head in his left hand the reptile coiled itself around his arm and held him fast. A native by his side was anxious to know about the poison bags, fangs, &c., and D——to oblige him pressed the snake's jaws apart and was in the act of pointing out the sacs when the creature darted its neck forward like lightning and pricked the extended finger. D——dropped the snake and bit his finger above the puncture to the bone, working the finger about in order to separate the flesh all round ; but this heroic effort did not prevent the venom from rising up the arm. He got home quickly and in a little while was attended by the Civil Surgeon and Deputy Commissioner, but these friends could do nothing for the poor fellow, who calling for the snake had it eviscerated to see if it had had a meal before biting him, and finding its stomach empty he gave up all hope, for he judged that had it eaten a frog or rat just before biting him there would have been less venom available to seriously hurt him. After making his will he quietly passed away in the arms of the man who recounted the melancholy story to me.

Some persons thoughtlessly satisfy their thirst hurriedly by drinking straight off from a *surai*, or they fill up and drink in the dark. Apart from risks of scorpions and such vermin—fancy a scorpion's sting in the tongue—there is also the danger of snake bite through being careless in this way, as the following incident will show. About a week ago a young police officer in these Provinces (N.-W. P.) came into his bungalow in the evening and called for tea; his bearer said he would go for milk. Remembering this reply the young man did not *as was his wont*, seize the milk jug for a mouthful but waited for his servant's return. To the latter's horror there was a twenty-inch *karait* coiled up in the jug which was at once dropped. The jug broke and the snake was scotched, while the sahib congratulated himself on a lucky escape. The peculiar part of the incident is, how did Mr. Karait manage to get into the jug standing upon a shelf five feet from the ground ?

Another narrow escare was related to me by my friend, William C—. As a boy, the son of a medical man, he had a *penhant* for curios of sorts and aspired to making a museum—a healthy hobby by the way for boys or girls. His father's duties taking him to an outstation in the Berars, they occupied a house notoriously infested by cobras; so, early in the day, the doctor warned his boys to be very careful as they moved about, and especially to avoid exploring certain huge water-pots which a former native tenant had sunk into the ground to provide passers-by with waters. Prohibition naturally led to disobedience a might have been expected. William investigated the buried *nands*, and in one he saw a handsome cobra's skin fresh and complete ; without hesitating he jumped in, secured his prize and was out again. Presently on showing the skin to his father with great glee, the latter was at once struck with the freshness of the trophy and at his request was led to the *nand* where the lad had obtained it. In the bottom of the *nand* lay an inverted earthen chatty which the boy had crushed as he stood for one instant on it to pick up his specimen ; the father stirred the fragments of the chatty and up hissed a tremendous cobra which showed good fight and took a deal of nerve and dodging to kill. Doubtless William was suitably rewarded and was given ample opportunity to reflect upon his disobedience which nearly ended in a tragedy. He is a pretty old fellow now, but he has not lost his taste for curios. On another occasion this same youth set a series of steel teeth traps in a rat run behind some boxes and hearing a noise he went to examine the traps, narrowly escaping a bite from a cobra which had been caught.

But William's father, the doctor, had a remarkable experience once with a python which he had partly tamed (?); this was when he was a bachelor many years ago. The python was generally caged, but sometimes was let out in the compound; one day the *mali* reported he could not get the python into the cage: would the sahib come and see. Dr. C.—went out and, at what he deemed was a favorable moment, seized the beast by the neck; in an instant he was enveloped in its coils which almost cracked his ribs with the pressure. He had the presence of mind to release his grip of its neck and as suddenly it uncoiled itself before the doctor had received any serious injury. The whole thing took place very quickly. He also possessed a tame bear at this time and a fellow officer having one day expressed his admiration of the doctor's pet, the latter assuming the allusion was to the serpent offered to present it to him. What was the gentleman's consternation to see some coolies bring in a cage containing the python. However, he immersed the cage into his cistern and drowned the reptile, which he then cured and stuffed, sending it as a gift to the British Museum, whence he received a letter thanking him for the very rare specimen of the genus represented by his contribution. One more instance of a snake finding its way into a strange place. A railway official opened his office drawer one day and found it to contain the slough of a very five cobra. One can conceive the start and horror at the unexpected sight of the skin. A careful search was made for the original owner of the discarded property but without success, until a good while after, when apprehension had given place to indifference, the snake was discovered behind some bundles or boxes in the verandah and killed.

It is not generally known that nicotine is a deadly thing for snakes of all kinds, and smokers might allow their cigar butts to lie about the bath-room holes with advantage. A juggler was once displaying his snakes in Victoria Cross Road, Byculla, after a fall of rain ; one of his cobras wriggled into a small pool on the road and instantly became rigid and cataleptic; somebody had thrown the end of a cheroot into the pool and the nicotine floating on the water had disagreed with the snake. The poor *tamasha-wala* made a great row over it, but the snake soon recovered.

At all times snakes are unpleasant in a dwelling, but especially at night. One hot night about three years ago my wife left her bed to call out to the punkawalla to pull (the same old punkawalla is pulling my punkah as I write) ; she placed her elbows on the window sill when she was struck by a snake, which I at once traced and killed in the room. The creature did no more than prick her arm and as it turned out to be non-venomous the incident ended well, but for some hours there was a great agony of suspense, not to speak of the shock. In the adjoining dressing room crowded with kit of sorts, the writer aroused a four feet jet black cobra—a *monocellata*, that is one with a single mark like the smear of a Vaishnavite and no spectacles. Fortunately this was in the day time when the things were being moved out of the house on transfer. My escape was marvellous, and the servants and coolies congratulating me said : "Ah the sahib is so kind to all, therefore God has preserved him."

One more personal incident and I have done. My father and I were travelling by daily stages from Bangalore to Hyderabad in the days before railways connected the two towns. He was nervous about snake, a tendency I think I have inherited. We arrived at a dak bungalow one morning, when the Governor, going into one of the rooms, drew my attention to a raised line or mark in the coir matting; a snake, cried he, "jump, jump" and we jumped upon that reptile nine feet long until we had done it to pulp; cautiously my greatly excited father pulled over the matting and we found—the remains of a huge cobra ? No! the sweeper's bamboo! It was a relief to us to be able to roar with laughter after this. I once related this dramatic incident to a company of acquaintances, when a spectacled lady of uncertain age choked me off very severely with, "But you told us you had trampled the thing to a *pulp*; how did you do it if it was a bamboo?" This arrested the fun and I collapsed. She was Scotch from Glasgow.

A CORRESPONDENT from Buxar relates an incident which deserves to he recorded. On the 29th ultimo, a boat in the river, with some passengers in it, was seen to be in a dangerous plight and about to sink. Immediately, boats were launched off from the bank for rescue. The tide was, however, very strong, and it was feared that the help might not come in time. The Sub-divisional Officer, Mr. Dixon, was at the time holding his Court ; and as soon as the report reached him, he let loose his own boat, and himself rowing with his two servants, got at the sinking boat and saved the passengers amidst the loudly-uttereed blessings of a vast crowd of spectators.

EXTENSIVE NOTE FORGING.

THIS was an appeal to the High Court by Raj Chandra Bannerjee and Preo Nath Chatterjee from the decision of the Sessions Judge of Nadia, who, agreeing with the jury, convicted them of forging currency notes and sentenced them and five others to ten years' rigorous imprisonment each. The case for the prosecution was that in pursuance of a project originally conceived by the prisoners, Raj Chandra Bannerjee and Preo Nath Chatterjee, the appellants before the Court, the accused Bholanath Ganguly was engaged to make three plates at Kalna in the house of the prisoner Raj Chander Bannerjee with a view to forge ten rupee currency notes, that accused Purna Chandra Bhuttacharjee was subsequently induced to join in the company as he was said to be capable of water lining handmade folios used in manufacturing notes, that Raj Chandra, who is a muktear, financed the business at first and that when his fund was exhausted one Hera Lal Sircar, through the aid of one Chandra Kumar Sen Gupta and Nundo Lal Chowdhuri, Superintendent of a girls' school at Calcutta, procured another capitalist to finance the project. This capitalist was a zemindar in the district of Midnapore, and he expressed his readiness to advance the money necessary for buying a press and other materials required for forging notes and that he came down to Calcutta and met Hera Lal Sircar in the girls' school in question and sent money a few days afterwards. A house or rather rooms in a house were then hired at Rambagan, where all the accused met from time to time in furtherance of their object. On the 6th Bhadra last year, a press was brought, but as the landlord was annoyed with the noise made they were obliged to send away the press to Kalna whence it was taken to a house at Malipota, near Santipur, within the district of Nadia. This was near the house of the appellant Raj Chandra Banerjee. Here the accused met from time to time and forging of notes commenced. It is said 421 pieces of ten-rupee notes were forged here. The sight of a constable passing by the house one day frightened the forgers and they quarrelled among themselves. When their vocation was disclosed to other inmates of the house they were turned out, and they with bag and baggage left the next morning for Ranaghat from where they came back to Calcutta. Some of the accused then used to meet at the girls' school in question at Grey Street and tried to dispose of the notes. consequently they placed themselves in communication with one Abinash Chunder Dey, of 347 Chitpore Road, and offered him Rs. 1,000 if he took Rs. 4,000 worth of notes. This excited his suspicion and Abinash informed the police. On the 29th September last Abinash made an arrangement to purchase the notes and the police having been informed beforehand surrounded the house in Grey Street and at a signal from Abinash entered the house, seized some of the prisoners and took possession of the notes found there. The remaining accused were subsequently arrested—one in the district of Howrah in a village and two, the appellants before the High Court, in the District of Nadia. Some of the accused made a confession before the Joint-Magistrate of Ranaghat, and they were finally committed to the Sessions at Nadia, with the result that seven of them were convicted and sentenced as stated above. The accused Raj Chandra and Preo Nath only appealed and the rest did not.

Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose with Babu Dasurathi Sanyal appeared for the appellants, and Babu Atulya Churn Bose for the Crown.

Mr. Ghose made a feeling appeal to their Lordships to reduce the heavy sentence of ten years passed on the appellants specially on Raj Chandra Banerjee who is an old man of seventy years. The ten years' sentence would be a death sentence to him, for it was not likely that he would come out of the jail if he, an old man of 70, were to spend ten years there. He, therefore, appealed to their Lordships to reduce the sentence.

Their Lordships Justices Ameer Ali and Henderson on the 6th Sept., after hearing both sides, reduced the sentence on Raj Chandra to five years and that on Preo Nath to seven years

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THE N. W. P. High Court has accepted the appeal of Munshi Abdul Aziz, Editor of *Rohilkhand Gazette*, Bareilly, and has set aside the order convicting him.

OWING to the abnormal rise of the rivers Ganges and Punpun the whole of the *diarah* land on the north and most part part of the *allah* lands on the south of Bankipore are under water. Much damage has been done to the *Makai* crop.

IT is reported that some of the indigo-planters of Behar are winding up their business on account of its price having become very low. The artificial means adopted for the preparation of indigo has, we understand, made the cultivation of that crop a less lucrative concern.

IN spite of the fact that the Secretary of State's reply to the Government of India regarding the settlement in the Khyber was received a fortnight ago, no orders upon it have yet been issued. The Afridis are still hungering after their allowances.

THERE was a Brahmin inmate of the Nizam's Central Jail, condemned to life sentence. When he was first sent there, his wife was only a girl of seven. Since then, she has grown to be a young woman ; and it was only quite recently that she was told by her aged mother-in-law as to what had befallen her husband. The wife fully realised her miserable fate. Overwhelmed with grief, she, with her mother-in-law, sought an interview with Sujan Lall a well-known philathropist of Secunderabad, to intercede for her husband's release. Her entreaties and persuasions moved Sujan Lall, who forwarded a petition to the Nizam, praying for the Brahmin's release, and, in case of His Highness declining, offered himself to undergo the Brahmin's term of imprisonment. The petition has been successful and the husband has returned to the bosom of the disconsolate wife. There is now joy and happiness in the family where there were only tears and heart-aching before. But the philanthropist did not stop there. The Brahmin lost his case on account of his having lived in jail. Sujan Lall bore all the expenses of the family going to Upper India for washing off their pollution by a dip in the holy Ganges and then being readmitted into the caste.

Correspondence.

MR. CURZON ON THE RUSSIAN QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The following paragraph will give your readers some idea of the views, entertained by our Viceroy-elect on the Russian question a few years ago (1890-92.) :

"If I were asked again at this time to cast a horoscope of the immediate political future in Central Asia, (for, extended prophecy would be absurd), I should answer that the omens are still those of peace. Time seems to strengthen the conviction on both sides that a collision could not be confined to a small area or to a brief period of time, but that it must have a far-reaching consequences which none can forsee. The notoriously peaceful proclivities of the reigning Czar are a potent factor in the situation, but one upon which, in the unsettled state of Russian society, it is unsafe too depend to implicitly; although it may be hoped that the same instincts will be developed in his eldest son, who recently toured through the Indian dominions of the Queen. Afganistan remains, as it has now been for half a century, the key of the situation. If Russia continues to respect alike her own plighted word and the boundaries of her neighbours, the Cossack and the sepoy may remain friends at a distance for some time to come".

The Rt Hon. G. Curzon's "Persia", p. 85 IV of I.

RAMA KANTO BHATTACHARJYA.

THE LATE DR. AMULYA CHURN BOSE.

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—With the first streaks of light, on Sunday morning, passed away a great and a noble soul, in the untimely death of Dr. Amulya Churn Bose. A career in its usefulness, and in its full vigour and energy, I have never seen before in any other professional man of the time. Scarcely three and thirty he was, when the hand of cruel Death snatched away from our midst one of the "divinest of souls"—one of the noblest specimens of humanity,—and "charity shrieked" as Dr. Bose died. I speak from personal knowledge when I refer to his private charities—his unbounded sympathy for the poor and the needy in their distress. "Sympathy begets love," and this is why he was liked and admired by all classes of people from the highest strata of society to the lowest; and it is also why the poorer section of our community feels his loss to be a keen one ; for, in him they have lost a man whose heart moved in thorough unison with them in their distress and misery. Students, widows and orphans received regular help from him, and his private charities may be roughly put down at not less than 80 or 90 rupees a month, which, to us, in these days, seems somewhat striking for a man of his means. It was only the other day that a poor widow sent for him to attend her son who was then almost in the throes of death ; the good and kind doctor at once went to see the patient, and when the poor lady expressed her inability to pay him his fee, he, with his usual magnanimity of mind, told her in a broken voice. "no, you won't have to pay me 'visit;' tell ne, what shall I give you for your son's diet and medicine;" and, forthwith came from his pocket a currency note, which greatly alleviated the sufferings of the poor family ; and he repeated the same process several times, unasked and uncalled-for, till he brought round her son. There are undoubtedly many able practitioners in the city; but, who ever thought of visiting the cottage of the poor, unsolicited and uncalled-for, where only the bitter shrieks of agony and distress are to be heard, and where the silvery sound of a rupee does not make a sweet music at all? His indomitable energy and enthusiasm in connection with the Calcutta Medical School, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Dr. B. Bose's recently-started Calcutta Medical Institution, speak volumes as to what a self-secrificing spirit he was endowed with. He was at one time almost the life and soul of the Calcutta Medical School, for whose progress and welfare he laboured ceaselessly, till he won for it a name and a fame as a first-rate medical institution in Bengal. Nor was his sympathy with the charitable institutions in the city less ; he was connected with the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School, the Calcutta Orphanage, and numerous other institutions of the sort, that have for their objects to wipe off the tears of the suffering humanity. In him, we have lost a man, whose genial and affable disposition made him an ornament to our society ; and, it will not be quite unbecoming on my part, if I take this opportunity to offer my sincere condolence to the bereaved family, and assure them that we do feel for his loss, as much as they do. In conclusion, allow me, sir, to send my feeble voice to the throne of God, to give him that rest and peace in heaven, "after life's fitful fever" ; and, may He, in His infinite mercy, vouchsafe unto the members of the medical profession, His choicest blessings, so that, the example of the late Dr. Bose, may serve to them the purpose of a finger-post, in their onward march of sympathy and fellow-feeling.

ABINASH CHANDRA GHOSHA.

THE PLAGUE AT HURDWAR.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Of all the places in the N. W. Provinces, Hurdwar and the two neighbouring towns of Jwalapur and Kankhal, were infected with the plague. It was strange, however, that while reports from all the infected areas in other parts of the country found their way into print, for reasons unknown, the public were not enlightened as to the course of the pestilence that raged here.

I believe that the ideal of the preventive measures, conceivable and based on the strictest principles of modern sanitation, was carried to a perfection in these towns only and nowhere else. They were completely evacuated at the very first apperance of the fell desease, and people made to live in camps for months together ; nay, the buildings with all their belongings underwent either the completest process of disinfection imaginable, down to a brick and rag, or destruction, total or partial, as was considered expedient. Along with the other precautionary measures, the railway station at Jwalapur was shut against all traffic, to prevent dessimination.

Fortunately the plague disappeared in a comparatively short time, and the towns were re-populated, after a few months. It is a patent fact that the town of Jwalapur, the last and the worst-infected of the three, has shown the cleanest bill of health these four months ; while the two others have not had a single suspicious case, for a longer period.

I am unable to judge on the expediency of all the sanitary measures enforced here, since opinions of the best and the most experienced of the sanitary experts differ materially as to their efficacy ; yet, supposing that the measures adopted were the correct and the necessary ones, it can safely be concluded that the towns named, undergoing as they did such an elaborate process of disinfection, through unflogging vigilance and exertions of the authorities, are now as free from infection as any others.

However, even after such a procedure under a finished hygienic code, and the total disappearance of the disease for a long time, the towns have not yet been pronounced free from infection, the railway station at Jwalapur remains closed all the same, and the medical staff is as splendid as ever. The untold hardships the poor people had to go through, are simply indescribable. It led almost to a total stoppage to their sole source of income from the pilgrims, since very few indeed wished to lead the very uncomfortable life, under the strictest quarantine enforced here. Again they have been put to enormous expenses in building their own camps. and in repairing damages done to their houses, from a sanitary point of view. But apart from all individual losses, the Municipality has been tremendously strained to defray the sanitary and other expenses. There is no doubt, however, that the staff on preventive duty has been reduced, so far as the low-paid subordinates are concerned, namely, the services of a tribe of Hospital Assistants, and Naib Tahsildars, and a host of coolies, have been dispensed with ; yet the present staff, consisting of commissioned and gazetted medical officers, judicial and medical subordinates, doing very little work, or serving as Medical Registrars and Conservancy Inspectors, costs between 1,500 and 2,000 rupees a month. It is just possible that suggestions have very wisely been made to the Government to keep up the present staff as a purely precautionary measure for some time. The people, however, being overstrained. can ill-afford to maintain such a highly-paid one, while the object can easily be attained at a quarter of the present encumbrance, Again it is inadvisable to draw on the resources of the Municipality to an unnecessary extent, when things can as effectually be managed at a less expense. Besides, considering the likelihood of another demand of an absolutely emergent and similarly-pressing nature, every step should be taken for a future provision. A staff consisting of a competent Health Officer, either European or native, and three Hospital Assistants as Medical Registrars to the three towns, is all that appears necessary for the look-out, and will not cost more than 500 rupees a month. Seeing that Hurdwar is always visited by some sort of epidemic or other, being the most important place for pilgrimage, I should suggest the permanent appointment of a Health Officer to keep a careful supervision over the sanitation of the town.

On his visit to Hurdwar, in April last, H. H. P. MacDonnell held out a definite promise to withdraw every arrangement, if the towns were free of the plague for a period of six weeks. Now in consideration of the local disappearance of the disease for a far longer period, it is earnestly hoped that the Hon'ble Mr. J. J. D LaTouche, the present ruler of the provinces, would take pity on the distressed and panic-stricken condition of the unfortunate people of Hurdwar and the incorporated towns, and be kind enough to mitigate it as far as possible, and is deemed consistent with the preservation of public health.

PILGRIM.

THE other day a *Sadhu* was brought into the Bankipore Civil Courts compound, who, it was said, was three hundred years old. The nails in his hands and feet were unusually large and his eyelids never drooped. - *Behar Herald*

AN Assistant Jailor of the Banda District Jail, whose embezzlement of public money to the extent of nearly Rs. 200 was discovered by the Accountant-General, has just been sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and a fine. The prisoner has preferred an appeal. A jail clerk has also been convicted and sentenced in this connection.

OF late, there was a destrictive fire in the Railway Company's quarters at Samastapur. How it originated, has not been ascertained as yet. As if broke out at midday, there was no loss of life ; but several persons have lost their almost all. Among the victims is Mr. McIntyre, the Resident Engineer, who has become rather unenviably famous in connection with the late shooting case; and it is said that he has suffered to the extent of nearly Rs. 10,000. His bungalow has been burnt down, with all his earthly belongings.

THE other day four brothers were executed under a sentence of Court for the murder of one man, and we note with some consolation that the shocking event has opened the eyes of the public to the barbarity of the sentence of death. The execution of the four unfortunate men is being condemned severely by some of our contemporaries, and one of them has gone so far as to say that the four men were "killed in cold blood" for the murder which they committed. While we would not use such language with reference to the sentence which has been carried out, we desire at the same to draw attention to the provision of law which allows the passing of such a terrible sentence. We have in these columns had occasion more than once to point out the inhuman nature of the punishment, and are of opinion that the Delhi case will have produced some good if the unhappy result of it succeeds in rousing public feeling in the country on the subject. India is eminently a land where to a very large extent animal life is held sacred, and where at all events the feeling would be universal in favor of abolishing the provision of law which empowers the extinction of human life even for the offence of murder. An amendment of the Penal Code in this respect by the Government themselves would be a very welcome measure, and it would not altogether be a bad idea if the coming Congress took steps to move in the matter.—*Madras Standard*

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

LIBERAL MEETING IN KILMARNOCK.

PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR THE BURGHS.

ADDRESS BY MR. W. S. CAINE.

ON Monday evening Mr. W. S. Caine, the prospective Liberal candidate for theKilmarnock Burghs, addressed a meeting of the members of the Kilmarnock Liberal Association in the Oddfellows' Hall. There was a large attendance, the hall being completely filled.

The Chairmaan—I have now great pleasure in calling upon Mr. Caine to support the resolution.

Mr. Caine who had a very hearty reception said—I am here in response to the invitation of a joint committee of the five Liberal Associations of this constituency who have done me the honour to think I shall be the best candidate to win back the burghs to their old allegiance to Liberal principles. I meet the whole association of Kilmarnock to-night, and during the week I shall meet that of each of the other four contributory burghs. If I find favour with you all—and from the warm and kind welcome I have had during the last two or three days in Kilmarnock, I have reason to believe I shall—it will give me keen pleasure to do everything I can to fight the battle for you at the next election, for I am fully convinced that united and determined action will result in victory—(applause)—though I am not blind to the arduous task which will lie before us, in defeating a man so deservedly popular, on personal grounds, as your present member. I have been somewhat amused as well as edified by the comments in the Tory press of West Scotland anent my possible candidature. I have to thonk the Liberal press of the district for much sympathy and encouragement, for they have led me to think that my presence among you will be welcomed by the party which they instruct with so much ability; but I am far more encouraged by the evidence furnished in the Tory papers, that my candidature appears to be exceedingly disagreeable to the Tory party. That is just as it should be. (Laughter.) I am sorry to find that the chief objection is that I am an Englishman. Well, that is my misfortune—(laughter)—not my fault. (Applause.) One paper went so far as protest against that it called the "English invasion," declaring that there were far too many Englishmen already in Scottish seats. It is quite true that there are three Englishmen in Parliament for Scotch constituencies and that I shall presently make a fourth. Who are they? Mr. Asquith, Mr John Morley, and Sir William Priestly. It will be hard to find three more distinguished men in their respective positions in life. (Applause.) I at any rate may feel very proud indeed, I wish I could feel worthy, to sit for a Scottish seat side by side with such men. Scottish Liberalism does itself no injury by offering hospitality to English Liberals, who feel doubly strong in Parliament with such stalwart Radical constituencies at their back. (Applause.) But we return the hospitality nobly. There are 27 members of the present House who are Scotchmen sitting for English constituencies, 21 of whom are Tories. It would be a hard matter for Scottish Tories to find seats at all if these hospitable English constituencies did not provide them, for there is no room for them on Scottish benches. But while such hospitality continues, it does not lie in the mouth of Tory editors to gird at Scotch Liberals inviting Englishmen to represent them. Then I am objected to because I am a teetotaller. I don't see what my personal habits have to do with it; but the only way in which my fitness as your Member can be affected by that is that I shall always go about my work sober. (Laughter and applause.) Of course I am a carpet-bagger, a wandering adventurer—(laughter)—have been kicked out of every seat I have ever held, an enemy to missionaries, a preacher of sedition in India and a dozen other dreadful things—(laughter)—but the upshot of it all is that I am a vigorous Radical, extremely likely to win the seat, in the opinion of these excellent Tory critics. You are told, among other dreadful things, that I am unsound on the great principle of Home Rule. My view on this question is, and always has been. that a measure should be passed for Ireland by which the Imperial Parliament, retaining its own paramount authority and continuing representative of every part of the United Kingdom, shall delegate purely Irish affairs, to a popularly elected Parliament in Ireland, on principles which can be extended to the other parts of the United Kingdom. I believe this to be absolutely necessary, not merely to satisfy the legitimate demands of the Irish people, but to enable the Imperial Parliament fitly to discharge its multifarious and ever-increasing responsibilities to the Empire. (Applause.) I could not vote with Mr. Gladstone in his Home Rule Bill of 1886, because it excluded Ireland from the Imperial Parliament; but, elected for Bradford in 1892, on the principles I have just laid down, I had no difficulty in voting solidly with him in all the divisions on his Home Rule Bill of 1893. If I become your Member I shall loyally do my utmost to get this great Irish problem solved and settled once for all on wise, safe and constitutional lines, which I shall be glad to see immediately applied to Scotland, Wales, and England, relieving the Imperial Parliament of the burden of local legislation altogether. (Applause.)

After dwelling at length on such questions as those relating to equitable taxation, rating of ground values, liquor and labour, Mr. Caine proceeded on to say:—

I have only time left for a word on foreign policy. Lord Salisbury has even brought his own followers to the edge of revolt by his contemptible and vacillating foreign policy. In none of the controversies with foreign powers which have arisen during his term of office, has he secured a single diplomatic success or emerged without loss of dignity and prestige. This has been notably manifest in China, where Russia has secured advantages in the teeth of a British opposition, that was both unnecessary and unjust. His policy is well described in last week's 'Saturday Review' as one of bullying and backing down, bluster and runaway. There has never been the slightest need to do either, if the policy towards Russia of friendship and co-operation, commenced by the greatest British Foreign Minister Lord Rosebery, had been maintained and persevered in by his successor. Russia is only too willing to act in friendly combination with ourselves in China, but she cannot forget that for 100 years we have thwarted her everywhere, checked her natural expansion, and that our policy to-day is one of armed distrust and suspicion. Readiness to fight Russia is the key-note of all our preparations for national defence. It costs the empire £75,000,000 to maintain her armaments, and India is on the verge of bankruptcy from the awful expenditure incurred by preparations against Russia. It is no business of ours to bolster a rotten, tottering, barbaric government like China against the inevitable advance of a civilising power. Let us frankly recognise that Russia is only doing what we ourselves have done in India, Burmah, and Africa, and what we should do in China if we were Russia. Central China is all we are able to tackle in the way of a sphere of influence, and I should be glad if that policy could be avoided. The most dangerous and fatal of all policies is one of vacillation. Let us tell Russia plainly where we expect her to stop, and if she goes beyond that we shall know what to do. I am glad to think that the fierce indignation of his own followers is bringing Lord Salisbury to his senses. But I have already tried your patience sufficiently, and I must close, for I wish to leave ample time for that favourite pastime of Scottish politicians—heckling. (Laughter.) I will close by simply saying that I am well disposed to place my humble services at your disposal as Liberal candidate for the next election, if on further acquaintance and fuller knowledge of my political opinions you confirm the invitation, given so heartily and unanimously. (Applause.) If that be so, I promise that, so far as I am concerned, nothing shall be left undone that can be done to secure a triumphant victory, and to bring back the Kilmarnock Burghs to that traditional loyalty to the great Liberal party—(applause) which, in a fit of temporary aberration, they forgot in 1895. (Laughter.) If the meeting I have addressed to-night be any indication of the earnestness and determination of the constituency as a whole, that happy result will be achieved by you, whether under my leadership or that of some other and better man (Applause.)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

An opportunity was then afforded of asking questions, but no one took advantage of it.

Bailie Campbell then moved—

That this meeting accords its hearty thanks to Mr. W. S. Caine for his presence and speech to-night, and expresses the hope that he may be willing to accept an invitation from the Liberals of the Kilmarnock District of Burghs, to contest the seat at next general election."

You will see said the Bailie that this resolution divides itself into two. In the first place it accords our heartiest thanks to Mr. Caine for his presence and his speech to-night. As Mr. Caine stated at the opening of his address he is not a Scotsman, but he is next door to it—he is a Manxman. We may say that he was a stranger when he came, and we took him in (Laughter and applause.) He is a man of almost Cabinet rank—an authority on a great many subjects, such as India and the temperance question, and therefore we are indebted to him not only for his presence, but for the very interesting, humorous, and instructive address he has given us to-night. (Applause.) The latter half of my resolution expresses the hope that Mr. Caine may see his way to accept the invitation from the Liberals of the Kilmarnock District of Burghs to contest the seat at next general election. Now, the Kilmarnock District of Bighas has always been a Radical and Democratic constituency, and Mr. Caine, in his speech to-night, has shown that he is a sturdy and independent Radical politician. The very fact that at the time when Mr. Gladstone introduced his Home Rule Bill, Mr. Caine could not accept it, proves that he is a man who considers his position carefully in all matters that come before him. We were taunted by the Conservative and Unionist papers that we slavishly followed the lead of Mr. Gladstone. Mr Caine is a man who can think for himself—(applause)—and being in sympathy with our views, I am certain it is the earnest and unanimous hope of this meeting that he may see his way to accept our invitation to contest the Burghs at next general election, and that we will do everything in our power to ensure his triumphant return. (Applause.) They say it is a great thing when you have it in your power to fulfil the propheeies that you make; so I would call on every Liberal and Radical in this meeting to do his utmost to return Mr. Caine if he should see his way to accept our invitation. (Loud applause.)

Town Treasurer Carnie seconded the resolution. He said—We have been hearing to-night, and we have been seeing in the press from time to time, a good many expressions about an "open door". Well, for you and for me the political door has been closed since 1895. We are being misrepresented. But if Mr. Caine will kindly accept our invitation to come and represent us I believe I may say—and I am sure you will all hope—that it will open the door again for us. (Applause.) Mr. Caine has to-night given us, as Bailie Campbell has stated, a political education. He has shown us—though we certainly knew before—that he is a politician of the very highest class. (Applause.) He has to-night proved that fact in our hearing. He has a thorough grip of all the leading political questions that are before the country and that are likely to come before the country for some time, and if we prevail on Mr. Caine to come forward as our candidate I have no hesitation in saying that we shall return him. (Applause). If we get such a representative as Mr. Caine we who are Liberals and Radicals would feel that the door had really been opened for us, and that we would have a voice in what was taking place in our representative legislative assembly. (Loud applause).

The resolution, on being put to the meeting, was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Caine, who was again received with loud applause, said—I need hardly say that I am very deeply gratified with the mark of confidence that you have just expressed in me, and the invitation which you have repeated on the top of that of your executive body, that I should become your candidate at the next election. I never like to commit myself to a candidature until I have had a public meeting.

I thiuk it is well in the interest of democracy generally that a candidate should submit himself in the first instance to a general-public meeting, not for the adoption of that gublic meeting—for the adoption of a candidate rests with the Liberal Association or the Conserretive Association, as the case may be but that you yourselves may judge as to how my candidature is likely to be accepted by the main body of the electors. (Applause.) Before giving a definite reply to the kind invitation which you have thus endorsed, I venture to ask you to allow me in the first instance, before that decision is arrived at, to address a large meeting of the general body of the electors in each of the five contributory burghs, because if there is the same happy result in the other four burghs as there has been here to-night, I shall ask the same permission there, and perhaps, if it be agreeable to you, I shall come down later on, in two or three months' time, when you will have had time to think the matter over and make preparations—I shall come down and address a public meeting—(applause)—and after that public meeting I shall leave your Association to take such action as you may think fit in regard to your final choice. (Applause). I am going to America next week for a couple of months to study two or three questions of some importance in which I am interested, especially the development which has taken place with regard to the principle of Local Option in the liquor traffic, so that I may be better able to deal with the report of the Royal Commission to which reference has already been made. (Applause). When I return from America, to which I look forward with considerable interest—America is going through a time of considerable trial and difficulty—I shall communicate with the authorities of your Association and ask them to arrange for a general public meeting; and if, after that, the same feeling prevails as prevails here to-night, I do not think there will be any reluctance on my part of accept your kind and graceful invitation. (Applause.)

WE are informed from a credible source that the papers in connectien with the Samastipore shooting case have for some time been before the Lieutenant-Governor for departmental consideration.

MR. James E. Ferrell, of Burnt House W. Va. has discarded all other diarrhœa medicines and now handles only Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy. He has used it in his family and sold it to his customers for years, and has no hesitation in saying that it is the best emedy for colic and diarrhœa, he has ever known. rt not only gives relief, but effects a permanent cure. It is also pleasant and safe to take, making it an Ideal remedy for bowel complaints. For sale by *
SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
B. K. PAUL & CO., Chemists.

BURRISAL GUNS.

A VERY extraordinary accoustical phenomenon has been encounterced by observers in certain parts of the world; it is not met with everywhere, and always arouses a good deal of surprise. The sound in question resembles somewhat the booming of artillery, but is much more prolonged and dull, in these respect being more like distant thunder. By English scientists the phenomenon is generally termed "Burrisal guns," from the district in India where it was first noticed. Quite recently Dr. Cancani, of the Italian seismological society, has published what seems to be a very reasonable explanation of these curious noises. The observations on which the paper is based were mostly made in places in or near the inland province of Umbria in Italy where the people believe—though without any particular reason for it—that the sounds come from the sea. The sound is very distinct and easily recognised, and is not likely to be confused even with others which it most resembles. It always seems to come from a distance and from the neighbourhood of the horizon; occasionally it seems to proceed from the ground, but this is seldom the case its most common source being apparently in the atmosphere. It is nearly always heard in calm weather, but so often precedes storms as to have given ise to a local proverb connecting the two. The nterval between successive sound is very variable, sometimes only a few minutes, or even a few seconds and they are heard all the year round, and at any time of the day or night. In explaining the origin of the sounds, Dr. Cancani proceeds by the method of exclusion. They cannot be due to a stormy sea as they are often heard when the sea is dead calm; nor can they be produced by gusts of wind in mountain gorges, or they are heard in some places on the tops of mountains, and in others on open plains. They can scarcely be of atmospheric origin, as, if so, they would not be confined to special regions, which they certainly are; nor can they be of human origin, as in some of the localities in which they are heard the use of explosives is quite unknown. Apparently the only remaining possible hypothesis is to regard the sounds as generated within the earth's crust and as of common origin with the noises which accompany an earthquake. In favour of this hypothesis we have the fact that in a series of earthquakes noises are often heard without any accompanying earth tremor. The strangest of all the facts connected with these noises, *viz.*, their definite localisation, has certainly not been explained either by Dr. Cancani or anyone else.

A JUGGLER'S PERFORMANCE.

'S. W. H." writes in the *Pioneer*: While travelling through the Central Provinces of India last summer I had the good fortune to be present at a large entertainment given by a wealthy Indian Raja, and during the course of the afternoon went to look at the tricks of a native juggler of great repute, who was performing in the open courtyard before a very large assembly of both Europeans and natives. After having performed the usual sleight of hand tricks with cards, balls and rings common amongst all jugglers of the East, the man announced that he was about to perform the great basket trick. In the presence of the whole crowd, his only visible assistant, a small boy (presumably his son), of about eight or nine years of age, was bound hand and foot, and placed inside a large square basket, which after having been carefully locked up was covered over with a large white cloth. The conjuror then took into his hand a long Indian sword called a *tulwar*, and made a rapid thrust into the middle of the basket which contained the bound child. A piercing shriek came from inside the basket, and the [illegible] for a moment, the juggler again thrust his sword right through the basket, and withdrew it covered with blood, this was repeated some four or five times, the sword being thrust into every corner of the basket. The juggler then laid down his weapons and removed the cloth from over the basket; he then again produced the key and requested one of the audience to unlock the basket. One of our number having volunteered his services, turned the key and raised the lid, when, to our utter amazement, the basket was found to be empty, but our astonishment was even greater, when the aforesaid little boy was dragged out from under the chair of one of the audience perfectly unharmed. How the boy escaped from the basket when placed there bound, right under the eyes of no less than a hundred spectators, without being seen is too great a mystery for me to try to fathom.

But we were to be still more astonished, for after performing a few more ordinary sleight-hand tricks, which he did with a neatness unsurpassed by any English conjuror, ancient or modern, he took into hand a large ball of thin twine, and after having tied one end to his sack, threw the ball into the air with all his strength. Instead of falling the ball seemed to rise in the air, rise slowly till it vanished into the heavens, or rather into the clouds overhead. There were no houses near for it to have fallen into, and besides, we could see the twine for a great distance straight up in the air. The juggler than ordered the little boy who had once before helped to astonish us, to mount up the string. Seizing the thin twine with his hands and feet the little boy climbed up with all the agility of a monkey. Gradually and gradually he grew smaller, till he also like the twine vanished from our eyes The juggler then took no more notice of him, but proceeded to perform some more minor tricks. After a while he declared that he required his son's help and called to him to come down. A voice from in the air replied that he would not, after trying some persuasion the juggler got angry, and ordered the boy to descend on pain of death. Again having received a reply in the negative the enraged man seized a long knife, and climbed hand over hand up the twine, holding the knife between his teeth, and disappeared, in his turn, like the boy in the blue sky overhead. Suddenly a screem vibrated through the air, and to the unutterable horror of the spectators, drops of blood began to fall from the spot where the juggler had disappeared into the sky. Then the boy fell, dismembered, first his legs, then his body, and lastly his head. After his head had touched the ground, the juggler slid down the twine, the knife all bloody at his waist and leisurely gathered up the members of the child, and placed them together with the twine which he pulled down under a cloth. He then gathered up the rest of his apparatus and removed the sheet. From under it arose up the same identical boy, whole and intact; there were no mangled remains and no blood.

ACCORDING to a correspondent, Sir John Woodburn, during his recent visit to Comillah, had a talk with the Settlement Officer in charge of the Khas Mehals, and remarked that as the tenants were ready in squalid miseries, any enhancement of rent should be made with the greatest caution

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been in the drug business for twelve years, and during that time, have sold nearly all the cough medicines manufactured; and from my personal knowledge of such medies, I say that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy gives better satisfaction than any other on the market.—W. M. Terry, Elkton, old by*

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THE SEDITION DEBATE.

LET not the reader start at our title. In India itself the sedition controversy is as dead as Julius Cæsar, and for a reason that is perfectly well understood here. The supply of mad poets and other village Hampdens of sorts is limited. The arrangements for putting them into prison have been brought to the last degree of simplicity. All that has to be done is for the Magistrate to summon them into his presence and call upon them to pay down one thousand rupees which they have not got, and which nobody will be so foolish as to lend them. Then in they go. It may be true, as our old friend Sir A. Scoble has pointed out in England, that "they are very well treated in jail and are not required to do hard labour." They prefer, however, to remain outside; and nobody of any heart or sense will blame them. We know of only one evil consequence of the profound quiet that has settled down on them. It has persuaded the Secretary of State, who says that he makes it his business to read the Native papers, that anybody who declares that the new press regulations have caused deep discontent in India is romancing. "I never heard a more absolutely unfounded statement," are his Lordship's words. "I admit that at the outset there were in certain papers articles antagonistic to the proposals of Government. Little by little, as the intention of the Government became clear, the opposition gradually disappeared." If his Lordship cares to investigate the point further, we think he will discover that the opposition disappeared just about the time the proposals became law.

The sedition debate to which we desire to call a moment's attention here has taken place in the House of Commons; and our extracts in the preceding paragraph are all from it. The debate has great historical interest for us. It cleared up, for example, what had hitherto remained for us the crowning mystery of the whole unhappy business. It has all along been impossible for us to understand why, as the immediate sequel of a series of successful prosecutions under the old section 124*a*, the Government of India wanted to have that section altered. That cat is out of the bag now. The Government of India did not want to have the saction altered. They probably saw that any alteration made at such a juncture could not but weaken the moral effect throughout the country of the convictions which had been obtained. The reason for the alteration, according to Lord George Hamilton himself in this debate, was his Lordship's desire that "inasmuch as it was proposed to give power to the Magistrates in the lower Courts of jurisdiction to apply section 124*a*, it should be drafted in such a way as to make its meaning absolutely unmistakable." It is obvious that the lower Courts of jurisdiction are not the only parties concerned in a clear statement of what the law is. The people, who are expected to obey the law, have an even clearer right to know what the law is; and it is a strong measure to send a man to prison for eighteen months for breaking a law which you forthwith proceed to admit is expressed in such a manner that lower Courts of jurisdiction cannot be quite trusted to understand it. For this, or some other good reason, the Government of India protested to the Secretary of State that they were perfectly satisfied, as they well might be, with the existing law as judicially interpreted. The alteration was forced on them by the Secretary of State, acting in consultation with "the highest legal authorities," an expression which probably means Lord Halsbury. The debate in Calcutta was even more of a mockery of anything like legislative deliberation than the country at the time knew.

The defence of the new section and of the alterations made at the same time in the Criminal Procedure Code was entrusted to two lawyers. We have already seen how Sir A. Scoble made light of the new summary procedure. They did not want to institute a prosecution against every petty preacher of sedition; what they wanted was to bring such people before a competent authority and make them give security for their good behaviour for some time to come. If they did not do that they must go to gaol like other people who could not give such security; but they were very well treated in gaol, and were not required to do hard labour. He did not see how in that there was any infraction of the libery of the Press." Another thing which Sir A. Scoble did not see was that there is a little contradiction between these sentences and his next one, which was that "no right that anyone had to be tried by a jury before the passing of this Act was in the slightest degree impaired by the Act." One can only contemplate that statement with respectful amazement. The other lawyer, the Solicitor-General, is lost in self-admiration at the way in which the steps that have been taken in India have assimilated the Indian to the English law. "To bring the law of India into conformity with the law of England, which had always leant to the side of freedom, was not a change which was likely to result in unwarrantable interference with individual liberty." Beautiful! when a case occurs in England of an editor being sent for, and, without trial as to his past, informed that unless he oan fork out one hundred pounds as security for his "good behaviour" in his leading cloumns for the future or go to prison we shall be glad to hear of it.—*Advocate of India.*

FOUR police constables of the Gokak Taluka were charged before the Sessions Judge and a jury at Belgaum with causing the death of a person suspected in a theft case by ill-treating him. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty," but the Sessions Judge, differing, referred the case to the High Court for final orders.

ACCORDING to the "Scientific American" the war balloon used at Santiago, was held by 18 men, and had 1,000 feet of rope; there was a telegraph apparently, and not a telephone on it. Three shells from a shrapnel tore great holes in it, and a shower of bullets made it look like a great sieve, but it came down easily enough and the three men in it escaped with only slight injuriees. It did great service in reconnoitring the Spanish position.

THE Poona plague authorities have issued instructions to the Poona Station Master not to issue tickets to any person without the production of a pass from them. The Station Master is, however, vested with discretion as regards Europeans travelling on urgent business. Yet we are asked to believe that the rule applies without distinction to all Europeans and Natives. We do not mean to say that the Station Master will abuse his discretion; but nonetheless it will be very difficult for the people in general to believe that the rule makes no distinction between themselves and the Shahibs. And it is sentiment which accounts for much in these matters.

J. W. Baggett, of Oak Grove, Fla., had an attack of the measles, nearly three years ago, and the desease left him with very severe pains in the chest "I thought I would die," he writes; "but to my great joy I was saved by Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Pains in the chest nearly always indicate the approach of pneumonia, and by promptly applying this liniment on a flannel cloth, which should be bound on the chest, an attack of pneumonia may be prevented. It is always prompt and effectual. For sale at 25 and 50 cents per bottle by*

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THE CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

THE Pekin correspondent of the *Times* wrote on Aug. 12:—Despite the British protest, an Imperial decree, ratifying the Pekin-Hankow Railway contract, was issued this morning, the counter-pressure being effective. The rebuff is the more serious since the Tsung-li-Yamen had given assurances that the decree would not be issued until after a further conference with the British Minister. This further illustrates the disadvantage of basing a policy upon assurances.

Referring to the unfavourable comments of the English Press as to Belgian action concerning the Pekin-Hankow Railway, the *Independence Belge* publishes a lengthy article from a "well-informed" correspondent, who declares that no such concession has been accorded to a Belgian syndicate. The concession in question, he says, was granted years ago to a Chinese railway syndicate, and the Belgian company has merely undertaken to find certain capital and construct a portion of the line, which reverts at the end of thirty years, with all appurtenances, to the original concessionaires, who have never relinquished their proprietary rights. The Belgian syndicate have appealed to France for part of the capital; but Russian intervention is a pure fiction. The choice of the Russo-Chinese Bank, according to this correspondent, is entirely due to motives of business convenience, and this has naturally excited the jealousy of certain English banks at Shanghai. It is also alleged by the same authority that the construction of a branch line towards Canton has been conceded to an American company, and only in the case of the latter failing, would Belgium obtain preference over other nations to complete the work. The writer concludes by arguing that King Leopold's personal share in all these negotiations is the best guarantee against the interference of any non-neutral State, and calls upon the English Press to abstain from polemics on a subject as to which it is entirely misinformed.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* wrote on Aug. 15:—The news that King Leopold is trying to obtain from China the cession of a strip of territory in order to safeguard Begian interests there, is confirmed from Ostend, with the addition that the King and the Belgian Premier were at Havre lately, and had a conference with President Faure on the subject.

In an article upon what is described as the anti-Russian attitude of the British Press in the Chinese question, the semi-official Journal de St. Petersbourg says:—"If the British newspapers had better informed themselves regarding the pacific character of Russian policy and the friendly relations between Russia and China, they would have attached no credence to certain sensational items of news. The object of the Russian Government is to preserve the advantages recently gained by Russia, who in no way contemplates making fresh acquisitions in the Far East. It is far from the Government's intention to injure the economic interests of Great Britain any more than of any other Power.

The "Daily Graphic" wrote on Aug. 17:—We understand that an exchange of views is taking place between the British and Russian Governments in regard to the present situation in China. The negotiations, which were initiated in London last Friday, are being pursued in the most conciliatory spirit on both sides. Formal assurances in the sense of the statement quoted from the semi-official "Journal de Saint Petersbourg" have already been given to her Majesty's Government. The Russian Government has, moreover, declared that it has no interest, financial or otherwise, in the Pekin-Hankow Railway, and has no desire to acquire any. The transactions of the Russo-Chinese Bank with the concessionaires of the line are exclusively of a banking and commission kind, and no funds whatever are being provided by the bank for the purpose of financing the concession.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 16 (*Reuter*).—M. de Staal, Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, will leave to-morrow for London, travelling *via* Germany.

Hong Kong, Aug 16 (*Reuter*).—Owing to the political situation in regard to China, the visit of her Majesty's cruiser *Powerful* to Java has been cancelled. It has also been decided to postpone carrying out the larger repairs of her Majesty's battleship *Barfler*, while the first-class cruiser *Blenheim*, which came out on particular service to convey the new crew for the *Barfleur*, has been ordered to remain on the station for the present.

ALLEGED SECRET RUSSO-CHINESE TREATY.

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Daily Mail* professes to have discovered the terms of a secret treaty between Russia and China, which has been in existence for some years past. He says:—

If my information be correct this treaty is nothing less than an offensive alliance between the two Powers. China undertakes to regard Russia as having a preponderating influence in all questions of commercial internal policy, and Russia will support China against the demands of "the open door." Russia finances China in internal development. China permits Russia preferential rates in certain areas, and railways built in the joint interests of the two countries will be under the practical control of Russia. Russia assists China in the development of her land and naval forces. China co-operates as ally.

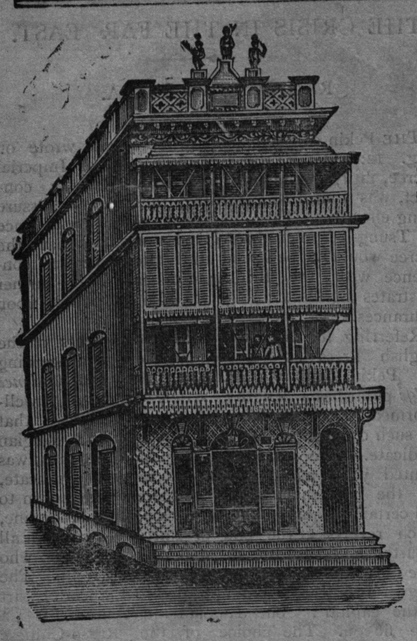
The treaty has been in abeyance since Li Hung Chang visited the Czar. That it has become operative at this moment in respect of the Pekin-Hankow conceesion and New-chwang extension, is significant.

The *China Gazette* states, according to a Shanghai telegram, that the Russian Government holds a promise from Li Hung Chang, made during his visit to St. Petersburg, that China would place the Chinese Imperial Customs Department under Russian control whenever it was considered that the friendship of the two neighbours suffered from the presence of an outsider in such an important position as Pekin, and the interests of the two nations demanded a change. Lie Hung Chang is said to favour the supersession of Sir Robert Hart by M. Pavloff, Russian Charge d' Affaires at Pekin.

IT is rumoured that Mr. E. Norton has resiged his membership of the Madras Bar Association, owing, it is said, to the relations between himself and the Advocate-General of Madras, brought about in the course of the hearing of a big original suit now going on in the High Court, in which they are engaged on opposite sides.

THE last "Gazette of India" contains the annual report upon the operation of the Paper Currency Department for the year 1897-98. The net circulation at the end of the financial year was one crore rupees more than at the beginning; but the average circulation shows a considerable decline during the past four years, from Rs. 31 crores in 1894-95 to Rs. 24 crores last year. No allowance is made for the depreciation in value of Government securities held against the note issue. Of a net circulation of Rs. 24¾ crores Rs. 10 crores is against Government Paper—Rs. 2 Crores of which is in the three per cents, Re. 14½ crores being held in silver, and Rs. ¼ crore in gold A very considerable increase has taken place in the circulation of 1840 and 1862 rupees The proportion of these rupees in circulation has increasted from 34.6 in the year the mints were closed to 35·8 in 1897, and has now reached 38·6.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta



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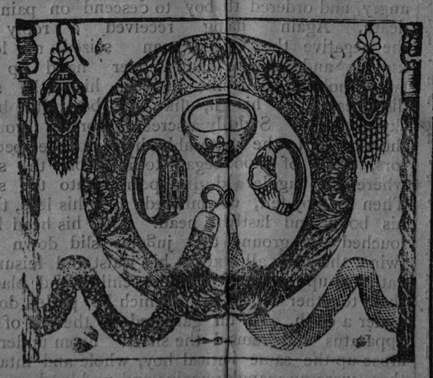

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