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পাদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট বতন্ত্র।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

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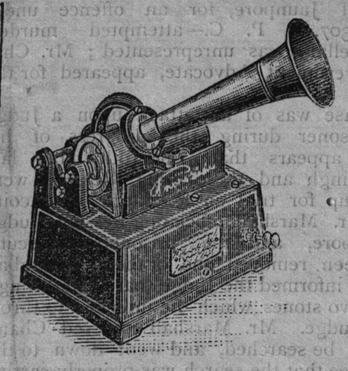

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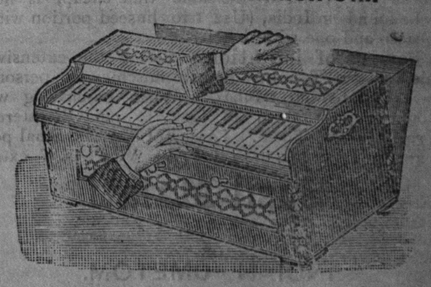

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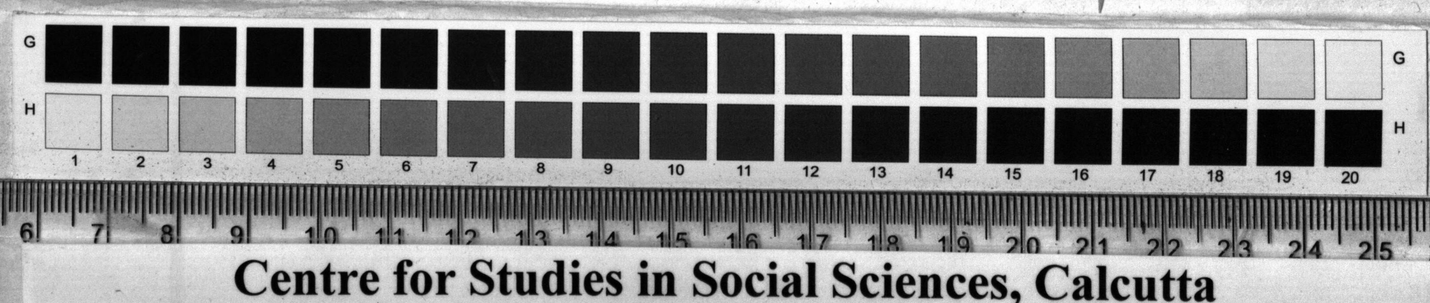

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CALCUTTA DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE sixth annual Report of the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School for 1898-99 states that the principal event of the year was the return to Calcutta of the principal, who was deputed to England in September, 1894. Since the return of Baboo Jamini Nath Banerji, a class has been formed for training teachers. The existing teachers of the school have joined the class. Twice in the week the principal lectures to them on the science and the art of teaching the deaf and dumb and on Vocal Physiology, as also on the general principles of education. The Committee regret very much to say that no outsiders have yet joined the class. They thought that it would open a new field for educated women.

The pupils are taught to speak, to understand the spoken language of others by lip-reading, to read, to write and to count. All the pupils who attend school can talk more or less, while three or four of them can intelligently hold a conversation. Drawing and wood-engraving form a part of the curriculum.

The school was opened in April 1893, in a room of the City College, by Babu Sreenath Sinha with only two pupils. In 1897, *i. e.*, within four years, the number of pupils rose to about 30. But the uninviting visitation of the plague scared many people out of town, and our number on the roll dwindled to 20. Happily there has again been a sign of increase, and the number on the 31st January last was 24. Of these three are girls, two Hindoos and one native Christian. Of the boys one is of Eurasian parentage, learning English, and the rest Hindoos, learning their mother-tongue. Of the pupils who have left school three have joined the Government School of Art. One is doing wood-engraving work and two have become gold-smiths. One of the latter is already able to earn his own living. He is only about 16 years of age.

The want of a properly organised boarding establishment was long felt. The Committee are of opinion that an institution like this is likely to attract pupils from the mufussil. Further, under the present circumstances of our country, the education of a deaf-mute can be better carried on in a boarding school under the constant supervision of specialists, than in a day school. Considering all the circumstances, a small beginning was made in October, 1897, with one boarder, at a considerable sacrifice of money. The number soon rose to five. But the plague scare drove away almost all of them, and the enterprise collapsed. The establishment was, however, again opened in January last. At present there are three boarders. They live in the school under the supervision of Babu Mohini Mohan Mozumdar, a teacher, who deserves the best thanks of the Committee for his gratuitous labour in superintending the boarding.

Our income was greatly enhanced by the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie granting us a monthly aid of Rs. 125. The grant, which was made in March, 1896, has since been raised to Rs. 150. We cannot be sufficiently thankful to the Government of Bengal for their liberality. As in previous years, the Municipal grant of Rs. 100 per month has been a great source of our income. While thanking the Corporation for its liberal help, the Committee would venture to ask the City Fathers to make the grant permanent, as also to raise it so as to make it equal to the Government grant. Indeed the Calcutta Municipal Corporation was the first public body to come to our help. The Corporation of Bombay contributes Rs. 150 per month to a similar institution in Bombay. The income from private subscriptions, that was perceptibly going down for sometime, has been considerably pushed up by the liberality of Raja Bahadoor Norendra Lal Khan of Narajol, which has proved a source of gain to the extent of Rs. 400 a year. The Raja has also promised soon to raise the subscription to Rs. 1,200 a year.

Although the country passed through various calamities, the financial condition of our school, for the years under report, was, on the whole, satisfactory. Our income has been Rs. 17, 685-11-9 and expenditure Rs. 16,503-3-6, leaving a balance of Rs. 1, 182-8-3. This does not include donations received towards the Building Fund, which are kept altogether separate. The balance money has been invested in Government Promissory Notes.

The School occupies an old rented house—No. 4 College Square. Although it has been thoroughly repaired, it is not a proper house for the location of a growing institution like ours. The necessity of the School for having a house of its own with proper boarding arrangements is very keenly felt. A piece of land (about nine bighas) has been selected for the purpose on Circular Road. A plan of the building has also been submitted to the Government of Bengal. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was the first person to advise us to try to have local habitation for the school and opened our Building Fund by a contribution of Rs. 150. The land, with a school building and a boarding-house, will cost a lakh and-a-quarter. The Committee have in hand about Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,250 have been promised up to date. A very liberal offer of Rs. 25,000 has come from Rai Amrito Nath Mitter Bahadoor. But the Rai Bahadoor mades the offer on certain conditions which the Committee are not prepared to accept in full. It is expected, however, that he may modify those conditions and help in the erection of a school building for a class of people who number no less than 70,000 in Bengal alone.

APPEAL TO THE VICEROY.

The following open letter to the Viceroy appears in the *British Deaf Monthly* :—

May it please your Excellency,—Knowing you to be a staunch and generous friend of the deaf and dumb, as is proved by your acting as President to the Deaf and Dumb Society of your late constituency, Southport, and by your promising not to lose your interest in the subject, we venture to address you on behalf of the 200,000 deaf and dumb of the vast country over which you now exercise almost royal sway. Your unique position enables you to do much. Even to have it known that the Viceroy has the educational and spiritual welfare of the deaf and dumb st heart will give the work in India an impetus such as it never had before ; an impetus it very sadly needs. There is much locked-up wealth in the coffers of India's magnates that if once set flowing would speedily establish the work on a sufficiently comprehensive basis. The condition of the 200,000 deaf and dumb in India is miserable in the extreme. They are regarded by most of the educated as unteachable, next door to idiots, well-nigh soulless, and are correspondingly neglected. By the inferior classes they are regarded as under the curse of God, or as undergoing punishment for sins committed in a previous existence ; they are treated as pariahs and it is regarded as impious even if possible to do anything to mitigate their lot. In India, at the present time, there are but three small schools for the deaf at which some ninety children are under instruction. At Bombay there is a school conducted by the Roman Catholics, with about twenty-five pupils. At Calcutta, on College Square, there is a school conducted on undenominational lines, of which Mr. J. N. Banerji, than whom no man knows more of the condition of India's deaf or has their welfare more at heart, is the headmaster. Here about twenty-five children are under instruction. The third school is at Palamcottah in the Madras Presidency, where Miss Florence Swainson, Zenana Missionary has forty children in attendance. We thus arrive at the fact that out of the 200,000 deaf and dumb of India, but ninety children are receiving any education. For adults there is no provision whatever. Out of every 2,000 of India's deaf, the appalling proportion of 1,999 remains in hopeless bondage to ignorance and sin. Little more than 100 years ago the condition of the deaf of the United Kingdom was very much the same. Now, in spite of almost as much indifference, prejudice, and bigoted opposition as prevails in India, the state of affairs has undergone complete reversal. Excepting in Ireland, where injustice still lingers, practically all our deaf children of school age are at school. For deaf adults there are missions in nearly every large town. Nothing less than what is done in our own country is our duty towards the deaf of India. Your Excellency, we appeal to you with every confidence that you will do all that a Viceroy can do to forward the performance of this duty.

European v. Indian Medical Science.

Triumph of the latter.

THE ATANK NIGRAHA PILLS.

paration of purely native drugs. These Pills are the best tonic and defy competition with any tonic preparations of European fame, and may be safely and confidently used where the latter wi h all the boasted efficacy have failed. The needy are solicited and advised to give these Pills an unprejudiced trial.

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KAVIRAJ MANISHANKAR GOVINDJI,

Branch No. 2, Atank Nigraha Ausadhalya.

166-62 Harrison Road, Barabazar, Calcutta.

N.-W. P. HIGH COURT.

THE SAHARANPUR RAILWAY ASSAULT CASE.

THE Acting Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Blair have just decided the appeal of Muktar Ahmad Shaik, aged 23, from the sentence of transportation for life passed upon him by the Sessions Judge for an offence under section 376 of the I. P. C. It will be remembered that the accused was convicted of committing a rape upon Miss Caroline Ally, daughter of Mr. H. Ally, a lay missionary of Calcutta, while she was travelling at night on the railway between Nagal and Deoband stations. The Government Advocate supported the conviction, and Mr. Dillon appeared for the appellant.

The Acting Chief Justice, in giving the decision of the Court, said the appellant had been most ably defended, and his counsel had taken them through the whole of the evidence and commented upon any and every point that could be said to be in favour of the accused. But after listening to it all they were satisfied that the offence charged had been clearly established against the appellant. There was ample opportunity for identification by the prosecutrix and she had sworn without any hesitation that the accused was the man who committed the offence. The only point in her evidence which called for observation was the fact that when she first complained of the violence done to her—a complaint made openly and to the proper authorities within ten minutes after the act had been committed—she described her assailant as being a man with a beard some inches long. There was evidence, and evidence of witnesses for the prosecution, that they saw the accused about the same time, and he was then clean-shaven. In the opinion of their Lordships from the way in which the light fell upon the man or from some other reason the girl might have been mistaken upon the point. The accused was described as a man with a long chin, and that fact coupled with the way in which the light fell upon him might account for the mistake, if mistake there was. There was a ring of truth about the girl's evidence and about all her actions which removed all doubt. Indeed the only way that the learned counsel for the appellant could attack the evidence was by supposing that the girl in good faith was virtually in collusion with the police and identified the wrong man. If the case rested upon her evidence alone, and it did not so rest, they would still have been satisfied, especially after reading what the learned Sessions Judge said about her demeanour and appearance in the witness-box. It was not necessary to go into the other evidence, beyond saying that it corroborated the girl upon the most material points. As to the question of the offence and the punishment awarded, their Lordships found that the accused had been twice convicted of theft. They were not trying him for theft, nor would they take that into consideration in considering the sentence, but that fact did explain a slight difficulty which existed in their minds. They believed this man was a railway thief, and he found his way into this carriage, and took advantage of his position with a defenceless girl to commit this dastardly and atrocious crime upon her. From their point of view the offence was a very aggravated one, and one which was likely to cause considerable alarm and want of security in the mind of a large class of people. Bearing this in view they felt that they could not interfere with the sentence passed, which was a proper sentence. They therefore dismissed the appeal and confirmed the sentence.—*Pioneer.*

A Mother Tells How She Saved Her Little Daughter's Life.

I am the mother of eight children and have had a great deal of experience with medicines. Last summer my little daughter had the dysentery in its worst form. We thought she would die. I tried everything I could think of, but nothing seemed to do her any good. I saw by an advertisement in our paper that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy was highly recommended and sent and got a bottle at once. It proved to be one of the very best medicines we ever had in the house. It saved my little daughter's life. I am anxious for every mother to know what an excellent medicine it is. Had I known it at first it would have saved me a great deal of anxiety and my little daughter much suffering. Yours truly, Mrs. Geo. F Burdick, Liberty, R. I. For sale by.

SMITH STANISTREET & CO.

AND B. K PAUL & CO.

ASSAULT ON A JUDGE IN COURT.

THE Acting Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Blair have just decided the appeal of one Chand Singh, of Jaunpur, from sentence of transportation for life passed upon him by Mr. B. J. Dalal, the officiating Sessions Judge of Jaunpore, for an offence under Section 307, I. P. C.—attempted murder. The appellant was unrepresented ; Mr. Chamier, Government Advocate, appeared for the Crown.

The case was of an attack upon a Judge by a prisoner during the progress of his trial. It appears that on 10th May last Chand Singh and three other persons were brought up for trial on a charge of dacoity before Mr. Marshall, officiating Sessions Judge of Jaunpore, and the prisoners' handcuffs having been removed, one of them, Bindraban by name, informed the Judge that Chand Singh carried two stones which he intended to throw at the Judge. Mr. Marshall ordered Chand Singh to be searched, and went down to the dock to see that the search was properly carried out. Bindraban closed with Chand Singh and a struggle took place, Bindraban succeeding in taking a stone from the front of Chand Singh's waist cloth. The Judge then told Bindraban to leave Chand Singh alone, and ordered the police officers to search the latter properly. While the constables were blundering about, Chand Singh got one hand free, pulled a large stone from his waist cloth and threw it at the Judge, who was struck just above the nose and between the eye-brows. The wound bled profusely, and Mr. Marshall was assisted out of the Court. The Civil Surgeon was sent for and later on he shewed up the wound. There was some doubt as to how the wound was caused, Mr. Marshall being unable to say whether the stone was thrown or whether the prisoner struck him on the head with the stone in his hand, but the other witnesses declared the stone was actually thrown, though the accused was within striking distance. A new charge of attempting to murder was framed against Chand Singh, and was tried by Mr. B.J. Dalal. From the evidence of Captain C. Milne, Civil Surgeon, given before the Magistrate, it apperred that the wound was not a dangerous one, but had the stone hit the Judge in the eye it would certainly have destroyed the sight of that eye, and had struck him on the side of the head above the ear such a blow would probably have caused death. The accused, Chand Singh, in one of his statements said he threw the stone at the Judge because he had sentenced some friends of his to ten years' imprisonment and "because he had promised me that if I spoke the truth I should be let of". He did not intend to kill the Judge.

The Sessions Judge in deciding the case said that the stone was a very heavy one, and is such that any reasonable being would know that if it were thrown at a man's head that man will be killed." Chand Singh must have known that the result of throwing a heavy stone at the Judge might be to kill him. " Why," asked the Sessions Judge, "was Chand Singh careful to pick up heavy stones?" If his intention was only to commit simple hurt he would have picked up a few handy *kankars*. ' He used every effort to take out the stone, even though closed with by Bindraban and the police, whereas if simple hurt only was intended he might have given the Judge a blow with his fist. Chand Singh appeared to have found time to study the Penal Code, for he urged that Section 352—using criminal force without grave provocation—was more appropriate to his case than 307. But the learned Sessions Judge, while condescending to point out that the prisoner probably meant Section 323—voluntarily causing hurt—preferred his own reasoning to that of the accused, and accordingly sentenced him to transportation for life. Two other sentences, amounting to 20 years' transportation had also been passed upon Chand Singh, and these would in the ordinary course merge in the life sentence, but to keep the cases distinct, in case of any alteration in appeal, the Sessions Judge directed that the life sentence should take effect from the date of the expiry of the 20 years' transportation for dacoity.

The High Court Judges held that there was no reason to interfere with the sentence, which was proper one, and they dismissed the appeal,

MAHOMEDAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THE following are extracts from a circular issued by Delawer Hossain Ahmed, Syed Amir Hossain, and Mirza Shajaut Aly :—The 13th Mahhmedan Educational Conference is to be held in Calcutta in December next, and the preliminary steps are being taken by the Central Committee at Calcutta. It has long been admitted throughout India that the Mahomedan community has fallen considerably behind in education. To remedy this state of things Sir Syed Ahmed, established a college at Aligarh to educate the younger generations of Islam and grew together a number of ardent supporters of his views. He organized the Mahomedan Educational Conference whose duty it is to impress upon the Mahomedan people the necessity of improving and extending our education, of discussing the measures likely to effect this object, and suggesting the action that should be taken. Syed Ahmed is dead, but it was his desire that the Madrasulul-Oloom should be raised to the status of a University, and the meeting of the Conference which is to be held in Calcutta will discuss matters connected with the promotion of our education and the reform of our educational system. The great advantages of a Mahomedan University and the measures necessary for its establishment will receive attention. But the success of the Conference depends wholly on the co-operation and held of our brethren. Let them reflect on the general condition of our society, and we are sure they will think with us that the struggle for existence is becoming harder for us every day, and that we must be up and doing if we mean to prevent a further decline in our social position. The Calcutta Committee trust that gentlemen who are faint-hearted or diffident will summon up courage to attend the meetings of the Conference and promote the cause of Mahomedan education and that those who cherish the slightest regard for the welfare of the community will show their sympathy by becoming members of the Conference. The membership is open to all, and gentlemen who desire to be enlisted have to inform Nawab Muhsun-ul-Mulk Syud Mehdhi Ali at Aligarh, Secretary to the Conference, or Khan Bahadur Mirza Sahjaut Ali Beg, Secretary to the Central Executive Committee, Calcutta, No. 1, Robinson Street, of their intention and remit a subscription of Rs. 5. They will be consulted in all matters connected with Mahomedan education, will be kept informed from time to time of the measures taken by the Conference in furtherance of its object and will be entitled to receive a report of its proceedings. This invitation is made on behalf of the Mahomedans of Bengal, Behar, Orissa and Assam, and gentlemen from these provinces will each have therefore to give a further sum of Rs. 5. We have no doubt they will be glad to give a large sum when they come to know that the sittings of the Conference will be presided over by Mr. Justice Amir Alj, who has a European reputation as a historian of Mahomedan rule and Mahomedan civilization, and that addresses will be delivered by Mr. Syed Mohmud, Nawab Mahsun-ul-Mulk, Moulvi Nazir Ahmud and others of the N.-W. P., whose names have become household words among our community. Addresses, will also be delivered by men of culture and experience in the Lower Provinces who may desire to do so and intimate their wishes to the standing committee of Aligarh, and the Conference will be glad to profit by the resolutions they may move and suggestions which they make at the meetings. It is proposed to hold the meetings of the Conference on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th of December next.

MISS DAISY LEITER.

MISS DAISY LEITER, the youngest of Lev Z. Leiter's daughters, is likely to make a matrimonial match fully as brilliant as that of Miss Mary Leiter, now Lady Curzon, Vicereine of India. The Earl of Suffolk and of Berkshire, who bears the proudest title in England, has offered to make Miss Daisy Leiter, a countess and she is "considering." From Simla the summer capital of India, comes the intimation that her answer is pretty sure to be "yes."

When Alexander Pope wrote the celebrated line, "All the blood of all the Howards," he put into poetry the traditional esteem in which the Earl's great family is held. Unquestionably it is the oldest and noblest family in England. The old Duke of Norfolk, head of the family, is the premier Duke of England. He takes precedence of all other peers on state occasions. He it is who has the right to keep his hat on in the presence of the Queen. The young Earl's own title, Duke of Suffolk and of Berkshire, makes him one of the chiefs of the ancient house of Howard. The Howards had borne an unsullied name for centuries when the Marlbroughs where mere money-making adventurers. Lord Thomas Howard, second son of the fourth Duke of Norfolk, received the title, Duke of Suffolk in 1603. The earldom of Berkshire had been conferred upon another member of the Howard family some time previously. In 1626 the two families were merged.

DESCENDED FROM TWO KINGS.

The blood of two Kings runs in the veins of the young Earl who is suing Miss Leiter. He is descended directly from Edward I., one of the English Plantaganets, and from Philip the Bold of France. He is a descendant, also, in direct male line from Hereward, the great Saxon patriot. In addition to his rank and his wealth, this fortunate peer is only 22 years old, and an officer in the British army. He is Lord Curzon's aid-de-camp, and enjoys the full confidence and friendship of the Viceroy. By the Leiter family he is well liked, and there seems to be nothing in the way of the match; nothing but the will of Miss Daisy Leiter herself. She is "thinking about it," and chaperons the world over regard a case as settled when it reaches this point.

The Earl of Suffolk's main estate consists of Charlton park, a fine old Elizabethan mansion, in the midst of 10,000 acres in Wiltshire.

Miss Daisy Leiter, is the third of the three charming sisters who were born and brought up in Chicago. In the estimation of many she is even prettier than her sister, Miss Nannie Leiter, whom Carolus-Duran declared was the handsomest woman in America. She is better than handsome, however. She is clever and witty, and accomplished. She is a good musician. She is at the glorious age of 19, polished by the social experiences of two seasons.

When Lord and Lady Curzon had gotten well settled at Simla, India, last spring, Mrs. Leiter arrived with her two daughters. At a dinner given by the Vicereine on their arrival the Earl was first presented to Miss Daisy Leiter. Match-makers in India are precisely as numerous as the English and American women residents. Every one of them was immediately on the alert for a romance, and they were not disappointed. Since the first dinner party there has been a series of drives and calls and hops at all of which the young Earl paid assiduous court to the young American girl. Whatever the answer to the Earl's proposal may be, the Misses Leiter propose to make a tour of India before returning to the United States. Some months will be taken up in visits to Lucknow, Delhi, and Benares, with a return in time for all festivities at Calcutta.—*Inter Ocean.*

MR. E. DU CANE SMITHE, Executive Engineer, Punjab, is appointed to officiate as Superintending Engineer from the 17th of July. Mr. Campion, Superintending Engineer, Punjab, officiates as Chief Engineer and Secretary, Government Public Works Department, and from the 14th of July Mr. Dallas, Executive Engineer, is transferred temporarily from the Ghaziabad-Moradabad Railway to the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway.

THE latest traveller who will attempt to penetrate Thibet, the forbidden land, is Mr. John Bookwalter, a millionaire of Springfield, Ohio. He leaves for India next month, and by permission of the Czar will join the Russian exploring expedition, which will penetrate Thibet. Mr. Bookwalter, who is confident of the success of his trip, intends to visit Lhassa and iterview the Grant Llama.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 6, 1899.

MR. SKRINE AS A STATESMAN. I.

THE *Englishman* quotes the following from Mr. Skrine's book, "The Heart of Asia" :—

"Thus we must always be sojourners in India, and our dominion can never strike its roots deeply into the soil. But for the bayonets on which our throne is supported it would fall."

And the *Englishman* then observes :—

"These are not light words, and they are uttered, let it be remembered, by one who has always been a general friend of the natives of India. But friendship should not blind one to facts."

The question whether Mr. Skrine is a friend or not is irrelevant. His claim to be called a friend, however, rests upon the testimony of the editor of the *Englishman*, who is a new-comer. His sentiments, which are approved by the *Englishman*, lead to one conclusion, *viz.*, that according to their opinion British rule is a failure here. British rule here is, however, two hundred years old. So long the rulers were sojourners in this country; and we are now assured that they will ever remain so. And we are further assured that British rule would fall if not supported by physical force. Here we have a severe condemnation of British rule and nothing else; and the prospects held out are gloomy in the extreme, gloomy both for the rulers and the ruled. As for Englishmen, they are told that they must consider their residence in India as banishment and their position as dangerous. While the Indians are told that they must for ever remain a subject race, and kept overawed by physical force.

We think, however, it is impertinence on the part of puny men, to lay down a programme for the future guidance of nations, which shall hold good for ever. But puny men can learn by experience. If experience has convinced Englishmen that the methods that they had adopted in governing this country have failed to establish the foundations of the Empire on a natural basis, they should change them. The utmost that Mr. Skrine can say is that if they follow their present methods they must for ever remain sojourners in India. If he had said that, we would have found some reason in what he said. If the Empire has failed to take root, the methods hitherto adopted to govern the country must be faulty, and they must be changed and others given a trial. That is the logical inference that one can draw from Mr. Skrine's contention. Yet, whenever the Indians or their friends in Parliament have prayed for an inquiry their reasonable prayers have been rejected with scorn.

The prospect held out to the Indians is not bright. Neither is the prospect held out to Englishmen, that they must always remain sojourners in India and surrounded by British bayonets for their protection a bright one. That being the case, is it not reasonable to try whether the prospect can be made better? But an inquiry is resented. It is resented, not by the general body of Englishmen who desire nothing better than a happy life for the Indians under British rule. But it is resented by those who are interested in maintaining the present state of affairs. They dread any change of method, lest the process interferes with their interests. And the general body of Englishmen are guided in this matter by the few thousand Englishmen who are in charge of this country.

The greatest mistake that the rulers of India committed was to undertake a task which was impossible, though they did not see it in the beginning. Their wish was to govern India alone without native help. They undertook not only to govern the Empire, the provinces and cities, but also the villages and hamlets. They undertook to do everything, from fighting on battle fields to appointing Chowkidars in villages. They undertook to do everything alone and single-handed, not only without native co-operation but also without native advice.

Now, this made the work of the administration difficult, almost impossible. The work they undertook was beyond the strength of man. Then, there was another difficulty. Native methods and European methods often differ as poles asunder. Whatever the Europeans touch they make more symmetrical methodical, costly and cumbrous. Take for instance, their system of administration of justice. The machinery is perfect in every respect; only it is costly and does not carry out the object for which it was organized. Native methods are simple, unscientific, cheap and effective. They replaced all native methods by those imported from a highly civilized and wealthy country. Now we are told that there is no hope for India!

Let the Government take charge of the Empire and of the provinces, but let them leave the Indians in charge of their villages. And that will make the British Government take root if it has not done so already. Let the Indians have entire control over their District Boards and village Panchayets for the disposal of civil and criminal cases, and enjoy some other petty privileges, and then the British Government will be acclimatized in India.

MR. SKRINE AS A STATESMAN. II.

MR. SKRINE is not the first philosopher who has ventured to predict the future of India; many others preceding him did the same. What they urge is that a closer connection between India and England is impossible; that Englishmen must for ever remain mere sojourners in India; and that they must for ever have an adequate British force behind them to enable them to govern the country at all.

Now, this supposition suggests other questions. Is it possible for a nation to grow, nay, exist, if they are for ever kept overawed by brute force? That is one point. There is another, which is,—is it possible for Englishmen to grow, if they, in this manner, continue to rule a vast nation under purely despotic principles?

We have been taught even from our infancy to believe that there are moral laws, which are as sure in their effects as the physical. If there is any truth in the existence of moral laws and their potency, ere is a danger in keeping a nation for ever e r strict subjugation. Thus, is it possible nation to remain free if it undertakes to rule another under despotic principles? This question can be settled by a reference to history.

We do not at all admit that brute force is the arbiter of the destinies of the human race. Take, for instance, the case of America. The negroes were more helpless in their condition in that country than the pariah dogs here in India. Yet the Americans took upon themselves even to annihilate their own countrymen for the purpose of liberating the negroes. What business had they to slaughter their own countrymen for the purpose of securing liberty to the blacks? Who impelled them to act in this suicidal manner against their vital interests?

The same thing happened in Ireland. We have no business to inquire whether Ireland had any complaints against England or not, but we know that England has some complaints against Ireland. Ireland is in a chronic state of disaffection. The people have rebelled every twenty-five years, and they have done much to exasperate the feelings of Englishmen against them; yet they found a friend in Mr. Gladstone, who, in his turn, found almost the half of England to support him, in his efforts to grant the right of self-government to Ireland. If he, Mr. Gladstone, had begun early, or if he had lived a few years more, he would have succeeded in carrying out his idea entirely. What power led Mr. Gladstone to go against his country, for the purpose of helping Ireland?

Now, if Mr. Skrine is of opinion that the natives of India should ever be kept in subjugation by brutal force, there are Englishmen who do not take such a gloomy view of the future of this British connection with India. Take, for instance, the cases of Englishmen like Messrs. Wedderburn, Hume, Caine, Herbert Roberts and others. They do not surely hold the view entertained by Mr. Skrine and others of his way of thinking. What their view is, is very clear. They do not wish that there ought to be a severance of the connection that exists between the two countries, but yet they would consider it a great misfortune to agree with Mr. Skrine in the view that, England and India must for ever remain in a state of variance.

The highest ambition of Englishmen has been to win India by a good rule,—to make India a source of strength and not of weakness to England—and to make India grateful for the protection that England affords her. Somehow or other that desire has not yet been fulfilled. The difference between the two races has not been healed, and, therefore, the cry is raised that it can never be healed. And why? Why do the Colonies cling to England, and why it would be a difficult thing for England to make the Indians as grateful for her protection, as she has been able to do in the case of other dependent countries?

Those who raise the cry, that a union of hearts between India and England is not possible, are interested in doing so. They do not like union. They do not like that India should be anythig but a place where Englishmen must come only to make their pile, backed by a British force. Their interest would be served by keeping India apart from England, by fomenting race-feeling and preventing any *enrapport* between the two races. And thus, they are always trying to shew that a union is impossible, and that British bayonets are essential for the maintenance of the Empire.

But, as we said before, if brute force is made the means of maintaining the Empire, then England will suffer along with India. Those who raise the cry that brute force alone maintains the Empire, libel both the Indians and Englishmen, and they libel humanity. They are traitors to their own country, and traitors to the human race. Let no Englishman ever dream that any unnatural connection between two nations can be kept up for ever. Of course, India has been rendered utterly helpless, and England is irresistibly strong. But the negroes were weaker than the Indians, and yet they acheived their political liberty. In the same manner, the regeneration of the Indians will come from Englishmen themselves. For, Mr. Skrine cannot stop the progress of liberalism. They are going to stop war, and what does that mean? It means that God has not yet been supplanted, and that moral laws yet hold their empire supreme in the human heart.

Those silly Englishmen, who advocate brute force, only throw the Indians into despair and seek to demoralize their own countrymen. They cannot, however, stop the progress of humanity. England itself is in a bad way; for it is in the hands of a few thousands of the upper classes. Has not England its House of Lords? When England has been able to achieve its freedom fully, India will get its share. Let it not be forgotten that the great bulk of Englishmen are on the side of the Indians, and their highest ambition is to make their dependants sharers in the blessings they enjoy. But the vast body of Englishmen are not yet in power.

THE *Indian Spectator* talks of the "dialectic skill" displayed by the Government of India in framing its despatch on the Calcutta Municipal Bill. "This dialectic skill is employed to make it appear to the public that the scheme recommended by Lord Curzon's Government had the approval of and was, indeed, suggested by the Minute of Dissent recorded by the Hon'ble Babus Surendra Nath and Narendra Nath." Now, the mistake of the representatives was to refer to the Bombay scheme at all; for the rate-payers were never for it, whether in part or in full. The Bombay scheme is not founded upon the principle of election as it obtains in Calcutta, and that is its great initial defect. Whenever the Bombay scheme was offered to Calcutta, it was rejected with scorn, and this game was tried from the very beginning. In Calcutta the rate-payers had and yet have the privilege of electing their representatives, who, being two-thirds of the entire Corporation, had large control over that body. Sir A. Mackenzie wanted to destroy this practically complete system of election that the Calcutta rate-payers enjoyed and to introduce in its stead the Bombay scheme which is based more upon nomination than upon election. To pray, therefore, for the Bombay system in its entirety as an alternative is to play into the hands of Sir A. Mackenzie. It is no compliment to Lord Curzon that he employed "dialectic skill" in depriving the Indians of a valued privilege. Surely the representatives never meant seriously when they said, "let us have the Bombay system in its entirety."

WE need hardly point out that the Government of India has an important work before it, namely, the solution of the question of separation of the two functions, executive and judicial. The question has been discussed threadbare and more than one Secretary of State for India has admitted the necessity of reform. The only ground against the carrying out of the reform was alleged to be the question of expense. But Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt, who can speak with authority, has shown in a paper that the separation can be effected without any or much cost. Even if the reform entails some cost, the Government ought to make the sacrifice for a reform which will effect the purity of the administration. The only objection against the reform is, that it is one advocated by the Congress; but, we hope, Lord Curzon will not consider that as a point against it, but rather as one in its favour. The reform has been so often prayed for, not only by the nation but also by Englishmen of high position and authority that any further agitation in its support is not absolutely necessary. Indeed, as we said before, Secretaries of State, both Conservative and Liberal, have accepted the necessity of reform. The memorial on this subject, which will be before the Viceroy in a few days, is so very influentially signed,—it is supported by the Parliamentary Committee composed of more than one hundred Members of Parliament—that any further agitation is not necessary. Yet it would not be altogether a dissipation of energy on the part of political Associations in this country to approach the Government again on the subject. There is a European Association at Calcutta under the presidency of that distinguished lawyer, Mr. Pugh. Would he mind taking the trouble of making his Association take interest in this great work? Then we have the Trades Association and the European Chamber of Commerce. Will they do something in favour of this reform, in which they are as vitally interested as the Indians?

THE full text of the resolution, which was unanimously passed at the meeting of the Calcutta Corporation on Wednesday last, with the exception of two European official members, runs as follows :—

"That having regard to one of the principal grounds for the introduction of the Calcutta Municipal Bill as summarised by the Government of Bengal in their letter No. 383. T. M., dated the 17th June, 1897, since quoted by the Government of India in their despatch No. 93, dated the 17th June, 1899, and lately published for general information, namely, "the growth of party spirit and the appearance among the elected Commissioners of a class of professional and in some cases corrupt politicians," the Commissioners in meeting respectfully solicit that they be furnished with the information that may be at the disposal of the Government upon which such a grave charge has been based. They beg respectfully to point out that a charge so definite as regards the persons against whom it is brought involves a reflection upon the character of every elected Commissioner, and they must express their deep regret that an imputation of this kind should have been made by the Government of the Province against a public body entrusted with such responsible functions as the Corporation, and communicated to the Government of India without any public enquiry and without affording the elected Commissioners an opportunity of explanation or defence."

When it came to be known that the Government of Bengal had brought charges of corruption against the Municipal Commissioners, the latter felt themselves very much humiliated. They discussed how to meet this unlooked for attack of the Government, and determined upon demanding from it an explanation, and resigning if they got no redress. But they were persuaded to bear every thing with patience in consideration of the interests at stake. The prospect looked hopeful; the Liberals sided with the rate-payers; and Lord Curzon's attitude was friendly. It was thus thought that any action, which savoured of aggression, would be injurious to the interests of the rate-payers. And so the Commissioners remained quiet over the attack made against them behind their backs. The Despatch of the Government of India has, however, proved sorely disappointing. But more: The Government of India has accepted the charges brought against the Commissioners as gospel truth! The Commissioners met privately to consider the situation and they thought that the first step should be to approach the Government with an humble prayer to the effect, that they should be furnished with the information upon which the charge against them is based. What the Government will do in such a circumstance we know not. But the Commissioners find themselves in a difficult position. If there is any man guilty, the innocent have to suffer for him. This unpublished paper has affected the reputation of all the Commissioners; for no one knows any thing about what it contains. The position of the Government is not at all enviable; for we do not see how it can deny the redress sought by the Commissioners. To say that it is a private document will not do in this case; for a revolution has been sought to be effected basing upon its contents. To say that it has injured none, is to deny patent facts. The Government declares upon the strength of that paper that some Commissioners are corrupt; and such a declaration brings every one of them to a position of suspicion. Now an innocent man will not like even to be suspected. Already people are naming freely half-a-dozen Commissioners. How unjust, if they are innocent! Yet they cannot help it; they cannot, with the Government declaration before the world, stop the mouths of the public.

IT is a well-known fact that Indian Judges are very severe with old offenders, even when they are convicted of trifling offences. Instances are not rare in which old offenders have been transported for life for stealing such valueless things as brinjals or plantain leaves. Only the other day, *Truth* was very hard upon a Judge of the Madras High Court for sentencing a man to transportation for life for stealing some betel nuts. It seems that the strictures of the London paper have had little effect upon the Madras judicial officers, as the following case, hailing from Trichinopoly, will show :—

"One Narain *alias* Ponusami with 4 previous convictions against him, was convicted of the theft of plantains in the garden of Vakil Sanjiva Rao in broad daylight and sentenced to transportation for life by Mr. H. G. Joseph, I. C. S., Sessions Judge of Trichinopoly."

Mr. Justice Wills of Manchester had lately to try a worse case than the Trichinopoly one, and this is the way how he disposed of it. The accused, Michael Brady and James Dillon,—two old offenders,—were found guilty of robbing a till at Middleton. The Judge passed on them severe sentences, namely, five and three years' penal servitude, respectively, because of their previous convictions. In his cooler moments, he, however, changed his views by arguing the matter thus:—"It is true, that the offence committed was a petty one, but the history of each prisoner showed that neither tried to live honestly. If, however, petty crimes were treated on the same footing as big crimes, old offenders might take it to heart, and say, 'if we get severe punishment for petty things, then we will go in for big things.' It was desirable to discourage that spirit." The next day, his Lordship came to court and revised his sentence, and instead of the sentences previously passed of five years' penal servitude in Brady's case, and three in Dillon's, sentenced each of them to eight months' hard labour. We wish our Judges viewed criminal matters in the light Mr. Justice Wills did in the case under notice. The object of punishment is reformation and not the infliction of bodily pain, and, since man is not a beast, the way to reclaim him is, as a rule, to treat him kindly.

WHAT an amount of good may be effected by the efforts of a few earnest men, devoted to the cause of the country, will be perceived from the success which has attended the Shahdara *Panchayet* in the Punjab. Only in November last, the *Panchayet* was established by the exertions of Lala Gobind Ram, Banker and Member of District and Local Boards, and Shanker Dass, Banker and Contractor, and Proprietor, Anglo-Sanskrit Middle School, and to-day it counts amongst its members no less than 65 gentlemen—40 Mahomedans and 25 Hindus. A correspondent of the *Tribune* has the following remarks on the institution :—

"Since its establishment two hundred and sixty applications have been entered in the register. These deal with land, debt, divorce cases, family disputes, &c. More than two-thirds of the cases have been disposed of and the Committee have shown much ability and wisdom in deciding them. The method of transacting business, we are glad to learn, is such as entails no expenses to either party. Two or three members are appointed to decide a case, and, if either party objects to any one of the members, the President, considering his objections well grounded, withdraws the member objected to and appoints others. It is creditable to the Committee that in all the cases (excepting five or six) both the parties have shown their willingness to abide by the decision of the *Panchayet*. The funds at the disposal of the *Panchayet*, which are the proceeds of *dhurt*, and used for cleansing the village streets and public places, making and repairing the village drains, paying the Chowkidars and doing such things as may be necessary for the preservation of public health and maintaining peace and order. It is remarkable, indeed, if we are correctly informed that not a single case of theft or house-breaking has occurred within the limits of the town since the establishment of the *Panchayet*."

The good results emboldened the members to make an application to H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab for in vesting them with criminal powers in ordinary cases. In reply, His Honor directed the matter to be referred to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore. The official has already made enquiries regarding the working and constitution of the *Panchayet* from its president and there is every likelihood of the application being granted. Some new life and blood ought to be infused into the Bengal Zemindary *Panchayet* to make it a really useful body. They ought to place themselves in communication with the Shadhara *Panchayet*, and learn from them the secret of their success.

THERE is one point in the reference of the District Judge of Patna to the High Court *in re* the Barh Whipping case, which deserves notice. Says he :—

"The Sub-divisional Officer acted with great want of judgment in trying the case summarily and also in inflicting whipping as a punishment in the case of one of the accused. The accused, one of whom is a Mukhtear and another a clerk of a Mukhtear and also the old man Willayet Hosain, might have been enlarged on bail pending further inquiries."

If all the accused might have been enlarged on bail, as the Judge says, the remark applies with greater force in the case of the accused who was whipped. He has been whipped and cannot be unwhipped. It is now all the same to him whether the High Court confirms or upsets the decision of the Sub-divisional Officer.

MR. SKRINE gives up in despair the task of winning the hearts of the Indians, and he says they must ever be kept in subjugation. But is it a difficult task to win the heart of an Indian! Is he not the gentlest creature in the world,—affectionate, grateful and law-abiding? In their gatherings they meet in hundreds of thousands, yet they meet in peace and disperse in peace; drink is unknown to them. But how do the other races behave? Here is an account of how a picnic party behaved, which we reproduce from the *New York Journal* received by the last mail :—

"There descended upon Carteret, N. J. in a midsummer madness of drink and gambling and rag-time melody, two barge loads of Sunday picnickers from this city, and when they reembarked in sobered haste, carrying their wounded with them, they left behind three senseless and bleeding constables, two fatally hurt, probably, while the third had lost an eye.

Such was the outing of the Gay Coterie Club, of the East Side, no particular address. At Carteret, ten miles south of Elizabeth, is a picnic ground known as Union Grove, and there the excursionists poured ashore.

There was bloodshed immediately. Five of the male picnickers set upon one of their number, and began to beat him, to an accompaniment of shrill protests from the women. The victim, who is described as a stout young man, was borne to the ground, and as he lay there a stockily-built youth of swarthy complexion jumped on him with an open clasp knife and stabbed him seven times about the head.

Thus while it settled the stout young man for the day, did not settle the elements of disturbance, and soon the tumult was so great that the proprietors of the picnic ground sent for help.

Constables John Dolan and John Barrett, reinforced by John Donovan, went bravely to quell the riot. The excursionists forgot their own differences in order to present a united front to the foe, and many of them drew knives and pistols.

The Constables, with their staves, knocked pistols from the fists of several of those within reach, but a moment later they were overwhelmed in a rush by the main body of the Gay Coterie, and from the outset their case was a hopeless one.

They did not recover their feet again. Donovan's eye was knocked out with a beer glass and he was beaten into insensibility. Dolan was stabbed several times in the back and neck and fainted from loss of blood. Barrett was kicked and clubbed savagely and left for dead.

For an hour the riot raged, while the women shrilly implored their escorts to forbear. A score of the inhabitants of the place made an effort to interfere, but they were driven off. A dozen or more of the excursionists were hurt in one way or another, and these were carried on board the barges when the excursionists suddenly realized that some of them were in danger of suffering the penalty for murder.

When all had returned in a panic on board the barges, the hawsers were cast off and the Gay Coterie headed for home. At a late hour last night they were reported passing Elizabethport, suspiciously quiet."

Such is the ferocious nature of man in every other part of the world. Wherever they meet in numbers they drink gallons of liquor and then fight and break heads. But in India the people are as gentle as lambs. Where in the world can they shew such a well-behaved race as the Indians? If their rulers fail to win the heart of such a race it is thus no fault of the latter surely. A single constable will walk unconcerned through vast crowds of Indians and find neither a drunken man nor meet with any sort of violence from any one. When Messrs. Malony and Skinner were distributing a proclamation, in Jessore, they were surrounded by fifty thousand ryots who were then in a state of frenzy, but they uttered not even a disrespectful word. Similarly Mr. Herschell was surrounded on the same occasion, in Nadia, by even a larger crowd. Mr. Herschell trembled with fear but he was treated with the utmost courtesy. Even unenlightened Mussalman rulers had succeeded in winning the affections of the Hindus whom they now and then treated with great cruelty.

WE regret the unfortunate *Madras Standard* defamation case—not that the complainant had no right to complain, nor that no offence was committed, nor yet that justice had been miscarried but that there should have been this spoke in the wheel of Mr. Pillay's abilities and inclinations to serve the public manfully. We sincerely wish that the effects of this infliction have passed away and that Mr. Pillay will continue his journalistic work, with that vigour and independence of criticism which he has eminently brought to his task. If he has now and then lapsed into excesses of severity, or risky personalities he has oftener combated successfully against sham and has put down no few plausible pretensions with the trenchancy and steadfastness which alone could put them down. It will thus be pure affectation, we think, to deny, at least, this measure of approbation to one whose occasional mistakes seem traceable more to overflowing zeal and a superabundance of public spirit than to any set purpose to inflict wounds on individuals. Let us, however, not be misunderstood. Needless to say that we do not defend attacks on personal character or discount the right of the offended to seek amends. But, except in cases where actual malice can be proved, or serious damage results, of which instances may be easily conceived, the balance of advantage to the public seems to be in favour of the amends being, in the shape of an ample apology, accepted as a ground for dropping further proceedings. To have it in one's power thus to punish guilt and to refuse to drive a public man to the lowest depths of humiliation, appears to us to outweigh, in the dealings of public men, all considerations of pure personal dignity, however plain may be a public man's right to demand his pound of flesh. When a man, guilty as regards things done in the discharge of a duty to the public, cries *peccavi* and the accuser drops the matter, he keeps in his own hand the function of punishing and we are not aware of any privilege more dignified and dignifying. Mr. Iyenger, above all others, might, from what little we have heard of him, well afford to take this course; for we think that few could misunderstand him in consequence of the writing complained of, offensive and objectionable as it was. While, on grounds of expediency and high-mindedness, we thus express our disappointment at Mr. Iyengar rejecting the apology published, without even dictating any other, if that one was, in his view, inadequate, we cannot but feel surprised that Mr. Pillay thought fit to plead "not guilty" and thereby practically neutralize (as we think) all that he, as a public man, had previously and deliberately done by way of amends to another public man who had a right to complain. We have no hesitation to pronounce that plea as supremely injudicious and extremely ill-advised. It should be borne in mind, however, that the libel of which Mr. Pillay was convicted was not a gross one; and it is possible for any respectable paper, at an unguarded moment, to commit this sort of libel. We, however, perfectly agree with Mr. Iyenger that when a journal prostitutes itself in such a way as to become a positive nuisance, like some vernacular papers in Bengal, it should not be spared but dealt with severely.

THE proposed changes in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality means punishment to the rate-payers, for they take away from the latter the power that they enjoy of electing two-thirds of the members. Of course, if they committed any offence, they ought to have been punished. But we object to the punishment of the rate-payers for the offence of their representatives. The Irish nation was not deprived of their right of returning members to Parliament because of the obstructive tactics of their representatives. To make its ground strong, the Government ought to prove some offence against the Commissioners, which has

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not as yet been done. Even if some offence were proved against the Commissioners, that would not in any way justify the Government to take away the privilege from the rate-payers who are innocent. If the Commissioners are proved guilty, the rate-payers should be given the chance of making better selections. Sir A. Mackenzie, after an experience of less than a couple of years of the work of the Corporation, brought some charges against the Commissioners. The Government has adopted these charges without an inquiry, and this means condemnation without a hearing. If Sir A. Mackenzie has brought some charges against the Commissioners, how is it that the Government ignores all the good things that all his predecessors had said of them? If Sir A. Mackenzie spoke against the Commissioners, his immediate predecessors, Sir Charles Elliott and Sir A. P. MacDonnell, had spoken highly of them. Chairmen of the Corporation like Sir Henry Harrison and Mr. Lee spoke highly of the work done by them. It is an open secret that the immediate predecessor of Sir A. Mackenzie was bitterly opposed to the changes proposed by his successor. Is it the policy of the Government to accept the last voice?

IT will be remembered that, along with the signallers, two Mahratta Station-masters fell under the despleasure of the G. I. P. Railway Co. and they were prosecuted with a zeal worthy of a better cause. They were convicted of gross negligence at Karkalla by the Magistrate who tried them and sentenced, one to six weeks' and the other to three months' imprisonment. Mr. Aston, Sessions Judge, on appeal, delivered judgment the other day and decided that the sentences which they had already undergone were quite sufficient for the offence with which they were charged. The remainder of the sentences was quashed and the accused were released. It seems, they were put into jail as soon as they were sentenced by the Magistrate. Was this necessary? Did it not show vindictiveness? Judging from the manner in which the case was viewed by Mr. Aston, the probability is that they would have been discharged by the appellate Court. Why were they not released on bail when they had appealed against the Magistrate's decision, specially as they were charged with offences which could hardly be called criminal. The result of the quarrel between the G. I. P. Railway Co. and their servants has done unmitigated mischief all round. It has not, in the least, served the interests of the Company; it has only brought ruin on hundreds of families and embittered the relations between the rulers and the ruled.

THE American papers are now taking more notice of India than they used to do before. And one of the reasons is that Lady Curzon is an American lady. That brilliant Chicago paper, the *Inter Ocean*, gives an acount of the youngest sister of her Ladyship, Miss Daisy Leiter and her proposed marriage with the Earl of Suffolk. This account will be found elsewhere. It is interesting to note how the American paper talks of Benares, Delhi, and Lucknow. Yet sometimes they make horrible mistakes. This same paper writes Gharbasha in the place of Chybassa, and Sindha Bhong in the place of Singbhum!

WE congratulate the people of the South on the wisdom and discretion displayed by their representatives in the Madras Council for having re-elected, on the 29th ultimo, Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu to represent them in the Supreme Legislative Council. This will come as a welcome news to people all over the continent, for Mr. Charlu is virtually the member for whole India.

THE persistency with which agitation is being carried in the Rangoon outrage case, has at last produced some result. The West Kent Regiment has, we understand, been ordered to Aden. Considering the fact that the offenders in this dirty case all belonged to that Regiment, it is well that the Regiment has been transferred.

OUR Silchar correspondent writes:—On the 27th ultimo on taking his seat, the Deputy Commissioner framed charges against Mr. Falckytter under Section 325 I. P. C. of causing the death of a coolie named Chuni Lohar by grievous hurt, and committed him to the district sessions. The accused remains enlarged on bail for Rs. 2,000 furnished by him on the 19th idem.

THE Peeler down south seems to entertain very curious notions of his own importance and the claims of morality and decency upon himself. Ere this we had several occasions to refer to the reprehensible practice of hauling up little boys before criminal courts on a charge of indecent exposure; and though in every such case the police received a snub from the Magistrate, they seem to have contracted so great a likeness for this work that they are still at it. On the 29th ultimo, a similar case occurred in which the ultra-purist of a constable brought up before Mr. Chester an urchin of seven for having appeared in Adam's original garb, before the fall of man. Considering the fact that in India it has never been deemed anything like an offence, for boys, little even in respectable families, to appear nude, we cannot but thank the Magistrate for having reprimanded the constable. We hope, however, that the Commisioner of Police will issue a circular to the effect that his subordinates should not waste public money and time by such frivolous prosecutions.

HERE is the story of how the Natu brothers were removed from their residence, as told by the *Mahratta*:—While visiting the plague hospital the Commissioner, Mr. Cappel, and the Collector, Mr. Carmichael, came across a patient, whom upon inquiry they discovered to be a servant of the Natu brothers and that he had caught plague upon the premises of the Natus. Thereupon Mr. Carmichael, the Collector, who is a very good man and is personally acquainted with the Natus, being before an Assistant Collector at Poona, went to the bungalow of the Natu brothers, full of anxious inquiry and told the Natu brothers not to stay in the infected place. The Natus thanked him and Government and told him that they would immediately go away, not to Poona as it was infected but to their Inami village. The Collector immediately undeceived them reminding them that they were still prisoners but they were only to change their quarters and he sent a telegram to the Government. Next morning he again anxiously went to the Natus and sent another telegram to Government. Meanwhile as fate would have it another servant of the Natus caught plague. The good-natured Collector was really much alarmed on the score of the Natus and, it is said, receiving no reply to his telegrams sent another pressing telegram to the Government. On receiving the reply he went back again to the Natus and told them that the Natus were to stay permanently at Belgaum till their release, but the Government allowed them to go to Dharwar if the brothers liked till the disappearance of plague at Belgaum. Balasaheb Natu curtly replied that his location rested with Government alone, so he was loath to exercise his choice, that he would go to Dharwar if the Government would transfer him there, and not of his own choice, or he might stay where he was if the Government would so order. The Sirdar told the Collector that he felt the fun, or rather advantage of being a State prisoner because while ordinary mortals had only one omnipotent power, viz., God to watch over his life, they, the State prisoners, had two omnipotent powers to watch over their lives, viz., their God and their Government. If any harm would happen to their lives at Dharwar, let it not be said that the Natus went to Dharwar of their free choice. Being in a dilemna, the Collector perhaps again applied to Government for a way out of the difficulty and then again, after a time, informed the Natus that they should sleep that night in the fort and wrote to the Cantonment Magistrate to allow them to occupy a bungalow in the fort and wrote to the Police Inspector to send a party to watch over the belongings of the Natus because the Natus were to take to their new bungalow such articles only as were needed for the night. The rest would be sent to them after disinfection in the morning. But a new difficulty arose. The Cantonment Magistrate had no power to allow the Natus to stay in the fort without the consent of the highest military authority here, so the Magistrate wrote to that officer. But that officer would permit the Natus to sleep neither in the fort nor in Camp even, because their house was infected. The Collector was in a sad plight and was quite in a fix. He really believed that the continuance of the Natus to dwell in an apparently infected house threaten d, every minute, danger to their lives and on each anxious visit to the Natus he was happily relieved to find the brothers and their family safe till then. He again sent a telegram to the Government stating perhaps the objection of the military officer, and receiving a reply told the Natus that all the obstacles were removed and that they might stay in the fort *only for a few days more*, as the officers had consented. The Natus removed to their new bungalow in the fort late at 11 o'clock in the night and are fortunately safe till now.

MAULAVI GHAFUR KHAN, the British Agent at Kabul, is coming down to India on privilege leave, owing to ill-health.

MR. HARRINGTON, Agent of the Simla-Kalka Railway, having completed the plans, proceeds home on the 19th of August, returning to Simla in October.

FROM Hungary it is reported that six persons including three women, were burned with red hot irons to extract from them a confession of theft. They were afterwards proved to be innocent.

IT is understood that Mr. Hanbury White, the newly-appointed Agent of the East Indian Railway, will not come out to India till quite the end of the year. Meanwhile Mr. Douglas will officiate.

MR. SCOTT, employed with the Burma Boundary Commission, is expected back in Bhamo on the 14th instant. He has had a long interview with the Chinese Viceroy at Yunnan on local matters.

THE want of rain is much felt in Sind generally. The prices of fodder are exceptionally higher, and much anxiety is felt at the absence of rain which usually falls in June and July. The Karachi Municipality has taken steps to husband the water-supply.

A CURIOUS murder trial has taken place in Hungary A man suffering from lung disease was strangled. He had voluntarily consented to being put to death so that his murderer might marry his wife. The murderer has been sentenced to fifteen years' hard labour, and the wife to five.

AN Austrian medical student wrote to a wealthy lady threatening that unless she sent him 10,000 florins, he would work a terrible revenge upon her by opening in her room a bottle containing bacilli of various infectious diseases which would certainly cause her death. He was arrested, and a bottle found in his possession actually contain d bacilli, which he had stolen from his professor's lecture-room. He was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

OVER 200 negroes have lost their lives in the floods in Texas. Government boats rescued numbers of people who were held captive by the waters. Negroes dropped exhausted into the flood from the trees in which they had clambered, after holding out for three days and three nights without food. Some on mounds were surrounded by venomous serpents, thus adding to their misery and danger.

THE annual Railway Conference, over which Lord Curzon will preside, meets on the 14th of August. The members are the Hons. Colonel Gardiner, Sir E. Collen and Mr. Dawkins, Mr. Upcott Secretary, P.W.D.; Mr. Becher, Accountant General and Captain Mc. Elhinny, R. E., Secretary. There are various schemes and matters connected with 142 lines to be considered, and these do not include the tramway questions, the latter being left to local Governments.

THE scare at Lahore continues unabated and is unprecedented, but it is clear that its existence is due to the fabricated stories of notoriety-mongers. Though every thoroughfare about the civil station and city is patrolled by large bodies of mounted and foot police, armed with carbines, swords and *lathies*, whilst every person found in possession of a gandasa, dang or chawl, has been sent up for trial, and there is quite a panic amongst the *budmashes* themselves, there is no quieting the disgraceful and ridiculous alarm that prevails. Several of these shaves have been investigated, and all have been proved to be equally false and foolish.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

AN EXEMPTION.—Maharaja Monindra Ch. Nundy of Cossimbazar has been exempted from personal attendance in Civil Courts.

VACATION JUDGES.—It has been settled, we believe, that Mr. Justice Sale and Mr. Justice Stanley will act as Vacation Judges.

EXTENSION OF LEAVE.—The Hon. Sir G. C. Paul, K. C. I. E., Advocate-General of Bengal, has obtained an extension of leave until December 31, 1899.

JAIL GUARDS.—The paid warder guards in the Jails in Bengal have always been a troublesome lot. Only the veriest riff-raff apply for these appointments and great difficulty is experienced in enlistingand retaining the services of suitable men especially in the districts of Eastern Bengal. We understand that a proposal for improving the position of the jail warder guard is at present under the consideration of Government.—*Hindoo Patriot.*

GOOD NEWS TO PENSIONERS.—It is well-known what an amount of trouble, one had to undergo in drawing pension from the Account-ant-General's Office at Calcutta. Besides the rush of people, one had also to look about for members of the light-fingered fraternity. But now arrangements have been so made that not the least inconvenience is felt in transacting business there. Ample accommodation has been provided for seating those who go there for drawing pensions, &c. A European constable has also been posted there.

ALLEGED SHOOTING A NATIVE.—There is a case pending in the Howrah Courts in which one Mr. Solomon stands charged with having shot at a native lad. It is alleged that a drunkard having entered the compound of Mr. Solomon was remonstrated with by the latter, and went away only to return a little while after, at the head of a band of 40 or 50 Mahomedans, who came with *lathies* ready for a fight. Mr. Solomon finding it impossible to disperse the mob with words of mouth, brought out a revolver and fired several blank shots without, however, pacifying the angry mob. He then sent a bullet, he says, at the ground, which, it is said, struck the son of his bread-supplier in the leg.

FARIDPUR-MUNSHIGUNGE EXTENSION.—The result of reconnaissance survey of the Faridpur (Shikarpur) Munshiganj extension on the metre gauge in connection with the Eastern Bengal State Railway shows that the country traversed is for the most part densely populated and, although subject to very high floods, would not require excessive bridging. An estimate has been submitted for a line, 40½ miles in length, estimated to cost Rs. 58 lakhs, including cost of building, ferry steamers, flats, pontoons, with shore connection, etc., for an ordinary waggon transhipment ferry at Faridpur, and a waggon and passenger ferry between Munshiganj and Narainganj.

LEGISLATIVE.—So far as the present intention of the Government is concerned, there will be four more sittings of the Council, and of the measures introduced this season, the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, the Central Provinces Court of Wards Bill, and the Punjab Courts Bill will be passed before the Council finally adjourns. The Whipping Bill, Transfer of Property Bill, Merchant Shipping Bill, Companies' Branch Registration Bill, and the Scotch Kirk Bill stand over till the Calcutta season. It is also probable that a Bill to amend the Assam Emigration Act and the Currency Bill will be introduced by the end of the season. Of the additional European members of Council, Mr. La Touche vacates on the 1st October, Sir G. Evans on the 13th September, and Mr. Allan Arthur on the 30th December.

GRAZING TAX ABOLISHED.—The Chief Commissioner of Assam has directed the discontinuance of levying grazing dues on cattle which are conveyed into the province from up-country for sale. It was never contemplated, he says "that a tax of this kind should be levied on droves of horses, cattle or sheep which are conveyed into this province from up-country for sale. Such a tax, when levied, as appears now to be done, at the boundary of a district, is equivalent to an octroi, and is open to all the objections which might be brought forward to an octroi on sheep or cattle. It is to the interest of the Assam Province that every encouragement should be given to the importation of up-country cattle and sheep, and Mr. Cotton is not prepared to support any measures which tend to discourage it. The loss of income to the Forest Department which this will involve will be very inconsiderable, and will be amply compensated by the gain to the province at large.

INDIA AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The Government of India have informed the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that very little space remains for commercial exhibitors in the Indian Section of the Paris Exhibition, and that any applications not yet sent in should be forwarded without delay. The Indian pavilion will be divided into three courts: In the "Imperial" Court exhibits of the Government of India and of Native States will be shown; in the "Private Exhibitors'" Court the more artistic productions of Indian manufacturers and merchants will be displayed; while the "Commercial" Court will be reserved for trade and economic samples. As only 430 square feet of space is available in the Commercial Court, it is obvious that no very comprehensive representation of the trade of India can be attempted. The Indian Committee of the Royal Commission are chiefly anxious to secure exhibits of articles now manufactured in India, which were until recently imported from abroad, in order to illustrate the progress made by India "in supplying many of her requirements from internal sources instead of relying on foreign imports." Under this definition would come manufactures of cotton, silk, wood, jute, and other fibres, and soap, paper, leather, chemicals, malt liquor, and cigars. As an additional inducement to commercial exhibitors, it has been decided that, if suitable and sufficient exhibits are forthcoming exhibitors in the Commercial Court will probably be granted free space, in which case the expenses to which they will be put, will be reduced to the cost of freight and installation of exhibits.

POLICE PROVIDENT FUND.—We hear it is proposed to establish a Provident Fund for the benefit of the families of officers of the Police Department in the superior grades.

ERRATUM.—In our review of *Padma* a mistake crept in as to the name of the author. It should be Babu Promotha Nath Rai Chowdhuri and not Priya Nath Rai Chowdhury.

CONFIRMED.—Mr. J. W. Chalmers, Officiating Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, is confirmed in that appointment from 2nd August 1899, *vice* Mr. J. Petty, retired

A LEAVE.—Mr. W. H. Johnstone, Assistant Engineer to the Calcutta Corporation, has been granted furlough for one year to England. Mr. Johnstone will leave Calcutta for Europe on or about the 5th proximo.

A BIG ZEMINDAR IN TROUBLE.—A correspondent informs us that the District Magistrate of Bettiah has issued a warrant for the arrest of a big zemindar of the locality under sections 363, 109 and 376 of the I. P. Code for abetment of kidnapping and committing rape upon the person of a girl, who is under medical treatment.

ELEPHANT CATCHING.—A correspondent writes:—"On the 25th instant five elephants were captured in pits on the Anamalai Hills. Three elephants—one a tusker—were captured in one pit, and a big cow and a calf in another. Fortunately, all the animals were taken out of the pits uninjured, and will form a valuable addition to the Forest Department's herd of working elephants. Mr. H. A. Glass, the District Forest Officer of Coimbatore, was present and supervised all the arrangements. The hills, as their name implies, are infested with elephants, and it is anticipated that this capture will be followed by others."

RIVER LEVELS.—On the 2nd of August the height of the Ganges at various points was as follows:—Mirzapur, 2nd, 11½ A. M., 22·50, fall 1 foot 10 inches, clear, (206·22); Benares, 2nd, 1½ P. M., 23·00, fall 6 inches, cloudy; very warm (196·80); Buxar 2nd, 8¾ A. M., 23·42, fall 1 foot 7 inches, (169-05); Monghyr, 2nd, 10½ A. M., 24·75, fall 1 foot, (101·85); Sahibganj, 2nd, 8¼ A. M., 26·42, fall 4 inches, (68·00); Goalundo, 2nd, 10½ A. M., 21·75, steady, (118·00); Brahmaputra—Gowhatty, 2nd, 7 A.M., 26·90, 1¼ inches, (148·76).

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.—The rainfall during the week was general, and in parts of Bengal proper and Behar excessive. In Orissa more rain is still required. The excessive rain has continued to cause considerable damage to the *bhadoi* crops in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, and the early rice and jute in some parts of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have suffered. Prospects are good in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, and fair in the Rajshahi Division. Cattle-disease still exist in several districts. Fodder is everywhere sufficient. Prices of common rice are reported to have risen in a few districts.

ACCIDENT TO A PASSENGER TRAIN.—The Government Railway Police are investigating a case of a rather serious accident which occurred on the Dacca section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway to No. 135 up mixed train. The train on Friday last was on its way to Mymensingh. The line from Sripur passes through dense jungles, where the country is submerged with rain water during this part of the year. The train, which was running at the rate of 20 miles an hour, when about a couple of miles from the Keorid Station suddenly left the rails with the exception of the engine and the brake van, causing no small amount of inconvenience to a large number of passengers not only of this train but to those of other trains arriving on either side of the scene of the accident. There were no foot-paths along this portion of the line, and in consequence some 18 hours were occupied in the transhipment of passengers. Messrs. Collins, Assistant Loco Superintendent, and Chatterjee, Executive Engineer, proceeded to the spot at once with a breakdown gang, and after incessant toil amid all the inclemencies of the weather for 18 hours restored through communication. It has been deemed desirable that all trains should proceed in this locality at the rate of three miles an hour. Sudden subsidence of the line on account of the heavy rain is alleged to be the use of the accident.

A GHOST STORY.—A ghost story is told in the "Moulmein Times" (a Burmese newspaper) of the 14th ultimo:—We were informed, that) some three days ago, about 11 P. M. after a shop belonging to a native of India in the Myetsa bazar at Moungan (opposite Leong Chye's Mill) had been closed, there came and stood about ten feet in front of it, a figure in the form of a Madrassee woman of very dark complexion and white eyes, and whispered and beckoned to the shop-owner. The shop-owner, in an excited manner, enquired what she came there for and what she wanted. She replied that her husband was under the shade of a tamarind tree to the east side of the shop. The shop-keeper, wishing to enquire into the matter, went under the shade of the tamarind tree but found no one. He then got angry and came back to his shop and struck the woman with his fist. He also called out to his neighbours, eight of whom came out; and on looking at the woman carefully with a lamp they found that she did not wink her eyelashes, that the corners of her eyes were quite red and that her eye-brows were about an inch long and, on feeling her hands, they were as hard and stiff as wood. They proceeded to strike her with sticks and three cornered pieces of wood, in fact with anything they could lay their hands upon, and had this woman been a human being, the blows were quite sufficient to have smashed all her bones, but in this case she did not move an inch nor even blink her eyes. At this juncture a durwan from Leong Chye's mill came up; and after looking at the woman said that he had seen her very often at nights and that she was not a human being but a ghost. When this was said, a native policeman arrived at the scene, and he, with several other natives, again struck the woman but she did not move. Then a gharry driver looked at the figure with a lamp, and tried to set fire to her eyelashes. The woman then gave a hard slap on the gharry driver's face. This scene was going on for nearly an hour but she did not attempt to resist any one else. She then went under the shade of the tamarind tree and disappeared.

MAULED BY A BEAR.—Jiamat is a native of Sejamora under the jurisdiction of the Brahmanbaria thana. A few days ago he went as usual to graze cows at the foot of a neighbouring hillock. While looking after his cows he was attacked by a bear and severely mauled. He is now lying in hospital in a precarious condition.

RIVER LEVELS.—On the 3rd of August the height of the Ganges at various points was as follows:—Mirzapur, 3rd, 1½ A. M., 21·00, fall 1 foot 6 inches, clear, (206·22); Benares, 3rd, 12¼ P.M., 22·00, fall 1 foot, cloudy, very warm, (196·80); Buxar, 3rd, 8½ A.M., 21·67, fall 1 foot 9 inches, (169·05); Monghyr, 3rd, 1½ A. M., 23·75, fall 1 foot, (101·85); Shahibganj, 3rd, 6½ A. M., 25·83, fall 7 inches, (68·00); Goalundo, 3rd, 10 A. M., 21·75, ready, (118·00); Brahmaputra,—Gowhatty, 3rd, ¾ A.M., 26·85, fall ½ inch, (148·76).

SEA SNAKE.—A South Arcot correspondent writes:—Sea snakes are committing great havoc in Cuddalore New Town. They belong to a species of deadly snakes, and their bite is generally fatal. Quite recently we have had several such cases. They come from the sea into the back waters and cause considerable mischief. People have been prohibited from bathing in the Gadilam, which abounds in these reptiles. Arrangements are being made to kill them either by catching them by spreading nets or by applying dynamite. The sooner this is done the better.

A SENTENCE SET ASIDE.—On Thursday last Mr. P. L. Roy appeared before Justices Prinsep and Hill in support of the rule obtained by Babu Tara Kant Mozumdar, Civil Court Nazir of the Bogra district, who was convicted under section 457 of the Indian Penal Code of lurking house-trespass and sentenced to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 500, the sentence being modified by the Sessions Judge of Rajshaye on appeal. The case for the prosecution was that the accused came at midnight to the house of the complainant and, forcing open a window, entered the house. The complainant's mother rushed outside and called to the neighbours for assistance. The Magistrate who tried the case disbelieved the case for the prosecution as regards the accused's alleged acts of impropriety towards the mother, but convicted him of lurking house-trespass and sentenced him as stated. Counsel contended that there had been no lurking house-trespass within the meaning of the section, and the finding of the District Judge that there had been no criminal intention on the part of the accused showed that the appellant could not be convicted of any offence whatever. Their lordships set aside the conviction and sentence, and directed that the fine, if paid, be refunded.

THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

RESOLUTION AGAINST THE STRICTURES PASSED ON THE COMMISSIONERS.

ON WEDNESDAY there was a meeting of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality when there was a very fair attendance. There were several items of ordinary interest.

After disposing of the ordinary items of business, the Commissioners proceeded to consider what was the principal object of the meeting, *viz.*, the propriety of addressing Government on the unpublished letter of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the Government of India, which Lord Curzon has quoted in his letter and on which he has mainly based his conclusions.

In a temperate speech Babu Kally Nath Mitter introduced the subject and said that the elected Commissioners had done their duty through good report and through bad report, but when the Government of Bengal thought it fit to prefer a charge against them which the Supreme Government quoted with approval, it became a matter for very serious consideration: there was nothing disloyal in the resolution which he had the honour to move, which was to the effect that in fairness to the elected Commissioners, the Government ought to publish the materials at its disposal so that if the charges therein contained were true, the Commissioners or their constituents might take action and free the Corporation from the black sheep; in any event there ought to be an enquiry as had been held in some previous cases. The resolution also expressed regret that charges were made behind the backs of the Commissioners without giving them an opportunity of defence or explanation: and he was sure that for its own sake as well as for the sake of the Corporation the Government would be pleased to accede to the request contained in the resolution: the nominated Commissioners were also affected, because if there was any truth in the unpublished charges formulated by Government they were associating themselves with a class of men with whom they ought not to associate.

The Hon'ble Mr. Apcar seconded the resolution in a short and pithy speech supporting the position taken up by Babu Kally Nath Mitter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham rose to oppose the motion. He said that though he was a nominated Commissioner he would prefer to have been an elected Commissioner; the charges did not apply to the elected Commissioners as a body and it was no use asking the Government to publish them. He would call the attention of the Commissioners to the Bhagulpore election where Government made certain charges of corruption against some of the constituencies but did not, though asked to do so, publish the materials, on which such charges were based. It was no use fighting the Government in a matter like this, which had better be dropped.

Mr. Banks supported the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham and cited certain passages from the speech of Sir Alexander Mackenzie delivered at the Bengal Council to show that he did not intend to apply his observations to all the elected Commissioners.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee with his usual eloquence spoke in reply: He said that it was foreign to the instincts of the Englishman to make a charge without affording the persons affected an opportunity of explanation or defence. He hoped that in a matter like this, the elected Commissioners would have the sympathy and support of the nominated Commissioners.

The matter was then put to the vote, nearly all the Commissioners present voting for it. Some of the nominated Commissioners abstained from voting; and thereupon Babu Surendra

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Nath Banerjea asked the Chairman to record that the resolution was carried *nem. con.* Upon this the Hon. Mr. Oldham said that in that case he would vote against the motion and Dr. Banks also did this same.

THE POLLARBAND RIOTINC CASE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SILCHAR, JULY 30.

THE case in which 7 coolies of Pollarband garden are charged with rioting and causing grievous hurt to Mr. Falckytter, was resumed on the 27th instant before the Deputy Commissioner. The complainant's pleader, Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda, read the confessions of the accused recorded by Mr. Anley, an Extra Assistant Commissioner. The defence Muktear made a statement that he was present at the time when the accused's confessions were recorded and was quite certain that certain important facts were omitted from Kartick's statement. The Court asked the Muktear to support his statement by an affidavit whereupon he did not further urge the question. The accused now again made their statements.

The accused Behari said : I beat the Sahib. The Sahib was always beating us. On the day of occurrence he held Kartick by the neck and beat him. His wife and two sisters separated him from the Sahib. As his wife called for help, we ran forward and beat the Sahib.

Prasadi said : Kartick's sister cried aloud that the Chota Sahib wanted to push him into the fire. His wife also cried out that her husband was being beaten. I came forward and beat the Sahib.

Bhukan said: The Chota Sahib told Kartick to clear the chimney, but Kartick said he had no time to do it. He returned the rupee, thereupon the Sahib caught hold of him by the neck and began to shake him. He also inflicted a blow on his lower jaw and it was bleeding. We worked day and night, yet the Sahib always beat us; we then combined and beat him.

Masua said : The Chota Sahib always beat us, so we all combined and beat him.

Situ said : As I was engaged in my duty, Kartick's wife cried out "My husband is being beaten." I came and found that the Sahib had caught hold of Kartick by the neck and he was bleeding. The woman separated him from the Sahib. Then we joined together and beat the Sahib.

Kartick said : The Sahib asked me to clear the chimney. I told him that it was so hot that I could not go near it. The Sahib then caught hold of me by the neck and inflicted a blow on my face with his fist. I then cried out "The Sahib is beating me." I also beat him. The wound on my leg was inflicted by the Sahib.

The last accused Kadru said : I was in my house at the time of the occurrence. Hearing from my son, a boy, that Kartick, who is also my son, was being beaten, I ran forward and found that all *golmal* was over.

With the exception of Kadru all the accused pleaded guilty. The complainant's pleader then said that, considering the serious nature of the weapons used by the accused, their prosecution came under sections 326, 148, and 307 read with section 149, but the Court framed charges under sections 147 and 325 I.P. C. against all the accused.

Dr. Glover, the complainant, Mr. Falckytter and three Bengali clerks were then cross-examined by the defence Muktear. Dr. Glover's cross-examination was formal. The others were cross-examined only with regard to the accused who pleaded *alibi*. The complainant said that he had not seen Kadru with anything in his hand and could not also say whether he had assaulted him. He saw Kadru when he was being beaten. The Kerani Babu, Gagan Chandra Deb, said that Kadru was present on the scene of occurrence and had a stick in his hand with which he had struck the Sahib. Sitanath Ukil said that Kadru was present with others in front of the tea-house and had a stick in hand. Sarada Charan Bhattacherjee said that he could not say for certain whether Kadru had any stick in hand, but he was present at the place of occurrence with others.

The accused Kadru then named his witnesses; and the further hearing of the case was adjourned to a date not yet announced. Orders for all the accused will be passed at the same time.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AT KRISHNAGAR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

IN pursuance of the resolutions passed at a meeting of the inhabitants of this district, held on the 8th ultimo, preparations were being made for sometime past to accord a suitable welcome to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Our well-known townsman, Babu Tarapada Banerji, who always takes a leading part in all public movements, as Secretary and Treasurer of the Reception Committee, had been trying his utmost to raise subscriptions from the public. But I am sorry to say that he was not able to raise the required amount.

The work of decoration was successfully done. The triumphal arch at the Landing Ghat was, indeed, a beautiful thing. Innumerable flags, red and blue, Chinese lanterns of varied colors greatly added to the artistic beauty of the arch which was principally made of ever greens.

His Honour landed at 6 A. M. Besides the gazetted officers there were only a few gentlemen present at the *ghat* to welcome His Honor. Twenty-one bombs were fired at the moment, His Honour set his foot on *terra firma*. After some conversation with the gentlemen who were present to welcome him. His Honor and party drove to the Circuit House.

There were flags on both sides of the road. The arch in front of the Circuit House was also very nice. There was a model garden in front, prepared by our District Engineer. The flower and croton plants, and the palm, plantain and other trees had such a freshness about them that it was impossible to say that the garden was the work of a day. Then the Municipality and the District Board presented addresses to His Honor.

His Honour replied to the addresses in a graceful speech. Then some of the gentlemen present were presented to His Honour.

After this His Honour and party drove to inspect the Jail.

THE CASE AGAINST THE MOHUNPUR VILLAGERS.

THE case brought by Mr. Ross against the 7 villagers, for rioting and using deadly weapons, was fixed for hearing on the 27th ultimo; but the Court being fully occupied that day with Mr. Falckytter's case, it was taken up the next day, the 28th idem. On the 27th, before the Court rose for the day, Babu Kali Mohun Deb, pleader for the defence, put in a petition, praying for an adjournment, but it was rejected. The Court made an oral remark to the pleader that the villagers had already told two stories and it was possible that they wanted time to prepare another.

Mr. Ross, the complainant, who was examined at great length, stated :—I remember the 7th of February last. On the morning of that date I left my bungalow at about 9 o'clock and accompanied by four coolies (Bunko, Jadu, Ram Khelawan, and Unkoor),went to visit a portion of the jungle belonging to the Mohunpur grant. We went by a short cut to the place. My purpose in going was to ascertain whether jungle produce was being stolen. I had received information that gangs of villagers had been committing theft. (By the Court) I often went to the jungle, but had no other particular reason for going on that morning. On two occasions from near the spot in question I had instances of theft and obtained a conviction against the men concerned at Hailakandi. The convictions were against Bengalis. Reference here made to the convictions, but objection was made by the pleader of the accused.) I went *via* Sharpur, but I had not previously been by that road. I selected that route because when I went on previous occasions to the spot by another route a *fakir* had given warning to the villagers of my coming. On this occasion I went on foot. I did not know the bearings of the actual spot, but my coolies did. The coolies being old garden servants had often been to the jungle around these parts for cutting *pharris*, etc. I am aware of the position of the boundary of the land visited. Garden land is on the west of it and near Sharpur. I did not know the exactly defined boundary at that spot not having been there before. When near the spot Ram Kalown pointed out a *pharri* as the eastern boundary. I was then proceeding from east to west (position described on the map). We were still proceeding westwards when a little further on I heard the sound of *daos*. When at about thirty yards distance after hearing the sound we saw some Bengalis on and at the side of the path cutting and tying bamboos, and I fully believed the men to be on garden land.

We ran forwards toward the men, and I caught hold of one whom I handed over to two of my coolies. I saw more men about but when they saw me they started to run away. After going a short distance I caught another man. I caught him by the wrist and took his *dao* away as he threatened me with it. He gripped me but I released myself and we arrested the man after some difficulty and then between us took him to where the other prisoner was. It was about fifteen to twenty yards from where the second man was captured. It is not possible from the spot where the first man was caught to see the place where the second man was caught as there was a bend in the path between. There were two coolies then on the path, Jadu and Unkoor. Ram Kalown and the other coolie were with the first captured villager. I can recognize one of the men who were caught, but am not sure about the other. I did not know his name at the time but learned since that the name of the first man captured is Arjun (identifies him). The second man's name I have since learned is Fakirdhan. After securing the two Bengalies we collected two bundles of lamboos which were carried by my coolies and the villagers. The *dao* with which I was threatened I made over to one of my coolies to carry home. I could not now swear to the *dao*, but I think I should be able to recognize it. (Recognizes one of three *daos* produced.) We were returning towards Sharpur taking the captured men and bamboos, it being my intention to proceed *via* Bujunteepur, on the western side of our land. I arranged to proceed by that route as I had ordered my pony to be at Bujunteepur in readiness for me. But after seeing so many villagers about I did not proceed *via* Bujunteepur fearing a rescue of the captured Bengalis. We had proceeded about a quarter of a mile when we heard shouting behind us; at first not very distinct, but as we got closer I heard shouts of "*maro maro*". The next thing which occurred was the shouting of one of my coolies, who said " Bengali logue *aea*"! The coolies and the captured Bengalis then threw down the bamboos, and the latter got free and bolted towards the other villagers. I could not see the men drop the bamboos owing to a bend in the path. As my two coolies were running towards me I saw them beaten by the Bengalis. It occurred close to me, and I am sure there were not less than forty villagers. My coolies were beaten with *lathis*. All the Bengalis were armed with either *lathis*, or *daos*. By *lathis* I mean bamboos, some of which were old and some freshly cut. The coolies were running by me when I said "Do not run ; stay by me." They stopped, and the assault on us then commenced. I received one cut through my hat by a *dao*, but snatched the *dao* away from the man who struck me (recognizes *dao*), the man being Fakirdhan (identifies accused). Another cut was made at me by a man with a *dao* which I warded off with my stick (recognizes stick with cut on it). At the same time I received several *lathi* blows, but I did not fail to notice that some Bengalis were cutting and pointing bamboos which were also used against us. I was on slightly lower ground than that on which my nearer assailants were, and there was an open space at the spot. In the locality there was a large log of wood which was south-west of me at where I was standing and about twenty yards away. [Describes position of the log and the pathway.] As the Bengalis were using pointed bamboo spears I drew my revolver and pointed it in their direction. I cautioned the assailants repeatedly to desist in their assault and for the moment they hesitated, but of a sudden made a wild rush at me and one man struck me across the head and smashed my hat. At the same time another blow struck me on the inside of the right arm when my revolver went off. I half fell down and seeing the attack so dangerous I told my coolies to run for their lives. I also ran with them. We returned by the way we had come, and the Bengalis followed us for a long distance, still throwing at us the pointed bamboos. We ran the whole way to Sharpur when we sat down near a stream to recover breath and to have a drink. I swear most positively that I fired the revolver once only and at the time knew nothing of what had occurred. While at the steam Bunko told me he had seen a man fall. On the 8th February on the evening following the occurrence Mr. Graham, the Sub-divisional Officer of Hailakandi, told me that two men had been hit. This was the first that I actually knew of the matter. From Sharpur we returned to my bungalow which was reached about 2 o'clock P. M. I at once sat down and wrote to Mr. Graham, telling him of the occurrence and asking for an investigation [original letter produced and recognized) There were marks on my body, the result of the assault. I summoned the doctor Babu; and he and the coolies noticed the bruises. I also showed my hat to the Babu. I noticed marks on the coolies, one on Jadu, three on Bunko and one on Ram Kalown. Three marks on my own person I could see but one on the back of my shoulder I could not see. The Doctor Babu also examined the coolies. After examination I told the Babu to make a note of the bruises found which he did. After taking breakfast I went over to Burnie Braes and shewed the marks on my body to Mr. Lees, the Manager, and to Mr. Benson, the assistant. They also recorded these marks. This was at about 4 or half past four o'clock. I then returned to Mohunpur. Later in the afternoon the *syce* returned without the pony, and said that he had been beaten by the villagers, who had taken the animal from him. I had written to Mr. Graham before the *syce* returned. The three *daos* which I took from the villagers were brought by us to my bungalow and handed over to Mr. Graham when he came to enquire into the matter. This officer came to Mohunpur on the evening of the 8th February accompanied by the Sub-Inspector of Police. I made a statement to Mr. Graham. (Here a discussion occurred and the statement read by the pleader for the prosecution was objected to by the defence as not being admissible as evidence against the accused.) On the 9th February I went with Mr. Graham to the scene of the occurrence and pointed out the places where the different incidents had occurred. I pointed out the spot where the bamboos were when I was assaulted. There were still some lying about, and several were collected by Mr. Graham. I also pointed out the stumps of the bamboos which had been cut on the Mohunpur land. On that date I did not point out to Mr. Graham any of my assailants, but I believe I did do so on the Friday. I cannot say exactly how many men I identified, but I picked them out from among some fifty or sixty villagers. There were wounded among the men produced. Some days afterwards I saw a wounded man in hospital, and I subsequently learned his name to be Abdul Gaffur (identifies accused). I identified him as the man who struck me on the arm immediately before my revolver went off. I did not see Arjun but I identified Fakirdhan on the 10th February; also another Abbas Ali (recognizes accused). Arjun and Abdul Gaffur were identified subsequently. These were all leading men in the assault upon me. I was sent up for trial to the High Court and was acquitted of charges of murder and causing grievous hurt in respect of the men shot. I have been in the habit of carrying a revolver for two years, as there are always wild animals about in the jungle, and secondly I carried the revolver for self-protection if necessary. On the first occasion of my visit to the spot I saw no boundary but a *pha ri*, but on the day I went with Mr. Graham I noticed two earthen mounds but knew nothing about them. Arjun was identified by me some days subsequent to the occurrence from among others who were brought to my bungalow by the police. The chaukidar of my bungalow, Joghan, has been instrumental in securing convictions against the villager previously and has been assaulted by them. On the day when I was assaulted my coolies had nothing in their hands and I had my revolver only.

Mr. Benson called, stated :—I reside at Burnie Braes where I am an assistant. I know Mr. Ross. I remember the 7th of February last, and saw him on that date. I met him on the garden and went with him to Mr. Lees's bungalow at about 4 o'clock P.M. On arrival at the bungalow he showed bruises on his left shoulder, one on his left arm, and two on his right arm. Mr. Lees made a record of the bruises in my presence and I signed it. (Record produced and recognized). Mr. Ross made no statement to me as to how the bruises were caused but he did do so to Mr. Lees.

Akmul Ali called, stated:—I am the Doctor Babu of Mohunpur under Mr. Ross. On the seventh of February last Mr. Ross showed me some marks on his body, the nature of which I recorded (bruises here described). The coolies Ram Kalown, Jadu, and Bunko had also bruises on them which I made a note of (described). These marks in my opinion were caused by *lathis* or bamboos. The marks on the *sahib's topee* were shown to me and they appeared to be must (recognizes hat and the marks upon it).

Ram Khelawan called, said: I have been 10 or 12 years in Mohunpur garden. One day about 4 or 5 months ago, I, Unkur, Banku and Jadu went with the Sahib to the jungle *via* Shahapur. After the muster we left the garden. One day previous to this I had gone to that place with the Chowkidar. There was a Farry and I told the Sahib that the land east of the Farry belonged to the garden. As we were going from the east we saw Bengalees were cutting bamboos. Some 8 or 10 men were ahead of us and many more were inside the jungle. The Sahib ran forward and caught one man, whom he handed over to me and Jadu. Again the Sahib went with Jadu and Unkur and caught another man. We also found two bundles of bamboos, one of which was carried by me and Arjan, the man who was first caught, and another bundle was carried by Jadu and Banku. The Sahib and Unkur were ahead of us; as we proceeded with two bundles of bamboos and two captives we heard cries of *mar mar*. We dropped down the bamboos and the Sahib said "do not run away." They then rushed at us and began to beat us. One Bengalee beat me with a stick on the back. They were about 40 or 50 people who came out from the jungle armed with bamboos and bamboo-spears. One man had struck the Sahib with a *dao* ; he snatched it away from him. The Sahib then held up his revolver in the air and told them not to come near. One of them hit him on the arm and the revolver was fired. As they were thursting pointed bamboos at us we ran away. I saw some of them pointing the bamboos; this they did before the revolver was fired. We came out by the Shahapur way After resting near a stream for a while and drinking water we returned to the garden. The Doctor Babu examined the marks of violence on us. We brought 3 *daos* from the jungle. On the evening of the 8th instant the Magistrate Sahib came and I made a statement to him. I identified Abbs Ali son of Sona Meah, and Hamid Ali, son of Titu Meah. I identified them from among 40 or 50 people. Fakriuddin was the second man seized.

Banku called, said :—I have been living at Mohunpur for about 7 or 8 years. I, Ram Khelawan, Jadu and Unkur went with the Sahib to the jungle one day 4 or 5 months ago. We left the garden about 8 o'clock in the morning and went *via* Shahapore. We went to the Sahib's land and saw Bengalees cutting bamboos. The Sahib said they ought to be caught. We ran forward and the Sahib caught at first one man and afterwards another—they were caught with two bundles of bamboos. (Here witness identified Arjun as the first man caught and the other resembling Fakiruddin). I and Jadu carried one bundle of bamboos. Ram Khelawan and the first captive carried the other. As we proceeded some way Jadu said "Bengalees are coming shouting." We dropped down the bamboos and the two Bengalees ran away. The Sahib told us not to run away but to stand by him. Then one man struck the Sahib with the *dao*. As the Bengalees came closer, the Sahib held up his pistol in the air and told them not to come, when one of them struck on his arm and the revolver was fired. I saw a man fall down. As they were throwing pointed bamboos at us, the Sahib said "run away for your lives." Before the revolver was fired the Bengalees had prepared the pointed bamboos. After coming some way as we were taking rest and drinking water, I told the Sahib that one man had fallen. We then came to the garden. The Bengaless beat Jadu and none else. The Sahib showed Jadu, Ram Khelawan and myself to the Doctor Babu. I was also beaten by the Bengalees with *lathies*. I made a statement to the Magistrate. I identified some of the Bengalees who had attacked us. I identified Haimd Ali, Arjun and Fakiruddin before the Magistrate. I probably identified another, but I do not recognise him now.

Jadu examined, said :—I have been in Mohunpur garden for about 10 or 12 years. One day about 4 or 5 months ago I, Ram Khelawan, Banku and Unkur went to the jungle with the Sahib *via* Shahapore. We went in the Sahib's land. Ram Khelawan showed it was the Sahib's land. After going some way we heard the sound of *dao* and saw some Bengalees cutting bamboos and some tying bundles. We went forward to catch them. The Sahib caught one man and made him over to Banku and Ram Khelawan. The Sahib, Unkur and I went forward again and the Sahib caught another man. The man struggled and aimed his *dao* at the Sahib. The Sahib snatched it away from him and gave it to me. The Bengalees who were seized had their bundles of bamboos, of which I and Banku carried one and Ram Khelawan and the man first seized carried the other. As we were coming some 40 or 50 Bengalees came shouting *maro, maro*. Out of fear we dropped down the bamboos and let the captvies go. Then we were about to run but the Sahib said "don't run away." They began to beat us and the Sahib with the bamboos and waved their *daos*. The Sahib said, "there is pistol in my hand, don't come". They struck on the right arm of the Sahib and the revolver was fired. Then they began to throw pointed bamboos towards us. The Sahib told us to run away for life. We ran as hard as we could and came out by the Shahapore road, rested and drank water near the stream. We then came to the garden. The Doctor Babu came to the bunglaow and examined Ram Khelawan, Banku and myself. The two Bengalees caught were Fakiruddin and Arjun in the dock. (Here witness identified Abbas Ali, son of Sona Meah, and Hamid Ali, son of Titoo Meah). I made a statement before the Magistrate of Hailakandy and identified these men before him on the 8th February. I identified them twice one day at Bhayuntipore and another day at Hailakandy.

The cross-examination of all the witnesses examined was reserved. At this stage the Court rose for the day, ordering an adjournment of the case.

THE following is the statement of Mr. Ross made before the lower Court on the 6th or 8th June.

For sometime past theft of bamboos, etc., has been committed by villagers, from the Mohanpur tea-garden land of which I am Assistant Manager in charge. In July and October 1898, I obtained the conviction of several persons in the Sub-divisional Court of Hailakandi of the above offence. Having received information that bamboos were still being continually stolen I proceeded on the morning of 7th February at about 10 o'clock with four coolies, named Kelomen, Bunko, Jadoo and Nukoor, to a part of the garden jungle near Bundukmara. The distance is about five or six miles from my bungalow to the spot. After having proceeded through the Shahpore jungle some distance, one of my coolies pointed to me "gharril" marking the boundary of the Mohanpur grant. I had not previously been in this part of the jungle. Shortly after we heard the sound of cutting with *daos* and presently saw three or four men ahead of us on the path, tying bamboos into bundles. I and the coolies ran towards them and caught one man whom I handed over to two of my coolies. I then noticed a large number of men, some forty or fifty, further to the south, some in the jungle and some in the path, who, when they saw us began to run away. I ran forward and caught another man and after some difficulty secured him. He struck at me with his *dao* before I succeeded in secureing him. He was a tall Mussalman with a beard, resembling the witness Fakiruddin. The other man whom I had previously captured was a tall thin singular-looking man with a small scanty beard whom I subsequ ntly identified as the witness Arjun. We took the two men we had caught with the two bundles of bamboos which were lying on the path. Each bundle contained from 12 to 15 bamboos, about 25 feet in length. One bundle was carried by Arjun and one of my coolies, and the other by two coolies. We then proceeded to return by the way we had come and after having proceeded about quarter of a mile we heard the shouts of people coming after us and immediately a large body of men came down on us crying "Maro." My people immediately dropped their bundles of bamboos and ran towards me. Before they could reach me they had received several blow from behind. In the meanwhile the two men I have captured escaped and, I believe, joined the rest. The whole party consisting of about 30 or 40 men then attacked us with *daos* and bamboo *lathies*. One man struck me across the head with a *dao* and cut through the rim of my *sola topee*. I snatched it out of his hand and gave it to one of my coolies. I also warded off another cut from a *dao* with my stick. I then noticed some of the men preparing pointed bamboos to use as spears to try and throw at us. At this point as my coolies were wholly unprotected, having nothing in their hands and fearing that we should certainly be killed, I drew my revolver out which had previously remained in my pocket and showed it to the mob warning them again and again to desist from the attack. They hesitated a moment and then made a wild rush at us. I was struck on the top of the head with a bamboo which broke through the crown of my hat and, at the same time received blows on my arms and also parts of my body. At the same moment my revolver which I had been pointing towards them went off and I half fell but recovering myself told my people to run and I followed. We were chased for about a quarter of a mile by the mob, throwing bamboo spears and shouting "maro," "maro." It has been my custom for the last two years to carry a revolver when going to the jungles as tigers, leopards and other wild animals are frequently seen in the neighbourhood. I aimed the revolver at no one particularly and was not aware that anyone had been hit until so informed by one of my coolies. I am quite positive that only one shot was fired and was quite unaware that two people had been wounded until told by Mr. Graham, Magistrate of Hailakandi, on the following evening."

PROMISED SIGHT FOR THE BLIND.

AN extraordinary operation has just been performed on the eyes of a blind girl. It involved the transfer of parts of a rabbit's eyes to the blind sockets of the girl's. The operation has been pronounced a success, and it is believed that her sight will be restored. She had been blind in one eye for fifteen years, and totally blind for six.

The transference of the eye of an animal to the socket of a human being with the possibility of restoring sight has been one of the many dreams of surgery. Such has been done many times, and the operation, so far as the actual transference goes, has been each time successful, and, though the transplanted animal eye has grown into place, and the muscles united, yet none of the patients operated upon has been enabled to see. One thing has always been regarded in relation to this operation, namely, that the animal eye was a better substitute than the glass eye.

Said a surgeon to a representative, "The optic nerve of the human being and that of the animal have hitherto refused to make practical connection. When it was decided to make the attempt in the present instance a number of physicians and surgeons were asked for their opinion, and almost without exception all pronounced it useless, but admitted that the attempt could no harm.

"It was decided to operate on the eye that had been blind fifteen years. Both the girl and the animal were put under the influence of chloroform. The whole front of the diseased member was then removed, while the corresponding part from the rabbit's eye was substituted for the human portion cut out ; the lid was then carefully pulled over, and the eye bandaged so that there could be no motion of the lid, and no light could penetrate to the wounded organ.

"At the end of a week a careful examination was made, when it was seen that to all appearances the grafted portion of the eye had united, and the girl could distinguish light from dark.

"The operation proving so successful from the surgeon's point of view it was then decided to operate on the second eye. That organ was in much worse condition than the first one, and nearly the whole eye had to be removed and the rabbit's eye substituted. As yet no examination of the second eye had been made lest the healing process be interfered with, but I am greatly sanguine of success."

THE Duke of Westminster has presented the proceeds of the Eclipse Stakes, won by Flying Fox, £ 10,000 to Royal Hospital.

SUBADAR-Major Abdul Rahaman, 2nd Baluchis, was shot dead on Wednesday at Khar on the frontier by Sepoy Isa Khan, who was himself immediately shot by Havildar Ahmed Khan.

AT the instance of the Secretary of State for India, the Government of India enquired whether LadyDoctors could be secured to carry out the Contagious Disease Act, but negative answers have been received from all quarters, as their number is quite insufficient to meet the demands for the general profession.

শ্রী শ্রীবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া
ও
আনন্দ বাজার পত্রিকা।
নূতন সাপ্তাহিক পত্র।

বাঙ্গলা কাগজের প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য সাধন হইতেছে না বলিয়া আগামী ৯ই আগষ্ট বুধবার হইতে শ্রীশ্রীবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া পত্রিকা সাপ্তাহিক রূপে প্রকাশিত হইবে। ইহার নাম হইবে—"শ্রীশ্রীবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া ও আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা।" ইহাতে ধর্ম্মনীতি, সমাজনীতি, রাজনীতি, বিজ্ঞান প্রভৃতি সকল প্রকার প্রস্তাব থাকিবে। বলা বাহুল্য এখানি আমরা উচ্চ-শ্রেণীর পত্রিকা করিতে চেষ্টা করিব। আর ইহাতে লোকের কুৎসা গালাগালি থাকিবেক না। মূল্য সহর ও মফঃস্বলে বার্ষিক দুই টাকা, এবং প্রতি সংখ্যা অর্দ্ধ আনা।

শ্রীরসিকমোহন চক্রবর্ত্তী গোস্বামী।
৩৭নং হরলাল মিত্রের লেন,
বাগবাজার,—কলিকাতা।

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS].

LONDON, AUG. 1

In the House of Commons Lord George Hamilton, replying to a question, said he was in correspondence with India regarding the establishment of a Chief Court in Burma, but was not prepared to postpone the decision until the House of Commons had discussed whether a High Court or a Chief Court was desirable.

LONDON, AUG. 2.

The dispute in the tea trade has been compromised. The draft will be continued on customs weighing tare to half a pound. The new regulation takes effect on the 1st of October.

LONDON, AUG. 2.

Half the material for building the Gokteik viaduct at Mandalay has been shipped from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Workmen will accompany the shipment to India and superintend the construction of the work. The remainder of the material follows in the autumn

LONDON, AUG. 2.

The *Corriere* of Milan in an inspired article states that Italy has definitely abandoned her claim to Sanmun, and does not intend to demand another station in China.

LONDON, AUG. 2.

The Australians have beaten the Marylebone Cricket Club by nine wickets; Warwickshire has beaten Leicestershire by an innings and 158 runs; Surrey has beaten Kent by 45 runs. The matches between Derbyshire and Worcestershire, and Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire resulted in a draw.

LONDON, AUG. 3.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a question in the House of Commons from Mr. Bryn Roberts, said the Transvaal Joint Enquiry would be confined to details of the reforms required to give immediate and substantial representation to the Uitlanders.

LONDON, AUG. 3.

Sixty non-commissioned officers and men of the Army Medical Corps at Aldershot have been ordered to South Africa, and will sail in a fortnight.

LONDON, AUG. 3.

Lord George Hamilton replying to a question in the House of Commons said that in any new contract for Indian Railways the interests of India and the Indian taxpayer would be duly safeguarded.

LONDON, AUG. 3.

Mr. Ritchie replying to a further question, said he had placed himself in communication with the India Office with a view to assimilating the Indian and Imperial Merchant Shipping Acts.

LONDON, AUG. 3

Two Italian men-of-war have sailed for China to relieve the two returning home.

LONDON, AUG. 4.

An autograph letter from the Emperor William was delivered to the Queen at Osborne yesterday, from which it is understood that His Majesty will visit the Queen before the autumn, should his engagements permit of his doing so.

LONDON, AUG. 4.

Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht, the Shamrock, has sailed for America.

THE PLAGUE.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THERE was an appreciable fall in plague figures on Thursday last. Four cases and 4 deaths were reported—2 and 2 in Ward No. 3; 1 and 1 in No. 8; 1 and 1 in No. 14. The total mortality was still high, 68, as against 51, the mean of the last five years, Ward No. 9 coming first with 8 deaths with Nos. 1 and 22 following with 6 each.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

PLAGUE attacks on Thursday number 16 and plague deaths 13, the total mortality being 90; last year it was 89 and in 1897, 147.

CONTINUED HIGH DEATH RATE AT POONA.

ON Thursday 156 cases and 125 deaths were recorded in the city, the total mortality being 147. In the cantonment there were 48 cases and 29 deaths, in the suburban one case and two deaths, and in the district 33 cases and 23 deaths.

The first trial of a foreigner at the Japanese Courts is an American, charged with several murders.

NEAR a tank about a mile to the east of the town of Pudukotai several images of Hindu gods have been discovered by some peasants. The remains of a stone building were also discovered during excavations in the locality.

A MADRAS paper has reason to believe that the Hon. Mr. Arnold White, Advocate-General, Madras, has been selected to be Chief Justice of Madras, and that Mr. White has accepted the post.

FORTY-TWO cases of cholera were reported in the Punjab during the last fortnight, the Ludhiana district reporting 12 deaths, Amritsar 10, Gujranwala eight, Gurduspur and Hissar five, Wazirabad two, and Hoshiarpur one. Nearly all these seizures occurred simultaneously, and the outbreaks are now subsiding.

THE report of the Meteorological Reporter for Western India continues most discouraging. The rainfall has been scanty, Secundrabad reporting 0·85 cent., Allahabad 0·57, Trichinopoly 0·33, and Madras, Malagaon, Amraoti, Raipur, Hoshangabad, Jabbulpur, Neemuch, Karachi and Cawnpore ·1 to 9. There is no improvement in the weather, and rain in scattered local showers only is likely at present. The steamar *Setos* from Lamoo reports having experienced light to fresh winds from the west and passing clouds up the Coast. Native grain-dealers in Bombay have raised the price of all food stuffs.

THE judicial inquiry in regard to the charges against Karam Chand, Deputy Inspector of Police, and two Sergeants as to their having received illegal gratification, is just now going on at Gujranwala attended by considerable local excitement, says the *Tribune*. An Assistant Commissioner has been especially deputed for the duty, and the hearing commenced on the 24th ultimo, Mr. Grey is in charge of the defence, there being as many as twelve charges of bribery against the accused. The preliminary inquiry took place at Hafizabad on the 12th, 13th and 14th May.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

OBITUARY.

(From a Correspondent.)

TIKARI, AUG. 3.

Moonshi Sajeevan Lall, Zemindar and late Dewan of the 7-anna Tikari Raj, died at the age of 75, on the 2nd instant, leaving behind him a large family and a very great number of friends and admirers to mourn his loss. In him the Gaya District has lost one of its noblest and most respectable sons.

RESIGNATION OF JUSTICE O'KINEALY.

(From our own Correspondents.)

SIMLA, AUG. 4.

Mr. Justice O'Kinealy of the Calcutta High Court, has been permitted to resign the service and his seat on the High Court Bench, with effect from the 23rd June. No successor has yet been selected.

GLOOMY CROP PROSPECTS.

Latest telegrams from different parts of the continent show that the crop prospects, over the entire peninsula are very gloomy indeed, as there is no indication whatever of the advance of the monsoon. If the monsoon breaks out in Colombo it will be some time before it reaches the Bombay Presidency. It is, however, still believed that a few smart showers now can yet improve the situation to some extent.

THE MOHANPUR RIOTING CASE.

SILCHAR, AUG. 4.

THE hearing of the case, in which Mr. Ross, Assistant Magistrate of the Mohunpur Tea garden, charged seven villagers with rioting, armed with deadly weapons, to *wit* daos and pointed bamboos was resumed yesterday before the Deputy Commissioner, Captain Herbert. The whole day was occupied by the cross-examination of Mr. Ross. The Court was crowded, among those present being a goodly number of Europeans. Quite a sensation prevailed as usual.

The Court having reasons to be irritated at the manner in which Mr. Ross answered questions, addressed him thus: "I shall make you stand in the witness-box if you go on like this. You are simply wasting time by your prevarications."

Further hearing of the case was adjourned to the 18th instant.

THE POLLARBAND RIOTING CASE.

SILCHAR, AUG. 4.

In the Pollarband Rioting Case in which seven coolies of the garden stood charged with rioting and causing grievous hurt to Mr. Falckytter, Assistant Manager of the garden, judgment was delivered to-day by the Deputy Commissioner. Six of the accused were convicted and sentenced to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment each. The seventh, Kadroo, father of Kartic, who had proved an *alibi*, was acquitted.

THE COPYRIGHT BILL.

BOMBAY, AUG. 4.

The Government of India replied to the Presidency Association regarding its telegrams on the subject of the Copyright Bill; "Government have not so far had sufficient reasons placed before them for postponing the consideration of the Bill to the Calcutta Session. The Select Committee will carefully consider any representations received by the 15th instant."

A MYSTERIOUS ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.

MUCH attention has been given of late to what we may call the strange case of Clipperton Island. It is not more than three miles in circumference, and it lies in the Western Pacific, something like 800 miles west of Mexico. In the wide expanse of the Pacific Ocean it shows like a mere speck, so small as to be of no value, seemingly, save as a refuge for a few of the army of beech combers "who have burst all bounds of habit and have wandered far away" in the course of the downward progress. But the ownership of Clipperton Island has of late been claimed by no fewer than four countries—Mexico, the United States, France, and Great Britain—and it is added that the Islan is a favourite haunt of sea birds, and that many tons of valuable guano are waiting to be picked up, the reason for this unwonted solicitude, even in an area of landgrapping, will be apparent. Clipperton Island is of interest in another direction. It is one of those numerous stretches of land set in the midst of the seas, sunny and otherwise, which, after their first discovery, for many years elude all endeavours to locate them again. It has now been, as it were, nailed down in one particular spot in the ocean—that is to say, its exact position has been finally determined by warships sent out for the express purpose of searching for it and settling all doubts as to its existence—and the only thing remaining now is that the question of ownership should be settled. It happens that there is another is land about 400 miles south-west of Clipperton, and rich in the same deposits that make that place worth possessing, for which adventurous miners are at this moment looking.

As late as July last a vessel, named *Moonlight* left Altata, Mexico, on a voyage in search of this latest mysterious island, and spent fifty-two days of fruitless labour towards this end. Her captain failed to find the place, and, fearing that his provisions and water would run short, returned home to report that either the rough charts of old Captain Martin and his associates were in error, or else that some strange seismic phenomenon had caused the lost isle to disappear years ago, perhaps, for all that mortal soul knows. Spice is added to this romance by the fact that another Frisco captain located the place definitely a year or two before, and found a small colony there—which colony is still on the island shipping guano in their own schooners, manned by dumbers of their own party, to the leading ports on the Pacific slope of North and South America. Quite a number of expeditions have of late been made with the object of wresting this valuable secret from the handful of men in whose possession it is and of participating in the spoils; and one of these days we will no doubt hear of a sanguinary fight for the supremacy between the present colonists and a party of marauders. Although the stories told about the unknown island very considerably, they all agree that it exists somewhere about 400 to 500 miles south-west of Clipperton, in a low coral atoll covered with the richest phosphates. The place also has its legends of pirates treasures, which may, or may not have had any foundation in fact. One of the expeditions of recent date which have been fitted out to look for the island was the *Vine* expedition. That vessel's owner claims to have secured his knowledge of the place from the old sea captain named Martin, above referred to, who died some years ago, and who left an old chart among his belongings which told of a small island in the South Pacific, not down on the regular charts, enormously rich in guano.—*New Zealand Herald.*

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

THE report of Sir Herbert Maxwell, M. P., F.R.S., and Dr. Pye-Smith, F. R. S., the delegates of Her Majesty's Government at the International Congress on Tuberculosis, held at Berlin from May 24th to 27th last, has just been issued as a Parliamentary paper. The report states that the Congress, which was opened by the Herzog von Ratibor in the presence of the German Empress, consisted of 180 delegates, appointed by and representing different States and Universities and other public bodies. A number of papers were read chiefly by German delegates, but nothing in the nature of general discussion took place. The proceedings when printed will form a valuable *corpus* of scientific opinion on the subject.

Dr. Pye-Smith adds a memorandum on the medical aspect of the results of the Congress. After giving in some detail the most important conclusions which were recognized—that consumption and other tubercular diseases are caused by the presence and multiplication of the specific bacillus discovered by Professor Koch; that tuberculosis, as a condition directly transmitted by inheritence, is extremely rare; and that pthisis or pulmonary tuberculosis in particular is not catching—Dr. Pye-Smith goes on to describe the following practical point in the prevention of tuberculosis as a widespread and destructive disease, which were inculcated by various speakers at the Congress.

A.—The primary importance of free ventilation and wholesome and abundant food. Improvement in the dwellings and the food of the poorer classes in this country, their increasing cleanliness and sobriety, have not only diminished sickness generally but directly reduced the number of deaths from consumption until the mortality from his cause is less in London than in any other large city. (It is, however, important to notice that the death-rate of young children from disease of the bowel has little, if at all, diminished. See Sir Richard Thorne's Harben Lectures.)

B.—The prevention of infection of the lungs by the bacillus of tubercle depends chiefly on rational treatment of the sputa of consumptive patients or rather, for practical purposes of the sputa of all those affected with cough and expectoration. The phlegm should never be deposited on the ground or on a handkerchief, where it can dry up; it should be kept moist until it can be destroyed by heat and the vessel used to receive it should contain phenol or some other antiseptic solution.

C.—The prevention of infection by tuberculous milk may be accomplished either by boiling all milk given as food to children or by inspection of diaries, so as to prevent tuberculous milch-cows being used.

D.—The prevention of infection by meat can be secured by careful and thorough inspection of carcasses or by diagnostic testing of cattle with tuberculin. This, the only undoubtedly useful application of the so-called tuberculin, has the drawback that after the effect of the inoculation has passed off, a tuberculous animal becomes immune to it for a time, and so may be passed as healthy. (It is said that cattle suspected of tubercle are thus rendered immune to the tubercular test before being sent over the French frontier.)

Though the question of the treatment of pthisis was only a supplementary part of the work of the Congress, Dr. Pye-Smith gives the following facts which, are he says "important for the people as well as their governors to be aware of" :—

a. That tuberculous disease of the bones and joint of the glands and skin and abdomen, though dangerous, is not incurable, and by the modern methods of operative medicine is in most cases successfully cured.

b. That tuberculosis of the lungs (phthisis or consumption) is frequently cured and probably more often now than formerly. (Curschmann, of Leipsig, fourth day of Congress.)

c. There is no specific drug which has direct influence upon consumption, but that many both old and new have valuable effects upon its complications. (On the Action of the New Tuberculin, see Briger's paper on the second day of Congress, and Dr. C. T. Williams in the R. Med. Ch. Trans. for the present year.

d. That abundant food particularly of a fatty nature and a life in the open air no less valuable in the treatment than in the prevention of pthisis, and that the hospitals and asylums for providing these essentials, which are now numerous in Germany and far from rare in England, Austria and Hungary, France and the United States, are of essential value. That the "open air treatment" has been long known and practised in the United Kingdom was handsomely acknowledged by Professor Von. Leyden (first day of Congress). Compare papers by Kaurin (Norway), Westhoven (Ludwigshaven), J. R. Walters (London), Desider Kuthy (Budapest), Schmid (Switzerland), Domene (Spain), fourth day.

e. That the influence of climate, attitude, temperature, and dryness of the air and soil, of travelling, and of sea voyages has been very differently estimated at different periods, and that, while each is in various degrees important, popular opinion probably exaggerates their power. (Hermann Webber, of London, fourth day of Congress.)

f. That the prospect of improved success in the treatment of tuberculosis in general, and of consumption in particular, by the advance of pathology and the progress of surgery and medicine, is a hopeful one, almost as hopeful as that of limiting the spread of the disease by preventive measures.

A CANNIBAL PLANT.

AN odd plant is the toothwort, which lives underground. Only in the spring time does it make its existence known by sending up a head of flowers above the soil.

Like other plants which are parasites, and do not make their own food, the toothwort is not green, but yellowish or white in colour. It develops suckers on its roots, which attach themselves to those of such trees as the poplar and hazel.

Little structures grow from the centre of the suckers, and tap the flow of watery sap passing upwards to the stem of the tree they attack. This fluid is not a very rich one from a food point of view, and there comes a time in the winter when the supply ceases. How is the toothwort to supply the deficiency and live more luxuriously?

The otherwise useless leaves which cover the underground stem are brought into play. These organs are bent on themselves away from the stem, and back again towards it underneath their short stalk. The latter is not quite reached by the curved-up tip of the leaf, and a little trough is therefore left.

Into this a dozen holes or less are found to open, and each is the aperture leading into a veritable living trap. This is in the shape of a deep and irregular chamber, excavated, as it were, in the very substance of the leaf, and like nothing else in the whole vegetable kingdom.

Small organisms of many kinds, such as wheel animalcules and mites whose home is on the earth, find their way in, but cannot gain the entrance again. They get entangled among the knobbed structures that lined the chamber in great numbers.

There is another plant of many parts called Bartsia, found on the north of Scotland. To all outward appearance it is an honest member of botanical society, and indeed does do work after the manner of ordinary herbs. The Bartsia, however, does not entirely trust for a living to the result of its own labour, for some of its roots take toll from those of its neighbours.

SMARTEST DOG IN THE WORLD.

HAZE HUSON, a noted hunter in the wilderness around Squaw pond, in Aroostook county, Maine, is the owner of a dog which gold cannot buy. This dog has no aristocratic ancestry. He answers to the name of Sam, is now 3 years old, and weighs 40 pounds. Haze procured him from a Tobique river Indian, when he was a pup, giving in exchange for him two muskrat skins.

Haze has a camp on the shore of Squaw pond, where he spends the most of his time, and Sam is his constant companion and devoted friend. As a fisherman Sam has become an expert. In the lake are many fine trout, and Sam is an adept at taking them. He can swim and dive like an otter, and has never been known to miss his fish. When Haze wants a trout for dinner or supper he simply calls Sam and says, "Fetch me a trout," and straightway Sam trots to the lake, plunges in, and soon returns, bringing the desired fish, frequently weighing four pounds, and repeats the operation as often as directed. And a still more curious thing is the fact that Sam never catches a fish other than trout, although many shubs, suckers, perch, and eels are found in the lake.

Sam is also a skillful hunter of ducks, great flocks of which at some seasons frequent the lake. It is interesting to watch him when he is on a ducking expedition. He enters the water at some considerable distance from where the flock is feeding, and swims along in their direction with just his nose at the surface until within a few rods of the birds, when he gently sinks out of slight and moves along under water until he gets beneath his selected victim, and then with a swift and sudden grab deftly pulls her under, and quietly makes his way to the shore. And so skillfully does Sam manage that on more than one occasion he has been known to secure as many as eight or ten fine, fat ducks out of one flock before the rest took the alarm and flew away.

In the latter days of April of the present year Sam added another big credit mark to his already long list. One fine, warm afternoon Haze was at work about a mile from his camp, getting out some cedar "splits" for a new roof for his cabin. As was his custom on such occasions, he had left his rifle at the camp, not considering that he would have any use for it. Sam was with him for a time, but after dozing in the warm sun for about an hour he arose, sniffed the air once or twice, and then wandered off into the woods. About an hour and-a-half later he came bounding along the tote road leading from the camp to the place where Haze was at work, bringing between his teeth Haze's rifle, and by certain well-understood movements and motions indicated that some important business was on hand. Haze picked up the gun and started into the woods with Sam in the lead.

They had gone a little over a mile when Sam halted beside the fresh track of an enormous bear and waited for his master, who was slightly in the rear, to come up with him. Sam again took the head, and they followed the trail out into the burnt land, which for years has been favourite hunt with the Bruin family. In less than twenty minutes after reaching the burnt land they discovered the black brute sunning himself on a big pine log. A single well-directed shot laid him low. He proved to be one of the biggest bears ever killed in that section famous for big bears, and from the bounty, hide, oil, and meat Haze realized over $50. In his expedition of two hours before Sam had discovered the track, thereupon he had returned by the way of the camp and procured the rifle, which he knew had been left there, carried it to Haze, and then led him straight to the game.

A HUGE tract of land in the Argentine has been granted by Ricciotti Garibaldi for the Italian Colony.

As the postage between England and India and the Colonies has now been reduced, soldiers and sailors no longer benefit by the regulations under which they could formerly send letters at special rates under certain conditions.

The soothing and healing properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, its pleasant task and prompt and permanent cures, have made it a great favorite with the people everywhere. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO
AND B K. PAUL & CO.

A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT IN GRAFTING LIVING CREATURES.

PROFESSOR CRAMPTON has just achieved one of the most remarkable triumphs ever recorded. He has grafted two butterflies, which now live as one. The young scientist has himself supplied the following description of his experiments :—

"After selecting the specimens to be grafted together and deciding what parts to use such as the head of one with the tail of another, I rapidly sever from the butterfly with a clean, clear cut the parts wanted.

"The severed parts are then brought together, and warm, melted paraffine applied to the edges with a camel's hair brush. The paraffine serves a double purpose. It cements the parts together, and prevents escape of the blood.

"Some graftings show but a little deviation from the normal—not except to close inspection, a mark to show the juncture. Others approach in their appearance the monstrous or the grotesque.

"In the case of the 'tandem butterfly,' the head of the second one was removed, and the body was grafted on to the complete body of the other one, and they exist as one animal. The chief interest in this result lies in the fact that the entire head—eyes, brains and all—have been cut away from the second butterfly, yet it lived attached firmly as part two of the tandem."

THE latest reports state that nearly 9,000 persons are receiving relief in the Central Provinces, while over 8,000 are on relief works at Merwara.

As the result of the deliberations of the recent committee of the Council upon exchange compensation allowances, the Government of India have informed local Governments that in deciding whether an applicant fulfils one or more of the two conditions of (1) his parents having been only temporary residents in India, and (2) of he himself having had at the time he entered Government service a non-Indian domicile, weight should be given rather to the practical considerations than to the legal technicalities of the Indian Succession Act. In all other respects the conditions of eligibility remain as before.

NEIGHBOUR WOLFF AND OTHERS.

ALMOST every afternoon in pleasant weather I see my neighbour Wolff sitting in any easy-chair in the shade in front of his own door. Sometimes he kills time by reading the paper, but oftener he does nothing but watch the people and the vehicles that pass. I frequently stop and talk with him a few minutes, and he appears to be grateful for the trifling attention. He is a man of about fifty, strongly and sturdily built, and to look at him you see no reason why he should not be up and about as actively as the best of us. He is intelligent and well-informed, has travelled considerably, and is a man in every way worth knowing. His ideas on finance and business seem to be clear and practical, and it strikes a stranger as odd if he does not grapple with his opportunities and pile up a big fortune. Yet he never makes a motion in that direction. He lets the chances all slip by, and just sits there as though the world were no more to him than the Klondyke goldfields are to the resident population of a cemetery. Yet my neighbour Wolff knows what money is, and appreciates what can be done with it. Then why doesn't he "get a move on," as the Yankees say, and make hay while the sun shines? Take a peep at him about nine o'clock at night, when he takes his customary exercise on the pavement—the way being mostly clear of pedestrians by them—and you will need no verbal answer to the question. Stocky and strong as he appears when in his chair, he makes a poor show on his legs. Slowly, heavily, leaning hard on his thick stick, he goes to and fro a few times between the corner and his house—a distance of 200 feet may be—and then with a sigh sinks again into his chair like a man who realises he is out of the race. A paralytic stroke two years ago, and the constant fear of another—that explains it. He is one of the multitude who are in the world and not of it—as this woman was a while since:—

"From my girlhood she says I was always oppressed and hindered by weakness I was habitually tired weary and languid. Like all such persons I lived a kind of life to myself All pleasures or pursuits which called for energy and vitality were closed to me. I had a feeble and fitful appetite, and what I ate gave me great pain at the chest and back, a sense of coldness, deadness and weight at the stomach. At time there would be also a gnawing, sinking feeling.

"As I grew older I was much troubled with palpitation of the heart and loss of sleep. Year after year I dragged along in this miserable way, and, being too week, to walk was drawn from place to place in a Bath chair Every effort was made to obtain a cure. I consulted doctor after doctor, and took many kinds of medicine and treatment, but got no more than temporary relief. Once doctor said my heart was diseased.

"My sister urged me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. Without any great hopes of its effect in my case, I nevertheless procured a bottle from the stores in High Street and began to take it as directed. The result was a decidedly improved appetite, and I relished and digested what I ate without any pain or distress following

As I continued to use this medicine the heart trouble was less frequent and finaily ceased altogether. My nerves soon became stronger and I could sleep well. In a few weeks more I was *better and stronger than ever before in my life*, and have enjoyed good health ever since. My friends were almost as much surprised and pleased as I was at this remarkable result of taking Mother Seigel's Syrup, and you may make my statement public if you think it will do good.' —(Signed) (Mrs.) Mary Ann Welch, I, Constitution Hill, Luton, Chatham, February 6th, 1895.

My neighbour Wolff may or may not recover from his paralysis, but all cases like Mrs. Welch's—indigestion, with consequent weakness and nervous debility—should be curable by the remedy which cured her. It opens and renews the digestion, which is the fountain of life, and puts a wholly new aspect on the world around us. From having been laid aside as cumberers of the ground, we become once more workers with others and sharers of their pleasures.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

WILD PIGS OF TEXAS.

"THE most interesting creature to me in the West," said a man recently, returned from a trip to the Rocky mountains, "was the peccary." When they first began to tell me about the peccary I was anxious to go out and see a drove of 'em in the w ods somewhere, feeding on mast, but as Joe Parker and the rest of 'em developed the disposition of the peccary by tale and reminiscence I was willing to take the interesting little creature by proxy. As a rule so they assured me, the peccary isn't looking for a fight. He doesn't prey on other animals, and a dozen men may ride past a feeding drove of them without their paying any attention to the party, unless some one of the party is so unwise as to fire a shot into the drove. If one peccary is hurt the whole drove, and there may be a hundred or more in it, instantly abandons all other business as one peccary, and never does another thing until the injury done to one of its number is avenged, if vengeance is possible.

"A man who has thus brought down upon himself the enmity of a drove of peccaries needs be well mounted if he would escape their fury. They will follow him at an amazing pace for miles, and will not relinquish the chase so long as there is any hope of overtaking him. If he is overtaken and surrounded it will not be the work of ten seconds for the peccaries to strew the plain with infinitesimal fragments of himself and his horse. If a man on foot should be foolhardy enough to fire into a drove of peccaries and one of them should give the peculiar snort that calls for vengeance, the smoke of his gun would have scarcely cleared away before he would be separated into bits so small that one big enough to make the proverbial grease spot could not be found. Experienced plainsmen know this peculiarity of the peccary, and never give the animal reason for the slightest suspicion that they would disturb its serenity. As with the mountain lion, the grizzly bear, and the silvertip, the wise Western hunter or ranchman has instant business elsewhere when he comes upon peccaries. Many mysterious disappearances of tenderfoot hunters and tourists in the So[illegible] California, New Mexico, and Southern Te[illegible] explained in no better way than by the ass[illegible]tion that they had tried their guns on peccaries. Joe Parker of San Benite told me that, and as Joe has lived among peccaries and the other wild beasts of that extraordinary region ever since he was a boy, he ought to know what he is talking about.

MASTER OF LIONS AND BEARS.

"But while the peccary is not, as a rule, aggressive or inclined to fight either dumb brute or man, it invariably makes an exception to the rule in all cases where the mountain lion or the bear family is concerned. Peccaries and lions or peccaries and bears can't live in the same woods, and it is always the peccaries that remain. The unassuming little beast is as much monarch of all he surveys in his bailiwick as Robinson Crusoe was on his island. A mountain lion may be doing a lively business in the king of beast's line in some particular precinct, levying tribute by the ton on the meat of his cowering subjects, but just let it become known that the humped-up little peccary has come into the locality to test its foraging possibilities, and King Lion will abdicate so quick that you can hear his throne totter, and he won't remember that he pretends to be a monarch until he has put a good stretch of country between himself and the invading peccaries. Or, perhaps, some great bulk of a grizzly or a swaggering silvertip, carrying nearly a ton of concentrated malevolence around with him, has been running things with a high paw in some community, but let either a grizzly or silvertip, swaggering along in offensive self-consciousness of his superiority, come in sight of one of these little chaps nosing around after his dinner [illegible] the fallen mast, and instantly the swagger is gone. The bear suddenly acts as if he wishes he wasn't so big. He tries to draw himself into as contracted a space as possible, and puts all the speed he can into his enormous legs as he turns tail upon the grunting peccary and seek a new domain to do his swaggering in. Joe-Parker said he had seen 'em do it time and time again.

"'If a bear sees a drove of peccaries before any of them see him,' said Joe, 'he may be able to sneak away and make his escape, but if he is discovered by the peccaries there is sure to be one bear less in a very short time, no matter whether he is grizzly or silvertip, cinnamon, brown or black. The peccaries surround him, and, although he may rip and pound the life out of half a dozen of the implacable little beasts before it is accomplished, it is only a question of a very short time when he is torn his entire length by the sharp, curved tusks of the wild hogs, and he falls among the attacking horde. Once down the hated bear is instantly torn limb from limb. His flesh is chopped into fragments and quickly devoured. Every bone is crunched and ground so fine that a place two inches long would be a large one to find after a drove of peccaries have dealt with a bear's carcass, to such destructive length do they invariably carry their hatred of the bruin family.

"Once, so Joe said, a tourist who was staying with him had the luck to see a drove of peccaries tackle a tree climbing bear that had almost got out of their reach up the tree before they got hold of him, and the tourist, in telling Joe about it, mentioned how near the bear came to making its escape. Joe laughed and said to the tourist :

"You think he'd have escaped, do you? Well, let me tell you that if the bear had climbed clear to the top of the tree he wouldn't have escaped. He would only have gained a respite. Peccaries never let up on an enemy they have gone out to conquer as long as that enemy is in sight. If that bear had got up the tree the peccaries would have simply sat down at the foot of the tree and waited. No matter how long they might have had to stay there—a week, a month, three months, a year—there they would stay until that bear either came down or fell down and they had scattered him to the winds. Peccaries never give up. When they have set their death watch on a bear or a hunter or a mountain lion, or whatever it might be, a strong guard is always left to see that the victim does not escape. While some are on guard, others are off feeding and their reliefs are regular and constant. If that bear had got into the tree there would have been no minute of the day or night that he could not have looked down upon a group of peccaries sitting around the tree each with his eyes fixed immovably upon him. If the bear could possibly have fastened himself in the tree he might starve to death, with the satisfaction of knowing that his carcass would not fall to the ground to be torn into nothing by the tireless wretches below; but as the bear could have had no way to secure himself a fixed tenure in the tree it would have only been a question of time when, grown weak from hunger, he must have lost his grip on the branches and received the patience of the peccaries by tumbling among them to be supinely annihilated.

FOOLHARDY DEEDS OF PLAINSMEN.

"Lots of other ranchmen told me similar things about the peccary. Hunters have been known to undertake the foolhardy task of hunting peccaries by killing one in a drove and getting to safe place in a tree when the entire drove will at once gather about the tree and wait, with every eye fixed upon the hunter for the vengeance their instinct or reason or whatever it is, tells them is inevitable. Well provided with ammunition, hunters have been able to pick off, one by one, every member of a drove, and then make an escape from a tree, but it is a dangerous risk for a hunter to run. Every peccary but one in a drove may fall before the hunter's bullets, but the solitary one will remain on guard until he dies of starvation. If the hunter has no more ammunition and one peccary is left alive, it becomes a question of which has the more endurance, the hunter of the peccary. Plainsmen are a fearless and often reckless lot, but they never hunt peccaries. There are too many terrible stories as to how such rash undertakings have terminated.

"'Physically as well as morally," said Joe Barker, 'the peccary seems to be an abnormal sort of creature. It has the general appearance and habits of the hog, but the hoofs and the three stomachs of the cow. On its back it has a gland which secretes a musk, and three minutes after a peccary is killed its flesh will be entirely pregnated with the secretion. Just what this composite construction of the peccary is for a reminiscence of the hog, the cow, and the muskrat—no one seem to have exactly found out yet. But one thing is certain—they are tough and absolutely without fear. But they are harmless as doves if you treat 'em right. You can go out any time, [illegible]ver younder in the big valley, and sit down [illegible]ght on the edge of a feeding drove of peccaries and watch 'em all day, if you want to, and they won't touch you or notice you so long as you don't rile 'em.'

"But I didn't want to, and so all I know about peccaries what Joe and the rest told me."

A REGIONAL BUREAU FOR INDIA.

AT a meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal held on Wednesday last, Mr. T. H. Holland, of the Geological Survey of India, explained the scheme drawn up by the Royal Society for the formation of an International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. During recent years the enormous increase in scientific literature, in so many different languages, has made it practically impossible for investigators to keep themselves posted up in the progress being made by their contemporaries in other countries, and to find some means of removing the difficulty, the Royal Society organised an International Conference, which was held in London during July 1896. As a result of the Conference, a Committee was appointed to draw up a scheme for the preparation and regular issue to scientific men of completely classified catalogues, giving the titles and subject-matter dealt with in all scientific publications. The scheme drawn up by this Committee was considered at another International Conference held last year in London, and a complete programme has now been devised for the regular cataloguing of scientific publications from the 1st of January 1900. The scheme sanctioned by the Royal Society included the formation of Regional Bureau, organised in the various countries of the world for the purpose of collecting and classifying the titles and subjects of all scientific papers published within each defined region. These will be regularly forwarded to the Central Bureau in London, when they will be printed and distributed to other parts of the world, first in the form of slips, and afterwards at periodical intervals in the form of a classified book-catalogue for each of the seventeen recognised sciences. The Royal Society have determined to recognise the following sciences:—Mathamatics, Astronomy, Meteorology, Physics, Crystallography, Chemistry, Mineralogy, Geology (including Petrology), Geography Palæontology, Zoology, Botany, Physiology, (including Pharmacology and Experimental Pathology), Bacteriology, Psychology, Anthoropology and Anatomy. The system of classification will be sufficiently detailed to permit workers in any special branch to readily ascertain what has been done, and what is being done in the particular form of research he may be engaged in. The advantage of this system will be tw -fold :—In the first place every scientific worker will be able to avoid publishing researches already overtaken in other countries, and in the second place, due notice will be taken of his own work, no matter how obscure the journal in which it is published. To workers in India these are important considerations, for Indian scientific men in the past, have often had occasion to lament the neglect from which they have suffered, owing to the fact that their observations and discoveries remain unnoticed until superseded by those of observers living in the scientific centres of Europe.

DR. Carl Peters, explorer, has discovered cyclopean ruins up the Zambesi.

THE British India Company has purchased four steamers from the New Zealand Shipping Company.

A NEW addition to the Queen's Regulations has been published, and will shortly arrive in India.

COTTON for forward delivery was easier n Bombay on Tuseday owing to rumours of a heavy rainfall at Kathiawar and elsewhere.

MR. MARTINDALE arrived in Simla on Wednesday (the 2nd August) and is staying at Viceregal Lodge as their Excellencies' guest.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab proposes to leave Simla for a short tour in the Hazara district in the end of September or beginning of October.

IT is proposed to make the Indian Finance Membership a pensionable appointment. Communications on the subject have been passing between the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

CRIME IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

THE last Police administration Report of the Central Provinces throw some side light on crime in that part of the country. There is related in it a case where the offender was a Brahman. It appears that six men were reported one night to be behaving strangely in the Jharsuguda Sarai ; they were known to be addicted to the use of *ganja*, and no notice was taken of their behaviour beyond placing a guard over them. The next morning they were found to be still in a semi-unconscious state, and medical aid was summoned. The Hospital Assistant who attended them declared that they were probably under the influence of a mixture of *ganja* and *dhatura*. That same night one of the men died, and necropsy disclosed death by narcotic poisoning—apparently *dhatura*, as seeds of that plant were found in the stomach. When the survivors were in a condition to relate what had befallen them, they stated that a Brahman, who had volunteered to accompany them in their pilgrimage to Puri, gave them some sweets to eat and soon afterwards disappeared with their money. Some remnants of the sweets were produced, and it was ascertained that they had been manufactured for the Brahman by a Bania, and that a powder given by the Brahman had been added to the other ingredients. Prompt action on the part of the Police led to the arrest of the poisoner at the Bilaspur Railway Station, where he was instantly recognized by one of the aggrieved parties who went with the Police. While being brought back he tried to escape by jumping out of the train. Rupees 261 were found in his possession. Enquiry elicited the fact that the man had come originally from a village in Mirzapur, and the police Superintendent of that district was communicated with and furnished with a copy of his photograph. On this he was identified as the perpetrator of a similar offence in Mirzapur. The complainant in that case was sent down and he picked out the prisoner from among 15 other under-trial prisoners in jail. This case ultimately ended in acquittal. The Chemical Examiner found *dhatura* the contents of the stomach, but not in the sweetmeats, and the evidence was not absolutely conclusive. The accused was again arrested and sent down to Mirzapur, where he was awarded a sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment for the similar offence committed there. In the same report are also to be found mentioned two cases of murder due to brutal ignorance and superstition. One of these murders arose from a belief in witchcraft and was committed in the Chanda district. The victim was a young boy whom his aunt enticed to her house on a promise of giving him fruit to eat. This she did and put the boy to sleep; while asleep she struck him with her fists and rendered him insensible, and then deliberately cut his throat with a knife and disposed of the body by placing it in a hollow scooped out in the floor of the house for working a weaving loom. The father of the boy was reported to be a wizard, and the death of two of the woman's children was ascribed to witchcraft practised by him. The culprit on conviction received a death sentence. Another instance of a superstitious reason for murder is furnished in a case reported from Raipur:—A Chamar whose children never long survived their birth is said to have consulted a *jaduwallah* as to the means of averting such calamity in future, as he was expecting another child to be born to him. He was advised to propitiate his tutelary deity, and it was suggested to him that the best way of doing this was to offer some other person's child as a sacrifice. Shortly after this a young child was missed in the Village and was not to be found. The Chamar was observed by the villagers to be going very frequently to a well in his enclosure for no apparent purpose. Suspicion was thus roused, the well was dragged and the body of the child brought up. Other circumstances also tended to establish his guilt and a capital sentence was awarded him.

THE NORTON ASSAULT CASE.

JUDGMENT.

THE following is the full text of the judgment delivered by Justices Prinsep and Hill in the above case :—

This case is of some local importance, and has excited considerable interest in the community. Of the two accused we have only one before us, who is known as the first accused, styled Prince Jani Mirza, whom the Magistrate has convicted of an assault upon the complainant Norton, but at the same time has abstained from passing sentence, requiring him within the terms of section 562, Cr. P. C. to give a bond to appear and receive sentence when called upon. We were moved on behalf of the complainant, who represented to us that on the facts found by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, this order was not a proper order. *Prima facie*, we were of opinion that there were good grounds for this, and we also thought that the sentence on the second accused was inappropriate and inadequate. We accordingly called upon the two accused to show cause why the order, under section 562 in respect of the first accused, and the sentence in respect of the second accused, should not be set aside, and such other order passed as this Court may seem fit The second accused has not been arrested, and after one postponement the case has proceeded as against the first accused only. The Magistrate has found that the two accused were driving one evening in different conveyances abreast near the north entrance of the Fort; that the complainant, Norton was driving with his wife in a pony-cart, and being unable to pass their conveyance owing to the crowded state of the road he called out, "*Hi you : biyin hath lugao*" so as to obtain space on their side of the road to enable him to pass. It was contended before the Magistrate and also before us that, in addition to these words, Norton used the abusive expression *soor*, which excited a corresponding objectionable expression from the accused in reply. The Magistrate has found that Norton did not use this expression, and, after hearing the whole of the evidence, we agree with the Magistrate. The road seems to have been cleared without any movement on the part of the accused, and Norton passed on trotting, the other two conveyances passing at a walk. From this spot Norton drove at a trot in the direction of Prinsep's Ghat, and had about reached that place when he was overtaken by the first accused whose conveyance was driven with a faster horse. The question which arises, and which has been contested in argument before us is "Who was the driver of that conveyance?" It has been found by the Magistrate that the dirver was the first accused. Norton and Mrs. Norton, his wife, both stated in the Magistrate's Court that the first accused was not driving, but was seated by the driver. The Magistrate, however, has preferred the evidence of Major Williams on this point, and has held that the accused was himself driving. Major Williams had not a very good opportunity of seeing who was driving, and his attention was probably, not specially directed to that matter, for he was rapidly passing the accused. Both Mr. and Mrs. Norton positively say that the first accused was not driving. It has been represented before us by learned counsel on behalf of the accused that this was an exaggeration, and it is suggested that it was deliberately made for the purpose of adding force to the complaint made. We can see no reason either for disbelieving Mr. and Mrs. Norton in this respect, or for thinking that this statement was either due to a mistake or to any desire to exaggerate their case. The two conveyances were then abreast near Prinsep's Ghat. The conveyance in which the first accused and two companions were seated having overtaken Norton's conveyance, and, having reached it, pulled up. It is important to notice these facts because they seem to show unmistakably that it was the intention of the driver and the occupants of this conveyance to pursue and overtake Norton's conveyance. The first accused as stated by Norton and by Mrs. Norton then turned round, and deliberately put out his tongue for the purpose of offering an insult. The Magistrate has accepted this statement, and we have no doubt that the Magistrate's finding is perfectly correct. Mr. Norton next states that he asked the first accused for his name. The evidence for the defence is to the effect that on Norton saying something, the first accused turned to his companions who did not understand English, and asked what he said, upon which the companions replied, "He is talking some gibberish" which raised a laugh, and it is stated that it was this laugh which caused annoyance to Mr. Norton. We think there is no reason to accept this view of the case. Norton undoubtedly spoke to the accused, as he has described and it seems that thereupon the first accused caught hold of the whip and commenced to strike at Norton and his pony. For the defence it is contended that in so acting, the first accused was merely defending himself from an apprehended attack by Mr. Norton who had raised his whip in a threatening manner. We can find no evidence upon which we can adopt this suggestion. Mr. Norton states, and we think truly states, that he took his whip out to lash his pony, and bring it alongside the conveyance of the first accused, and there is nothing to show that he in any way raised his whip or attempted to use it on the first accused. Indeed, it is impossible to believe that, if Norton was attacked, as he admittedly was attacked, by the first accused, that, if he had his whip ready at hand, he should not have retaliated. The assault by the accused could not be regarded as an act of defence against an apprehended attack by Norton. There has been a good deal of stress laid in the course of the argument by learned counsel for the accused, that Norton admitted that he attempted to stop the conveyance of the first accused in order to obtain his name by wearing him towards the edge of the road, and it is suggested that this was a provocation which the accused might justly resent. This, however, is no part of the assault. The assault was committed at an earlier period, and the only excuse made was that it was done in self-defence to protect himself against an apprehended attack by Norton. We think there are no grounds at all for believing that there was any such reasonable apprehension, or that the assault was committed with that object. It seems to us that on these facts the assault of the first accused was premeditated. Mr. Norton had no particular reason to take offence at what had passed on the previous occasion. He was not obstructed in any particular manner for it appears that he passed on very soon after he had asked the accused to make way for him, "and we do not think there was anything particularly insulting in the terms used by Mr. Norton towards the accused in saying, "*Hi you biyin hath lagao*". It was not perhaps a very courteous mode of address, but it was not insulting as it is a form of expression generally used by Europeans who are not scholars and not in the habit of using honorific terms. Nevertheless, although there may have been no reason on Norton's part to take offence, there is no doubt that what Norton did caused great offence to the first accused for he pursued Norton and overtook him at a distance somewhat about half-a-mile, and while he was so proceeding there was a lapse of some time during which one would suppose that any feeling of irritation might have cooled. The incident was deliberately renewed by the first accused by putting out his tongue for the purpose of insulting Norton, and in so doing, it seems to us, he brought himself within the terms of section 504 of the Indian Penal Code by intentionally insulting Norton, and thereby giving provocation to him either intending or knowing it. Likely that such provocation would cause him to break the public peace. We observe that although the Magistrate found that this insult was offered, he has not dealt with the particular offence which has been indicated. In excuse for his proceeding in this direction the accused in his written statement states that he as usual was driving towards his house, which lay in that direction. We observe that the evidence for the defence shows that he did not proceed homewards, but went a considerable distance in the opposite direction, towards Dhurrumtollah, where he left his two companions, and then went home in another conveyance. It is possible that he may have changed his mind, but this deviation is not explained, and we are inclined to think that the explanation offered was made to meet the suggestion which was inevitable, namely, that he was driving with the intention of overtaking Norton for the purpose of renewing the incident that had taken place. Mr. Allen, who appeared for the accused, has vigorously contended that his client had reason to complain of Norton's conduct, and that Norton had no reason to complaint of what occurred. It seems to us from the evidence that Norton had throughout shown great forbearance and self-control. If he had not done so, we have no doubt that a very serious breach of the peace would have taken place in a most public place in Calcutta, thereby causing a public scandal. Norton proceeded in a very reasonable manner to demand the name of the accused, and there was no justification at all on the part of the accused in assaulting him in the manner that he did. We observe that in the statement that the accused himself put in, in his trial before the Magistrate, he expressed regret and offered an apology to Mrs. Norton. He states that, "I emphatically deny that I ever struck or abused or in any way insulted either Mr. or Mrs. Norton, but I say at once that if my whip at any time touched Mrs. Norton, or if my conduct in any way inconvenienced or annoyed her, I offer her an ample unreserved apology, and ask her to feel assured that I never had the slightest intention of striking her or of causing annoyance to her or her husband, Mr. Norton. I only did this to protect myself from what I apprehended as an assault." It will be observed that the apology then made, was made solely to Mrs. Norton, and that there was no expression of regret in any way towards Mr. Norton. Mr. Allen, however, informs us that at the close of the trial, he, on behalf of his client, offered an apology also to Norton. No doubt he was competent in this manner to act for his client, but when we have a statement deliberately made by the accused to this effect, we cannot attach any importance to a statement afterwards made at the close of the trial by counsel for the accused. This apology, it may be observed, is coupled with an emphatic denial that he ever struck or abused or in any way insulted either Norton or Mrs. Norton. The denial, as we have already observed, is contrary to what has been amply proved by the evidence on the record. And it may be added that, however, apologetic the attitude of counsel may have been in the lower court, in the argument before us there has been no attempt at apology, and his attitude throughout has been one of complaint of the conduct of Norton, that Norton is altogether responsible for that occurrence and that his conduct amply justified whatever his client did. The Magistrate, having found all the facts against the accused, has summed up the case in this way. He states that he is not prepared to find that the lash on Mrs. Norton was intentional, but that whilst the accused was striking Norton one of the lashes given, inadvertently, fell on Mrs. Norton. He finds also that the first accused has committed an assault at least on Norton. He next finds that the first accused is a boy fourteen years old, and a gentleman who as he has no doubt, got frightened when he found Norton insist upon getting his name, and used his whip in a manner that he ought not to have done. Now, in respect of this, it may be observed that the evidence before the Magistrate of the boy's age consisted of the evidence of the munshi, who is a witness for the defence, and who stated that he has been only two or two and-a-half years in the family. We think that this evidence is not reliable, for we observe from the evidence given by this witness in regard to the facts of this case that he has shown very great bias towards the first accused, and in some respects has overstated the case, so as to make statements describing the facts in a manner in which they could not have occurred. The Magistrate had an opportunity, no doubt, of forming his own opinion as to the age of the first accused from his appearance. The accused has also been present in this Court, so as to enable us to form a similar opinion, and we have also been confronted with his younger brother who was a witness in this case, and who described himself as a boy of thirteen. Now, accepting the statement of the younger brother, that he is thirteen, and comparing his appearance with that of his elder brother, the first accused, it is impossible not to come to the conclusion that there must be at least four or five years difference in age between them. At all events, we have no hesitation in saying that from the appearance of the elder brother his age certainly exceeds fourteen years. The next ground taken by the Magistrate is that the first accused got frightened when he found that Norton insisted upon getting his name. The evidence shows that, so far from getting frightened, he had deliberately pursued Norton, and had deliberately insulted him so as to provoke an assault, and thereupon himself became the aggressor by commencing the assault. We cannot understand how it could be found upon these facts that the first accused lost his head through fright. The Magistrate finally sums up that, considering the age of the first accused, and the trivial nature of the assault, and the fact that he apologised to Mrs. Norton for what he unintentionally did to her, an order under section 562, such as he passed, was a proper order in this case.

We have already expressed our opinion that we do not agree with the Magistrate that the age of the accused is fourteen years, nor can we accept the Magistrate's description of the offence as trivial. It was, we think, an aggravated assault. It was, as has been shown, premeditated and carried out as a renewal of a very trifling incident which had already occurred, and after an interval of at least five or six minutes, and we cannot regard it as trivial having regard to the character of the assault as well as to the place and time in which it occurred. And, lastly, the fact relied upon by the Magistrate that the accused had apologised to Mrs. Norton in no way affects Norton, who is the sole complainant in this case. Having regard to these circumstances we think that the order under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not a proper order. No doubt the accused is a member of a distinguished family, but he should have recollected that when he acted in this unjustifiable manner, he was likely to bring a stain on his character. We accordingly set aside the Magistrate's order and direct that Prince Jani Mirza, accused No. 1 be fined Rs. 100 ; in default, fourteen days' simple imprisonment.

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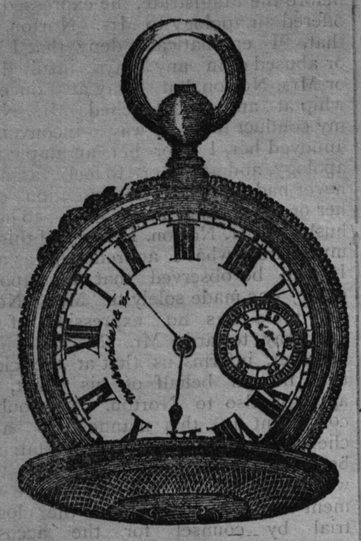

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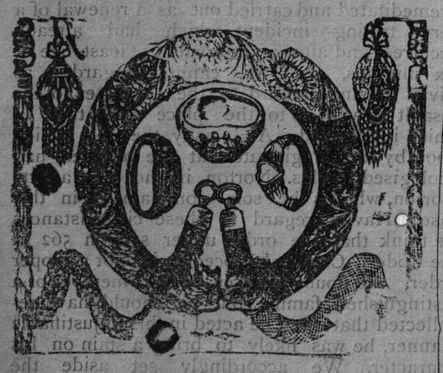

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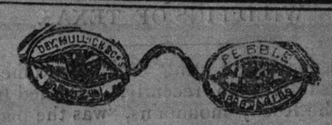

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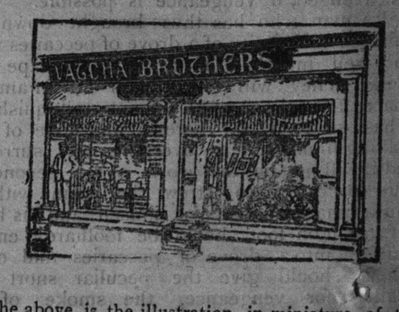

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