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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩৷৷০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অনুরাগবল্লী।

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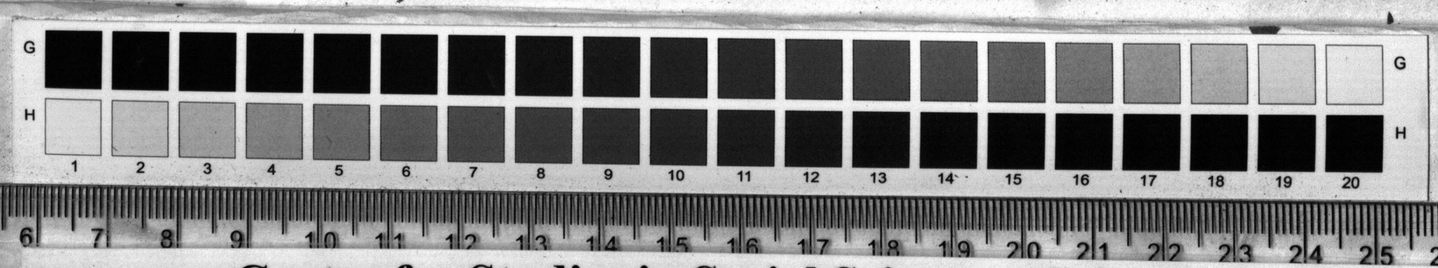

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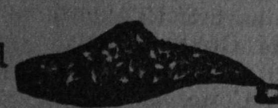
Household  **Slipper**

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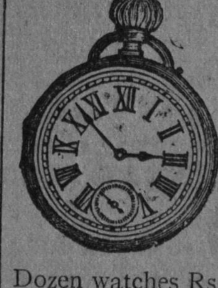

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 9, 1898.

A SECOND BATCH OF TWELVE PATRIOTS.

WE have described the first batch of patriots; we have now to describe the second. This second batch is composed of inferior men,—at least, they are beyond the influence of wreaths of glory. In the early days of the rule of the Queen, patriotism paid. Patriots were then nourished by Government. Those who are our leaders now,—those who hold titles of honour—those who left an "undying fame" behind them—were, in the beginning of British rule in this country, patriots honoured and cherished by the Government.

The seed of this paying patriotism was sown in the country, say, in 1860. It flourished for, say, about twenty-five years, and then it was uprooted by the same Government which had nourished it before. In the sixties, a patriot was an honoured subject of the Crown: in the nineties, he is a pest.

The latter-day patriots had thus no wreaths of glory to disturb them. They had to regenerate the country without hopes of earning the wreaths, nay, at the risk of being put down as pests by men in authority. No sooner, however, it came to be known that the patriots were not in favour with Government, than a good many of them gave up patriotism for good.

These were all men of property. To one the Magistrate gave, in gentle language, a bit of his mind. The hint convinced the man of property that patriotism had become dangerous. Another, who was a favourite with the high officials, was, in the same manner, given a broad hint that the days of patriotism were over, He took that hint reverentially. Another, however, stuck to the country, in spite of warnings, hints and insinuations. But one day he was told that he would have no Government invitations and no interviews; and this sobered him.

Now all these men had before held strong views on the subject of patriotism. They said that lucky they were they had some property; for, they could devote it to the cause of the country. Another wept and said to another patriot—for, both being patriots, they talked of patriotism only—that his life, property, energies and all, he had consecrated to the cause of the country. The third had also declared that he would rather be hanged forty days every month than give up the cause of his country. The same men, when they got the hint that patriotism was at a discount with the authorities, changed their tactics. They said that they were as warm patriots as ever, but they have now learnt wisdom by age and experience. The authorities are vary powerful, and it is no use provoking them; the more we provoke them, the more we lose. Let us keep quiet; and surely, good times are sure to come. Thus these good men sought consolation in excuses, which, being mere excuses, refused to afford the consolation required.

In spite of all difficulties, a band of patriots swore themselves to deliver their country, by all legitimate means, from the evils that beset it. They were, of course, most of them middle-class men; but yet, a few men of property joined them. They said that those men of property who had given up patriotism for fear of offending the authorities, were fools. For, those who rule this Empire only respect those in their hearts who have some independence and manliness, and regard all self-seekers and sycophants with contempt. "Yes, they will fret and foam at us," said these men of the second batch of patriots; "but yet they will respect us more in their hearts than those who have given up their independence and patriotism at the bidding of men in authority, in other words, for self-interest."

Thus the mill of patriotism continued to manufacture petitions, public meetings and public speeches. They, the twelve, formed a committee, and they engaged themselves to protect the interests of the country.

One of them attended three meetings. He sat and listened and sometimes opposed propositions put before the meeting. But not understanding the question and never having sought to understand it, he could never say anything to the point. His remarks, therefore, remained unheeded. At the third sitting he remained quiet; and on the fourth day, of the meeting, he disappeared altogether. He said to his most intimate friends that they, the members of the committee, never listened to advice, so it was no use going there.

The second was a man of strong will and had absolutely no leisure for patriotic works. But yet his heart was sound, and he had to respond to the call of his country. He had, however, no leisure to study the questions before the country. The result was that he gave hasty opinions and then stuck to them with the tenacity of an Englishman. Thus the day he attended the meeting. no business could be done.

The third had passed fifty-one examinations and stood first in every one of them. He had dedicated everything precious God had given him, to his examinations, and had nothing left for his country.

The wife of the fourth had died and he had to tend half-a-dozen children which she had selfishly left behind her in charge of the devoted husband.

The fifth proved a traitor from sheer necessity. He was a noble soul, but he had to provide for his children who, he knew, would starve when he was gone. He had, therefore, to pay court to the authorities to provide for a son and give up patriotism.

The sixth at first found amusement in patriotism, but he soon got disgusted with it. He could never stick to the thing for any length of time. He sought amusement elsewhere.

The seventh became a Government Advocate, and this circumstance, he thought, disentitled him from doing any service to his country.

The eighth had a quarrel with the sixth at a theatre. They were both discussing the merits of actors, each of them having a favourite. The eighth said that his actor was better; the sixth said that the eighth had no taste and judgment, and that his actor was a real genius. Thus the quarrel began. The eighth thus gave up patriotism and refused to sit together with the sixth.

The ninth saw that his time was valuable and that the time he gave for patriotism was lost to him. He, therefore, found no time at his disposal to devote to patriotism.

And thus remained the tenth, eleventh and twelveth,—one was president, the second was the vice, the third, secretary.

VESTING REVENUE OFFICIALS WITH JUDICIAL POWERS.

IF we take up the Central Provinces Tenancy Bill again, it is because the main principles, underlying it, are fraught with dire mischief both to the ryots and the malguzars (zemindars). One of these principles, as we pointed out in a recent issue, is to take away the powers from the Judicial Courts and vest them in the Revenue Officers, for the purpose of deciding cases between the landlord and the tenant. To our shame, we must confess that when Sir Alexander Mackenzie sought to embody the same principles in the recent Rent Law of Bengal, the British Indian Association not only supported it, but voted a statue,—we beg pardon—a bust, to the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for having placed lakhs of Khas Mehal ryots at the absolute mercy of the executive officers. Indeed, Mr. Chitnavis finds himself at a great disadvantage by the suicidal action of the Association, though a little enquiry will satisfy the Government that whatever emanates from that body may represent the views of the Association, but it does not represent the views of its members. In proof of this we may quote the following from a paper on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, which appeared in the July number of the *National Magazine*:—

At the last Annual Meeting of the British Indian Association, held on the 30th July, 1898, Maharajah Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K. C. I. E, the President-elect, is reported to have said that the Associat on had accepted the principle of the Bill now before the Bengal Legislative Council, and that all that remained was the consideration of the details. Was the Maharajah aware of the grave import of the words he used? In the first place, we understand that a small sub-committee of the Association or rather of its Executive Committee, is still sitting to consider the Bill, that it was assumed it would be well nigh useless to say anything against the principle of the Bill, inasmuch as it had received the approval of the Government of Bengal, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State in Council, and that it would be useful only to look into the provisions now put in for the first time. How far this view of the matter is likely to be adopted by the Committee of the Association remains yet to be seen; the question is a very serious one. Under the circumstances, to commit the Association to an acceptance, of the principle, is a most unwise and injudicious proceeding. In the second place, what is the principle enunciated in the Bill? If it is that the Corporation should be shorn of most of its powers; if a small coterie should "rule the roost,"—a coterie in which one-third of the members would be Government nominees, one-third appointed by European public bodies and one-third only would be representatives of the rate-payers at large,—if the executive must wield extraordinary powers, then we may be perfectly sure that self-government would be, if not at an end, beautifully less, at all events; and no one outside the Association would thank either the Maharajah or his Committee for accepting such a principle.

Now, who do you think is the writer of the above? He is one of the Vice-Presidents of the B. I. Association! What does he say? He says, he is strongly opposed to the principle of the Bill. In this way, if you ask the other Vice-Presidents and members of the Association, they will tell you that they heartily disapprove of the principle of the Bill, though some of them are likely to say that they are afraid to protest lest the Government, like a child, gets angry and does not make any concessions at all. Thus the President, the Vice-Presidents, the members of the Executive Council, and the "important" and "unimportant" members of the Association, to quote the words of Sir Alexander Mackenzie who divided them into two classes,—the *chota bhagyas* and the *burra bhagyas*,—in short, all connected with that body, are opposed to the principle of the measure.

But what are the views of the *Association*? Why, it has already expressed its opinion on the main principle of the Bill, namely, the one with regard to the representation of interests on the proposed General Committee, of course, supporting the Government! If Mr. Chitnavis has to make any reference to the attitude of the B. I. Association concerning the recent Rent Act of Bengal, he may frankly tell the Government that though the Association supported the un-English principle of vesting executive officers with judicial powers, its members were all against it., We are glad to find that, in his masterly minute of dissent, the Hon'ble Member for the Central Provinces expressed the following views on this matter:—

In all the sections in which matters affecting the rights of agriculturists are committed to the decision of a Revenue Officer, it ought to be distinctly laid down that his decision is to be passed after making and *recording* a full enquiry of a judicial character.

We sincerely trust that Mr. Chitnavis would stick to his objection and move an amendment to the effect that all proceedings of Revenue Courts should be duly recorded and should be of a judicial character. That in so fair a proposal he will have the support of all his colleagues in the Council, we have no manner of doubt. Indeed, it would be indecorous and scandalous, or what is worse, damaging to the prestige and dignity of the British Government in India, if a Revenue Officer, who is essentially an executive officer, be allowed to do whatever he chooses without the wholesome and restrictive formalities of a judicial inquiry.

Of course, it is quite impossible for us to canvass all the principles of the Bill with anything like completeness or accuracy within the narrow limits of one or two newspaper articles. Perhaps it is not needed either, as the interests of the Province, which the Bill immediately affects, are in the keeping of the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis who may be safely left to fight his own battles. That he is quite capable of it, we know; and that he is an ardent advocate of the rights of his Province, even Sir James Westland has acknowledged. The consummate skill with which at the last Calcutta Session he secured the generous declaration of Sir John Woodburn on behalf of Government not to give retrospective effect to the Bill, has not quite faded from our memory. The people of the Central Provinces naturally hope for great things from him. A heavy responsibility thus rests on the Hon'ble Member; but we doubt not that when the time comes he will show himself equal to the occasion, free from qias or prejudice, and determined to do equal justice to all parties concerned.

The Hon'ble Member has submitted his views on the Amended Bill in a terse and exceedingly skilful minute of dissent. The objections he has taken, seem to us to be characterised by great fairness and moderation. For instance, what could be better or juster than this?:—"I consider it my duty to point out that the provisions which restrict the right of transfer, will, in regard to malguzars, and, in a less degree, in regard to tenants, be very objectionable to many members of the classes interested. The right of transfer has been regarded, especially by the malguzars, as one of the most valuable and honourable incidents of property. I quite admit that if the view of the Government regarding the necessity for saving agriculturists from the consequences of their own improvidence be accepted, then the interference with the right of transfer in the Bill, as it now stands, has been minimised; but I am compelled to say that the sentimental affection to that interference remains."

We are at one with the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis when he says that the excision of the transferability clauses will be very objectionable to malguzars and tenants; for, we believe, the information, collected at the instance of the Bengal Government, has sufficiently established the fact that the ryots, who possess the right of free transfer, are far more prosperous and better able to withstand the visitations of famine and scarcity than those who do not possess that right.

We believe, we have now succeeded in discussing some of the most important general principles of the Bill, and in conveying to our readers an idea of the spirit in which it has been conceived. Let the Council, now sitting at Simla, call for evidence of which plenty that is useful will be forthcoming if only a proper disposition to do justice all around is made to take the place of the present crusade against the unoffending malguzars of the Central Provinces. We are glad to note from the opening sentence of Mr. Chitnavis's dissent that a very patient and courteous hearing has been given to him whenever he has had occasion to object to the proposals of the Select Committee. We doubt not that the same consideration will be shown to him on the 21st when, if all we hear be true, the Hon'ble member will have some amendments to propose.

The Bill, no doubt, affects the Central Provinces immediately; but the impression is that it is the thin end of the wedge, and its main provisions may be gradually extended to other Provinces also. The zemindars of Bengal should not, therefore, sleep over the matter. They may be rudely awakened one day to find that their Permanent Settlement has been demolished! Indeed, semi-official organs like the *Pioneer* have every now and then given utterances to official views on this subject which seem to be as clear as the water of river *Kapatakkhi*. It is to the interest of the zemindars of Bengal and the land-holding classes in other Provinces to support the malguzars and ryots of the Central Provinces in the present matter, so that the measure may be shorn of its objectionable features; for, who knows that a similar measure may not be thrust upon them in future? It is a pity that the Government is rushing such an important Bill through the Council in the heights of Simla, without giving the public any opportunity to know anything about it.

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN INDIA.

THE privilege of making laws is enjoyed by those who administer the affairs of the country. Naturally the tendency of the laws is to make administration easy. The laws allow him privileges which enable him to shirk his responsibilities. Thus when an administrator finds that he cannot keep peace in the district, he prays for the assistance of a punitive police force, and the Government, without scolding him for his incompetence, actually allows the aid he seeks for. There is no doubt, administration has been made much easier now than it was before. The arrangement has secured the comforts of the administrators; but it stands in the way of giving a proper training to them. India is no longer that training-field for administrators it was before To make administration easy, is to make the administrators dull and easy-going, and to deteriorate the quality of the school which turned out members for the "ablest service in the world."

In the same manner, diplomatic work in India is day by day going from bad to worse. In the early days when the British power had rivals in India, diplomats had most difficult works to go through. They had to deal with the Maharattas and the Sikhs on the one hand, and the French on the other. But diplomacy ceased with the increase of the power of the British in the country and the expulsion of the French from it If there are some good grounds for claiming the credit for the members of the Civil Service that they belong to the ablest service in the world, there is very little ground for claiming any such for the Diplomatic Service in India, which had scarcely ever shown anything above mediocrity.

It is quite true the Maharattas were discomfitted; but it was due more to the internecine quarrels that separated the Maharattas themselves, than to the merits of British diplomacy. During the First Afghan War, the good will of Ranjit had to be secured. But the Ameer was a natural enemy of the Khalsha Chief; and any one could have induced the latter to remain neutral in a contest between the British and his old enemy.

When Elphinstone first offered British friendship to the Afghans, the advance was received with raptures. They sincerely desired to cast in their lot with the British Government. But such was our failure in dealing with them, that we succeeded in converting these devoted friends into malignant enemies.

In short, it would scarcely be an exaggeration to say that every attempt to make friends of the Afghans ended in a disaster. We wanted friendship, but they gave us war. And why? It is because the diplomats in India did not know their work.

It may be asked that if British diplomacy was a failure in India, how was the British Empire founded? The reply is that the mistakes of British diplomacy were made up by the valour of British arms. If diplomats succeeded in making deadly enemies of ardent friends, British arms succeeded in rendering these enemies powerless of doing any mischief.

What the British Government only wanted of the Afghans was to allow a representative to be stationed in the court of the Ameer to watch the movements of the Russians. That small privilege was never obtained, though the subsidy was all the same paid to him, and eventually doubled.

Attempts were made to bring the Ameer to India to meet H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, and subsequently to attend the Delhi Durbar; but diplomacy failed.

And then that most astounding spectacle was presented to the wondering gaze of India, of a son of the Ameer being carried in triumph to England and royal honours showered on him—we were going to say, at the cost of India, but that is neither here nor there.

The mistakes committed by diplomacy were repaired by war. For, in fighting, the British are always invincible. If diplomacy had been carried on here with average intelligence, most of the wars and expeditions, which cost India oceans of blood and incalculable sums of money, might have been avoided.

What led to the costly Bhutan War, has been very ably described by the Rev. Graham Sandberg in the *Calcutta Review*. This pious *padree* is for the extermination of these people because they are a bad lot, having constant civil war &c. &c., amongst themselves. And this pious Christian wishes that poor India should, Don Quixote-like, chasten all nations which are, according to him, "cruel," at the cost of India, and open a field for missionary enterprise! If the Bhutans are fond of civil wars, what are the French? And why should a *padree* advocate war when, being a servant of Christ, he should preach absolute forbearance? But that is again neither here nor there.

The Bhutanese having become very disagreeable, Sir Ashley Eden was sent as an Envoy in 1864 to arrange all differences. First diplomacy, then war,—that is the regular way. When diplomacy fails, then, of course, it is followed by war, when the aggrieved is strong enough to undertake it. Had Sir A. Eden succeeded, there would have been no Bhutan War. But he failed,—and miserably failed.

As the Envoy proceeded, indignities were heaped upon him, and that owing to his own incapacity. Thus says the writer:—

The treatment towards Mr. Eden was marked by ridicule and insult at every stage. Arrived at the place where the Chieftains were assembled to tre[at] him, his want of 'appearance,' it [is] as well as of firmness, led to all man[ner of] insolence from these ecclesiastical ba[rbarians]. One of them, for instance, took a large p[inch] of wet barly-meal out of his tea-cup, and, w[ith] a roar of laughter, rubbed the paste all abo[ut] Mr. Eden's face. He then pulled his hai[r], slapped him on the back, and indulged in several disagreeable practical jokes. At length, a treaty with the Bhutan Government, containing terms most humiliating to the British authorities, was signed by Mr. Eden at Panakha, that gentleman endorsing on each copy, however, that he had signed it 'under compulsion.'

Of course, the failure of the mission was followed by a military expedition and a disastrous war which lasted two years and cost an immense sum of of money. Most of our wars and expeditions are due to failure of diplomacy.

Diplomacy is an art which has not flourished in India amongst the rulers of the land. The reason, perhaps, is that it is backed here by an irresistible force. Diplomacy, when backed by an irresistible force,—a standing efficient army and a fatherless exchequer—is reduced to mere bullying.

We believe, this diplomatic work, if placed in the hands of astute Hindus and Mussalmans, would have been done infinite times better. But, as a matter of fact, Hindus and Mussalmans are rigorously excluded from the Diplomatic Department.

ABBE RAYNAL'S History of the Settlement and Trade of Europeans in the East and West Indies, an English translation of which was first published in 1777, throws a good deal of light on the economical condition of British India in earlier times. It contains a vivid and graphic description of the great famine of 1771, which carried off one-fourth of the population of India. The following paragraph from the book will give an idea as to the current price of rice at the time: "But still this scourge (famine) did not fail to make itself felt throughout the extent of Bengal. Rice, which is commonly sold at one *sol* for three pounds, has gradually been raised till it came so high as to be sold at four *sols* per pound." Now one *sol* being equivalent to half-pence, rice was sold, in normal years, at 1[illegible] annas per maund. We learn from the above book that when the East India Company became masters of Bengal, the whole British force consisted of 9,800 Europeans and 55,000 Sepoys, distributed all over their Settlements. They conquered the whole of India with this small army; but they require now, 75,000 European, and two lakh Indian, soldiers to keep it under control. Is not this queer, especially when it is considered that not only were the Indians a fighting people before, but the British troops were not armed with Martinis and Maxim Guns? Now that the people have been thoroughly tamed, disarmed and almost emasculated, only a handful of British soldiers are more than enough to keep the internal peace of the country. The huge army which India is made to maintain, is not required for the benefit of her people, but for the use of a certain class of English statesmen. The cost of the army, which is eating into the vitals of poor India, should thus be borne by England and not by her poor dependency. But justice has almost fled from the world, and it is only a far cry in the wilderness.

AN esteemed friend sends the following to us:—

The *Outlook* newspaper of London is a recent addition to the class of weekly journalism of which the *Saturday Review* and the *Spectator* are well-known representatives, and has already earned for itself in a very short time a reputation for good judgment and fairness. It is an Imperialist paper which has taken the good name of the British Empire under its wings, and, besides chronicling its affairs from week to week, devotes some columns every number to printing "Home Letters from over Seas," being suitable extracts from "private letters" and "personal correspondence" from abroad. The number to hand by the last mail, prints and publishes some letters under the heading of "Tommy Atkins in India" over the initials "T. M.", dated from the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, Umballa, in the early months of the current year. It is impossible to resist the temptation of making a present of some extracts from these letters to our readers and rulers alike. "T. M.' writes:—

"Dear—, We got to Bombay on the 14th, and now up-country. I like it as well as England, but I like England. Niggers come into camp with bananas, oranges, figs, dates, milk, and butter. When one comes to the door of our tent we ask for trust till such and such a time, when we pay out. If he lets us have tick we give him a big order, but if he wants ready money we throw banana skins at him, and off he goes howling. I reckon you can hit, kick, or bite a black man, and he won't really, as it is; once they trust us, they never get the money. There is no doubt, I am enjoying myself out here."

"We are like gentlemen, have what we like for our breakfast, dinner, and tea. The "Wallers" clean our plates and basins. The Nappie (barber) comes and shaves us before we get up in the morning, and we have a black to sweep our beds, and clean our boots. We pay them three pice a month—three pice is valued at a half-penny in English money. I will not do any soldiering at home after being out here."

"Well, India is a bit bigger than I expected. It is quite true that the blacks outnumber the whites; but still, take it on the whole, it is all right. As for the darkies, they are like stones under our feet. We go up to them, especially if they do not bring us up what we want for dinner, get hold of them, and pull their turbans off their heads, and, in fact, turn them upside down."

We have no quarrel with our good contemporary of the *Outlook* for giving publication to such precious letters as these; nor do we care to inquire who their author may be, as we have no doubt that all over the Empire Tommy Atkins regards and treats all Indians in pretty much the same way. It is widely known that in his bar[illegible]

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orts, parades, and everywhere, Tommy usually makes reference to the natives soil in such choice and graceful words, niggers,' 'blacks' aud 'darkies;' and his ment of an Indian corresponds agreeably these words of sovereign and supreme ntempt. The crime of colour may be great ough to white eyes; but who can depict in rue colours the beauty of "kicking" and "biting" a human being, "cheating" him of his dues, and "turning him upside down"? The Indians may be niggers, blacks, darkies, and stones under the feet of their proud conquerors and everything besides; but for dense ignorance and inhumanity and heartlessness, the worst of them would find it impossible to beat an average Tommy Atkins. He has an undisputed and unique record, and is himself his own peer, in these things. May we ask our rulers and the constituted authorities of our Army if no arrangement can be made by which Tommy Atkins may be given some elementary lessons on humanity, gentlemanliness, decency, and, above all, on Indian history before he puts on H. M's uniform and sails out for India? Or is Tommy Atkins incapable of any moral elevation? At any rate, the Indian tax-payers, we have no doubt, will be glad to find the money for an attempt to impart the rudiments of knowledge, civilisation, and manners to Tommy Atkins, cost what it may. We hope Mr. Rudyard Kipling, the poet of the Empire and the author of the "Barrack-Room Ballads", will be able to devise some means to bring out this desired end and inspire his favourite Tommy Atkins with the spirit of his "Recessional" and other latter-day poems.

THE address of Sir William Crookes, as President of the British Association, has caused so much stir in the Western world, because he travelled beyond matter and talked of occult phenomena. Sir William's position in the scientific world is so high that anything that falls from his lips is held as authoritative. What has given additional weight to his allusion to the subject, is the fact that Sir William drew his facts from experiments conducted by himself in his capacity as President of the Society for Psychical Society. Said he:—

No incident in my scientific career is more widely known than the part I took many years ago in certain psychic researches. Thirty years have passed since I published an account of experiments, tending to show that outside our scientific knowledge there exists a Force exercised by intelligence and differing from the ordinaryi ntelligence common to mortals. This fact in my life, is, of course, well understood by those who honoured me with the invitation to become your President. Perhaps among my audience some may feel curious as to whether I shall speak out or be silent. I elect to speak, although briefly.

Referring to this part of the address, the special correspondent of the *Pioneer* says:—

In that way spiritualism lost caste, so to speak, as a research, to an almost hopeless extent. But in recent years the super-physical mysteries of Nature have been approached along other roads. The mesmeric revival has put a new face upon more than one variety of what the professors of the Tyndal and Huxley stage reviled as superstition and folly. The bold avowal of his convictions in favour of the largest conclusions, arrived at by the Society for Psychical Research by Professor Oliver Lodge, second only to Lord Kelvin in acknowledged rank as physicist—has shamed into silence all former scoffers connected in any real way with the scientific world; and the phenomena of 'telepathy', the direct action of mind, which Sir William Crookes is now enabled to refer to as an accepted fact, have prepared intelligent understandings for the reception of much which in old spiritualism wore a fantastic and bewildering aspect. That which is really, therefore, "the subject of the new departure" for which Sir William Crookes' address gives the signal, is not the old-fashioned spiritualism with which he was concerned five-and-twenty years ago, but rather that vague and comprehensive study which, for want of a better term, is generally known as "occultism"—the boundless investigation of the ultra-physical aspects of Nature, too confidently regarded by thinkers of an earlier stage as necessarily beyond our ken. The assumed necessity depends on the inaccurate belief that the five senses were the only avenues of perception. Even as regards that, the mid-century doctrine was erroneous, bacause the phenomena of spiritualism proved that beings of some sort or another, however ill-inclined we might be to take them all at that their own valuation, had command of a means by which they could reach our physical senses. But telepathy opens the door to possibilities of more important kind. It suggests that faculties, only as yet fully developed in a small minority of persons, may in time become instruments of research of an entirely new order. The actual facts concerning latter stages of existence beyond this physical stage and concerning those aspects of Nature which make no impression on the ordinary senses, may thus come within the range of trustworthy observation. That is really the thought which invests with such extraordinary charm the new departure to which the chosen representative of British science for this year so earnestly beckons his brethren.

Like Sir William Crookes, Dr. Hodgson is the President of the Psychical Society in America. The researches of Dr. Hodgson in this direction eclipse even those of Sir William; and when they will be published, they are likely to create a sensation which the world has never known. Dr. Hodgson hopes to prove by unimpeachable evidence that man lives after death, and that departed spirits can communicate with their friends on earth. In short, it is expected, the veil which separates the two worlds, will be withdrawn! So a day might come when man would be privileged to snap his fingers at Pluto and say in triumph, "Death, where is thy sting?"

THE Gurshanker affair is by far a more serious thing than the Ghatal riot. The alleged rioters at Ghatal were given an opportunity to engage the services of counsel; and we now know the result. The trying Magistrate has not only acquitted them, but says it was the Ghatal authorities who acted illegally! The Gurshanker affair is ded in mystery, and the outside public would have never heard of it but for the *Tribune*. It showed great energy in obtaining the records of the case—not an easy feat, and took some risk in publishing them, They disclosed serious charges against the local authorities; but the Punjab Government took no notice of them. The matter then became the subject of interpellations in the House of Commons; and the Secretary of State disposed of them in a summary fashion. Of course, both the Punjab Government and Lord George Hamilton are at liberty to treat the matter with indifference; but surely this is not the way to popularise the British Government here. Did it never occur to them that, if the Gurshanker affair has created a deep feeling of discontent in the minds of the people, their attitude has tended to intensify it? The *Tribune* thus threatens to make further disclosures in this connection:

We shall take an opportunity again of putting the matter in a way which will admit of no evasion or doubt. The Tahsildar of Garhshankar has himself admitted that he did not communicate to the people an order from the Commissioner in the shape in which it had been received. He has testified that the Deputy Commissioner in charge of the plague regulations sent for the leading men of the town and threatened them with punishment if they did not submit to inoculation. What can be a more direct violation of the orders of the Government of India? We have proved how unsatisfactory was the coroner's inquest. We have shown from the evidence of the Tahsildar that the charge against the inhabitants that they were defiant and ill-affected towards the authorities from the outset, cannot be sustained. These and other facts have still to be brought to notice; and it has also to be ascertained how many lady-doctors or nurses were employed at Garhshanker during the plague operations.

Sir William Wedderburn will return to the charge when Parliament re-opens in February.

LET us repeat that our object in noticing the complaints of the clerks in the Postal Comptroller's office is not to annoy Mr. Badshah, but to give him an opportunity of knowing how his management is being regarded by his subordinates who cannot approach him and speak out their minds. We can only appeal to his sense of justice; but, we cannot surely compel him to do his duty. That is his look-out. We think, however, the best and safest policy for all responsible officers is to respect public opinion. We drew the attention of Mr. Badshah to two or three matters. We are thankful to learn that at least one of his circulars has been withdrawn, namely, the one in reference to casual leave. This shows that there is no perversity in his nature. His other circular, forbidding the clerks to go out after certain stated hours, even for a few minutes, to answer calls of nature, should also be cancelled at once. But the chief complaint against his management is that not only are the clerks overworked, but their promotions, especially of those who are in the grade of Rs. 30 to 50, have been stopped. The predominant idea in the mind of Mr. Badshah seems to be economy; and to secure it, he would not only make his subordinates work more, but give no pecuniary help to them for their extra labour. In this way, some money may, no doubt, be saved; but economy, at the sacrifice of efficiency, is fraught with evil. The work in his department is increasing annually; hence additional hands are necessary. But Mr. Badsha would make no new appointments. His predecessor, Mr. Sandell, admitted every year 60 to 70 new clerks into the office. During his five years' service, Mr. Sandell increased his staff by more than 300 clerks, their salaries ranging between Rs. 25 to 100. He was a trained Accountant which Mr. Badshah is not. Mr. Badshah entered the department as Post Master-General of the N. W. P. He was then promoted to the post of Deputy Director-General, and finally he became Comptroller. He had thus no opportunity of acquiring the special knowledge, so necessary for the head of an Account Department. The prudent course for him was to follow in the foot-prints of his predecessor. But, unfortunately, he has chalked out an altogether new path for himself. When there is a vacancy in the office, he would not fill it up with a new man, but divide the work of the vacant post amongst all the clerks. In this way he is making the clerks do additional work without giving them any remuneration for it. We put it to Mr. Badshah,—is this just and fair? Because they cannot give up their appointments and starve, is it worthy of one holding his high position to take advantage of their unfortunate circumstance and exact extra work from them to secure economy? Mr. Sandell had found, after an experience of five years, that a clerk in the Savings Bank could not do more than 600 "transactions" per mensem. Mr. Badshah has doubled the rate, and each clerk has now to finish 1200 "transactions" per month! Now, when trained and experienced men like Mr. Dillon, Mr. Sandell, and Babu Wooma Charan Das did not demand more than haif the amount of that work from each clerk, how could Mr. Badshah impose this heavy task upon his poor subordinates? Of course, they have been doing the work; why, they will do the work all the same if he exacts even 24,00 "transactions" from them. But has ever Mr. Badshah thought of the nature of the penalties which they are paying for their compulsory over-work? Many of them are falling sick, while their work is not now as faultless as before. Indeed, many of them run the risk of losing their appointments by having had to go through the quantity of work with railway speed and committing many blunders. It is quantity and not quality which Mr. Badshah wants from them; and they are, we presume, obeying his order with a vengeance. We are assured that if Mr. Badshah examines their work, he will stand aghast at the blunders committed by many of them, who, poor fellows, are required to do double the work they did previously. That Mr. Badshah has overshot the mark, is evident from the practice which prevails in the Comptroller-General's Office. There, not more than 600 "transactions" are done by each clerk. Why should then a clerk in Mr. Badshah's office be compelled to turn out twice the amount of that work?

THE agitation carried on against the Currency measure has done some good. The Government at first ignored Indian public opinion entirely. The Indians are the parties primarily interested in the question. Not a single Indian witness was, however, called by the Currency Commission. The Government has now been pleased to issue a set of questions to the leading Indian merchants of Calcutta, which are published in another column. The questions, it will be observed, have a humorous side. They have been framed in such a way as to extract answers from unwary merchants, favourable to Government. We hope, however, not a single merchant will be caught napping. The closing of the mints, if continued, will mean terrible loss to the country. Every well-wisher of India should, therefore, protest against it. The Indians should also send petitions to the Currency Commission, pointing out the disastrous results which the Currency measure threatens to entail upon the poor Indians.

IT is quite true that when a Bill is introduced into our Legislative Councils, it is, as a rule, passed into law against the wishes of the people. But such is the glorious constitution under which we live, that if we can carry on an agitation in a systematic and sustained manner, and, at the same time, with moderation, we are bound to succeed in the end. If the handful of Indian administrators have always carried the day, it is because we have never been able to offer protests against any obnoxious measure with the united voice of the entire nation. The powers that be, have invariably succeeded in seducing a section of our people to their side, and taking advantage of their support, have been able to thrust many unpopular measures on the country. Take, for instance, the Age of Consent Bill. Almost the whole country was against it; but a few scores went over to the side of the Government. The legislators had thus no difficulty in proclaiming to the world that half of the people were in favour of, and the other half in opposition to, the Bill, and hence they were perfectly justified in passing the measure. If these scores of people had stood by the side of their fellow-countrymen, it would not have been possible for the Government to force such an abominable piece of legislation upon the Indians; for, it is against the genius of the British constitution to run counter to the unanimous voice of an entire nation. In proof of this, we shall cite two instances. When the Jury Notification was published by the Government of Sir Charles Elliott, the whole country opposed it. There was then not a single Bhownugari in our camp; and the Rajahs and the Maharajahs vied with the ordinary *kerani* in their zeal to see the order cancelled. Sir Charles Elliott was, however, a man of determination; and what is more, he had the hearty support of Sir Phillip Hutchins, that is to say, the Government of India, in this act of vandalism. In short, it was a regular fight between the people and the Government; and Lord Lansdowne went so far as to declare that he would never allow the Notification to be withdrawn. But in spite of this emphatic declaration on the part of the head of the Government, the Notification had to be knocked on the head, and that during the tenure of Lord Lansdowne's Viceroyalty. It is quite true that three or four Europeans joined in that movement; but the vast majority of their community remained perfectly indifferent, and it was the Indians alone practically who carried it out. Another measure was the Bengal Drainage Bill. Sir Charles Elliott and Mr. Risley had not only a strong *zid* in the matter; but they succeeded in securing the promise of support from some elected members of Council. The subject was, however, vigorously taken up by a band of patriots who roused the whole country against the Bill and dragged even the Maharajah of Durbhanga, who was then ailing, from his country home, to raise his powerful voice against the measure in the Council room. The Bill was, no doubt, passed; but it was shorn of all its stings, and Bengal was saved from another cess on land, namely, the drainage cess.

THERE are some wise men amongst us who are heard to say, "the Calcutta Municipal Bill is doomed: what is the good of agitating against it?" Others of the same cult will tell you: "The principles of the Bill have been settled; give them up and protest against the details." Our reply to them is that if all the ratepayers of Calcutta approch the Government and say that they do not want the proposed change, inasmuch as it not only deals a death-blow to local self-government, but is fraught with dire and unmitigated evil, it will not be possible for the enlightened rulers of the land to turn a deaf ear against their prayer. Of course, the Government may win over some Bhownaggris from amongst us, and pit them against the entire body of the citizens; but we believe, in this matter, there is not one rate-prayer, high or low, who will agree to act the part of that famous Parsee; for, the provisions of the Bill, if passed, will affect every one of us most injuriously. We must, however, be prepared to meet the Government with indisputable proofs in our hand. Does the reader know how the elective system was first obtained for the metropolis of India in 1876? There were then two parties in Calcutta,—one backed by the Indian League and the other by the British Indian Association and the European community. The British Indians and the Europeans were for the system in its entirety, without any official control, which the Government was not prepared to give; the Leaguers were for the ten-annas system which the Government offered and which prevails to this day. The question was argued before the Bengal Legislative Council by the representatives of each party. The Counsel on behalf of the B. I. Association and the European Trades Association urged that they were not for a half measure like the the one offered by Government, that it was a farce, a delusion, a snare, and so forth. Sir Richard Temple enquired, on whose behalf the Counsel spoke. On behalf of the B. I. Association and the Trades Association, replied they. But whom did the B. I. Association and the Trades Association represent, asked Sir Richard. Many rate-payers of Calcutta, Indian and European, answered the Counsel. But where were those many rate-payers, Sir Richard Temple enquired. No satisfactory answer came from the Counsel. Sir Richard Temple asked the same questions to Dr. Rash Behari Ghose who was deputed by the League. "I appear", your Honour "on behalf of the fifty thousand rate-payers of Calcutta, and here are their signatures." And he handed many huge packets of paper to Sir Richard, containing the signatures of fifty thousand rate-payers, praying for the elective system.

WELL, the best and surest way of convincing the Government that the Municipal Bill is a grievous wrong, is to present petitions to it, containing the signatures of the vast majority of the rate-payers. Unless the Government can show the signatures of an equal number of rate-payers supporting its measure, it cannot claim that the rate-payers are equally divided regarding the question. If it can secure so many rate-payers to its side, well, we shall be the first to ask it to pass the Bill. Indeed, we want justice and fairness from Sir John Woodburn and no favour. The duty of the rate-payers is thus plain before them. Let them approach the Government with numerously-signed memorials. Let them also depute or appoint agents in England, to explain matters to the Secretary of State. Let them also represent their case to the British public through public meetings and newspapers, and success will attend them ultimately. Agitation, specially when it is to be carried on in a thorough manner, requires funds. Let each rate-payer contribute his mite, and more than enough will be raised. In short, if there was an occasion when they should devote their energies and purses freely, it is now. The success or failure of the movement will depend upon the manner in which the rate-payers will carry it on.

THOSE who want to understand the intricacies of the Currency question should read Mr. Forbes-Mitchell's work, "Bimetallism *versus* Monometallism." He has not only dealt with the subject in a masterly way, but made several apparently difficult problems plain to the meanest apprehension. There is a charm in his writings that has invested the question with especial interest. Broadly speaking, two things are quite clear: first, the closing of the mints has immensely benefitted the Government and its English officials; secondly, it has done immense mischief to the peasant and prince in India. Says Mr. Forbes:—

So far as the Government is concerned, the measure has been an evident success; because for every tenpence spent they have been enabled to put their hands into somebody's pockets and extract a shilling; and they can go on thus extracting this extra twopence from the pockets of their Indian subjects till these subjects discover that their pockets are being thus picked in the interest of the bondholders for the appreciation of monometallic gold and standard of England. Then they may indeed kick against the spoliation and do something—but what? If the people of India would but open their eyes to *facts* instead of allowing them to be dazzled with sentiments, they would soon see that there are greater interests at stake than the question of "simultanoeus examinations." The monometallic laws of England are fleecing the people of India of their wealth, from the rajah on the throne to the coolie working in the mill. The landlords and the ryots, the mill-owners and the workmen, are all alike being fleeced to uphold the appreciation of the monometallic gold currency of England, whilst all that these self-constituted leaders of the Indian people can do, is to agitate for such questions as the "simultaneous examinations". These can interest only a few; but the currency question is sapping the very resources of the country.

Yes, the dumb ryots are being unconsciously drained to the extent of eight crores of rupees per annum! The only valuable property they possess, namely, uncoined silver, has also been depreciated to the extent of fifty crores of rupees. What can be a greater disaster than this? The friends of the poor Indians should represent the matter before the Currency Commission. Mr. Forbes has every right to complain that the leaders of the Indian society are neglecting such a momentous question, which means ruin to the 200 millions of souls in India. We are glad to learn that the Indian Relief Society is likely to take up the subject in a short time.

WE regret to learn that Babu Ananda Mohun Bose is not yet in perfect health. He has been recently suffering from an attack of rheumatism. He is, however, getting better, though still weak. In the present state of his health, he hesitated to accept the Presidentship of the Congress; but under the urging of Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, who is his Doctor, he has said "yes" to the Madras letter. As we said when the proposal of offering the Presidentship to him was first started, Babu Ananda Mohun is a man who never shirks his duty.

THE Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce circulated yesterday among al its members the following letter, relating to the plague:—

The attention of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce having been drawn to the fact that an erroneous impression prevails that when ten days have expired without a further case of or death from plague, Calcutta may be declared non-affected under Chapter II, Section 3, of the Venice Sanitary Convention, I am directed to intimate for the information of members generally that a letter has been received from the Secrerary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, stating that, under the terms of the Convention, the ten days begin to run from the "recovery or death of the last case." The last case of Plague detained in the Calcutta Hospitals, was discharged cured on the 28th September: the ten days would, therefore, not expire until the 8th instant. The matter is receiving the close and constant personal attention of H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor; but it rests with the Government of India, and not with the Government of Bengal, to issue the notification, declaring Calcutta free from it.

A KALUTARA correspondent says that the well-known Ceylon planter, Mr. R.W. Harris of Culloden Estate, Nebode, is charged with causing the death of a Tamil coolie by kicking him. It appears that, on the sudden death of this unfortunate man Mr. Tipple, J. P., himself a planter of that district with the assistance of Dr. La Brooy, Medical Officer of the place, held the usual *post mortem* examination. The doctor having pronounced that death was due to rupture of the spleen caused by a fall, the corpse was buried; but, subsequently, the relatives of the deceased having petitioned the A. G. A. of Kalutara on the matter, Mr. Roosmalecocy forthwith repaired to the scene of the accident where an inquiry was held.

A CASE of libel is pending in the court of the Sub-divisional Officer of Kalna against the *Palligrambasi*, a local newspaper, the complainant being one Babu Jogendra Chandra Kaviraj. The paper contained a communicated article, which Babu Jogendra Chandra considered as defamatory to him, and hence the suit. The Sub-divisional Officer issued warrants against the editor and the publisher of the paper and the writer of the article on the complaint being filed. The accused made a representation to the District Magistrate of Burdwan, praying for the transfer of the case from Kalna, as, they alleged, they could expect no justice at the hands of the Sub-divisional Officer, he and Babu Jogendra Chandra being on friendly terms. The District Magistrate has sent for the records of the case, staying further proceedings in the meantime.

A MIDNAPUR correspondent informs us that Mr. Mackertich, the senior Deputy Magistrate who tried the so-called Ghatal riot case, was transferred from the judicial to the revenue branch, two days after he had passed the judgment. The general impression at Midnapur is that his judgment did not meet with the approval of the District authorities, and he was transferred to the revenue branch by way of punishment at their recommendation. For ourselves, we can give no credit to it; for, Sir John Woodburn is incapable of sanctioning such a mean act. As for Mr. Mackertich, he has made his name a household word in the District of Midnapur nay, outside it, for the moral courage and high sense of justice he showed in deciding the case against the prosecution, which was, for all practical purposes, conducted by the Government. And what is greater satisfaction to an administrator of justice than the sense of having done his duty according to his conscience?

A SENSATIONAL matter has cropped up at Rangoon. Mr. George Macdonald, a Conservancy Inspector of the local Municipality has petitioned the Inspector-General of Police for permission to prosecute Messrs. Jennings and Lucas, both Assistant Superintendents of Police, in charge of the Eastern and Western sub-divisions of Rangoon respectively. His complaint is that on the right of 4th instant, they trespassed into his own house in Dalhousie Street at ten o'clock and brutallyassaulted him and outraged the modesty of his wife. The petitioner says, he bought a bicycle from Jennings for Rs. 130, paying Rs. 90 on the spot and promising the balance Rs. 40 the next morning. On presentation of the bill, the Rs. 90 down was refused; and the petitioner alleges that while he was explaining to Jennings that the bicyele had been sent for examination, Lucas and Jennings both suddenly assaulted him in a most brutal fashion, dragging him around his own house. Then petitioner's brother, who is a Sub-divisional Magistrate in the mofussil, arrived and promised to send Rs. 40 to Jennings later on, whereupon the police officers retired.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

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A CONTRADICTION.—A correspondeut writes:—It is not true that Pandit Ambica Dutt Veyas is dead. Pandit Din Doyal Sharma sent an urgent telegram from Calcutta about the matter and has been informed in reply that the news of the ... is a mere hoax.

BEHAR NEWS.—The water of the Ganges has greatly come down.—The Commissioner of the Patna Division has gone to the Tirhoot districts to see the condition of the flooded tracts.—The communication on line of the B. & N. W. Ry. has not yet been restored. The culvert near the Garone station has not yet been repaired. The mail is carried on trolly.

KINDLY ACTS.—Babu Jagat Prosanna Roy Chowdhuri, Zemindar of Siddhikati, in Barisal, writes:—Owing to the occurrence of some suspected plague cases and deaths in Siddhikati, the District Magistrate, Mr. Beatson Bell, caused the villagers to be segregated in boats. He often gives substantial help to the needy,—in one case making a donation of Rs. 15 and promising Rs. 5 per month as long as required. We are much grateful to him.

A PECULIAR KIND OF SNAKE.—The local ... of Cooch Behar reports that a peculiar ... of snake come out of a piece of bamboo ... a man was splitting at a village called ... Shibpur within the jurisdiction of Manickgunge sub-division. The snake was tri-coloured,—black, red and yellow—and its hood was one inch in width. It bit a dog which immediately expired. The paper says that even the oldest inhabitant of the place had not seen a snake of this kind.

A PHENOMENON.—An unusually brilliant meteor, about five or six times the apparent size of Hesperus, shot across the firmament at 6-25 P. M., on Tuesday from about S. W. by W. to about N.E., lighting up the whole face of the Esplanade and Government House, not quite so brightly as an electric search-light, and of course, without its definite outlines. The meteor was followed by a pale bloom of blue light, not unlike a comet, and though itself of sapphire blue, seemed to be outlined in red lines before being extinguished.

THE FINANCE MINISTER-ELECT.—Mr. C... Dawkins, the new Finance Member, owes his success first to his abilities, and then to having been Mr. Goschen's Private Secretary. He was in Peru for some time as Agent of the Peruvian Corporation (a semi-public appointment). Then he went to Egypt to succeed Mr. Alfred Milner, now Lord Milner, Governor at the Cape, and another of Mr. Goschen's former Private Secretaries, as head of the Revenue Department. He has the reputation of being an able, tactful, and agreeable man, and is married. He is still young as age goes in official appointments, being somewhere about Lord Curzon's age.

THE METEOR.—A correspondent writes to the *Englishman* from Ballyganj:—I was out in Ballyganj with a gun on the look-out for a snipe. I was just about to leave the ground when a bright bluish-white light appeared behind me just as if someone had suddenly turned a tap on and lit up the moon. I turned round and saw a meteor sizzling down across the sky. It was going so slowly and looked so fine and large and near at hand, that I fired my gun at it. I must have hit it, because it at once became suffused with red and fell headlong into a tope of mango trees.

THE CURRENCY IN CHINA.—The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce have addressed a memorial to the Government of Bengal asking, if Government will be prepared to depute an ... to proceed to China to make ...ies on the spot regarding the effect ... fall in the value of silver on produc... and prices and the effect this may be ...ted to have on exports from China in ...petition with those from India. The points ...hich the Committee consider are the main once into which enquiry is necessary may be enumerated as follows.—(1). What is the precise currency of China; (2). If silver, how has the divorse of silver from the rupee affected the trade of the country; (3). If copper, what is its connection with silver in the large transactions of trade; (4). If copper, how have silver prices at ports ...een affected and why; (5). If silver or copper, ... international trade is adjusted:—(*a*) ... gold standard countries, (*b*) with silver ...dard countries, (*c*) with India, (6). If ...r, an enquiry into whether the economic ...her conditions of the country would permit a change to silver or gold, (7). A full enquiry into the methods of trade in China, (8). An enquiry into the duties, export and import, past and present, and the effect of these on prices, (9). A full enquiry into the possible or probable effect of the awakening of China:—(*a*) on her currency, (*b*) on her trade generally, (*c*) on her competition with India, (10). A full enquiry, if possible, into the tea trade and the system on which the trade is financed, tracing the process from the tea garden in the interior to shipment at the port, (11). An enquiry into the experiments now said to be in progress regarding the improvement in the manufacture of China tea, and as to what prospect there is of the Chinese adopting in the near future, Indian methods, such as the use of machinery, &c., (12). An enquiry into the cause of the fall in the price of opium in India, and the reason why the quantity taken so rapidly and materially decreases. (This point, apart from the question of revenue, is one of special importance to the Chamber, as the fall in price is regarded by many as conclusive evidence of China possessing a silver currency, and it is obviously also one of peculiar importance to the Government of India); (13). An enquiry into the competition of the cotton industry in China with India, and into the supply and demand and prices of cotton yarn from Indian, Japanese and English Mills; (14). An enquiry into the trade in raw cotton between India and China; (15). A general enquiry into all points which affect, or may hereafter affect, India.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THURSDAY'S OFFICIAL RETURNS.

There was no suspected case or death on Thursday. The total number of deaths from all causes in the city was 48 as against 62.

MEDICAL COLLEGE REPORT.

Up to 6 P. M. yesterday there was no admission or death in the Medical College Hospital.

THE plague continues raging in districts around Poona. Seven cases and nine deaths were reported on the 5th instant.

THE Bombay returns of 6th October give 23 cases and 32 deaths from plague.

ON the 6th instant there was no plague case at Karachi.

ON Sunday and Monday a scare prevailed at Broach in connection with the plague, and between five and six thousand people fled the city. Mr. Candy called the people together on Tuesday and succeeded in reassuring them. The exodus has now stopped.

SO far the new outbreak of plague in the Punjab is of very small extent, and there is good reason to hope that the authorities will get control of it at the outset.

A BANGALORE telegram, dated 16th instant, states:—Yesterday's plague returns from the city have reached the highest recorded figures since the outbreak; 49 attacks and 39 deaths being reported, bringing the total, from the first appearance of plague on the 12th August, up to 425 attacks, 271 deaths; 12 persons discharged, leaving 142 under treatment. No fresh cases were officially reported in the Cantonment within the last two days, but several deaths have occurred, which the authorities have been hindered from investigating. In one locality, there have been no less than 5 deaths. The British Resident received the leading Mahomedans and discussed matters relative to segregation camps. Surgeon-Captain Lenman has arrived from Hubli and takes charge of the plague operations in the Cantonment.

THE Government of Madras seems to have taken the greatest possible care in making the working of the plague regulations least inoffensive to the people, thus inducing the latter to accept them as inevitable and make the best of an unavoidable evil. His Excellency sought the opinions and views of representative Indians in the Presidency; and when proposals and suggestions were received, His Excellency made most of them, in a liberal and sympathetic spirit. Here are some. A person entering an occupied house for the removal of a plague patient or any similar purpose should, if possible, be of the same religion or caste as the occupants. Small committees shall be appointed in various parts of a city to bring to notice matters requiring attention and inquiry. These Committees will also work for allaying panic and explaining points which require elucidation, so that they may be understood by the people at large. Respectable persons who volunteer their services, shall be employed to assist in searching for concealed cases of plague; and the services of women shall be utilised in searching any room or place, exclusively occupied by them. There shall be family hospitals for those who may afford to have them; and caste-hospitals, both private and State-aided, will take off the sting of compulsory isolation, where relations shall be allowed to reside and nurse the inmates, friends; and religious instructors shall be allowed to instruct them and they shall have the choice of being treated by their own medical men.

EARLY in August last, the Magistrate of Howrah informed the Civil Surgeon of the District that in case of plague occurring in a house or private hospital, the inmates thereof may be put on parole to remain in their own houses and to refrain from mixing with the general public as far as possible. The Magistrate did not consider it advisable to appoint police guard to effect this object, as, in his opinion, the services of the police should only be requisitioned when there is danger of outside violence. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, however, held that Rule C (18) of Regulation No 11 of the 8th February, 1898, may be taken to mean that the police should act both as a guard against outside violence and as an agency for restraining the inmates of an infected house from mixing with the general public. The question was referred to the Lieutenant-Governor; and in reply, Mr. Secretary Baker writes: "While it is certainly desirable that the inmates of an affected house should refrain from mingling freely with the public, the Lieutenant-Governor has relied on persuasion and influence to effect this object; and it is believed that a considerable measure of success has been attained. Where dispersion has taken place it has been due to fear, and fear is now fairly overcome. In these circumstances, the Lieutenant-Governor would in no case permit the police to be used for the purpose of restraining movement."

ANIMAL ENGINEERS.

WONDERFUL CREATURES THAT HAVE TAUGHT US TRADES.

WE are proud, we humans of the things we've learnt to do, of the building of great towers and bridges, and all the arts that long centuries of gradual civilisation have taught us. Not only are we proud of all this, but apt to be somewhat conceited. The very surest way to knock this conceit out of our heads is to use our eyes a little and consider the "lower animals," as we are so fond of calling them; how and where they not only equal but sometimes actually beat us, and that mind you, with only the tools—the claws and teeth and beaks—that Nature has provided.

We—that is, engineers all the world over—are very proud of the Eiffel tower. And certainly. It is a marvellous creation towering nearly 1,000ft.—no less, indeed, than 187 times the height of one of the workers who erected it. But this record is beaten. The African termites build every day hills which, if we constructed buildings in the same proportion, would be 4,800 ft. high—five times as lofty as the great French tower; and it's no scamped work either. The clay is so beautifully moulded together that it becomes harder than ordinary brick. It is no uncommon sight to see a big animal like a buffalo or a hartebeeste standing calmly on top of one of these ant-hills, using it as a watch-tower.

Ants are not the only masons. The mason-bee, common enough in England, follows out the crumbling mortar of old walls, and from the debris builds finely finished galleries, where she lays her eggs. She is a clever engineer, for she always turns the mouth of her passage downwards towards the earth, in order to keep the rain from getting in.

Besides insect masons, another that is familiar to all of us is the common house-martin, whose beautifully finished nest is built of clay, mixed with finely-chopped hay, to keep it from cracking and breaking. If you doubt the difficulty these little birds have to contend with, try yourself to imitate a swallow's-nest in clay. See how long your model will last before crumbling into ruin. After masons and plasterers we naturally think of carpenters. There's a common bee which works beautifully in wood, cutting long galleries in the underside of rotting timber, and dozens of kinds of ants which do likewise.

If you want a four-legged carpenter, go to the Zoo and look at the beaver. He is not only carpenter, but a past-master in the art of dam-building.

Indeed, he never fails to cut a tree down so that it falls exactly where the clever little beast wants it.

Of diggers and ditchers and miners there are excellent examples in the animal world. Don't imagine that the burrowing creatures start to work in a reckless fashion. No, they look ahead and provide for all sorts of emergencies. The mole, for instance, arranges his central chamber so that rain will never swamp him. Drains carry off the surplus moisture.

The badger, our most elaborate digger, makes a regular cave about five or six feet below the surface, and has no less than from five to seven outlets, thus securing what the cleanly beast delights in—excellent ventilation.

We mortals think a lot of the way in which we have learnt to embalm our dead. The ordinary hive-bee doesn't make so much fuss. But if, as often happens, a big moth intrudes and dies in the hive, the insects quickly cover the body up in a thick coating of wax, thus preventing any unpleasantness. Bees, too, have learnt fortification. Deaths-head, moths, when plentiful, enter the hive and secure in their thick soft coats, rifle the cells. One year, when these were very thick, it was noticed that the bees all over the country had closed up their hive entrances, so that whilst a bee might still squeeze through, a fat moth had to stay outside.

But this whole page might be written on bee marvels, how they ventilate their hives, how their marvellous mechanical instinct teaches them to build six-sided cells, an arrangement no mere man could improve on, and the like.

Weavers and spinners form an important part of the human community. Can they beat the beautiful bottle-shaped next of our English long-tailed tit? Or, more marvellous yet, imitate with the same tools—one beak and a pair of claws—the sewn nest of the Indian tailor-bird? This tiny artist spins his own thread of cotton, or spiders'-webs, and, incredible as it sounds, ties knots at the end of each length before stoutly stitching the leaves his nest is composed of together.

Cabinet-making is supposed to be entirely a human accomplishment, but it would puzzle many an expert to construct anything neater than the home of the mason-spider.

This small workman digs himself a neat pit, and fits it with a lid that closes so perfectly that the keenest eye could not detect it, even after seeing it open a second before. The lid is made of earth, and hinged to a nicety with bands of web. The interior of the home is cosily lined with soft spider silk.

Another very neat miner is the mole-cricket, which has front paws enormously developed for its size, and which are exactly like the paws of a mole. Mole-crickets dig their nests with a smooth passage leading to them, and deposit their eggs within. The larvæ, when hatched, find their way out by the passage.

The saw-fly preceeded us with that highly useful tool, the saw. This small carpenter slices her way into a twig with that wonderful jaw of hers, and lays her eggs in the slot thus made. The grubs hatch by themselves, and feed on the wood.

Mexican belles hit upon the idea of catching fireflies and imprisoning them in muslin bags to make a gleaming decoration for their dressses. They are only, however, following the example of the Indian bottle-bird, which fastens these shining betles to its nest with lumps of putty-like clay, and so secures a light at night which serves to frighten away marauders. And so on all through the animal world.

Almost every trade we have ever learnt we have, consciously or unknowingly, learnt from them.

JOWAR SINGH, who was to have been hanged on the 7th instant, for the murder of Mr. Murphy in August last, committed suicide the night before by hanging himself to the bars of his cell door. Although watched by a police sepoy, he contrived to make a cord out of his cotton mattress, and was seen by the centry hanging to the door. In order to avoid being disturbed, he had forced some of the same cotton yarn into the key hole of the padlock to prevent any one entering his cell quickly if he was discovered.

THE Madras Government plague memorandum, issued on the 6th instant, gives the following figures for the Presidency. At Chippagiri, in the Bellary District, there have been six seizures and four deaths, between the 24th ultimo and the 1st. instant. At Guntakal and Uravakonda, in Anantapore, there have been one seizure and two deaths, between the 29th and the 30th ultimo. At Wallaja Nugger, in North Arcot district, between the 24 and 26th ultimo, there have been two seizures and one death. In Bangalore city, from 25th to the 1st. there have been 180 seizures and 108 deaths. In the Cantonment between 30th and the 1st. October, there have been three seizures and one death. There have been three cases in the Mysore district, three in Tumkur, and four in Kolar up to the 2nd instant.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

MONKEY-KILLING QUESTION IN PURI.

PURI. OCT. 5.

The Puri Municipality resolved on the 27th August last to ask for Shastric opinions of Pundits, local and otherwise, regarding monkey-killing. Only ten local Pundits, of whom some seven were ordinary, were invited by the Vice-Chairman; but eleven of the choicest local Pandits, all of of whom can teach one or other subjects of the Vedas, the Vedanta, the Philosophies and the Bhagabat, were strangely ommitted. These latter all had gave their views to Bidhu Babu, a Municipal Commissioner, against monkey-killiing. Besides, opinions of eighty Bengali Pandits were collected. Rightly speaking, some ninety-four Pandits were against monkey-killing and six for killing. Even if the local Pundits only be counted, you see fifteen of twenty-one Puri Pandits are against monkey-killing. As for the ratepayers two petitions, containing some 500 signatures, were submitted against monkey-killing. There was only one counter-petition containing some hundred signatures. You should remember that the Mahants of Imar, Sriram, Ganga, Kusalya and Raghaba Maths; Bhikhari Misra, the richest banker, Honorany Magistrate and President of the Puri Sonatan Dharma Rakhini Sabha; Jagannath Das Babaji under whom there remain frequently thousands of Sadhus; the three Deputies, and the Munsifs, and the Rajah of Parikudare are strongly against monkey-killing.

SIMLA, OCT. 6.

Lord Sandhurst arrived here this evening.

The Central Provinces Bills will be passed at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, which has been fixed for the 21st.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis leaves Simla on the 22nd to visit all important towns of the Punjab.

BARRACKPORE, OCT. 6.

The Commissioners of the Socth Barrackpore Municipality propose excluding ten villages from the Municipality, the District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner supporting it. The rate-payers are greatly alarmed at this. They have been enjoying municipal government for the last thirty years. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the Municipal Secretary will be appealed to against it.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, OCT. 4.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes a further telegram from its Cairo correspondent giving an account of a long interview with an officer who went to Fashoda with Lord Kitchener. A description is given of a sharp combat with the Dervish steamer Safia on the 18th of September which was supported by the Dervishes ashore. The Safia maintained a hot fire from four rifled guns, and the Sirdar had several narrow escapes. Finally the Dervishes ashore bolted, leaving numbers of dead and wounded, the Safia being disabled.

Lord Kitchener arrived at Fashoda on the morning of the 21st ultimo. A Senegalese sentry guarded the French flag, and the French position was found to be fortified with a stout redoubt and trenches. The black soldiers were evidently ready for action, but no shot was fired. Presently Major Marchand, dressed in white, rowed off to the Sirdar's steamer and shook hands with Lord Kitchener. The Major looked elderly and worn. He stayed aboard for half an hour, partaking of the Sirdar's hospitality, and finally returned to his camp with Colonel Wingate. The Sirdar's troops then landed and hoisted the Egyptian flag, the Band playing the Khedivial hymn. The same afternoon Lord Kitchener started for Sobat, leaving only the 11th Soudanese Regiment to garrison Fashoda. He reached Sobat on the 22nd of September, where few natives were seen. The Egyptian flag was again ceremoniously hoisted, and leaving the 13th Soudanese Regiment there, the Sirdar returned to Fashoda, where all was found to be quiet.

LONDON, OCT. 4.

Reuter telegraphing from Pekin on the 3rd instant, says that the German Legation has also requisitioned Marines for protection of the Legation. The city is now perfectly quiet. The Tasungli Yamen has amply apologised for the excesses of the mob, and the ring-leaders have been publicly displayed. The Marquis Ito has departed from China, his mission, it is believed, having been a failure.

LONDON, OCT. 4.

The following honours have been gazetted for services during the Mekran Campaign:—Major Richard Mayne, Companion of the Bath; Captain Arthur Jacob and Lieutenant James Paine, Distinguished Service Order; and Captain Robert Southey to be Major.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The insistence of the English newspapers that the evacuation of Fashoda by the French must precede negociations is deeply resented by the French in official quarters. It is declared that no French Government dares to accept such a position; nevertheless France is prepared to negociate forthwith on the question of evacuation, and, in the meanwhile, if England resolves upon starving out Marchand, she will have to bear the consequences thereof.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The Chinese Legation officially denies the death of the Emperor and states that the greatest harmony exists between the Emperor and the Empress-Dowager.

LONDON. OCT. 6.

The outbreak of Indians in Minnesota is confirmed, but later reports state that General Bacon is safe, and that only a Major and six men are known to have been killed. The fighting with the Indians continues, and reinforcements will Gatlings have been despatched from St. Paul.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

Three Chinese Ministers at Pekin have called personally at the Legations to persuade the Foreign Ministers not to summon Marines to Pekin, as the presence of foreign troops is likely to exasperate the population. The European Ministers, nevertheless, demanded special facilities to convey Marines to Pekin.

LONDON, OC...

The French are sending 800 more ... Crete. The Northumberland Fusiliers ... arrived at Candia.

LONDON, OCT. ...

Lord Kitchener has arrived at Cairo, ... met with a splendid reception. The Egyptian Ministers and the British and Egyptian Staffs of the army assembled at the station to welcome the Sirdar, the streets being lined by British troops.

LONDON, OCT. 7.

A telegram from the *Times'* Pekin correspondent says that the Empress Dowger receives the Cabinet daily, seated beside the Emperor instead of behind the screen as formerly. The correspondent further reports that Tsungli-Yamen has agreed to provide a special train to bring the foreign marines to Pekin.

LONDON, OCT. 7.

The *Times*, corrospondent at Hongkong telegraphs an account of an interview with Kangyuwei, in which the latter narrated his intercourse with the Emperor. Kungyuwei urged the removal of useless old Ministers and the appointement of young, vigorous and progressive officials, and recommended the employment of Americans and Englishmen. The Emperor fully concurred with the views of his reforming adviser, but the Empress Dowager was enraged and refused to agree.

THE escort for the Burmo-Chinese Boundary Commission this year will be composed of the military instead of military police, as hitherto; the Burma Battallions at Bhamo and Kingtung supplying two full companies each, in all 400 men and officers.

ONE can well imagine how the Natu brothers are now living at Belgaum in a state of intensest suspense and anxiety. Plague is raging in the city; but they can not leave their present dwelling. A few days ago, some plague cases occurred in a house very close to their bunglow; but still the Bombay Government would not relent, and permit them to remove elsewhere. They have just sent another petition to the Government. In the meantime, they are passing their days and nights in reading religious books, and are trying to find solace thereby.

IT may be remembered that Dr. Stephen F. Emmens, a short time ago, startled, not only the scientists, but the whole world, by announcing a discovery which amounted practically to the finding of the long-searched-for Philosopher's stone; for he claimed to have found the way to turn silver into gold. He has gone one better since then, and now comes forward with the astounding announcement that he has invented a formidable gun, the only limit to its range being that placed upon its projectile by friction. He makes this statement in apparent oblivion of the fact that all projectiles are limited by the "friction of the air." He believes that this formidable weapon will revolutionize warfare; for with it "Berlin could be bombarded from Paris or *vice versa*." The gun is discharged by electricity.

A LAHORE telegram, dated 4th instant, states:—The Raja of Nahan died at Nahan on the 2nd. He had been ailing for some time, but his death was sudden and unexpected. His age was 56, and he was Raja for 43 years. The rule of the late Sir Shamsher Parkash was marked by improvement in every Department. The State posseses courts of justice, schools, and a body of military and police founded on English model. It has excellent roads, an iron foundry, and a printing establishment from which work of a first class order is turned out. His Highness was created a G.C.S.I., in recognition of his services rendered during the Afghan War, and he had been long recognised as pre-eminently the most enlightened of the Simla Hill Chiefs. The Nahan Raja is senior of the Rajput rulers of the Simla Hills. The family have occupied the State since the end of the eleventh century. Sir Mackworth Young, on receipt of the news of the Raja's death, communicated his sincere sympathy with the family. Bikram Sing, his son, succeeds to the title.

IT will be remembered that some time ago the Hon'ble Raja Sashishekhareswar Roy interpellated the Government on the subject of the management of pounds, and also made some complaints in regard to it. The Hon'ble member who replied to the Rajah, in a manner said that it was all right and no complaint reached Government in the matter. Mr. Temple, Magistrate-Collector of Faridpore, however, in reviewing the working of the District and Local Boards during 1897-98, says: "I have tried to impress upon the Chairmen of the various Local Boards the necessity of supervising the work of the special Inspector (of pounds and ferries) carefully, seeing that the neglects which he brings to light are really remedied. But from the report and what I have myself seen, I am afraid pound-farmers in particular are not kept up to the mark, as they should be."

IN his Resolution on the administration of the Dacca Division, the Lieutenant-Governor "regrets to observe that, under the example of some of the leading men, absenteeism is reported to be becoming a growing evil in Eastern Bengal. The principal landholders with honourable exceptions are seldom resident in their respective districts, leaving their affairs too often to fall into the hands of unscrupulous agents, to the detriment of their estates and their tenantry." Perhaps it is rather too hard and sweeping to describe the landholders' agents as "unscrupulous"; but there can be no question that the landholders should live among their tenantry and that absenteeism is a serious evil in many ways. But will His Honour kindly inquire why now-a-days the landholders choose to live in the metropolis, away from their respective districts,—why the *mahajn* lives at a distance from his children? We do not know if the "eyes and ears" of the Government have assigned any cause; the Resolution is silent on the point. But even if they have, His Honour certainly has not been told, what is a general impression among the people, that the landholders do not now-a-days choose to live among their tenantry mainly because they fear they might at any moment lose their honour and prestige, nay, personal liberty, at the sweet will of the lord of the district. Nor is such an impression unnatural at all, in view of some well-known events during the last decade. If His Honour wishes to root out what he justly calls a "growing evil", let him make an enquiry of the absentee lords themselves direct, and the proper remedy.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Correspondence.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE LATE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—With reference to the paragraph which appeared in to-day's *Patrika in re* Mysore memorial at Kalighat, I beg to send you the following information for edifying the "Mysorean" and the public, whoever may be interested, that since the advent of Mr. K. Shamayengar, the Superintendent of Kheddas, Mysore, last year on this special duty, something definite has been settled by the Government of Mysore with regard to this memorial.

The memorial will take the shape of a "Brindaban," a public bathing *ghat* and a Dhurmasala. Land require for Brindaban has been granted by the Calcutta Municipality; but for the bathing *ghat* and Dhurmasala a quantity of private land is required in addition to the Municipal land availabie for the purpose. Negotiations having failed to buy this piece of private land, it was decided to acquire the same and a Declaration under the Land Acquisition Act has been sent for publication.

I understand that the Mysore Government has settled the details of the memorial also and has deputed Mr. Shamayengar on this special duty. He is expected shortly.

RAKHAL CHANDRA GHOSH,
Agent representing the Government of Mysore.

MR. BELL, DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF BARISAL.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I do not know in what terms to speak of our District Magistrate, Mr. Beatson-Bell. The good name he has earned in connection with the suspected plague at Siddha-kathi and adjoining villages, will endure for ever, not because of his promptness to arrest the progress of this fell disease from the moment of its appearance in those places, and that in a way without imparting the least shock to our social instincts. This may form part of his duty, as the executive head of the district. But what struck one most was the nobleness and tenderness of his heart, the sublimeness of his soul and the almost heroic contempt of life that he displayed during this terrible scrape and scare. I need not mention the fact of his having more than once carried and cremated forsaken loathsome, plague-stricken carrions; that has been worn threadbare by constant repetition by other correspondents. But besides the plague matter, Mr. Bell's various acts of benevolence towards the poor and the needy, are quite proverbial throughout the district. A tale of real distress is a potent "open sesame" to his kind and noble heart. And rains it never, but it pours: his bounties are as large as numerous, and as quick as deserving. May God increase the span of his useful and noble life!

A.

Perozepur.

ADMINISTRATION OF JAILS IN THE UPPER PROVINCES AND IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Last year there was an abnormal increase of Jail population both in the Upper Provinces and the Madras Presidency. The report of Mr. Cardew, Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras Presidency, shows that the total admission in the Madras Jails increased from 80,082 in 1896 to 1,00,591 in 1897. Brigade-Surgeon Geoffry Hall, Inspector-General of Prisons, N.-W.P. and Oudh, in his report says that last year the Jail population in the Upper Provinces came up to the high figure of 1,69,114. This rise was evidently due to the famine prices that prevailed in the bazar. There is intimate connection between crime and prices in our country. This shows that men and women are driven at the famine time to commit crimes only by pinch of hunger, and they would never have dreamt of committing any crime in the days of prosperity. A very large number of inmates of jails were quite innocent persons; only they were obliged to overstep the bounds of law for their belly's sake. There are men who even wilfully commit certain crimes that they might get a full meal once a day in the prison house. To prevent honest men from committing crimes, the Government should make timely arrangements for starting reliefs. Only starting relief-works will not do; the Government should be really actuated with the sacred desire of providing sufficient means for the sustenance of the hungry poor. To compel a poor, honest man to break stones on roadside or to cut the earth through the livelong day for one anna or six pice, to which, by his training, he is uninured, is repulsive to all ideas of justice and humanity. For such and other like reasons many people prefer death to such ignominious drudgery with quite insufficient recompense. Others, moved by the sight of unbearable misery and destitution of their family, plunge headlong almost unconsciously into the depth of crime. It has been ably pointed out by your contemporary of the *Hindu* that the charge per day per prisoner in jail exceeds the amount of wages paid per day per man when he resorts to famine relief works! So they are worse off than criminals. This must be, indeed, a very miserable state of affairs. Again, in jail, the Government should not uniformly treat a hardened criminal and a pauper delinquent. Another important thing that I find in both the reports, is the increased sick-rate and very largely-increased death-rate. Though in the Madras Presidency the increase of sick and death-rates might partly be attributed to the prevalence of epidemic cholera in the Rajahmundry and Coimbatore Jails, yet the fact is there that it was mainly due, and notably in the Upper Provinces, to the overcrowding in the existing jails and also to the adulteration of grain and flour. In addition to these insanitary conditions, excessive labour and insufficient ration, coupled with a degree of violence, if not torture, are supposed by many to be the cause of the rise of the sick and death-rates in Indian jails. I am glad to be able to state in this connection that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the N. W. P. has been kind enough to issue stringent orders for the supply of better food in the local jails. Also am I happy to find Mr. Cardew spending Rs. 11,700 on jail sanitation. One other fact has struck me, viz, that both in Madras and the Upper Provinces last year, the crime, though it increased what may be called abnormally, did not increase to a greater extent than on previous years of great famine in those parts of the country. The jail population of the Upper Provinces last year, was 1,69,114. High as the figure undoubtedly is, it is lower than in 1878, the year of great famine. In Madras in the year 1892 there was at least as high price prevailing in the bazar as in 1897; yet in 1897 there was no greater increase of the criminal population than in 1892, although the population increased by leaps and bounds. Mr. Cardew would be of opinion that the Magistrates were, now-a-days, very loath to convict. But Mr. Cardew was sadly mistaken there. Far from there being a growing disinclination to convict, our subordinate Magistrates are too forward to convict even on trumpery evidence, Mr. Justice Davies, of the Madras High Court, had, on a recent occasion, to remark that almost every subordinate Magistrate put ready and implicit credence in the irresponsible statements of a Police Constable. I am rather inclined to think that our people, inured as they have been to all sorts of hardships, readily give themselves up to despair and resignation, and prefer to die silently, and, I may say, honourably to procuring food by unlawful means. Indians are proverbially law-abiding and fatalistic. But with the increase of this tendency on the part of the inhabitants, the responsibility of the Government enormously increases

LALIT MOHAN GHOSAL.

Cossipore.

BARON CURZON AND HIS AMERICAN WIFE.

SHARING THE EMPIRE WITH THE STATES.

THE appointment of Mr. George Curzon to be Viceroy of India on the retirement of Lord Elgin has had one unexpected result. It has evidently brought home to the average American citizen the extent to which John Bull is ready and willing to share his Empire with Uncle Sam. Mr. Leiter, a kind of Blundell Maple or Whiteley of Chicago, who began life as a pedlar and culminated as a millionaire dry-goods man, is now the father-in-law of the ruler of three hundred millions of Asiatics. His daughter Mary, being the wife of George Curzon, will sit on the throne of Aurungzebe and outvie the splendour of the Great Mogul. It may appear very absurd, but the fact that an American girl represents the Queen of England and acts as Vice-Empress of India perceptibly affects the mental attitude of the American citizens towards England, towards India, and towards both Monarchy and Empire. India is no longer a thing remote from the United States. It is a dependency ruled jointly by an English man and an American woman. If as Mr. Carnegie predicts, we are not far from another Mutiny in India, the saying that blood is thicker than water will be found to have acquired a new and more significant meaning when facing the mutineers, Mary Leiter of Chicago stands by the side of her English husband.

THE AMERICAN QUEEN OF INDIA.

If any one thinks this far-fetched, let him glance at the way in which the most widely circulated newspapers of America announced the appointment of Mr. Curzon. The *New York Journal* and the *New York World* vied with each other as to which could lay most emphasis upon the fact that the daughter of a Chicago dry-goods merchant was about to be "Vicereine of India." "The American Queen of India" is already her title in some American newspapers. Says the *New York Journal*:—

Mrs. George N. Curzon, an American, will shortly be the next woman in rank to Queen Victoria throughout the whole British Empire. Her husband is to be appointed Viceroy of India. Mrs. Curzon was Miss Mary Leiter, of Chicago and Washington, and a sister of Joe Leiter of wheat fame. She will rule over three hundred million subjects. She will have palaces and a court more splendid than Queen Victoria herself. Her husband will have a salary six times that of the President of the United States. Unlike Queen Victoria, he will actually govern his subjects. His wife will share his power. She will uphold the prestige of American womanhood.

The *New York World* devotes two whole pages to the story of how England's highest honour has fallen to the daughter of Mr. Leiter of Chicago. It says:—

The first American woman to become a real Queen is the daughter of a former dry-goods clerk.

She will rule more than 400,000,000 of people. She will occupy an official position higher than any woman of this nation has ever attained.

She has mounted to her proud place on a foundation of dry goods and Chicago real estate, but she is worthy of it.

It is quite true this American woman will act for Queen Victoria, Empress of India, in ruling over the largest and most important possession of the British Empire. She will sit on a throne and none will be too great to bow before her.

Her position is fixed for all time. In India she and her husband will occupy a palace of the blood royal. In England she is upon the highest pinnacle.

THE AMERICAN WIFE.

The American wife is certainly very much in evidence at present. The seat vacated by the husband of Mary Leiter at Southport was immediately captured by his political opponent Sir H. Naylor Leyland, who differing from Mr. Curzon in every other respect resembled him in having contracted an American alliance by marrying a famous American beauty. The spoils of the Empire are falling to the husbands of American wives almost as thickly as police captaincies in New York are distributed to the partizans of Tammany. An American girl queens it in the great palace at Blenheim, and another American girl who married a scion of the same house came within an ace of being wife to a Prime Minister. The Leader of the Opposition in the House of Cummons married an American. So did Mr. Bryce, one of his most influential colleagues. Mr. Chamberlain, who reigns and rules over an Empire from which a population as numerous as that of the Philippines could dissappear without being noticed, also went to the States for a wife. He is this month directing our Colonial policy from the other side of the Atlantic. Mr. Balfour is not married—probably because he has never been to America. But wherever we turn, whether in the peerage or in Parliament or in the high places of our Colonial and Imperial Administration, there we find ensconced as the Better-half of the British office-holder, the American Wife.

"BY A GREAT PRICE OBTAINED I THIS?"

It would be an interesting inquiry, if it could be conducted successfully, to investigate in how many cases the American wife "a lass with a tocher," and in how many cases she had not a cent at her back. Some American girls have undoubtedly sold themselves for a title, and not a few have learned the misery of their bargain. But in many cases there has been no more wealth on the side of the trans-atlantic bride than would have been expected if she had been born in Britain. the belief that American fortunes are to be bought cheap by dukes and princes if the person of the heiress is accepted as a kind of make-weight in the scale, prevails widely on the Continent. It found curious expression in a recently-published letter of that discrowned reprobate the ex-King Milan of Servia. Writing to his injured and beautiful Queen Natalie, the bankrupt *roue* discussed with curious frankness the way in which they could best mend the fortunes of their son Alexander, the Boy King of Servia:—

As to marriage projects he must marry a rich woman, an American if you will. In the marriage proposal money alone shall count—money, nothing but money. Ristic wants him to marry a daughter of the Prince of Montenegro. The thought makes me wild. She is so poor. Riches alone count in this world; they lead a man to victory. Money paves the way to good luck. I have suffered the tortures of the damned all my life because I was poor. Alexander shall not be poor if that curse can be averted by marriage with a person ever so low in social rank! Again let him marry riches. There are American women who are both rich and beautiful.

Rumour has it that an attempt was made to marry the young king to Miss Pullman, also of Chicago. But Mr. Pullman objected; so Chicago, which has given a vice-queen to India, has not given a queen to Servia. At least, not yet. Perhaps there may be a Miss Armour, who would find it in keeping with the traditions of the Chicago slaughter-yards to reign over the swineherd nation of the East.—*The Review of Reviews.*

BURRISAL GUNS.

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

THE Bombay High Court have ruled that it is quite legal for a pleader to act temporarily as Presidency Magistrate in the court in which he usually practices, provided he does not actually practice while holding the appointment.

THE Government of India are submitting their proposals regarding legislation for land indebtedness in the Punjab to the Secretary of State. Nothing further will be done until the views of the India Office on the subject are known.

RELIABLE news from the frontier states that Hadda Mullah is at his own place, with some 400 followers, and has no intention of making a *jehad* at present. The Mad Fakir is in Boner, with only 200 followers. The Bonerwals no longer believe in him, and refuse to respond to his *jehad*. The people of Swat also have lost faith in him. Tor Lala, a near relation of Umra Khan, who had settled in the Charsadda Tahsil of the Peshawar District, where he has raided and killed seven men and lifted some cattle has just been to Kabul. The Amir presented him with Rs. 6,000 and two mule loads of ammunition, and promised him a regular allowance of Rs. 6,000 a year. The people of Charsadda fear he will again raid them. Several cases of robbery with violence are reported from the Peshawar District: in one instance, two Hindus were killed and others dangerously wounded. In the Kohat direction, there is a good deal of unrest and suspicion, owing to Government having as yet offered no definite terms to some of the tribes. The increase in salt tax is also causing much irritation among the tribesmen.

QUEER FRIENDSHIPS.

FORMED BY ANIMALS.

ANIMALS occasionally form acquaintances in the most unexpected places. Some time ago a can actually increased its family cares by adopting a young rat and nursing it for several days, and surely this is a most peculiar friendship for any member of the feline race to form. The cat in question had a family of four kittens to look after, at the time she took a fancy to the rat, but the latter had so much care and attention paid to it as the kittens. She washed it with her tongue most carefully, and allowed it to feed with her own little ones. At the end of several days, however, the kittens resented the presence of the rodent, and drove it away, but still the mother cat had exhibited a most extraordinary friendship in caring for it so long.

Speaking of an animal thus acting the part of a foster-parent reminds one of another case where a cow bas stood in that capacity to lambs. This was the outcome of an experiment, and may be regarded as new way of rearing motherless lambs A patient cow was selected for the office, and, as she raised no objection to a lamb approaching her and sucking as it would from its own mother, other lambs were allowed to do the same, until the cow had a family of six to look after It is quite interesting to know that the animals thus fed throve remarkably well, and that their foster-parent would lick them, and thus display her friendship, when they were playing about her head. This would also be an unusual sight, even for those accustomed to the ways of animals.

From a cow to an eagle may be a far cry, but still one of these birds took a brood of orphan chickens under her wing the other day. The eagle was kept in a cage, having been captured a few months previously, and appeared to take a great interest in the chickens, whose coop was near her cage. The mother hen died a few days after the chicks were hatched, and their owner, thereupon took them into his kitchen to try to rear them there.

The eagle, however, by its cries, clearly demonstrated that she wished to have charge of them, and she appeared greatly pleased when they were placed in the cage with her. The chickens also refused to leave her when once they had got under her wing, and they and their foster-mother became a very happy family.

Mr. J. G. Wood tells a story of a remarkable friendship formed between a dog and a cock. The cock in question was badly used by the other fowls—in fact, so cruelly treated that they would not allow him to get his usual share of food when it was meted out to them in the farmyard. The dog, whose kennel was in the yard, noticed this treatment, and took pity on the poor bird. His sympathy also took a practical shape, for he left some of his own food, and carried the vessel containing it into his kennel. Then, when the other fowls had left, he would take the food out to the unfortunate cock, and remain on watch while the poor creature ate it.

At other times, he would induce the bird to go into his kennel, so that it could take its food without molestation. The friendship between the two became so strong that the cock would frequently seek shelter from its persecutors in the kennel, evidently recognising that it was quite secure with the dog. This queer friendship had a most pathetic ending, for one morning the cock was found lying dead, in the kennel, huddled up closely to its protector.

Animals can also form strong attachments in other directions. In one case, a dog formed a friendship for a police man—in fact, for the whole force of a certain town—and spent the greater part of its time patrolling the streets with the "men in blue." On more than one occasion it rendered assistance when the officers found it necessary to arrest law-breakers.

SIR ARTHUR HAVELOCK leaves Ootacamund on tour on the 13th instant, and arrives at Madras on the 26th.

THE Government of Madras will shortly be asked by the Government of India to submit definite proposals for legislation to remedy the grievances complained of by the Southern India Planters' Association in connection with the labour question.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Tribune* that a woman named Umrao Begum, travelling from Delhi to Jhind by 3 Up on the 18th ultimo, reported on arrival that the Guard had come three times to her carriage and mads insulting proposals. The Guard, it is said, is suspended, and enquiries are going on departimentally.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned a pension of Rs. 1800 for one Mrs. Maclean during her widowhood, and another ension of Rs. 750 for every son of Mr Maclean till his attaining the 21st year, and about Rs 2000 for the passage of the family to England. Of course, every pice of the large amount will have to be paid by the Indian tax-payer. Mr. Maclean was a Superintending Engineer, and lost his life only by an accident—he died from the effects of an over-dose of opium, given by a compounder: and the Indians will have to maintain his family. This is surely not a fair arrangement. Generosity is, no doubt, a fine virtue; but it should never be exercised at the expense of others, specially when they are dependants. Compare the treatment accorded to the family of Mr. Maclean with that accorded to the widow of the late Mr. Raji of Sinnar, who was murdered while enforcing the plague regulations. She has been given a monthly allowance of Rs. 4!

MRS. LOWTON and Mr. W. Patten, described as a retired European Deputy Magistrate, live in Landour, up in the hills in Dun. Evidently they are neighbours, and have a common pathway. Their conduct, however, seems to be most unneighbourlike; for, they had recently to fight out a quarrel in a criminal court, and the matter had to be authoritatively decided by the highest court in the N. W. Provinces. It happened in this wise. One day Mr. Patten saw some railings, belonging to Mrs. Lowton, placed across the way, causing obstuction of passage. He ordered his servant to remove the railings, which thereupon were thrown away; and Mrs. Lowton alleged that she did not know where they were. A charge of theft was instituted; and Mr. Patten, claiming to be a European British subject, was tried before the Superintendent of Dun sitting as District Magistrate, who recorded the following finding. 'There can be no doubt that the rails were removed by order of Mr. Patten and thrown where Mrs. Lawson would not be able to find them" In the Court's opinion, this constituted theft, and Mr. Patten was fined five rupees. An appeal was preferred before the Allahabad High Court; and Mr. Justice Bannerjee put quite contrary interpretations upon the facts. His lordship observed "that if any offence had been committed by the accused, it would be that of abetment of theft," and that "as dishonest intention, an essential ingredient of the offence of theft, was wanting" no theft was committed. In his opinion, therefore, the conviction was "illegal"; and it was set aside, and the fine, if paid, was ordered to be refunded.

SMITTEN BARDS.

SOME OF THE MATRIMONIAL TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF GENIUS.

THE curious psychological fact that love so often results in the production of poetry renders an investigation interesting as to whether the converse is true—viz., that poetry begets love.

Shakespeare commenced "sighing like a furnace" at the early age of eighteen. His pun of "hath a way" seems to point to the conclusion that at one time the great dramatist was very badly hit, notwithstanding the opinion that his marriage with Anne Hathaway was a failure.

Milton was unhappy in his love affairs, and this suggests the possibility that the title of the splendid poem "Paradise Lost", was inspired by a longing for the bachelor days that were on more. Mary Powell, the daughter of a justice of the peace, was the unfortunate object of Milton's affections. Miss Powell was of a jovial nature, fond of cards and dancing. When she married she got a complete change for once in her life.

Milton rose at four o'clock, a chapter was then read from a Hebrew Bible, followed by study till dinner time. After more study, walking exercise, and dismal tunes on the organ, the wisdom of going to bed early was carried out.

The effervescing nature of Mary Powell managed to endure a month of this; then she fled to the paternal hearth, where she remained a long time in spite of the supplications of her husband. Her return was dramatic.

During one of Milton's visits to a relative his wife entered the room, threw herself on her knees, and implored forgiveness of the surprised husband. She was pardoned and taken back, but too such ill-assorted temperaments could never get on well.

Milton's second wife died a year after she was married, and the intrepid poet entered the holy state for the third time. But the last state seems to have been worse than the first.

The Duke of Buckingham called the poet's third wife a rose. "I am no judge of colour," replied Milton, "but it may be so, for I feel the thorns daily."

The marriage of Dryden with Lady Elizabeth Howard was also an unhappy one. His wife once reproached him with the statement that he would have paid a great deal more regard to her if she had been a book. The ready witted satirist unkindly replied that he wished she were an almanack; then he could change every year.

Good looking Robert Burns was the recipient of much attention on the part of the fair sex, who simply worshipped him. At the age of fifteen his heart went out to "Handsome Nell," a sweet little girl who worked in the same field.

In 1786 Bibles were exchanged between Burns and Mary Campbell, whom the poet immortalised as "Highland Mary." This exchange was intended to be an expression of lasting love, but—alas for human nature!—two years later he married and his wife was not Mary Campbell.

Southey was another victim of poverty. The problem of buying the marriage ring and paying the marriage fees he found difficult to solve. He was obliged to part with his bride after the ceremony, not having the wherewithal to start housekeeping.

Things, however, after a time brightened, and his home was essentially a happy one. What a picture of domestic comfort is contained in Southey's words, "Oh, dear, oh, dear, there is such comfort in one's own fireside, with a little girl climbing up to my neck and saying, 'Don't go to London, papa, you must stay with Edith.'"

Among lovers the poet Byron ranks an easy first. He was a veritable Napoleon of love. Wherever he went he was idolised by infatuated ladies, and behind him he left a trial of wounded hearts. Yet even he was destined to suffer "the pangs of unrequited love." At the age of fifteen he became deeply enamoured of a young lady notwithstanding her treatment of him as a mere schoolboy. His whole life was darkened by this reverse and the philosophy of, "there are lots of good fish in the sea" never truely appealed to him.

Very sad is the story of Rossetti's first volume of poems. When the coffin of his wife was about to be closed he carried his MS. into the room and addressed his wife as though she were alive, saying the poetry was written to her, and that it should be buried with her.

The MS. was placed next to his wife's face and interred at Highgate. It was only after tremendous pressure that seven years afterwards he gave his consent for the poems to be recovered and made known to the world.

MR. E. LEE, Examiner of Accounts, on return from leave, is posted to the office of the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Madras.

IT is notified for information that the Office of Controller of Military Accounts, Bengal Command, will be closed from the 18th to the 29th October, 1898, inclusive, on account of the Durga Puja holidays.

NEWS received from Uganda states that on the 4th of August, Major Martyr, with four companies of the 27th Baluchis, one and a half company of the Uganda Rifles, and half company of the British East African Rifles with one 7 pr. gun, attached the mutineers near Mruli, driving them out of their stockade and dispersing them. The mutineers lost 11 killed; our casualties were 3 men wounded. A party of 150 men of the Uganda Rifles left Kikyu on the 19th July to endeavour to recover the body of the late Veterinary-Captain Haslam. No details as to the death of Captain Haslam had up to then reached Uganda. A party of 60 Ugnanda Rifles, and 350 native levies, were sent out from Mumias at the end of July, to deal with the Waka Kamaga tribe, who had been giving trouble. The village of the tribe was attacked and the tribesmen dispersed with considerable loss, a large number of cattle being brought in. Our casualties were 22 killed and 3 wounded.

THE Murshidabad *Hitaishi* thus describes how an under-trial prisoner had to suffer. One Shib Chunder Moduk was arrested on the 23rd September by the Saidabad Police in Mursidabad District for having induced a young person to leave his house with one hundred and fifty rupees, and then robbed him of it. He was challaned the next day at 1 p. m. At 5 o'clock the District Magistrate was in his play-ground, when the Court Inspector brought the papers in the case before him. An application was made for bail, but the Magistrate replied he would consider the matter. The next day, the Deputy Magistrate, after examining two witnesses, sent up his report at 5 P.M.; and the matter was kept back for order till the next day. At four in the afternoon, the District Magistrate rejected the application for bail and fixed the 3rd October for the hearing of the case. A motion was made before the District Judge against this order; and on the 1st October, the Judge ordered bail to be granted. The Judge's order reached the Magistrate's Peshkar at about 2 P. M., who at once placed it before the Magistrate. Two competent sureties duly signed the bail-bond; but somehow or other the Magistrate's signature could not be had, and so the accused had to undergo *hajut*, in spite of all this, the whole night and the next morning till he was released at 11. P M on the 2nd. Now, is any body responsible for all that Shib Chunder has suffered and that for no fault of his own?

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

CURRENCY QUESTIONS.

THE following questions have been sent by Government to the leading Indian merchants Calcutta for reply :—

1. What is your name ?
2. What your profession ?
3. If a merchant, are you an export or port trader or both ?
4. How long have you been engaged in your siness ?
5. What age are you ?
6. Do you buy or sell at wholesale rates ?
7. What particular commodities do you l in ?
8. If you export, do you buy your goods lcutta or up-country ?
9. If up-country, do you employ agents in ages, or buy from wholesale merchants in fussil centres ?
10. Referring to your purchases of exports, wholesale prices, rise or fall up to 1892, was the rise or fall appreciable ?
11. Have these prices risen or fallen since 92 to the present time ?
12. When prices rise or fall as they have ne, are you not able, sooner or later, to ualize your profits to previous years, by tering your export prices ?
13. Did the rate of profit realized by you ll gradually up to 1892 ?
14. Has the rate of profit made by you since 1892, been any less than it was before that year ?
15. Has the famine made any difference in the price of goods purchased by you for export ?
16. When you purchase goods up-country do you pay for them by notes or rupees, and do you send the remittance from Calcutta by train ?
17. If payment has to be made where there no ... says how do you make the remit- e ?
18. When do you pay for the goods pur- ased by you, before you receive them, or er, if after, how long after ?
19. Do you not borrow money to pay for goods you purchase for export ?
20. If so, do you borrow from native ban- or from European bankers ?
21. Is the rate you can borrow in the bazar, er or lower than from the Banks ?
22. If lower can you say why ?
23. Do you think that closing the mints did harm to trade ?
24. If the mints were reopened do you think it would benefit trade ?
25. If the mints remained closed and a fixed convertible rate at 16d. to the rupee is given to the rupee, do you think that it would lower rates at which you can borrow money.
26. If so, would it not benefit trade greatly?
27. Have not the natives of India a great love for gold and silver, especially gold ?
28. Do you think that there is any quantity of es hoarded in India ?
29. If so, can you roughly estimate how *i. e.*, what proportions of the coinage ?
30. Do not the natives prefer to hoard silver to silver bullion ?
31. Do not the natives prefer to hoard gold in to silver coin ?
32. If gold sovereigns were imported and ade legal tender, would not natives change eir hoarded rupees into gold coin and hoard ?
33. If gold coins were current in India, uld not you send remittances of it up-country pay for goods purchased, instead of sending ees ?
34. If gold coin was obtainable at the trea- ies would not a large quantity of ornaments made out of it, instead of out of silver ?
35. Is not there an immense quantity of lver ornaments in India ?
36. Do the natives feel the effect of the fference in value between now with silver llion 30 per cent. lower than the silver in the pee as compared with before the mints ere closed when s lver and the rupee were same value?
37. Was much silver in ornaments sold in Ben ... during the recent famine ?
38. If so, can you estimate the quantity or proportion sold by each person whether ½ or ¼ or ⅛ or whole of their possession in ornaments ?
39. When these ornaments were sold, did not the owners realize a great loss on the value at which they purchased them, and was not this loss severely felt ?
40. Do you believe that there has been any illicit coinage in India since the mints were closed ?
41. If so, do you think it has been extensive ?
42. Can you say what has become of the great import of silver into India since the mints were closed.
43. If partly used for ornaments do you think that during the famine years, 1896 and 1897, much less silver than usual was used for ornaments ?
44. Do you think that any portion of this silver bullion was put into hoards for rupees taken out?
45. If so, do you think that this was done at all extensively ?
46. Have not the natives who formerly hoarded uncoined silver lost greatly by closing the mints ?
47. Do you think that any of the heavy import of silver bullion since 1893 has been used for illicit coinage ?
48. If so, do you think this is chiefly done in the Native States ?
49. If gold coins were current in India, would not they entar largely in circulation ins- tead of Notes ?
50. Have the mints being closed and no coinage for 5½ years been at all felt, if so, how ?
51. Do you think rupees brought out of hoards for bullion put in have increased the volume of the currency to any extent ?
52. If an import duty was put on silver making its value equal to the same quantity of silver in the rupee would it not give great satis- faction to a large proportion of natives of India ?
53. If the mints remained closed, and the rupee fixed at a certain sterling price,say at 16d. to rupee, and convertibility into sterling at that rate was granted, would it not greatly benefit all trade with foreign countries ?
54. If it benefitted the export trade, would it not also benefit the inland trade ?
55. What influences the prices you pay for crops in the interior of India ?
56. Does this price depend on the amount of crop, or does it depend on the price you can afford to pay for it. ?
57. If the latter do you regulate your offer by the local price, the price in Calcutta, or the price in England after allowing for Exchange —and freights ?
58. Do not freights to Europe from an im- portant item in the price you can pay ?
59. If you buy at a certain price, and the price in England suddenly falls do you export at the lower price, or do you hold on for a rise ?
60. If a gold currency was established in India, how much gold coin do you think would be necessary to prevent its disappearance into hoards, and ornaments, and how much for circulation to take the place of rupees and notes ?
61. And how much would it be necessary to import every year to keep up the currency at a fixed level ?

MANY have said their children would have died of croup, if Chamberlain's Cough emedy had not been given," write Kellam & Our- , druggists, Scarview, Va. "People come from and near to get it and speak of it in the highest ms." This is equally true of this remedy in every mmunity where it is known. Buy a bottle at— ug store and test it for yoursel.

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
B. K. PAUL & CO., Chemists.

THE SHORTHAND DEMON.

FROM a report published in our legal column says the *Madras Times*, it will be seen that the High Court has set aside the conviction of certain prisoners charged with dacoiti, on the ground that there was a grave misdirection to the jury in the course of the charge given by the Sessions Judge of the Bellary Division, Mr. W. M. Thorburn. The occurrence is a reminder of the importance of shorthand notes in judicial proceedings. Till some years ago a Judge's charge to a jury in India was not reduced to writing, as delivered ; but then, with a view to enable the High Court to find out whether juries are properly directed or not, the Government appointed a few years ago a short- hand-writer in each District Court, to take down *verbatim* the Judge's charge to the jury; and the *verbatim* transcript of the notes taken down have ever since been sent to the High Court as a part of the papers in a case. But for the short- hand writer's notes, the fate of the prisoners in the present case might have been different.

Under the old system the Sessions Judge deli- vered his charge, and it was difficult afterwards to say whether everything was in order or not. No Judge would lightly admit that he had made a mistake either of omission or commission; and inasmuch as attention and memory are very de- fective things, the keenest witness who should testify afterwards against a Judge's charge would find his evidence very much discounted. As things go now, however, the shorthand-writer is "on the spot." The Judge speaks, and each word is "fixed," against any future question of his correctness. The shorthand-writer's notes can be called for and, presuming that he is recognised as a reliable man who can write shorthand as fast as the Judge speaks and can read what he writes afterwards, there is no room for the Judge to declare that he made no slips, or for a prisoner to declare that he did. The shorthand- demon is a grand introduction and the scratching of his pen is an ever-present reminder to a Judge that he had best be careful, for there is "a chiel taking notes."

FAIRLY WELL ISN'T WELL ENOUGH.

LET us say that your wages are twenty shillings a week. You have worked hard, done your best, and feel that you have earned your money. Very good. Now imagine that when Saturday night comes your employer hems and haws, and wants to put you off with fifteen. I'll be bound you would think yourself hardly treated. What are the great strikes in this country commonly about ? Why, in some fashion they are about wages or hours ; it comes to the same thing. Be it understood that the writer uses this fact as an illustration of another fact—that is all. What is that other fact ? We will work it out of the following personal statement.

"Nearly all my life," says Mrs. Sarah Dalby, "I have been subject to attacks of biliousness,accom- panied with sickness, but got on fairly well up to the early part of 1882. At this time I began to feel heavy, dull, and tired, with an all-gone, sinking sensation. My skin was sallow, and the whites of my eyes of a yellow tinge."

As everybody knows, or ought to know, the colouring matter was bile. The liver being torpid, and, therefore, failing to remove the bile from the blood, it entered the skin ; and showed itself on the surface. But the discolouration isn't the worst mischief done by the vagabond bile, containing many poisonous waste elements ; it disorders the whole system and sets up troublesome aud dangerous symp- toms, some of which the lady names.

"I had a bad taste in the mouth," she goes on to say ; "and, in the morning particularly, was often very sick, retching so violently that I dreaded to see the dawn of day.

"My appetite was poor,and after eating I had pain at my chest and side. Frequently I couldn't bring myself to touch food at all ; my stomach seemed to rebel at the very thought of it."

[This was bad, but the stomach was right, never- theless. More food would have made more pain, more indigested matter to ferment and turn sour, more of a load for the sleepy liver, more poison for the nerves, kidneys, and skin. And yet *without the food*, how was she to live ? It was like being ground between the upper and the nether millstones.]

"After this," runs the letter, "I had great pain and fluttering at the heart. Sometimes I would have fits of dizziness and go off into a faint, which left me quite prostrated. Then my nerves became so upset and excitable that I got no proper sleep at night, and on account of loss of strength I was obliged to lie in bed all day for days together. I went to one doctor after another, and attended at Bartholomew's and the University Hospitals, but was none the better for it all.

"In September, 1883, my husband read in *Reynolds' New paper* about Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and got me a bottol of it. After taking it for three days I felt relieved. Encouraged and cheered by this I kept on taking the Syrup, and in a short time all the pain and distress abated, and I was well—better than I had ever been. That is ten years ago, and since then I have never ailed any- thing. With sincere thanks, I am, yours truly (Signed) Mrs. Sarah Dalby, 93, Tottenham Road, Kingsland, London, N., January 2nd, 1894."

Now run your eye back to the first sentence of Mrs. Dalby's letter, and you will come upon these words, "*I got on fairly well*," &c. *This* is the sad thought. Her life has always been at a discount ; she has always got less than her due ; she lost part of her health—wages. Do you take my meaning ? Of course. Whatever may be our differences of opi- nion as to the rights of capital and the value of labour, it is certain that every human being is enti- tled to perfect health—without reduction, without drawback. All the more, as nobody else loses what one person thus gains. No, no. On the contrary, a perfectly healthy person is a benefit and a blessing to all who are brought into relations with him.

But do all have such health ? God help us, no ; very, very few. Why not ? Ah, the answer is too big ; I can't give it to-day. To the vast crowd who only get on "fairly well" I tender my sympathy, and advise a trial he remedy mentioned by Mrs Dalby.

ABUSE BY JUDGES OF THEIR POSITION ON THE BENCH.

JUDGES have not been slow to cloths themselves in prerogatives stolen from the royal wardrobe. If a king can do no wrong, neither, in the eye of the law conveniently blinded, can a judge. A member of a superior Court, just the man who ought to know better, may abuse his position to utter slander from the Bench, under pretext of comment or cen- sure to gratify his private ill-will against a witness, counsel, party, or apparently against anyone else, in the full knowledge that what he utters is false, irrelevant to the cause before him, and unwarranted by any occurrence or evidence in it, yet no action lies at the instance of the injured person against the judge who has done him so great an injustice. So the majority of judges have decided, on grounds of public policy. Whether it accords with a just public policy, as distinguished from the somewhat immoral reason of State which borrows the name of public policy, that the expounders and guardians of law should by their own voices set themselves above the law, will perhaps bear question. But as decisions stand, the only remedy is by way of impeachment. Obviously impeachment does not repair the wrong. Unfortunately it is little of a terorr to the judicial evil doer. It is so difficult to set in motion, and so slow of movement, that anyone can escape it, unless public feeling has been keenly aroused, and the charges amount to bribery or corruption. This proceeds from the unfortunate tendency in legislative bodies, es- pecially when engrossed in business, to decline the labour of invcstigation unless satisfied that the result will be conclusive against the person incriminated, and thus virtually to deny even this remedy, except in extreme cases. The above remarks are illustrated by Dr. Charles Cowley's petition to the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachu- setts to impeach Judge Bond for words of censure passed on the petitioner. The allegations of the petitioner, who is a counsel of long experience and professional standing, raise questions of gravity and interests, regarding the duty of counsel to the Court as well as to the censorial authority of the Court. Dr. Cowley had been counsel for S. W. in his suit for divorce. Decree *nisi* had been obtained on 12th February 1892. The suit was defended. Before 19th August 1892, when the decree *nisi* would in ordinary course become absolute, Dr. Cowley heard a ru- mour, which he did not believe, and which was inconsistent with facts within his knowledge, that in June, 1892, his client had illicit relation with some- woman in New Hampshire. It afterwards turned out that, in April 1892, his client had travelled in New Hampshire, under a fictitious name, with an unsanctioned sponse. Of this Dr. Cowley knew nothing. Some years afterwards, in July, 1895, Judge Bond, while delivering judgment in a differ- ent case, took it upon himself to say that Dr. Cowley, while acting as counsel for S. W. in the above-mentioned suit for divorce,, was "not duly mindful of his duty to the Court." This was the censure complained of. The neglect of duty imputed to Dr. Cowley apparently consisted in this—that he did not on hearing the rumour which he disbelieved, lay it before the Court, in order to found a possible objection, against the making ab- solute of the decree *nisi* to which his client had been found entitled. Now, in an undefended divorce suit, the duty of a counsel to the Court is not easy to de- fine, and, in a well-known case in Scotland, has been much discussed. It is right that, in such a case, counsel should not only refrain from actively misled- ing the Court, but probably also should lay before the Court what he believes to be the essential facts of the case, whether these make against the suitor or not. But even in that case no counsel would act orightly either to his client or to the Court, if he com- municated tot he Court information regarding his client's misconduct, which he himself did not on rea, sonable grounds, believe to be true. And in defended cases, where the defence is not collusive, it is cer- tainly not incumbent on counsel to supply facts, or rumours, or pleas in law to the other side. Most clients would not unreasonably regard such conduct as a betrayal of their interests. It has not been suggested until now that in such cases counsel owe any higher duty to the Court, or any different duty to their clients, than in ordinary contested actions. Nor is it fair that any such distinction should be established. Dr. Cowley's reasoning on this point, in this address to the Judiciary Commitee, is clear and convincing.

If there is no recognised duty on the part of coun- sel in a defended divorce suit to inform the Court of rumours affecting his client, which he believes, then Judge Bond's censure, apparently proceed- ing on the non-observance of that non-existent duty seems unreasonable, and being pronunced long after in a different case, uncalledfor, was a very fit subject for inquiry by the only authority with powers to investigate and animadvert on the conduct of Judges of the Superior Court. It is to be regretted in the interests of fair play and the independence of the Bar, that the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature of a State, famous for its justice, declined to take the course which would have compelled Judge Bond to justify or explain his conduct towards the petitioner.—*Judicial Review.*

MR. J. N. TATA'S EDUCATIONAL SCHEME.

ITS SCOPE AND POSSIBILITIES.

REPRESENTATIVE OPINION ON THE SUBJECT.

APPROVAL OF H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

(*An Interview.*)

MR. J. N. TATA'S scheme for higher education and his princely offer of a lakh-and-a-quarter have been before the public for the past few days, and with the object of gleaning some thing new if possible on the subject, a representative of the *Advocate of India* called on Mr. Tata to-day at his mansion on the Esplanade and was introduced to the scheme, Mr. Tata he already had the pleasure of knowing.

Mr. Tata sketched out the scheme briefly, traced its inception to the memorable speech of Lord Reay at the Senate meeting and spoke of the interest with which he had followed up the subject till his thoughts formed themselves into the desire to do some good for the country in the direction of higher education.

"We will have to educate the people to what higher education means" said Mr. Tata.

"They will soon learn that" said I "and the Institute should be a boon to the country."

"Yes," assented Mr. Tata. "It will be a bene- fit to India as by degrees the classes will be improv- ed and raised to a higher level in technical matters and by this means the country will be developed to its fullest resources."

I nodded in agreement.

"But" continued Mr. Tata, "if you would like to go into the matter fully let me introduce you to Mr. Padshah, who has been travelling at Home and on the Continent in the interests of the scheme and can give a fund of information."

We proceeded from the drawing-room to apart- ments on the upper floor, where we found Mr. Pad- shah ensconced and willing to have the search-light of an interviewer focussed upon him.

THE OBJECTS OF THE SCHEME.

"The scheme," said Mr. B. J. Padshah in answer to an interrogation, "is to add a new stage to University instruction in India. The teaching of the present day confines itself to a preparation for exami- nations based on syllabuses previously prescribed, but leaves no time either to the teacher or student to think out the problems presented during the study.'

"But doesn't the University course provide some such scope?"

"It is impossible for several reasons. Because in the first place no Professor can teach at his best on a programme laid down by others. The Professors, having more than one subject to deal with, cannot possibly attend to original investigation."

"But are they not experts in their own subjects?"

"Yes ; but they are not confined to their own subjects and have no time to keep pace with its literature. There are brilliant exceptions among them, for example, Dr. P. Peterson, Dr. Bose and Professor Pedler."

"And your other reason?"

"The University syallabus corresponds more or less to the teaching in the higher forms of a French Lycee or a German Gymnasium. It lays the foundation of a general education. Specialization comes only slightly with the B. A. degree and par- haps more largely with the M. A., but still the M. A. student merely absorbs. In Mathematics alone is he asked to work out original problems."

"Well, that means to say that the programme is too general ?"

"Yes, only this general education is necessary. Our students, cannot be expected to s ecialise at the age at which they go through the University cur- riculum. Many enter at less than thirteen and the average is sixteen, while it is unusual in France or Germany to have students under nineteen."

"And you conclude from that—;"

"That there is an hiatus to be filled. In Eng- land and on the Continent the stage we propose to add already exists."

"And this will be the object of the new Institute?"

"Yes, but we want also to take advantage of this movement to introduce a newer method of Univer- sity teaching suitable to the higer age of the students."

"And those methods are?"

"I will describe them briefly in the words of M. Boutmy, Director of the Political School in Paris. He says 'to the child one can say listen, remember, believe. To a young and a ripe man one ought to say see, compare and judge. All the superior teaching is contained in the four following words—group, expound, explain and comment,'"

"How are those methods practically carried out?"

HOW TO CARRY IT OUT.

"Practical laboratory work in Natural Science, practical work in the Seminaria or *conferences* on literary subjects and a theses on an original problem worked out under the direction of a professor, as a qualification for a degree. A student is thus, while at the University, started on research."

"And how do you propose to bring this about?"

"The provisional commmittee to be formed will have to decide, but in my opinion the best course would be to request the University of Bombay to take up this department by adding a post-graduate wing to the University."

"Why may it not do so at once ?"

"Legislation would be necessary. At present the University is only an examining body and before it can appoint professors to teach anywhere except at affiliated colleges it would have to get the authority of law. It is to be regretted that our Universities should ever have been merely examin- ing bodies."

GATHERING OPINIONS OF EMINENT MEN.

Mr. Padshah has travelled in England and on the Continent in the interest of the scheme and has interviewed Lord Reay, Sir William-Lee- Warner, Sir William Hunter, Sir Raymond West an educational authorities in Europe innumerable. He was away on behalf of Mr. Tata and Mr. Tate's scheme for nearly a year and-a-half and was enable to get te very best of representative opinion on a subject o this nature. He comes with draft memo- rand on matters relating to the scheme from the pens of many European savants, but I was enabled to get only the gist of a very few of the opinions expressed.

MR. SADIER'S VIEWS.

"The idea of an examining University" Mr. Sadler, the head of the Educational Enquiries Depart- ment in London, said "could only prevail on an age of predominant commercialism. Mercantile men are so used to audit that they will not feel satisfied unless they have an audit of knowledge and educa- tion."

WHAT SIR WILLIAM LEE-WARNER THINKS.

Sir William Lee-Warner thinks that a connec- tion with one of the Universities, instead of an in- dependent University, would be preferable. He sees that the time has quite come for an advance or a reform in the direction proposed. He suggests that a school of history, *i. e.*, not a school of students who commit to memory statements they find in books but rather of students who would themselves be set to toil at original sources and weigh historical evidence is a desideratum. He does not apprehend any difficulty in procuring access for the student to the record offices.

HISTORY NOT A STRONG POINT.

Professor Bryce, late President of the Board of Trade, a most distinguished educationalist, was also anxious that a school of history should be made a feature of the scheme. He pointed that histori- graphy has never been the strong point of India. The few historians that we have are chiefly Mahome- dans who have written in Persian.

LORD EAY FAVORS CHEMISTRY AND BACTERIOLOGY.

Lord Reay, on the other hand, while not discourag- ing a school of history thinks that our work is cut out in promoting schools of medical and chemical research. And he exhorts us to lose no time to make a beginning with a professor of bacteriology, another of chemistry and so forth. His idea has this to recommend it, that immediate material results are sure to follow. What India most wants is opening out its material resources by scientific investigation and the arrest of disease and improvement of in- sanitary conditions.

A BROAD GENERAL VIEW.

Sir William Hunter and Sir Raymond West took a broad general view of the matter. The former frankly said that a few years ago he would not have thought there was the least field for a research school in India, but the achievements of Bose, Roy, Ray, Phookan and others convinced him that the Indian intellect is capable of original production. Both Sir William Hunter and Sir Raymond West think that it would be most advisable to devote ourselves to specially Indian problems such as Indian diseases, the chemistry of tropical vegetation, Indian archæo- logy and history. "It is no use", Sir William Hunter said "wasting money in competition with the E uro- pean universities who have great resources in prose- cuting research in the older sciences."

THE DARWINIAN THEORY AND MATHEMATICS.

Professor Karl Pearson's opinions were most interesting. He had exerted himself to pro- cure a teaching university for London and was pleased that our thoughts were occupied with a similar aim. He impressed upon me the ne of very great care in the selection of professo and suggested that the Council of the Roya Society should be requested to nominate a com- mittee of three to make appointments. One point of Prof. Pearson deserves mention. He him- self has a research class engaged on the applica- tion of mathematics to the Darwinian theory and he thinks it would be well for us similarly not to stick to the older and more exhausted branch- es of research. He also recommends a chair of statistics and one of the *philosophy* of science.

It would be invidious to mention the numer- ous friends who have drawn up memoranda, re- viewed our ideas and generally helped. Pro- fessor Max Muller, MacGrath, Sedgwick, Mac- kay and Sonseschein, Principals Rendall, Ward, Reichel and Jones, Drs. Lunge and Herzog, (of Zurich) Von Lang and Mach of Vienna.

"And Indian gentlemen, have any of them expressed views ?"

SYMPATHISERS IN INDIA.

"Mr. Justice Candy, Mr. Justice Ranade, Mr. Ardeshir Framji and Mr. Malabari have taken a deep interest in the matter from the very beginning."

FINANCES.

"About finances ?"

"Mr. Tata makes his offer subject to a condition affecting his family trust but that will not present any difficulty."

"But would the lakh-and-a-quarter be enough ?"

"I think not ; it is about one-third of what accord- ing to my idea the beginning should be."

"And what committee do you propose appointing ?"

"Those who have so far co-operated and sympathis- ed with us and those whose position in the Educational Department entitle us to expect that they will support the scheme."

"The results you expect ?"

"We do not expect Newton's at once. Anatmos- phere is wanted. We propose to create this and re- search will follow."

"Why not send your promising students to Europe ?"

"Why not indeed ? Mr. Tata has deeply pondered over that question. He has already one scheme which he now proposes to amalgamate with this, in virtue of which several young men have already gone to Europe. Dr. Row is one of them, but they must return some day and we have no facilities for them on their return. It will surprise you and your readers that if another Dr. Row were to come to-day there is no room for him in the Petit Laboratary."

THE APPROVAL OF LORD SANDHURST.

At this stage a letter was handed in and Mr. Padshah informed me that it intimated that H. E. the Governor gave the scheme his hearty approval and sympathy and that he would like to see it assume a practical shape before he left the Presidency. He also approved of the names of the gentlemen to be invited to serve on the Provisional Committee.

The following is the draft scheme as accepted by H. E. the Governor:—

THE SCHEME.

It is proposed to found an Institution which shall be, or correspond to, a Teaching University for India, its primary aim to teach and not to examine. The Diplomas, therefore, will be conferred on those who have completed a certain course of Higher Education. (2) This work of higher instruction will be conducted on the prin- ciples followed now in Europe, *e. g.*, in the German Seminaria, the French Conferences and the English and American Research Classes. These courses will be the beginning of a pure specialist training. (3) In order not to interfere with the exist- ing agencies, the new Institution will take up teaching where the colleges of the existing universities leave off :—the new courses will be post-graduate : new specialist courses, which are post-garduate will naturally be professional and technical rather than simply liberal: A School of Sanitary Science and Practice for qualified Medical men, a School of Pedagogues for those intending to be higher secondary teachers; (Inspectors, Head- Masters, &c.) and a School for higher Technical studies are some of the obvious reductions of de- velopment. (4) It is not proposed to take up all these at once. The order in which they may be proceeded with will be best arranged by a Committee. It is not intended to cut off post-graduate students from education in Europe ; it is contemplated to select the best for further training in Europe or Amer- ica with a view to their further return to this country. (5) It will be necessary to make ample provisions for scholarships and fellowships both for the students in the Institution and for those who proceed from it to Europe or America. (6) The development of a scheme so complex must entail a vast capi- tal and annual expenditure. The construc- tion of libraries, laboratories and museums— the invitation to specialists to teach and prose- cute research, all this must require large sums of money. (7) To secure the necessary financial sup- port by making a general appeal for funds, and to take the preliminary steps in connection with the scheme, and to obtain a short legislative enactment enabling the Ditute to hold property, certain gentle- men will be in ed to form themselves into a Provi- sional Local Committee.—*Advocate of India.*

THE reader is aware of the particulars of the Negapatam Missionary case in which Mrs. A. Thomas and a bible woman were charged with kidnapping an unmarried Hindu girl. The first accused was let off some time ago. We now hear that the bible woman has been convicted by Mr. H. J. Stokes, Head Assistant Magistrate of Negapatam, and sentenced to simple imprisonment till the rising of the Court and a fine of Rs. 25. There is no doubt of it that the accused has been most leniently dealtwith, considering the gravity of her offence. Such cases, though they originate in the interests of the missionary cause, does incalculable harm to it. But missionaries, though inteligent men, seem to lose sight of this simple fact in their over zeal or rather because they have little to do.

THERE is again some unrest in Jandol. It was hoped that the Nawab of Dir and the Khan of Nawagai had come to an agree- ment on the lines suggested by Major Deane, but apparently factional considerations have been too strong and both the Nawab and the Khan of Nawagai have entered the valley with their following. Negotiations are proceeding and there has been no fighting so far, but there is the possibility of a collision. The Khan of Nawagai had been engaged in attacking his old enemy, the Khan of Pashat, and, when the Nawab heard that Pashat Fort was on the point of being taken, he moved down to Barwa and creat- ed a diversion which had the effect of drawing Nawagai into the Gambri Valley.

FEW men in this country are better or more favo- rable known to the drug and medicine trad than Mr. E. J. Schall, buyer in the proprietary medicine department of the Meyers Bros., Drug Co., St. Louis. He says: "My boy come home from school with his hand badly lacerated and bleeding and suffering great pain. I dressed the wound and applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm, freely, all pain ceased, and in a remarkably short time, it healed without leaving a scar. For wounds, sprans, swe- lings and rheumatism, I know of no medine of prescription equal to it. I consider it a household necessity." Sold by

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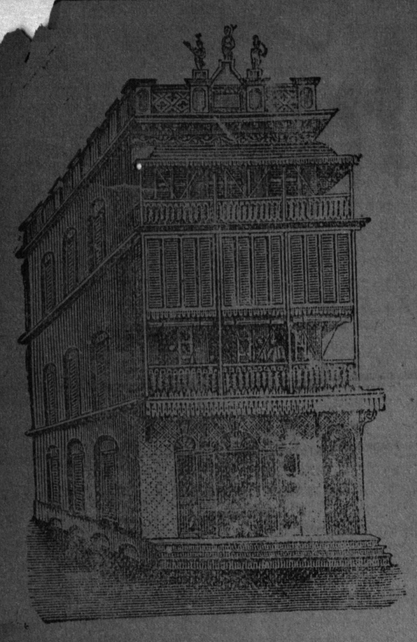

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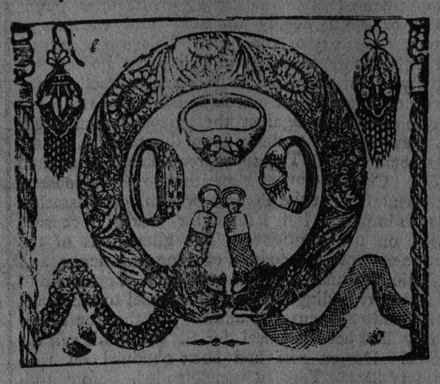

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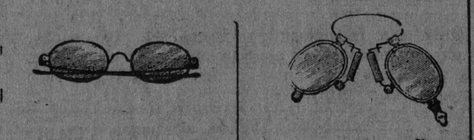

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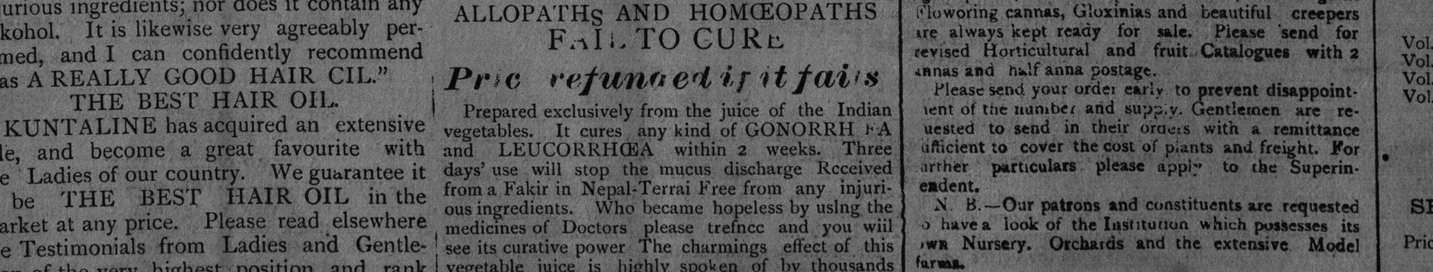

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