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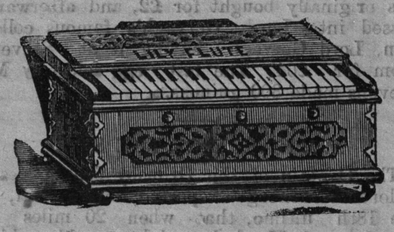

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THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

THE CASE OF PARLA VILLAGE.

Gyantse, June 1.

Mr. Henry Newman, special correspondent of the "Englishman" writes in his paper:—

Every morning at four they (Tibetans) fire off Big William, as we have learnt to call their boss gun. The shot is apparently a signal for the jong garrison to awake, arise, for presently we hear all manners of noise. Little Billies are fired off, there is a blowing of horns, and shouting.

"And down the loaded air there comes,
The thunder of Tibetan drums
And droned Om mani padmi oms."

Having solemnly cursed the British camp and all that therein is, the Tibetans set about the business of the day, which is to sit behind their cannon, and jingals, and Lhassa rifles, and snipe with unwearying patience at every head and bent back they see. Sniping with cannon is not usual in war, but the Tibetans have not the slightest hesitation in letting Big William go at a single figure seen for a moment in the distance.

At the same time, as I have indicated in my telegrams, we have little to fear from Williams, whether Big or Little, or from all the jingals mounted in a row, long row. The bullets come buzzing and swishing among the trees and against our traverses, but we have learnt the value of cover and it is only by the merest accident that a man or animal is ever hit.

If the Tibetans only remained in the jong, we would be content to take our chances and let them blaze away for ever. But unfortunately their General, whoever he is, is a man of some resource and energy. He conceived the idea of investing us more closely, and to this intent occupied villages on our flanks and rear. Not only that, he began to fortify positions quite close to the camp. Hence the necessity for those sorties and sallies and the consequent loss of life.

A FIERCE STRUGGLE.

The fiercest struggle of the campaign took **place round Parla village, where the Tibetans held out for no less than fourteen hours, and** where our losses would have been most lamentable but for the extreme care with which the operations were conducted. Indeed it is a question whether we would have taken the village had the old style tactics been adopted, had we rushed at the first breach with fixed bayonets, trumpets blowing, and all the rest of it. As it is, of the six officers who accompanied the storming party four were hit. Not only were many of the enemy armed with rifles, but several even produced revolvers when it came to the final and inevitable rush.

Parla village, which consists of about twenty stone-built houses in a maze of intricate courtyards, lies some nine hundred yards to the right of the camp. A wall, nearly four hundred yards long and five feet high, was thrown out from the jong towards the village in one night. Besides, through binoculars, signs of activity appeared in the village. Loopholes appeared in the walls of the houses, and the muzzle of one big gun at least could be plainly discerned. It was clear that the village had to be taken.

Accordingly at half-past two on the morning of the 26th, Colonel Brander led out a force consisting of two ten-pounders, the two seven-pounders attached to the 8th Gurkhas, two companies of Pioneers, one company of Gurkhas, and a company of Sappers and Miners and one maxim. The night was pitch dark and no little difficulty was experienced in getting the troops to keep touch, but so stealthily did we move that the whole force was in position and the first breach had practically been made before the enemy was aware of the attack.

It had been thought that only the left portion of the village was held, but the noise of the explosion had barely died away, when a blaze of fire opened from the roof of every house.

The party which had made the breach rushed through, but found itself in a courtyard with no exit. The remainder of the assaulting force was obliged to seek cover close under the walls of the houses. In the meanwhile the guns, posted on a height overlooking the village, turned their attention to the jong, which was pouring a furious fire on friends and foes alike.

When the sun rose, many Tibetans exposed themselves on the roofs of the houses, calling to our men to come on, uttering yells, and dancing in derision and fury. This fantastic display, however, was soon checked by the Maxim and troops forming the escort to the guns. Hours passed, whilst we could do no more than fire into the loop-holes occupied by the enemy. At ten another breach was made by the Sappers in most gallant fashion, Captain Sheppard, who was in charge of the party with the explosives, displaying the same courage and coolness under fire which has won him so great a reputation on the Pathan frontier. He was ably supported by Lieutenants Garstin and Walker. The former was shot through the head later in the day. The latter received a severe wound in the face, from a stone which was toppled on to him. Of the officers with the covering party, Captain O'Conor, and Lieutenant Mitchell were hit, both with rifle bullets.

At eleven we made a third breach, but in all three cases it was found that the wall torn down only gave entrance to one house, the firing from the others continuing as furiously as ever.

At midday it was decided to fire shells into the middle of the village, where most of the enemy were congregated, and Captain Luke who had charge of the seven-pounders made some magnificent shooting.

Shortly afterwards occurred the most dramatic incident of the fight. Some fifteen men mounted on black mules and followed by about forty warriors on foot dashed out from the Jong along the covered way already mentioned in an attempt to reinforce. But they had to cross about five hundred yards of open ground, and only one man was able to cross it alive, for the party came under fire both of the troops and guns on the hill and of a Maxim located in the Mission compound.

The failure of the attempt to reinforce made the defenders in the village lose heart. Their fire slackened. Some jumped down from the roofs of houses and were shot. In two hours we made four more breaches, and by two o'clock the village was ours, though isolated firing from Tibetans in holes and corners was kept up till dusk.

RANGOON CROWS.

MUNICIPAL EXTERMINATION.

At the last meeting of the Rangoon Municipality the question of the destruction of crows and crows' nests came up for discussion. In accordance with a notice of motion the Hon'ble Mr. Wilson moved: (1) That immediate steps be taken to reduce the number of crows that at present infest the town, and to prevent their nightly assemblage in any spot where they are reported as causing a nuisance to the residents of the neighbourhood; (2) that adequate measures be adopted in future to prevent their annual increase by the systematic destruction of all nests during the breeding season; (3) that a statement showing the action taken and results achieved under the foregoing resolutions be laid before the committee at their next and every subsequent monthly general meeting.

The hon'ble member's remarks proved of uncommon interest from more than one point of view, and we make no apology for printing them in full. He said:—It has been remarked that life would be tolerable but for us pleasures. We might well say that Rangoon would be tolerable but for its crows. I think you will all admit, gentlemen, that the Rangoon crow has now attained to the dignity of a public nuisance, and I hope you will go further and agree with me that the time has come when that nuisance should be abated. Some months ago I represented this matter to the executive and suggested that the President should take action under Section 163 of the Burma Municipal Act and Local Department Notification. No. 10, of the 18th of January, 1899, my idea being that two or three reliable men—soldiers for choice—should be employed, of course under suitable restrictions—to shoot off as many of the birds as might be necessary to reduce their numbers to reasonable limits, a plan adopted periodically, I believe, in Calcutta and various other places in India. My letter was submitted to the Commissioner of Police, who in his reply states that, as a police officer, the suggestion naturally appeals to him, which on the face of it seems eminently satisfactory, but from the context I am afraid we must assume that this is merely a little joke of the Commissioner's, for he goes on to say that the only suggestion he has to offer is that crows should be dealt with as habitual criminals, and be called upon under section 565 of the Criminal Procedure Code to disclose their habitations, and that in the event of non-compliance, those habitations should be raised to the ground. (Laughter.) Now to the first part of this suggestion. I imagine no serious exception will be taken. I think I might even venture to predict that no one is likely to object to the offenders being called upon to disclose their habitations, provided the notices are not issued at municipal expense. Should there be no response, I gather from the Commissioner's letter that we may proceed to pull down such habitations as we can find—they seem to have a crastic way of dealing with property under the Criminal Procedure Code—but I venture to point out that whatever success may attend our efforts in this directi[on] the criminals themselves will still rema[in at] large, a result which I should have imagined would appeal to a police officer, even less than their execution by the only method that seems at all feasible. It will be observed that the Commissioner's letter is not devoid of humour, but as an aid to the solution of our difficulty I am afraid that it leaves a great deal to be desired, though it apparently led to a half-hearted crusade against the offenders for a week or two in April, when a few nests and young birds are reported to have been destroyed together with 310 eggs, a number which the maternal birds in my neighbourhood alone would cheerfully produce any spring morning for breakfast while their spouses were preparing the matutinal meal. (Laughter.) With this result the municipal employes were seemingly content, for by the end of April the nests were as thick as ever all over the town, and I cannot help thinking that the men deputed to the work must have been sufficiently impressed with the latitude allowed in dealing with the property of offenders under the Criminal Procedure Code. (Laughter.) But there is a more serious side to this crow question, gentlemen. I could speak to you of sick rooms from which the fresh air of the early morning, so essential to the patient, has had to be shut out, because of the unbearable clamour that entered with it, and I have often wondered how many illnesses in Rangoon have been complicated and recoveries retarded by the same cause. Even though one be strong and well, there would appear to be no reason why one should patiently suffer more ills than flesh is naturally heir to in these latitudes. I am aware that crows are looked upon by most people as valuable scavengers. That they may do a certain amount of good I am not prepared to deny, but I doubt if the mischief they do as disseminations of fifth has ever received the attention it deserves. I shall hardly be accused of exaggeration when I assert that there is not a refuse heap, dustbin or conservancy cart in Rangoon safe from their depredations, or whose contents are ever allowed to reach their proper destination infact. Think of the amount of filth thus redistributed in the course of the twenty-four hours. Perhaps some of you, like myself, may at one time or another have been puzzled to account for the presence of small fish in way side ditches, say at the top of Kokine Hill or some such unlikely spot. The explanation, of course, is that spawn has been carried there on the feet of birds from some lake or river, by whose margin they have been wading in search of food. Has it ever occurred to you how easily disease germs might be similarly conveyed and deposited in our drinking water, or elsewhere, by crows fresh from their daily struggle for existence in the fetid abominations of Lanmadaw or Poozoondaung? Undoubtedly myriads of such germs are being continually disseminated in this manner, with results which it requires no very vivid imagination to picture. That crows are not essential to the conditions of oriental existence is clear from the fact that in many comparatively healthy eastern towns they are particularly unknown, while it hardly needed the recent epidemic of plague—an essentially filthy disease—in Bombay and other crow-infested cities of India to show that their presence confers no immunity from the penalties that always wait on faulty sanitation, when carried beyond certain limits. Here in Rangoon it is a matter of common knowledge that the number of crows has increased enormously in recent years. If they were the efficient substitutes for defective conservancy that some people would have us believe, surely some corresponding improvement ought to be visible in the health of the town. But I find from our official records that whereas the death-rate per mille for the five years ending with 1897 was 31.91 for the five years ending with 190. (the latest figures available) it was 33.34. So much for the scavenger theory. Of course it may be claimed that our conservancy department under a succession of competent and energetic health officers, and a municipal committee not quite lost to all sense of its responsibilities, has been deteriorating at a rate with which the crows could not keep pace; but I venture to submit to you as a more reasonable hypothesis that the crow is much less a public benefactor than is generally supposed, and that if we escape any of those evils, apparently inevitable to the conditions under which we live, we owe it not to the dubious advantage of the ubiquitour presence, but to the benign and purifying influences of old Soi and Jupiter Pluvius, which we shall continue to enjoy, crows or no crows. It may be as well, however, to explain, that I do not contemplate the utter extermination of what some anonymous wag in the local Press was recently pleased to term "our feathered friends," but I desire to see first a very marked diminution in their numbers; next their dispersal from the favoured haunts where they are at present allowed to congregate night and day to the distraction of everybody residing or having business in the neighbourhood; and finally, the prevention of their annual increase by systematic destruction of all nests during the breeding season. The particular method by which these results are to be attained appears to be a matter for arrangement between the President and the Commissioner of Police; but if you see fit, gentlemen, to endorse my proposals, I have no doubt it will be possible to devise some means of carrying them into effect. I shall be glad if some gentleman will now do me the favour of seconding the motions that stand in my name.

Mr. Wilcox seconded, and in doing so recounted his experience of the nuisance. He said he had the misfortune to live in No. 50, Barr Street, some years ago, and it was almost impossible of an evening to hear one's self speak on account of the very great noise made by the crows, to say nothing of the stench that came from under the trees. Some members of the committee might remember the time when the latter part of Barr Street near its junction with Dalhousie Street was uninhabitable on account of the nuisance caused by the crows. The destruction of crows and of crows' nests commenced as far back as the time when Mr. Harvey was Secretary of the Municipality, and he had been under the impression that the destruction of nests and young crows had been going on with the same vigour as prosecuted by the late Superintendent of Conservancy, Mr. Riddock, who was very keen on the destruction of the birds' nests. Mr. Riddock did it in earnest, and the result was that perhaps 2,000 or 3,000 nests were destroyed annually and as many young crows and eggs. At that time there seemed to be a marked decrease in the number of crows. Alluding to the crow nuisance in 1875, 1876, and 1877, Mr. Wilcox said that it was almost impossible to pass round the Sute Pagoda of an evening. People had to fight shy of it on account of the numbers of crows that used to infest the neighbourhood, and went along Merchant Street via Godwin's Road to Cantonments. He thought the effect of Mr. Wilson's proposal would be to confer a real boon on the people of Rangoon.

Mr. Buchanan asked the health officer two questions: firstly, was the crow a scavenger; and secondly, was the crow a disseminator of disease?

Captain Gilbert, with some hesitation replied that crow as a scavenger was practically useless. There was no probability of getting rid of various kinds of refuse in town. On the other hand the crows gave the conservancy department a deal of trouble by constantly spreading the collections of filth collected together on the roadside where it was probably left. As regarded the question of whether crows were disseminators of disease, he did not know of any instance in which crows carried disease into places, but he should imagine it was possible.

Mr. Durban observed, comparing what had been done this year with what had done in previous years in regard to the distruction of crows' nests, that the health officer's department had been very remiss. He remembered that thousands of eggs were destroyed formerly and not a few hundreds of young birds. The crows came into town because there was something to feed on. He thought that if the roads were kept cleaner they would find less crows in town. The fact of the matter was that a proper system of cleaning the roads was not adopted. He quite supported Mr. Wilson's idea of diminishing the number of crows, but he nevertheless could not help thinking that it would be a very difficult thing to do. The health officer's return, submitted by his subordinates this year on the destruction of nests and eggs, was a very poor one. He suggested that the municipality should employ a separate establishment for the work of removing nests found in roadside trees and in the public parks, and people be invited to give them permission to enter private compounds for removing the nests.

Mr. Buchanan suggested that small reward per 100 eggs be paid.

Mr. Stephen drew attention to the fact that as the Penang and Straits Governments wanted crows, they should derive municipal revenue out of the trade of exporting crows to those two provinces, instead of destroying them. He remembered seeing an advertisement the other day in which a Parsee gentleman was advertising for 6,000 crows (Laughter.)

Mr. Wilson's proposal was then voted for and was carried by a majority of 10 against 7.

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Interesting Items.

POICE-PROTECTED NESTS.

In a holly tree barely five feet high, standing immediately in front of the Police Station of Portmadoc, Carnarvon, there are two nests with eggs in them, one that of a tomtit and the other that of a blackbird. It is the most public place in the town, and the nests can be easily touched by the hands of the passers-by. The birds, however, fly to and from the nests as undisturbed as if they instinctively realised that they are under Police protection. Even the presence of the thousands who passed to the Wild West Show recently did not seem to affect the birds in the slightest. The whole town is exhibiting a lively interest in the nests.

GREAT AUK'S EGG SOLD FOR 200 GUINEAS.

One of the finest for colour of the 74 known eggs of the extinct bird, the great auk, was sold on the 19th ultimo by Mr. J. C. Stevens at his sale rooms for 200 guineas. The egg was originally bought for £2, and afterwards passed into Lord Garvagh's famous collection, Lord Gorvagh buying it at Stevens' room for £64. The last egg sold by Mr. Stevens made 300 guineas.

A MYSTERY OF THE SEA.

The Captain of the Grimsby fishing vessel "Florence Heneage" reported, on arrival, on the 18th ultimo, that when 20 miles off Flamborough Head, he sighted a big ship's life boat with sail up. There was one man on board, and when the fishing boat got alongside, he tried to jump on board. Unfortunately, he missed and fell into the sea. Nothing more was seen of him. The name on the lifeboat was not discernible.

WOOD PIGEONS' NEST ON A WINDOW LEDGE.

A correspondent to the "Field" says:—A pair of wood pigeons have built a nest in one of the window-boxes on the fifth floor of a large block of flats on Chelsea Embankment. They began building on the 14th April, and on the 17th April two eggs were seen, with two twigs carefully laid between them, presumably to protect them from breakage. On the 30th April the henbird commenced picking feathers from the neck of her mate and lining the nest with them. One day, when the pigeons were away, two sparrows commenced pecking at the eggs. The writer drove them away by making a noise at the window, which is now kept shut so as to leave the pigeons undisturbed. When the hen pigeon came back she sat as if wondering who had touched the eggs, and for a moment it looked as if she intended flying away, but she settled down again.

THE SOLDIER-SCARE IN BANGALORE.

A "Resident" writes to the Mysore paper:—

I am given to understand that the Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Bangalore, told the deputation that waited upon him to represent the grievances of the people on the above question, that the Commanding officer could be relied, and that there was no reason to fear anything, especially as the Durbar had posted constables to watch the place.

Mr. Dalavai is a born nobleman, who has come in contact with only gentlemen of the rank of the commanding officer whom he referred to. How many people in this province and in the presidency of Bombay have not known or heard of General Gatacre and of his extremely sympathetic desposition? Surely Mr. Dalavai does not want us to believe that the pack of the soldiers who are usually recruited from the low and ignorant classes, have any comparison with officers who are all gentlemen.

And then what has Mr. Dalavai to say of the Pariahs who are the servants and followers of these soldiers? Does he also give these a certificate of character?

I should like to see Mr. Dalavai live "incog" in a ten-rupee house, if not in a poorer one, to watch the misdeeds of these pariah servants in broad day light, in spite of his boasted police guard.

Has he heard how these Pariah servants are terrifying the meak and gentle Brahmin women, when the male members of the household are away, and are scraping away the grass from their compounds, and looting their modest vegetable garden?

Basavanagudi was not infested by robbers hitherto and the houses, nine out of ten of which are without a compound wall, never felt the insecurity as they have been now experiencing.

Again Mr. Dalavai Devaraj Urs, did not think it necessary to consult the principal inhabitants of the extension, before issuing his permit to the Military authorities for camping out in close proximity to high caste Hindu quarters; but has he heard how Brahmin women (even the wealthiest of them), who are on occasions compelled to go to tanks for a bath are now being terrified by some of the soldiers and their Pariah servants? I appeal to His Highness the Maharajah and his high minded Private Secretary to save the high caste Hindu women of Basavanagudi by showing to the soldiers a better suited place for encampment.

Poor people have not been getting their daily supply of milk, curds, etc., owing to the fear that the soldiers' camp has created in the minds of the poor villagers. Relief is more urgently needed and people will bless His Highness for granting them such relief.

—His Highness Raj Rana Bhawani Singh of Jhalawar, attended by Major R. A. E. Benn, C.I.E., has arrived in London from India, and is staying at the Alexandra Hotel, Hyde Park Corner.

PAINS IN THE STOMACH, like toothache, are not dangerous, but decidedly unpleasant. Persons who are subject to such attacks will be pleased to know that prompt relief may be had by taking a dose or two of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by

* Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool [illegible]

A CASE UNDER THE PLAGUE REGULATIONS.

At the High Court before Mr. Justice Stephen the case of Ram Lall Mistry vs. R. T. Greer came on for hearing.

The plaintiff, who is a contractor and landholder, sued the defendant, Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, and as such acting as a Magistrate under the Plague Regulations, for the recovery of Rs. 9,200 under the following circumstances:—It appeared that the defendant on the 21st of January, 1902, served on the plaintiff three notices under clause 14 of the Plague Regulations that certain structures belonging to him situate in Juggomohun Mullick's Lane and Madhub Kristo Sett's Lane should be demolished within a fortnight, and in the event of the plaintiff not effecting such demolition, the defendant would have the same demolished. Plaintiff then pointed out that two of the structures situate at Madhab Kristo Sett's Lane partly consisted of masonry, and cost him Rs. 3,200, and after complaining of the hardship involved in their destruction, agreed to accept Rs. 3,200 by way of compensation for the same. The defendant in a letter dated the 29th of January, 1902, stated that certain valuation made by the Assessor to the Corporation of Calcutta was fair and reasonable without disclosing what that valuation was, and also stated that the amount of the said valuation would be paid after the demolition. It appeared that a somewhat protracted correspondence ensued in the course of which the defendant never disclosed what the valuation was, and never paid anything to the plaintiff, although the threatened demolition was taken in hand under the defendant's direction taken purporting to have given under the provisions of the Plague Regulations, and threatened to demolish the two structures at Madhab Kristo Sett's Lane. The defendant without making payment of Rs. 3,200 first completed the demolition of the structure at Juggo Mohon Mullick's Lane on the 28th of April, 1902, for which the plaintiff claimed Rs. 6,000 as compensation, and on the 7th of May 1902, commenced the demolition of the two structures at Madhab Kristo Sett's Lane, without, it is alleged, any sufficient legal justification. The plaintiff under the circumstances claimed Rs. 9,200 by way of compensation for the three structures.

The defendant in his written statement admitted having issued three notices on the plaintiff under the powers conferred on him by the Plague Regulations, after being satisfied that the structures mentioned were dangerous to the public health. The defendant further stated that he caused a valuation of the structures to be made by the Assessor to the Municipal Corporation before they were demolished, accordingly to which the value of the structures amounted to Rs. 1,140-3-3 altogether, but he did not pay the amount of the said valuation as compensation to the plaintiff before the actual demolition of the structures in accordance with the usual practice in matters of extreme urgency. The defendant stated that he did not order or cause the destruction of any portion of the structures which he was not legally empowered to do.

Three points were raised in this case on behalf of the defence,—first, whether the Epidemic Diseases Act protected the defendant for the act done or omission made by him; second, whether the defendant is personally liable to pay; and third, whether the decision of the defendant as to compensation was final or not.

His lordship held with regard to the first point that the defendant was obliged to pay adequate compensation under the Regulation and his omission to pay was not covered by Section 4 of the Epidemic Diseases Act. Regarding the second point, his lordship said that the Regulation directed that the Chairman as Magistrate under the Plague Regulation should pay, and that being his opinion, the suit could not lie either against the Secretary of State or against the Corporation, and it must be against Mr. Greer as Chairman and Magistrate under the Plague Regulations, and he must pay, whether he pays from his own pocket or not, did it not matter. There is a provision in the Regulation that after payment he would be entitled to get it from the Municipal funds, but so long as it is not paid he must pay personally. Then as regarded the third point, his lordship said that in tht Regulation or in the Act, there is nothing which constitutes the Chairman as a tribunal to decide as to the compensation to be paid. Therefore the plaintiff not having received adequate compensation, had a right to come to Court for the recovery of adequate compensation. The question of facts stood over to enable parties to come to a settlement if possible. The matter was allowed to stand over for a fortnight.

call for German liners and other ocean traffic will take place, in which Lord Curzon will take a prominent part as chairman of the harbour board by virtue of his office of Lord Warden. Lord Curzon will be accompanied by Lady Curzon. The two days' festivities will be on an extensive scale, including an international banquet at which representatives from France, Germany, and Belgium will be present.

On Monday afternoon a sad drowning fatality occurred on the Rangoon river. The Customs House launch No. 2, whilst going alongside the steamer Irrawaddy capsized and sank. All the crew were saved with the exception of Inspector Peters, who disappeared below the water with the launch and whose body has not been recovered. Nothing has also been seen of the launch which is expected to have got stuck fast below some cargo boats alongside. Inspector Peters was an old officer in the Preventive Service.

A DANGEROUS DISEASE.—Every one knows that cholera morbus is one of the most painful and dangerous disease known to humanity. The fact that it is so swift and so often fatal in its results makes it more to be feared than almost any other malady. It often terminates in death before a physician can be summoned or medicine procured. Attacks of cholera morbus come unexpectedly and every family should be prepared. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is a **reliable and effective medicine, and if given in time will prevent serious consequences. This remedy never fails and is pleasant to** take. Every household should have a bottle **at hand. Get it to-day. It may save a life. For sale by**

* **Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta**

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE 16, 1904.

THE WATER-SUPPLY CIRCULAR.

When the Lieutenant-Governor, in the above circular, quotes the very words of Mr. Secretary Baker, uttered by him in 1899, to the effect that there was scarcely a village in Bengal which had not its tank or wells sufficient to meet the water requirements of its inhabitants, we are bound to accept that he did give utterance to them. His Honour, however, does not mention the occasion when Mr. Baker was led to make such a statement It is also not clear from the circular whether or not an enquiry on the subject was made by the Government of Bengal in 1899, and that upon the results of such an enquiry was the assertion of Mr. Baker based. If such an enquiry was really instituted, the public had, however, no knowledge of it. What we believe is that there was no enquiry made into the state of water supply in 1899, and that Mr. Baker's statement was founded upon the results of the so-called enquiry held in 1896 by the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to which we shall refer in a future issue.

But, if Mr. Baker had said that there was sufficient water in almost every village, he also made a different statement, if not directly, but by implication, in the same year, namely, 1899. On April 15, 1899, the two following questions were asked to Mr. Baker on the subject of drinking water in the Muffasil by the Raja of Nashipore and Babu Narendra Nath Sen respectively:—

I. "Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the general outcry of "water" in the interior of the country as reported in the columns of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 6th April? Will the Government be pleased to state what steps it proposes to take to remove the long-felt want of pure drinking water in the Muffasil?

II. "Having regard to the fact that the supply of drinking water in the towns and villages of the Muffasil being both inadequate and impure, specially in the hot season, has been the cause of a chronic state of ill-health and periodical out-break of cholera, will the Government be pleased to state what steps, etc."

Mr. Baker answered both the questions together, and his reply was as follows:—

"Government is well aware of the importance of securing an adequate supply of good drinking water both in towns and villages in the Muffassil.

"Attention was drawn to the matter in the Resolution on the working of District Boards during 1894-95 in which it was laid down that by way of making a beginning, every District Board should expend not less than Rs. 5,000 a year for the improvement of water-supply, either in the digging or improvement of wells or in the excavation or restoration of tanks to be reserved for drinking purposes only. It was suggested that the aid of voluntary committees might be called in, as had been done in Noakhali, or that the allotments might be distributed in the form of grants-in-aid of village funds.

"At the same time every District Board and Municipality was required to make a kind of water-supply survey of the area under its jurisdiction, and to prepare two registers showing the existing sources of supply of every town or village containing more than 100 houses, together with information as to the purity or otherwise of every tank, well or stream and its ownership.

"It was also explained to all Local authorities that loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act of 1883 would be freely granted for the construction of wells, tanks, and other sources of supply and suggestions were made for the use of cheap tube-wells where local conditions were suitable.

"Some progress has been made under these orders. The expenditure incurred by local bodies on account of water-supply during the past three years has been as follows:—

Years	Spent by Municipalities	Spent by District Boards
1895-96	Rs. 43,536	Rs. 51,975
1896-97	,, 19,448	,, 98,903
1897-98	,, 51,308	,, 1,39,770

In the questions put to Mr. Baker on the 15th of April stress was laid on two points: (1) inadequacy, and (2) purity of drinking water. Mr. Baker, however, did not at all deny the fact that the supply of drinking water was inadequate. On the other hand, he tacitly accepted the correctness of the allegation made in the questions, namely, that the supply of drinking water was both impure and inadequate. Nay, he did more. He said that every District Board was instructed to ascertain two facts by a kind of water-supply survey, namely, (1) the existing sources of water-supply in every village containing more than 100 houses; (2) the purity or otherwise of every tank, well, or stream. And he further said that, "some progress has been made under these orders," that is to say, some information on the subject has been gathered. All this Mr. Baker said sometime in the third week of April, 1899. May we enquire of the Lieutenant-Governor when, in the course of the same year, did Mr. Baker change his views, and state in a positive manner that, there was no foundation in the complaint that, the supply of water in the rural tracts was inadequate? Was this declaration made *before* or *after* his reply quoted above?

We have to submit another question to the Lieutenant-Governor. From the reply of Mr. Baker, quoted above, it will be seen that the Local Government was pleased to record an order in a Resolution that, every District Board should spend *at least* Rs. 5,000 a year for the improvement of water-supply. Special attention of the District Boards was drawn to this order by a circular of the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, in which, referring to the amount of Rs. 5,000 a year, it was stated that the amount "is very small when compared with the urgency of the want and the extent of the area to be served." The order was reiterated by the Government of Sir John Woodburn for the first two or three years of his administration when in 1900 Mr. Baker urged a strange ground why the order could not be carried out.

In short, in spite of the Government order that, the annual expenditure of Rs. 5,000 by the District Boards for the supply of drinking water was "very small when compared with the urgency of the want and the extent of the area to be served," the Boards neglected the injunction in an outrageous manner till in 1899-1900 only three Boards having spent the maximum amount of Rs. 5,000, though that was the minimum sum fixed for the purpose. Mr. Baker in 1900 was obliged to give the following extraordinary explanation as to why the order was not carried out. "The only reason I can give," said Mr. Baker as Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal in 1900, "is that the resources of the District Boards have been unequal to the task. The resources of many Boards were exhausted in dealing with the famine, and they have not had funds to spare for works of this description," that is to say, the improvement of water-supply.

It then comes to this. The duty of the District Boards—the custodians of the Road Cess Funds—for the supply of drinking water, was formally recognised in a Government Resolution in 1894-95. It was further admitted that, each Board should spent at least Rs. 5,000 for excavating tanks and sinking wells within its jurisdiction. Another admission was made with regret that the amount was too small for the great need. Mr. Baker, however, came to state in 1900 that, the resources of the Boards were crippled by having had to meet the famine expenses; and hence they could not spend any money for water-works.

Now, what we beg to submit is—Is the Lieutenant-Governor aware that it is a clear misapplication of the Road Cess Fund to devote its proceeds for the purpose of meeting famine expenses? That being so, will His Honour ascertain the amount thus misappropriated and make it over to the Boards to improve the supply of water in their respective jurisdictions? Our second request is that, when it is the primary duty of the Boards to supply water to the villagers Sir A. Fraser, should, like Sir Alexander Mackenzie, issue a circular directing each Board to spend at least Rs. 5,000 for the improvement of drinking water. And, our third request is that, he should be pleased to withdraw his recent circular, and institute a thorough inquiry into the question, whether or not, there is sufficient water to be found in every village during the hot season.

A POPULAR HISTORY OF THE ROAD CESS.

The history of the Road Cess in Bengal is only a narrative of wrong, rather of a series of wrongs,—one wrong after another being done to the people of this Province, breaking distinct pledges of a sacred character. The Government which disposes of the Cess Fund with a free hand should know its actual position. In the permanently-settled Province of Bengal, the Government cannot legally or morally impose a Cess upon land. This the authorities knew; but they are always in an impecunious condition and sadly in want of money, and land was the only thing in Bengal that they could tax. So they proposed a Cess upon land in the beginning of the seventies of the last century.

The people of Bengal objected; and the Government found that it could not impose a Cess upon land without committing a flagrant breach of faith. So a very good plan was devised by them to remove all objection to the measure. They said that the Cess was imposed by the Government for the benefit of the people, and not for that of the Government. The Duke of Argyll, the then Secretary of State for India, declared in a long despatch that the proceeds of the Cess would be placed absolutely at the disposal of the Cess-payers.

In short, the authorities supported the measure on very excellent grounds. They said that if the Government had imposed a Cess for its own benefit, then it would have committed a breach of faith, but it was doing no such thing. It was only helping the people to help themselves. The Government proposed to offer a purely disinterested service to the people by imposing a Cess and collecting a fund for them. By this measure the people would be able to inaugurate most necessary local reforms by digging canals and tanks, and constructing village roads. Even in Ireland there was such a measure, said they; and the people of Bengal had certainly no reason to complain if the Government provided for them a way of raising some money for spending it for the improvement of their rural tracts.

The contention of the authorities, in short, was this: the Cess imposed would be small, the maximum being 2 pice per rupee, which of course would never be reached under ordinary circumstances, and it would thus cause no hardship. The proceeds, besides, would be placed at the absolute disposal of the Cess-payers.

When this was announced the people hailed the measure with delight. They saw local self-government looming in the horizon. Nay, they went to the length of suggesting that if the proceeds of the impost were placed at the absolute disposal of the payers, the Government should give the latter the power of imposing it!

With such charming promises the measure was inaugurated. Indeed, at one time, it seemed that the Government intended to carry out the terms of its promise faithfully; for it was provided that the District Board should be composed of members, only one-third of whom should be officials, and the rest non-officials.

The temptation of appropriating the Cess Fund, however, proved too great, and the Government succumbed to it. Bear it in mind that two pice was made the maximum rate of the imposition, the maximum which was never to be availed of except under extraordinary circumstances. But alas! the maximum rate was imposed from the very commencement of the measure, and the Government since then has never relaxed its grasp.

The devices adopted by the Government to take control of the proceeds of the Cess were clever. The managers of the Court of Wards though appointed and dismissed by the Government, were adjudged "non-official," and in this way popular majority of the District Boards was maintained!

The Magistrate was made supreme, and the Cess Fund a Government property, by later enactments, and the Board itself was rendered into a Government institution! Gradually, highly-paid European and Eurasian Engineers were maintained by the Cess Funds, and the interests of the people absolutely forgotten. And whenever the Government needed money for its own purposes, encroachment was made upon this people's fund without remorse.

The Road Cess paved the way for the imposition of the Public Works Cess. The pretence that the cesses were imposed for the benefit of the people had then been given up and was no longer necessary. The proceeds of the P. W. Cess the Government appropriated in the way a lion does a deer,—it swallowed the thing entire! How, we shall explain.

The people derive some direct and palpable benefit from the proceeds of the Road Cess. But the 45 lakhs or more realised from the Public Works Cess, is appropriated entirely for Provincial and Imperial works. Then, here was a beautiful arrangement. The cost of collecting the Road Cess was borne by the Road Cess establishment. Would it be believed, the cost of collecting the Public Works Cess also was fastened upon the same Road Cess? And thus the P. W. Cess was collected without cost. Was not this a fine move? We had the disagreeable duty of exposing this excellent device of the Government, and subsequently the Government did take some steps to remove the scandal.

And why was the Public Works Cess imposed? It was done to make up the losses of the Company which had constructed the Orissa canal and failed. They wanted to make money by the project, but the speculation proved a permanent failure. The Government, therefore, purchased the business and made the people of Bengal bear the losses and in the shape of a Public Works Cess.

After incessant efforts we succeeded in inducing the Government to compel each District Board to spend at least Rs. 5,000 per annum to supply the people with drinking water. Now this is practically withdrawn, and the Zemindars and the local public are asked to dig tanks. And thus the excellent story of goddess Kalli and her devotee is justified!

THE "UNEXAMPLED LIBERALITY."

In going to prove the "unexampled liberality" of British rule in India, Mr. Risley practised, no doubt unconsciously, a few tricks upon himself and the public he addressed. Some of them we have already noticed, though the most important has yet to be mentioned. We have seen that he began by laying it down that [illegible]s of the soil have no claim to the higher posts, that is to say, those inside the corpse d'elite. How he could say so with the Queen's Proclamation before the world passes our comprehension.

Another principle he lays down is that there are posts which the Indians are not competent to fill. Now, this is a proposition which is still more extraordinary. Fancy the contention that there are duties which a "Poor White" or a Eurasian can fulfil but not an educated Hindu! Is not this absurd in the extreme?

One point is constantly urged to prove the incompetence of the Indians to fill posts of responsibility. It is this that highly intellectual though they be, they are not to be trusted to manage a riot or face an angry crowd. This allegation, if true, which it is not, only goes to prove that the natives of the soil are not competent to serve as Magistrates, either of Districts or Sub-divisions. But as the Indians have been already trusted with such appointments, and they have given evidence of their efficiency as executive officers, the allegation has no value whatever. It should also be remembered that riots and violent crimes are very rare in this country. Surely officials in the Opium or the Telegraph Department have not to face angry crowds: why have then Indians been excluded from there?

Let us examine the most important trick that Mr. Risley has been unconsciously led to practise to establish his point. To prove the "unexampled liberality" of the Government, he takes into account only the civil appointments under the control of the Government of India. But there are other appointments which are as valuable as those enjoyed by Civilians,—appointments maintained by the Indian tax-payers, and from which the children of the soil have been thoroughly ostracized. In short, the native of India is nowhere in the Military Department. England is as vitally interested as, or perhaps more interested than, India in the maintenance of the Indian army, yet she bears no share of the cost required to keep up the huge military establishment in India. It is this Military Department alone which swallows one-third of the entire revenue of the Empire, and yet those who raise this revenue have no place in it!

The contention of Lord Curzon, which Mr. Risley has dutifully taken upon himself to support by statistics, is that, no alien Government was so liberal to its subjects, in regard to public appointments, as the British rulers in India have proved to be. But, we see, in this very country, the Mussalman sovereigns not only entertained the Hindus as military officers, but gave independent commands to Hindu generals. We have an example of this in the Province of Bengal itself. This Province and a part of the United Provinces were wrested from the hands of the Moghul Emperors by Maharaja Protapaditya of Jessore. The Emperor sought to recover the Province and sent general after general without success. In this manner the Moghul armies were annihilated by the Bengalees in twenty-six pitched battles under the direction of Shankara, the Commander-in-Chief of Protapaditya. Despaired of success the Emperor sent Man Sing, and it was he who, by treachery, succeeded in entrapping Protapaditya, the King of Bengal, and extinguished the independence of the country. Here we see that the British Government is not so liberal as the Mussalman Government was; for, the latter appointed a Hindu as Commander-in-Chief to re-conquer Bengal.

Mr. McMinn shewed the other day, by facts and figures, that the Hindus were treated by the Mussalman rulers far more generously than the British Government is doing now. But Mr. McMinn was scarcely fair to the Mussalmans. People want service under Government for two purposes,—for its fat pay and the authority it carries. Under Mussalman rule every big Zemindar enjoyed sovereign powers—more powers than the District Magistrates do now. And almost every Zemindar was a Hindu. In short, under Mussalman rule, the Hindus practically governed themselves. So, it did not matter much if the Hindus were not largely appointed into the public services by the Imperial Government.

But now, under British Government, the people possess no authority or very little. They cannot even appoint the village watch, who is practically their private servant and whom they have to pay. Yes, we have now some Indian Magistrates in charge of districts. But their number is infinitesimal, and they cannot exercise their authority in the way their European brethren do. Every Indian District Magistrate is, practically, but a subordinate of the European District Superintendent of Police, though the latter is his subordinate.

The case then stands thus. The Indians have no place in the Military Department of their own country. They have no place in the higher offices in the Civil Department. Even the vast majority of the civil appointments, carrying Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,000 per month, are in the possession of the Europeans and Eurasians. On the other hand, as we pointed out the other day, Akbar gave 44 or 11 per cent., of the highest appointments under the Moghul Government, some of them being Civil and Military Governorships, to the Hindus. There is, again, not a single Zemindar under British Government who has sovereign powers. But, every big Zemindar under Moghul rule possessed sovereign powers, and employed his own men to govern his estate, and thereby provided the people with innumerable posts.

If, with these facts before the world, Lord Curzon claims that as regards the appointment of the Indians, the liberality that the British Government has shown has no parallel, all that we can say is that, His Excellency is bold, bold to recklessness.

We object to the water-supply circular on the following grounds:—

1. Mr. Baker was misunderstood by His Honour.

2. If he had uttered the words attributed to him he himself was misinformed.

(3). If he had actually said that there was an adequate supply of water, but not of pure water, we think that is enough to prove the contention of the people that they suffer from water-famine, for unwholesome water is poison and not drinkable.

We are glad to learn that His Honour has read the voluminous literature on the subject of water supply in the villages. It seems, however, His Honor has failed to take note of the most important point in this controversy. It is this that the Government imposed a cess and promised to remove the water-difficulty by its proceeds. The matter also may be viewed from another stand-point. It is this that when the Government imposed this cess, it promised to place the funds entirely at the disposal of the people, so the position that the Government now takes is not tenable.

There was a time when officials, subordinate or superior, conscious of the exalted position they held, tried to secure respect for themselves from the people of this country by their sayings and doings. Magistrates extorted respect not only by the enormous powers they enjoyed under the law, but also by their high character. A Magistrate is nothing but the governor of the district under his charge with almost absolute power; and realizing the awful responsibility of his position, he tried to show by his acts that he deserved the position he held. But how can a Magistrate hope to be respected, or for that matter, by the Government itself which maintains him, if he, forgetting his responsibilities, acts like a party man, availing himself of the powers he enjoys to crush a man whom he does not like? The world now knows the story of Mr. Carey and Bibhuti Shekhar. It is on record that the latter offended the former by writing against him in some newspaper; and we see the Magistrate subsequently instituting case after case against him,—(some of which have already been proved to be frivolous)—the inevitable result of which would be the ruin of that young man. It may be all due to over-zeal and a desire to do away with corrupt subordinates, but it is impossible to persuade the public to believe in that way.

Just read the story told to the High Court by Shyamanand Das Peharaj, the particulars of which were published in these columns a few days ago. He is a respectable Zemindar of Balasore, and what he related apparently made a strong impression upon the Hon'ble Judges. He stated on oath how case after case was instituted against him by the Magistrate, how bail was refused which was at once granted him by the appellate court, &c. But, in order to form some conception of his misery, the reader must go through his petition before the High Court in which he alleges how he was harassed and persecuted pitilessly by the Magistrate. And is it for this that District Magistrates are vested with enormous powers? If any Magistrate has no work and knows not how to kill time, let him organize hunting parties or musical soiries; but let him not play ducks and drakes with the honour and liberties of human beings—men who are under his protection, and absolutely helpless at his mercy.

As we said, Magistrates were previously respected, because of their high character; but how many of them are now respected on that ground? Are not many of them "respected" now, because of the brute-force that they possess? The High Court is doing its duty manfully. In this case of the Balasore Zemindar, the Hon'ble Judges remark that the action of the Magistrate was "injudicious." They ought to have expressed themselves more strongly, which, we trust, they will yet do when they dispose of the Rule; and that for the good of the Magistrate himself and his brethren, over-zealous like himself. In one Magistrate is censured publicly for his unjustifiable vagaries, it benefits not only the erring official, but also the whole service. The case also demands the serious attention of the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour will gradually come to see that, unless he puts down with a strong hand the arbitrary doings of the District Officers, it will be impossible for him to prevent them from creating many scandals. Mr. Egerton, the Magistrate of Balasore, alluded to above, when he was the Magistrate of Murshidabad, four or five years ago, turned that district topsy turvy by his high-handed doings, which we may relate in a subsequent issue to show that he belongs to that restless class of officials who cannot do things quietly.

There is some stir in Bengal just now, because of the two or three vacancies in the Local and Imperial Councils. The institution of the expanded Councils—the gift of the Dufferin Government—is now a farce, a delusion, a snare. The Government might have easily made these bodies a source of real help to themselves and the people of the country. But the rulers are not willing, it seems, to give the latter even a shadow of political power. Their position might have been made more respectable and their work more easy, if they had surrounded themselves with leading men of the country, and consulted them on all important occasions, specially before undertaking measures affecting the interests of the country. But such is the feeling of exclusiveness that pervades almost all members of the ruling classes, that they will rather commit gross blunders than take advice from the children of the soil. There is no doubt that Sir Andrew Fraser is an ardent and sincere well-wisher of the people. Even he did not think it worth his while to consult the leading men of the country before introducing his Local Self-Government Bill, or issuing his water-supply circular.

It is a wonder why our leading people seek a seat in the Councils at all. Of course, in the beginning, it was believed that a representative member of Council would exercise a good deal of influence over its deliberations; but that delusion no longer exists. Then again, the sittings of the Councils, in Bengal at least, have been practically done away with; for, a legislative session, as a rule, its on two or three occasions during the whole ear. No one should take the responsibility of legislation upon himself under such circumstances. Surely, it should hurt the pride of our leading men to enter the Legislative Councils as figureheads! They can do no service to the country; they can scarcely do any service to themselves. The elected members tried their utmost to save the representative Municipality of Calcutta from the murderous blow aimed at it. But they did not succeed. And, because, the Municipal administration in Calcutta was reduced to a farce that the representative Commissioners resigned in a body. It is thus inconsistent on the part of our leading men to seek election, when there is a vacancy in the Councils, knowing full well they would thereby convert themselves into mere dummies.

There is one serious disadvantage under which really independent members of the Councils labour. To be of some use, they must part with their fearless independence; for, the Government will not tolerate it. It is by interpellations alone that the members can do some service; but, they are sure to run the risk of being snubbed if they ask questions regarding the vagaries of District Officers; and yet it is the protection from official oppressions and high-handedness that the people need the most. The independent members have therefore to content themselves by interpellating the Government only on such subjects as are non-political.

The case of the Barisal officials vs. the ticca-ghari driver, the particulars of which have already appeared in the "Patrika," has advanced one step further. The accused, as the reader is aware, preferred an appeal to the Sessions Judge against the sentence of three months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 passed on him by a local Honorary Magistrate. The result is, Mr. Temple, the Judge, has upheld the finding of the lower court. The appellate court believed that there was a light, and the ghari was not in the middle of the road. One wonders how, under the circumstance, he could confirm the severe punishment inflicted upon the poor man. The case ought to go up to the High Court on principle; for, if poor people are thus ferociously punished for having come into collision with the local authorities by pure accidents, then consternation is bound to overtake every district of Bengal. When the Magistrate and the Assistant Magistrate of Barisal were the complainants, and a hackney-carriage driver the accused, it was extremely injudicious to have the case tried at Barisal by an Honorary Magistrate. And is it not monstrous that a man should get three months with hard labour and be ordered to pay a fine of Rs. 50 for merely causing simple hurt to a man, however high his position may be, by an accident? We attach a good deal of importance to this case; for, it shows how the administration of justice, instead of being a boon, is becoming a curse to the people. May we hope that, Sir A. Fraser, the protector of the poor, will be pleased to send for the records of the case?

We have received copy of a petition submitted by the inhabitants of Khulna to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, praying for clemency on behalf of Wahad Ali Howaldar, who has been condemned to death, and the particulars of whose painful case have been published in the "Patrika." It is only on very rare occasions that the apathetic people of this country are moved to appeal to the Government for mercy to people who they think have been unjustly sent to the gallows. Of course, when a respectable man is sentenced to be hanged, the circumstance may create a stir in society. But who cares to enquire whether Habu Shaik or Wahad Ali has been condemned rightly or wrongly? Certainly the spectacle of the public, approaching the Government as it has done in regard to the Khulna murder case, is so unique that we do not remember to have seen half-a-dozen such cases in our life. Wahad Ali was condemned to death on the alleged charge of having poisoned his two children. The assessors were unanimously of opinion that he should be acquitted. And why should they be so unless they believed in his innocence? The Khulna public are so thoroughly convinced of his innocence, that they have approached His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for clemency. In the ably written memorial, it has been clearly shown that the story told by the prosecution is almost incredible. It is said that the accused made his two children eat the flakes of an orange and thereby poisoned them. It might have been possible for him to poison the baby in that way who was seven months old. But how could he possibly poison the other child, a girl seven years old, in the same manner? The girl would have at once thrown out the flake of the orange if it had been mixed with aconite, which is extremely bitter in taste. But the most strange part of the affair is the finding out of the poison. It is alleged by the prosecution that the man had the aconite powder in a bit of paper which he left on the spot, where he sat and poisoned the children. This seems only a clumsy way of implicating the accused. The more natural supposition would be that his enemies had put the poison there for the purpose of im-

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plicating him. There is no doubt that the assessors and the Khulna public believe him to be innocent and we leave the matter to the consideration of His Honor. It should be remembered that the assessors and the local men are more competent to pass an opinion on the subject than either the Sessions Judge or the Judges of the High Court.

THE spectacle of sending a number of human beings to the gallows by many Sessions Judges from a mistaken sense of justice, is getting so common in this country that it no longer excites any horror in the minds of the public. The latest instance of the kind hails from Madras. Sinnya Gorenden and three others were charged with having committed the murder of one Nagaffa Gorenden. In due course, they were committed before Mr. Moberly, Sessions Judge of Madras, who convicted the accused and sentenced them all to capital punishment. The Mosaic law is tooth for tooth and, eye for eye. But here we see four men condemned to death for the murder of one. Of course, all the four men could not have given the finishing stroke, and here was evidently a difficulty for Mr. Moberly to find out the real murderer. But he managed to get over it by sentencing all the accused to death. The strangest part of the story is yet to be told. Mr. Moberly had no scruple to condemn all the accused to death, though he had to admit in his judgment that "the real reason for the murder was not apparent." An appeal was preferred to the Madras High Court, and fortunately, the Criminal Bench was composed of an Indian and a European Judge, namely, Mr. Justice Subramania Iyer and Mr. Justice Davis, and they set aside the conviction and sentence and ordered their release. The Hon'ble Judges thus commented upon the extraordinary procedure of Mr. Moberly in their judgment:

"They held that the identification of the prisoners by the prosecution witnesses, upon which the guilt of the prisoners depended, could not be relied upon; and that no mention had been made of any of the prisoners to the Station House Officer when the information about the occurrence was first given to him. They could not understand why the report of the crime, which had been made the same night by the village Magistrate of Sullerimbu, was not placed on record, and why the village Munsif and his informant were not examined as witnesses. If the report of the village Magistrate was true, it was conclusive that the murderers have not been known either at the time of information to him or upon his visit to the scene of the offence. The Munsif appeared to have been present at the inquest, when for the first time the prisoners' names were mentioned, and that would seem to have been 8 or 9 hours after the offence and after the arrival of the police. Those circumstances, their Lordships observed, were fatal to the prosecution of the accused, which depended entirely upon their identification. It had also to be noticed that the fourth prosecution witness, the brother of the deceased, who had seen the attack, was unable to recognise any of his brother's assailants."

And they concluded by saying:—

"It was surprising, that the prisoners had been convicted, without any reference being made to the points noted above, in Mr. Moberly's judgments."

Now, why should a Judge sentence a fellow-creature to be hanged when he could transport him for life? And why should he pass capital sentence upon several persons for the murder of one when the practice is looked down upon with horror in every civilized country, and specially when it is impossible to ascertain who dealt the finishing stroke? If these Judges believe in a just God, how would they explain their conduct before Him? For, there is no doubt they will have to render an account of their doings before the Father of all.

THE position of Mr. McSwiney, Sub-Divisional Officer of Karimgunj, in the district of Sylhet, is far from enviable. He has to live amongst the Sylhetees and everything around him smells of Sylhet. And yet nobody hates the Sylhetees more energetically than Mr. McSwiney does. What is more, he never makes any concealment of his inner feeling. The "Weekly Chronicle" has taken the trouble of compiling some of the sayings and doings of Mr. McSwiney to show how the people of Sylhet are hated by him. Thus, says our contemporary: "(1) In forwarding the application of a clerk Mr. Swiney is said to have remarked that the applicant seems to be pretty fair for a Sylheti who is pretty bad usually. (2) In disposing of an anonymous petition he observed that he could not take action on such a petition, specially in this District in which every second man is a liar. (3) In recording his opinion on the statement of a clerk in certain connection, the reference is again made to the inveterate lying habit of the Sylhet people, although the clerk concerned is not a native of this District." But, is it not a gross lie, that the Sylhet people enjoy the distinction of an "inveterate lying habit?" In disposing of two cross cases, immediately after recording statements under section 200 Cr. P. C., Mr. McSwiney remarked: "There is evidently a "marpit," but the injuries are slight for a Sylheti. Dismissed, under section 203 Cr. P. C."

THERE is another body of professional men, who are attracting too much kindly attention from Mr. McSwiney. It is the Mooktears, who have the misfortune to practise in his court. Here is a quotation from the "Chronicle":—

"The most astounding is the case of a muktear. Certain people of Barlika submitted an application recommending a muktear to be nominated as a member of the Local Board and the application being put up to the Sub-Divisional Officer, he tore it off in open court for reasons best known to him. The application, be it mentioned, was addressed to the Deputy Commissioner for submission through the Sub-Divisional Officer. Now, the same people submitted a fresh petition to the Deputy Commissioner which was referred to the Sub-Divisional Officer for opinion. Here Mr. McSwiney got his opportunity to vent his spleen on the muktears as a class and his observations are somewhat to the effect "that the muktears are a low class petty-foggers, having no professional morality and public spirit." Babu Nabin Chandra Kar, a leading muktear of Karimganj, was called upon to show cause why he should not forfeit the amount of bail on the non-appearance of an accused person in a case under section 107, Cr. P. C. The muktear showed cause whereupon the Sub-Divisional Magistrate passed order to this effect:—"The cause shown by the petitioner is nothing more than throwing on the mercy of the court. It is a practice here that the muktears stand bail for the accused for some sort of gain. The place is notorious for flagrant disobedience of court's orders."

We dare say, the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller will take prompt steps to put an end to this state of affairs. It is quite clear that Mr. McSwiney has made Karimgunj too hot for the people, who naturally look up to the Chief Commissioner for protection.

THE French author, whose testimony about English characteristics is quoted by our London correspondent, says:—

"The English have never placed a conquered people on an equality with themselves, nor have they any conception of the art of conciliating. They only know how to oppress them, make use of them, crush or destroy them."

It would be idle to deny that the above testimony is eminently correct. You will get nothing from English rulers by kneeling before them, or by calling them "good", or "enlightened," or all that. The process of emasculation has begun and the end in nigh. But that does not make the case of the Indians hopeless; neither does it prove that Englishmen are very cruel to the natives of India. The fact is, they treated their own people—the lower millions,—in the same way that they treat the Indians now. Nay, the lower millions in England are even now treated in many respects just like the Indians. They are, however, day by day acquiring privileges. If the Indians follow their methods, they may also secure many privileges. Says the French author:—

"English public men . . . regard it as their business to wait for outside pressure before they will do anything."

In that characteristic of Englishmen lies our salvation. If Englishmen will never do anything good of their own accord, they can not, on the other hand, resist constitutional agitation. Agitate properly and systematically, and you will get almost every important privilege under British rule. But the agitation must be real. There was some agitation the other day when Bengal was sought to be partitioned, and the Government has to pause and ponder. Never was an agitation more universal, more systematic and more sustained than the one carried on in regard to the Age of Consent Bill. The measure was no doubt passed—indeed, the authors had no help but to pass it; but, at the same time, an executive order was immediately issued by which the Act was rendered inocuous; and since then, the Government have never meddled with the social customs of the people. The Indians must try to help themselves; mere petitioning the Government will not help them. Is it possible that we have not even a dozen men among our three hundred millions who feel for their country, and who are willing to work on it's behalf and undergo some sacrifices if necessary?

It is very well-known that Sir A. F[illegible] hates useless expenditure of money in tamashas when he visits a district town. In this respect, he very much resembles Sir Richard Temple. What Sir Andrew generally does is to make no fuss when he goes out but pays a visit quietly to a town, and leave it as quietly, after inspecting the offices and other public institutions and gathering all necessary information, and, in this way, he saves the townspeople whom he honours with a visit from the usual taxation to which they are subjected on these occasions in the shape of public subscriptions, which are raised to meet the expenses of giving "His Honour a suitable reception." We dare say, His Honour will take the necessary step on reading the following letter which comes from Jalpaiguri:—

"The announcement of the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to this town was followed by a meeting to take steps to give a fitting reception to His Honour. It was attended by good many officials who passed a resolution to the effect that a large amount of money should be raised from the public for the purpose of decoration, illumination, and fire-works. You are aware that the people of this district are poor. His Honour's arrival would also be private. Why should then the public be made to waste money in this way, specially when the present ruler of Bengal dislikes this childish display of tamasha?"

Of course the officials are actuated by the best of motives; for, they cannot be blamed if they feel a desire to give a fitting reception to the ruler of the Province during his visit to their town; but, as it means hardship to the general public, we hope, they will manage economically and quietly when according their loyal welcome.

THE other day, a meeting of the District Board of Barisal was held to elect their delegate to vote for the forthcoming election of a member in the Bengal Legislative Council. And do you know who has been elected? It is Mr. Beatson Bell, who is not unknown to fame and who is now the Settlement Officer of Barisal. Our Barisal correspondent thus details the circumstances leading to the election of Mr. Beatson Bell:

"It was almost a forgone conclusion that Rai Dwarika Nath Dutt Bahadur would be appointed as the delegate. But it so happened that he fell ill. In the meantime, a strong rumour prevailed in the town to the effect that Mr. Weatherall had received a mandate from his master, the Nawab of Dacca, asking him to get himself elected as the delegate anyhow. This impression got further confirmation from the fact that Mr. Weatherall began canvassing for himself. As a great friend of the officials, he counted much upon their help. At the meeting of the District Board held for the purpose of electing their delegate, nineteen members, including the official Chairman, Mr. Jack, the officiating Magistrate, were present. After the proceedings were opened by Mr. Jack, Mr. Weatherall was proposed by Mr. Browne, a local Zemindar. Before the proposal was put to the vote, Mr. Weatherall was asked to say if he would like to go unfettered or not in the matter of giving his vote. His supporters tried to return him unfettered. The others objected to the arrangement. A division was then demanded and the result was as follows;—

In favour of fettering.
Babu Rajani Kanta Das, Municipal Chairman.
,, Promotho Nath Mukerjee, Vice-Chairman to the Municipality.
,, Jogesh Chundra Sen, Chairman, Sadar Local Board.
,, Bepin Chundra Sen, B. L., Vice-Chairman, Local Board.
,, Debendra Nath Dutt, Pleader.
,, Sarat Chundra Guha, M. A. B. L.
,, Protap Chundra Mukerjee, Editor, "Kashipur Nibashi."
Moulvi Assanulla, M. A., Deputy Inspector of Schools.
Syed Abidulla, Sub-Registrar, Perojpur.
Moulvi Obedul Gani, Hony. Magte., and Marriage Registrar.

Against.
N. D. Beatson Bell, Esq., Settlement Officer.
H. C. Weatherall, Esq., Agent, Nawab of Dacca.
Capt. H. Innes, Civil Surgeon.
R. G. G. Brown, Esq., Zemindar.
Moulvi Hemayetuddin, B. L.
Babu Keshub Chundra Roy, Manager, Court of Wards.
,, Akhil Chundra Roy, Deputy Collector.
,, Kali Kumar Roy, Deputy Magistrate, Patuakhali.

"So, the motion for fettering Mr. Weatherall was carried out. Then Babu Rajani Kant opened a discussion as to the merits of the several candidates. At this juncture, Mr. Beatson Bell left his seat, went over to the two Mahomedan members mentioned above, (who had already voted in favour of binding Mr. Weatherall) and whispered something into their ears. He then gave out that one of the two members, Syed Abidulla, did not give any vote. Taking advantage of his position as the senior official member and the helpless position of the official Chairman Mr. Jack, who was, only a few days before, Mr. Beatson Bell's subordinate in the Settlement Dept., he tried to carry everything before him by storm. He moved heaven and earth to have the resolution binding down Mr. Weatherall in the matter of giving his vote rescinded then and there. The result was a lively discussion. The opposite party said that a resolution carried out could not be revoked and the question could not be re-opened. Mr. Beatson Bell still persisted. The Chairman then came to the support of Mr. Bell. He cited a Parliamentary procedure in favour of Mr. Beatson Bell, his previous superior. At this stage, some members took courage and freely criticised the action of the two officials. They demanded to be guided by the rules in vogue here, and not by a Parliamentary procedure. One member alluded to the conduct of Mr. Beatson Bell in leaving his seat and whispering something to the Mahomedan members, and condemned it in very strong language. This had a wholesome effect upon Mr. Beatson Bell. He withdrew his opposition! Then happened a most strange thing. The discussion about the merits of the various candidates was not renewed. Neither was the proposal about the election of Mr. Weatherall as the delegate pressed. The proposal of fettering the delegate as regards his vote also dropped. The members who were to have elected Roy Bahadoor Dwarika Nath were so disconcerted at the attitude of Mr. Beatson Bell that they did not know what to do. At this time, an happy idea struck Rajani Babu! He proposed that Mr. Beatson Bell was to be the delegate, and the proposal was carried! So be it said to the credit of the Barisal people that they have performed a feat which I believe no other district has up to this time, been able to do, viz, they have elected a high official as their representative to elect a non-official member of the Council! As for Mr. Beatson Bell, it passes our comprehension how he could accept a position, which, as a senior official, he ought to know, he can not do without violating election rules."

Is there not a rule providing that not only should no official exercise any influence in regard to election matters, but that no official should allow himself to be elected as a delegate? If that be so, the Barisal Board have no right to appoint one as a delegate who is an official. If that be not so, it would be yet extremely injudicious, nay, indecent on their part, to appoint an official as their delegate. The Government has on more than one occasion expressed its deliberate opinion that these elections should be left absolutely unfettered by official interference. If the Barisal Board really appoint Mr. Beatson Bell as their delegate, they will bring discredit upon the whole business and we dare say Government will be obliged to intervene, as it has done on more than one occasion, under similar circumstances.

A Ceylon contemporary states as a strange circumstance and coincidence that all the clocks in the General Hospital at Badulla stopped at 2a.m. on 1st June, the hour at which Dr. Swan, who for many years had been in charge, expired.

At Benares the Lahore Khattris are exercised ever an incident. Some time ago one Ralla Ram went to Bombay and there embraced Islamism. His father Gopinath's persuasions failed. After some time Ralla Ram went to Amritsar, where he was reclaimed as an Arya and admitted by the "biradari" through the help of a Saraswat Brahmin. The rather from Benares went to see the son at Amritsar and dined there with his purified son. On Gopinath's return to Benares the orthodox Khattris of the town rose in arms against the father for the step taken and the commotion is the necessary result.

Sugar imports into India in April rose in value to Rs. 50 lakhs, from Rs. 35 lakhs last year. A remarkable feature which calls for explanation, says the 'Civil and Military Gazette" is the large recovery in imports of beet sugar from Austria and Germany. The Indian countervailing duties had practically killed this trade, but now that the cessation of the bounties has been followed by the withdrawal of the duties, the imports have risen, in the case of Austria from Rs. 31,001 to Rs. 23,86,403, and in the case of Germany from nothing at all to Rs. 80,785. It should be a point for searching investigation whether this upward bound owes its impulse to any hidden system of indirect bounty. The cane sugar countries show a falling off except in the case of Mauritius, where a rise from Rs. 14 to 21 lakhs has occurred. The imports from China have dwindled from Rs. 6½ to 1½ lakhs, for which there is an obvious explanation.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO ENGLISH TOPICS.

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(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, May 13.

A NOTABLE DECLARATION.

"The Phillippines are ours, not to exploit, but to develop, to civilise, to educate, to train, in the science of self-government. This is the path of duty which we must follow or be recreant to a mighty trust committed to us.

"The question is not, Will it Pay? But, rather, Will we do what is Right?

—Wm. McKinley, late President of the United States.

EVEN BETTER THINGS FOR THE FILIPINOS.

To the Indian patriot what, during recent weeks I have been saying in these columns concerning the United States official proposals for "practical independence," as the Hon. Elihu Root put it, must have been as a dream of a good time coming—for the Filipinos. The like prospects for themselves would to Indians, be as the opening of the gates of Heaven and the outflow of a glowing anticipation of national regeneration. But, it would seem as if even the wise and generous proposals contained in the Act of the United States Legislature, which I summarised last week, were not enough for some freedom-loving Americans. They want to do even better for the Filipinos than that. Not a few of the most influential people in the States are not satisfied with a wholly elected Lower House and a nominated Upper House. They want the Filipinos to have full power of election for both Houses. A movement is on foot for the presentation of a memorial to President Roosevelt begging that independence may be given to the Philippine Islands on the same basis as that given to Cuba. The signatures already obtained include the most thoughtful and learned of American citizens, as will be apparent when I state that already more than forty bishops, forty college presidents, and four hundred college professors, have signed the memorial. To the Committee which is carrying on the agitation Cardinal Gibbons and Mr. George F. Seward, late United States their own initiative. At present I have only meagre details concerning this movement. The full particulars are promised to me; as soon as they are in my possession they shall be made available for the readers of the "Patrika."

What is being done in the United States for the Filipinos could be done in the United Kingdom for the Indian people. Whether it will be done or whether it will be left undone, depends wholly upon the readers of this journal and their compatriots. It might be done easily and in quicker time if only one-twentieth part of the spirit now animating the Japanese were possessed by the people of India. What is the measure of that spirit? Listen to the words of the Commander of the Japanese cruiser "Asama." One of the expeditions for blocking the entrance to Port Arthur was being arranged. These were the stirring words with which their commander sent his brave seamen to what, in regard to some of them, was certain death:—

"In sending you off to certain death, I feel as if I am sending off my children. But if I had one hundred children I should be proud to send them all to such a noble mission. If you lose the right arm, use your left. If you lose your left arm, use your feet. When you lose your feet use your head. Obey the command of your officers. I send you to certain death. You must prepare for it. But I do not command you to die uselessly. Death is not the only glory of a brave man. This wine is not for whetting your valour. I give it you as medicine. You represent the glory of Asama. If it is said that the men of Asama went to death with the help of wine, we shall be ashamed. I wait for our reunion. Believe in our fortune of war.—Go! Trust to Heaven, and fulfill your mission with a light heart."

Then water was handed round to every man in a large silver cup. This is the ceremony of farewell in Japan. Water takes the place of wine. Tears gathered in the eyes of the brave fellows, but the band began the war song,—

"Advance with bravery,
You men of Keshi Tai (certain death party.)
Shut the mouth of Port Arthur
And blockade the enemy's ship
Make them feel like rats in a bag,
And we will get the mastery of the sea.
If Chemulpo, Tientsin, of China,
Will join Bushu (Japan) in Patriotism (Hokoku),
The world will sing of our glory (Buyo).
The gods of war will watch over brave men.
Stand firm, boys, advance with bravery,
You men of Keshi Tai!"

The play upon words of five ships that went to blockade Port Arthur; Tientsin, Jinsen (Chemulpo), Hokoku (Patriotism), Buyo (Glory), Bushu (Japan).

That is the spirit in which national freedom is fought for and is retained.

"If you lose your right arm, use your left.
"If you lose your left arm, use your feet.
"When you lose your feet, use your head."
"Trust to Heaven, and fulfil your mission with a light heart." This is the spirit which would regenerate India, and which, energetically exhibited would, before the 1st of January 1910, secure for India—not the complete Cuban independence, but the "practical independence," already ensured by Act of Congress to the Philippine Islands. Are there courage and foresight enough among Indians to enter upon the five years' campaign which would certainly end in victory?

POSSIBLE VICEROYS.

The feeling here in certain circle grows daily stronger that Lord Curzon will not serve a second term as Viceroy. It is believed that whether the Government remain in office or whether they are beaten in the House of Commons, Lord Curzon will remain in England. In the former case it is thought possible, some even say, probable, that the Marquis of Lansdowne will give up the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that Lord Curzon will succeed to that high, honourable, and onerous, post. If by any chance, or mischance, the Balfour Government should be defeated and the Liberals obtain power, Lord Curzon, of course, would not then return to India. This being the situation, people do not refrain from discussing possible Viceroys. On the Conservative side, that very poor creature, Lord Harris, the cricketing Governor of Bombay of a few years ago, is mentioned as a likely successor. The "Pall Mall Gazette" is—in the American political phrase—"running" this candidate. The circumstance that Lord Harris has just been received by the King, it says, has again set afloat the rumour that Lord Curzon will devote himself to political life at home and that Lord Harris will succeed him in the Governorship of India. There are many reasons for regarding the story as mere "gup," as they say in India; but on the other hand Lord Harris knows the country well, for he was an eminently successful Governor of Bombay from 1890 to 1895, and he had personally served a term as Indian Under-Secretary in Mr. Gladstone's Administration. Moreover, he has some hereditary association with the East for General George Harris, the first Baron, was colonel of the famous 73rd Foot, and was commander-in-chief at the siege of Seringapatam. Lord Harris is fifty-three; he married in 1874 the Hon. Lucy Jervis, daughter of the third Viscount St. Vincent, who did much to make his governorship of Bombay successful.

On the Liberal side the Earl of Crewe is the favourite. For myself, I doubt whether Lord Crewe would care for the position. If however, he or Lord Carrington,—the latter most distinctly, for choice—were to succeed Lord Curzon as Viceroy, India would experience a change not only in her ruler but also in the mode of rule to which she has been accustomed, a change which would not fail to be beneficial. The Viceroy you ought to have before all others is the Lord Carrington I have just mentioned. My belief is that if he would accept the office you would find him a stronger Lord Ripon, and in so far as he proved stronger than was that amiable, right-minded, right-thinking, and really noble, Viceroy, he would be the better ruler. It would not be easy for any man to be a better or a more beloved Viceroy than was the Marquis of Ripon, but I believe that Lord Carrington has it in him to be at least the equal of the best and most popular Viceroy India has ever known.

THE EXTREME WRONGNESS OF THE TIBETAN WAR.

One of the not inconsiderable number of friends of India, scattered throughout the United Kingdom, is Mr. Arnold Lupton, of Leeds. For a number of years I have known Mr. Lupton as a ready champion of the cause of the Indian people, as ready as any ardent Indian patriot could desire. To say that is to say a good deal; Mr. Lupton, however, deserves that it should be said. It is, therefore, quite in accordance with the fitness of things and altogether what was to be expected, to find Mr. Lupton, in the Yorkshire Liberal press, denouncing the war in Tibet. He considers that the Lamas and their followers are waging a holy war, for, he says, if ever a war is holy, it is that which a nation wages in defence of its own freedom. Further, to attack that freedom and to wage a war of conquest is undeniably unholy. Mr. Lupton puts the objections to the war so admirably that I cannot refrain from bringing his half-dozen reasons and arguments before the readers of the "Patrika," who may accept the assurance that there are many people in England who think as Mr. Lupton thinks. Here are the arguments against, and the objection to, the war, as they are discerned by Mr. Lupton:

1. It is an unprovoked attack upon a people who have done us no harm, and is, therefore, wicked.

2. It is a war which will arouse the suspicions and jealousy of the Chinese, the Russians, the Tartars, and will set an example of aggression to the French in Tonquin, to the Germans, the Japanese, and others.

3. The military position in Tibet is the worst possible for troops of the British Empire. Our troops in Tibet are separated from their base by mountains, hardly passable for small forces, and quite impassable for large forces and large supplies of ammunition and food. The mountains which separate Tibet from India are the highest in the world. It is not possible for us to maintain a large army in Tibet, and, therefore, our army there will be liable to be surrounded and destroyed. At present, the people are ignorant of the ways of modern warfare, and are armed with obsolete weapons, but shortly they will be supplied with modern weapons and experienced leaders, and disaster to us will follow.

4. The position in Tibet, considered from a geographical point of view, is far less tenable than our positions in Afghanistan in the wars we have waged with that country because there is no access to Tibet except over enormous mountains. In each of the Afghan wars we suffered a humiliating defeat, although our defeat in the second Afghan war is not generally known or recognised owing to the glamor attaching to the successful battles by which our retreat was covered.

5. The cost of the Tibetan war, no doubt, will fall on our Indian fellow-subjects, who have no voice or vote in the matter; but enormous areas of that unfortunate country are being slowly ruined by the taxation required to pay for these military campaigns and to a hundred millions of Hindus a full meal of good food is an unknown luxury.

As things have turned out, I may add, Lord Curzon has timed his visit to England very badly.

A BEAUTIFUL PATTERN SKILFULLY WOVEN.

An Open Letter to The Sister Nivedita of Ramkrishna-Vivekanand, on her new book, "The Web of Indian Life."

London, May 27, 1904.

Dear Sister Nivedita,

Because of the manner in which your wonderful volume, "The Web of Indian Life," which is to be published here in London on the 30th instant by Mr. Heinemann, has, by its insight, its charm, and its eloquence, taken hold of me, I propose to perform my duty as reviewer and critic in the unusual fashion of an Open Letter addressed to you—a Letter which will reach you first, in common with many thousands of others, in the columns of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika." I desire that, while your book should be read by many people in England, and by every Anglo-Indian, male and female, in India, it should especially come under the notice of the educated men and women who are proud of the fact that they are of Indian birth and nationality. No surer medium than that which I employ can so effectively realise my

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desire. You will, therefore, I am sure, pardon the unusualness of the course which I am adopting, and, with equanimity, receive this communication in print and from the newspaper publisher.

It may not have passed from your memory that, on the occasion when I had the pleasure of meeting you and of hearing you discourse on Indian matters—it was at the Sesame Club, in London—I remarked, in the discussion which followed, on the illuminating character of your observations. Your utterances, I declared, had for the first time made some phases of the Indian character real to me. In conversation and correspondence with such men as the sainted Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose, happily still alive, the late Jogendra Chunder Ghose, the late Rajendra Lal Mittra, C.I.E., Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, to mention a few only, I had formed certain ideas which left me with an indefinite realisation of what was put before me. Your address at the Sesame Club was a flash-light, instantaneously changing my twilight imaginings into broad daylight knowledge. I recall this incident, for, in my early reading of your book, I find the chief characteristics of your lecture writ large throughout its pages. That which, in Indian society seems to an outsider bewildering and strange becomes, through your delineation, clear and harmonious. The Indian people as you know them and as you present them to the readers of your book will, to the majority of English folk who thus form their acquaintance, appear as strange and as amazing as were the foreign people whom Marco Polo saw in the long ago when he travelled in the East. English people, who, having been fed for scores of years on missionary literature concerning the people of India and on the optimistic descriptions of "The Times" and of most other journals as to India, will, uneasily, ask themselves whether this new race of beings whom you talk about so freely can be identical with the sin-stained heathen, ignorant, stupid, essentially cruel, with whom, previously, they had been made acquainted. But, as they read your pages, carried from chapter to chapter with enthusiasm born of your graphic and eloquent expression, they cannot fail to become convinced that the real Indian man and woman, but especially the woman, is of the Margaret Noble variety and pattern. In so far as this proves to be the case you will not only deserve to rank among the greatest friends whom the Indian people have ever known, but you will legitimately take your place in a circle which is by no means large or overcrowded.

Your book has in it many of the characteristics of Mr. Meredith Townsend's "East and West"—with this difference: you write from intimate acquaintance with the people and tell of them as they are in their home life, you tell of them also with a complete and sympathetic understanding and appreciation of their point of view. Mr. Townsend, on the other hand, brilliantly generalises, guesses at random, and only hits the mark once in twenty shots, depending all the time for local colour on an India long out of date and non-existent. What is especially remarkable is that you, with a wealth of detail, are able to allure the reader as completely as does the older writer, whose work is mere impressionism. You leave a sense of satisfaction and full belief in the images you present which Mr. Townsend never achieves. To some of us this seems no small achievement on your part. You have done what no English woman, and assuredly no English man, has ever before done for India. Should ignorance as to the real character of the Indian home and of its inmates continue to prevail in England, it will be unpardonable. You have dispelled the mists of misunderstanding to an extent which I, after forty years of study of India and her people—mainly from the outside, being as Madame Saran Grand puts it, "mere man"—would not have believed possible. I knew, in a way, that all you felicitously describe was there, but I could not apprehend it. While I was reading the chapters entitled "The Eastern Mother," and "Of the Hindu as a Wife," I was thinking all the time of the stories which Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee told me in 1888 in Calcutta of his Mother whom, on a Sunday afternoon which I well remember, I was privileged to see, and of other Hindu women, for those stories were echoes of what you have written. Therefore, one of your countryfolk is satisfied that your testimony is true testimoney and may be implicitly accepted.

It is not only what you say but the manner in which you express it, which should go far towards making your book very popular. Take for example the paragraph on pages 76 and 77, in which you deal with the ascendancy of women in Southern India. The paragraph to which I refer is as follows:

> "The liberty of Madras and Bombay is, however, a reality for all its limitations. And in certain parts of the province of Malabar woman is actually in the ascendancy. This curious country of women learned in Sanskrit, and kings who rule as the regents of their sisters, will have many disclosures to make to the world when India shall have produced a sufficient number of competent sociologists of her own blood. It is commonly said to be characteristically pollyandrous; but it is not so, in the same sense as Tibet and some of the Himalayan tribes, for no woman regards herself as the wife of two men at once. The term *matriarchal* is more accurate, inasmuch as the husband visits the wife in her own home, and the right of inheritance is through the mother. Thus, far from India's being the land of the uniform oppression of woman by a uniform method, it represents the whole cycle of feminist institutions. There is literally no theory of faminine rights and position that does not find illustration somewhere within her boundaries."

If you had written nothing more on the subject than this, you would have done well, for, in that paragraph, is overthrown, once and for all, the mistaken ideas which are prevalent as to the enslavement of Indian women, a mistaken impression which largely arises from the sayings and doings of women medical missionaries. Again, on page 81, are some sentences which it is well to find on record, I quote a few of them:

> "And from the fact that every woman has her rightful place in some family, it follows that there is more healthy human intercourse with men in almost every Hindu woman's life than in those of thousands of single women, living alone, or following professional careers, in the suburbs of London and other Western cities. It is an intercourse, too, that is full of a refined and delicate sense of humour. Indian men who have been to Europe always declare that the zenana woman stands unrivalled in her power of repartee. English fun is apt to strike the Eastern ear as a little loud. How charming is the Bengali version of "the bad penny that always turns up," in,
>
> "I am the broken cowrie that has been to seven markets!" That is to say, "I may be worthless, but I am knowing."
>
> Deeply in love though you be with all that is distinctively Indian and anxious as you are to preserve that from the past which has been so useful in character-building, you recognise the adaptability of the varied races to change and—contrary to Townsend and Kipling—believe that the energy of the West can be transfused and become one with oriental civilisation, giving to that civilisation the driving force which it needs. You say:
>
> "We are in the habit of talking of the changeless East; and, though there is a certain truth in the phrase, there is also a large element of falacy. One of the most striking features of Hindu society during the past fifty years has been the readiness of the people to adopt a foreign form of culture and to compete with those who are native to that culture on equal terms. In medecine, in letters, in science, even in industry, where there has been opportunity, we are astonished at the intellectual adaptability of the race. Is the mere beckoning of the finger of the nineteenth century enough to subvert predilections as old as Babylon and Nineveg? we ask, amazed. By no means. Such changes as these are merely surface-deep. The hauteur of the East lies in the very knowledge that its civilisation has nothing to fear from the social and intellectual experiments of its youngsters, or even from such complete changes of mental raiment as amongst newer peoples would constitute revolutions of thought, for the effort of Eastern civilisation has always been to the solitary end of moralising the individual, and in this way it differs essentially from Western systems of culture, which have striven rather for the most efficient use of materials."

While reading the earlier chapters which deal with the people in their daily life—veritable cameos of character those chapters are—I thought I was at the high water mark of your achievement. But, when I came to the group of chapters, extending from "The Indian Sages" to "The Gospel of the Blessed One," I found that you were abundantly able to rise higher and higher. The insight here displayed the understanding of the innate righteousness of the religions believed and practised in India, and especially of religious symbolism, furnished the explanation as to how it is you are able to understand and describe the Hindu and Moslem inner life with such faithfulness. Everywhere you express your views with clearness and force, but nowhere more clearly or forcefully than in these chapters. Here is one example:

> "The passion for self must be destroyed in the thirst for service."

This is beautifully put. It reminds me of those lines of Myers' in his "St. Paul," which, no doubt, you will remember:

> "Never at even, pillowed on a pleasure,
> Sleep with the wings of aspiration furled,
> Hide the last mite of the forbidden treasure,
> Keep for my joys a world within the world;—
> Nay, but much rather let me late returning
> Bruised of my brethren, wounded from within,
> Stoop with sad countenance and blushes burning,
> Bitter with weariness and sick with sin."

Again, on reincarnation, you say:

> "There is a popular belief among Hindus that marriage is always contracted between the same two persons, and that the merit of either is divided equally with the other. However this may be, love at first sight—an occasional experience the world over!—is held as a sure proof of past friendship and acquaintance. Very perfect relationships, by which is meant, amongst other things, those that are complex in their quality, would be considered, in the same way, to be long-rooted. The religious life is one of the most fascinating subjects of speculation. It will sometimes happen that the stern ascetic in the midst of his austerities yields to, or, at least, harbours some vain desire. This is enough to precipitate him once more into the world, where his position and power will be exactly equal to the severity of his past renunciations. He may thus very easily become a monarch, and it is believed that a faint memory of the religious habit often haunts the throne. The great Akbar, of Delhi told of such a reminiscence in his own case. He had been a monastic novice, and had fallen in love! When sovereignty was exhausted, however, he would return to his prayers and gain freedom, without another fall. An impression of this kind about Queen Victoria was the real secret of the influence of her name in India—an influence, be it added, which would have been much deepened had she succeeded in abdicating some few years before her death, or order to devote the rest of her life to God."

While roaming among these chapters, testing one intellectual delight after another, I cannot refrain from bringing to the notice of those who may read this Letter what you have to say about the Dalai Lama in Tibet. I wish your charming little story could be printed in every newspaper in England. Here, just now, the Dalai Lama stands for the Devil reincarnated with all the so-called Imperialists and the Jingoes generally. Those who condemn what is being done to advance British interests in Tibet are "pro-Lamas," an even more scathing term than was the denomination "pro-Boer." Who, I ask, would not be a pro-Lama in the presence of so delightful a description of the Chief of all the Lamas, as thus told by you:

> "It is told of a certain Bodhisattva that, all his struggles done and illumination reached, he was about to pass over into Nirvana. But as his feet touched the threshold of sorrowful crying of humanity, then turned that great soul back from Nirvana and entered again into life, declaring that till the last grain of the universe had passed in before him, he would by no means go into salvation. And this Bodhisattva is he who sits on the throne of the Dalai Lama in Tibet, watching the world of men with eyes of divine pity from afar off. Called by various names, arrayed in widely-differing garb, we come constantly in Hinduism on the attempt, as here in the story of the Dalai Lama, to express the idea that in the great Heart of the Absolute there dwells an abiding charity towards men."

Space is denied me in which to quote all I would from your entrancing pages, and so I may not transfer to these columns the most beautiful story of the Brahmin and his wife and the Lord who came himself to fulfil the truth of his own saying:

> "They who depend on me, casting aside all care, whatever they need, I myself *carry* it to them."

The secret of all answer to prayer is contained in the phrase, "casting aside all care," or doubt. That "casting aside" of doubt as to whether the Lord can answer prayer, is not done by one praying Christian in a thousand, which, probably, is the reason why answers to prayer are so few and far between in Christian experience. On page 231 you say: "It is believed by Hindus that when great forces are in action on occasions such as those of battle and earthquake, a certain state of etheric vibration is produced," and you proceed to spiritualise the physical fact. I do not know anything about big battles, but I do know that the expression "etheric vibration," if the atmosphere be regarded as part of the ether, exactly describes what happens whenever an earthquake occurs. Recent scientific researches establish, I think, beyond peradventure, that the final determining cause of any and every earthquake is the reduction of atmospheric pressure over the area liable to disturbance, caused by a particular conjunction of sun and moon when their combined attractive power is at a maximum as described in the Newton formula. So it was in respect of the great Lisbon earthquake of 1769 and with the volcanic outbreak in Martinique in 1902.

I now come to the last chapter of your book, "On the Loom of Time." When I had concluded my perusal of it, I wrote this comment on [illegible] paper so that when I came to write my [illegible] one impression made upon me should not escape attention: 'In such a matter as is dealt with in this chapter, it is not merely what one writes but what one refrains from writing that is of importance." There are whole paragraphs in that chapter which, with all my heart I could wish were unwritten, or, at least, were unpublished. Written they might have been for a symposium for the reformers of all classes to consider, even the "political agitators who," you say, (hardly correctly, I think; certainly, I do not know them) "seemed to think that by entire deference to an alien idea their country would be saved." You admit that "political agitators" have made "a valuable contribution" to the bringing about of the renaissance of India which, in common with other reformers, you passionately desire. But, why could you not have refrained from writing the following sentence, or, having written it, why did you not put your pen through it?

> ".....The use of the word 'politics' in the present state of the country may strike some of us as a painful insincerity, while at the same time you regard the mastery and assimilation of foreign political methods—which are 'politics'—as an absolute necessity. Do you not see that such an expression, coming from your pen, is a cruel injustice to the workers in the political field? In it you provide a weapon for the myriad fees of all reform in India which they will not be slow to turn against such politicians as, for example Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, one of the two men to whom your book is dedicated. They will say: "Here is Sister Nivedita. No one can more deeply appreciate all that is good in the Indian character than she No one can love Indians more than she does. What is her opinion concerning the politicians, the Congressmen—the Dutts, the Humes, the Mehtas? It is this: that their advocacy is a painful insincerity." The enemies of Indian regeneration will overlook your reiteration that even the "insincere" politicians have contributed valuable features in the change you depict as necessary and, perhaps, imminent. Only your surprising,—may I say, surprising?—indictment will be remembered and turned to account.

Again, the economists, in the words of an English proverb which you will remember, will have "a crow to pluck with you." On page 298 you say:

> ".....but it can never be allowed that the whole problem is economic, grave as the last-mentioned feature of the situation undoubtedly is."

On a preceding page—p. 290—in a most eloquent passage, you describe the economic ruin of India in words that cannot be bettered. You say:

> "The process by which the peoples of a vast continent may become mere hewers of wood and drawers of water has already begun, is already well afoot. Their indigenous institutions are all in decay. Their prosperity is gone. Some portion or other of the immense agricultural area is perpetually under famine. Their arts and industries are dying or dead. They have lapsed into mere customers of other men's cheap wares.

If this be a true picture, and *it is a true picture*, then, I contend that, in the earlier stages of the Great Recovery of India "the whole problem *is* economic." It has been my melancholy business to establish the fact that, within the past thirty years, the average income of the Indian individual has greatly decreased: it is now only one-half of what it was at the end of the 'Seventies of the past century.' More: I have proved that while sixty millions of people have in a way benefited by British rule, one hundred and seventy millions have greatly worsened in their daily life.

Among that hundred and seventy millions, with whom insufficient clothing in the cold and rainy seasons and an unceasing hunger are chronic experiences, and *whose condition must daily grow worse*, under existing conditions of rule, of what use is the proclamation of the inner truths which you so beautifully expound? Only in a sufficiently nourished body can there dwell a mind which can rightly be attuned to the harmonies of the Unseen and the spiritual.

You have, dear Sister Nivedita, produced in your book a most beatiful and fragrant pot of ointment which might have served for the healing of the nations, had you not, with that touch of human infirmity which, after all, makes you kin with those who err fifty times where you err once, when your pot was nearly full introduced the fly (the "dead flies" as the old proverb hath it) which will, inevitably, prevent that book from achieving the great results it is, mainly, designed to accomplish. The "politics" and the "economics" did not thrust themselves in the way of your argument. You needlessly dragged them in. As Lord Melbourne used to say: "Why could you not have left them alone?"

I feel profound admiration few at least 290 out of the 301 pages of which your book consists, and a keen regret that the remaining eleven should have been published by you. Your views, as I have said, might have been discussed by you with reformers, political and economic, so as to ascertain whether an understanding leading to common endeavour could not have been found. But, to brand politics with an epithet and to push economics to the background, is not, in my humble judgment, to bring the new Heavens and the new Earth to the motherland of India and to her children—to the land and to the people you love with a love that is akin to the Divine Love for the sons and daughters of men.

I am, Your faithful Friend,
THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE
"AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA."

Calcutta and Mofussil.

—:0:—

Public Works Department.—Mr. W. B. Bucknill, Assistant Engineer, on return from the General (Education) Department is granted furlough, on medical certificate, for twelve months.

Idiom Examination.—An examination in the knowledge of English idiom and in pronunciation for teachers of English in native schools will be held at the office of the Inspector of European Schools on 5th July next.

New Telegraph Rules.—A number of minor alterations in the Rules for inland and foreign telegrams come into force on the 1st July. The alterations are detailed in a Circular just issued by the Inspector-General of Telegraphs.

L. G's. Tour.—The Lieutenant-Governor will leave Darjeeling by mail on Tuesday the 21st instant and arrive Rangpur on Wednesday morning. After dinner His Honor will leave the station by special train and arrive Jalpaiguri the next morning. On Friday morning His Honor will leave Jalpaiguri and arrive Darjeeling the same afternoon.

A Railway Conference.—A small Conference will shortly assemble to determine the point of junction between the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and the Mayurbhanja State Railway, and also to decide about the working of the Mayurbhanja lines. The Conference will be attended by the Commissioners of the Orissa Division, the Agent, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and the Maharaja of Mayurbhanja.

Additional Police.—In accordance with a proclamation dated the 15th December 1903, additional police were appointed for a period of six months in village Balla, in the jurisdiction of the Kalihati police-station, in the district of Mymensingh. The Lieutenant-Governor now declares that the proclamation shall remain in force, and that the additional police appointed thereunder shall remain quartered in the aforesaid village for a further period of six months, with effect from the 15th June 1904.

Registration Department.—Khaja Muhammad Munzur, Rural Sub-Registrar of Chandina in the district of Tippera, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Sherpur, in the district of Mymensingh. Maulvi Afsaruddin Ahmed, Rural Sub-Registrar of Kasba, in the district of Tippera, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Chandina, in the same district. Babu Jagat Bandhu Das, Joint Sub-Registrar of Comilla, in the district of Tippera, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Kasba, in the same district.

Earnings of Railways.—The Eastern Bengal State Railway traffic, with total earnings of Rs. 66,43,000 from the 1st January to the 28th May, 1904, shows an increase of Rs. 6,22,146 on the earnings of the corresponding period of 1903 (1st January to 30th May). The earnings of the late Brahmaputra-Sultanpur Branch Railway Company's line, which is now the property of the State, are included from the date of its sale (16th April 1904) in the main line earnings, but the improvement lies, it is believed, in the development of the traffic with Assam via Dhubri.

Bengal Weather and Crops.—Rain fell during the week throughout the Province, but was not evenly distributed. More rain is needed in Patna, but in Mymensingh the prospects of jute and aus paddy are reported to have been affected by excessive rain. Prospects otherwise good. Sowing of jute and aus paddy approaching completion, and that of other bhado; corps and of winter rice in progress. Sugarcane doing well. Cattle disease reported from 13 districts. Fodder and water generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in 10 districts, has fallen in three, and is stationary in the remainder.

Theft of Government Properties.—On Wednesday, Inspector P. N. Mookerjee of the Bhowanipore Thanna charged one Shaik Piru, a workman of the Government Telegraph Store before Moulvi Serajul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore with systematic thefts of Government properties. For the last two months there were systematic thefts from the yard of the Telegraph Store and suspicion fell upon the accused whose movements were carefully watched by the authorities and at last they were succeeded in arresting the accused while carrying some brass wires concealed in his person. The court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

Weather and Crops in Assam.—The following is a report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending the 7th June, 1904.—Weather hot. Rain in all districts, except Sibsagar and Manipur. Rain wanted in Upper Assam and Manipur. Ploughing for, and sowing of, early and late rice, plucking of tea, and sowing of cotton in progress. Planting of sugarcane still continues in Darrang, and Sibsagar. Prospects of tea, sugarcane, cotton, early rice, and jute generally fair, but jute and early rice damaged in Goalpara by late heavy rain. Cattle disease prevalent in five districts. Prices of Common rice—Silchar 17, Sylhet and Dhubri 16, Sibsagar 15, Gauhati, Tezpur, and Nowgong 14, and Dibrugarh 13 seers per rupee.

Plague Diary.—There were four cases and the same number of deaths from plague in Calcutta on Tuesday, the 14th idem, when the total mortality from all causes was 47 i.e. 10 less than the average of the previous five years.

F. E. Examination.—The undermentioned candidates have passed the F. E. Examination for the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur:—Bandyopadhyay, Girindrachandra; Dasgupta, Jitendrakumar; Starling, R. L.; Sen, Jagadischandra; Mukhopadhyay, Nagendranath; and Ray, Suranath.

President of the Next Congress.—We understand that provided the General Elections do not interfere, Sir Henry Cotton, K.C.S.I., late Chief Commissioner of Assam, will be very glad to come out as President of the Indian National Congress, to be hold during next Christmas in the City of Bombay.

The Cultivation of Science.—The Annual General Meeting of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science is to be held at the Association Rooms on Thursday the 16th at 5-30 p.m. Father Lafont, Vice-President, will preside and friends and members are invited to attend.

Alleged Unlawful Assembly, etc.—On Wednesday, before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, second Magistrate, the case in which Mr. Boisogomoff, a jute merchant, charged five Mahomedans, with being members of an unlawful assembly and caused hurt to the complainant, was resumed. After some witnesses had been cross-examined the case was adjourned.

Outrageous Conduct at a Bathing Ghat.—Bhuban Mohun Haldar was re-arraigned before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, second Magistrate, on a charge of indecent behaviour at the Juggernath Ghat. The Court Inspector Mr. Mahapatra conducted the prosecution. After some witnesses for the defence had been examined the case was adjourned for further evidence.

Defamation.—On the complaint of Mr. and Mrs. De Souza (son and mother), the Chief Presidency Magistrate issued a warrant against Mr. G. G. Radcliffe, of the Customs, only on a charge of defamation. The complainants, through their Pleader, Babu Kali Caran Palit, renewed their applications on Saturday against Mr. E. C. Baker, of the E. I. Railway, and E. Palmer, of the Legislative Department as well. The Court issued warrants against them.

Hony. Magistrates.—Babu Bejoy Chandra Sen is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Goalundo, in the district of Faridpur. The gentlemen named below, are re-appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Benches mentioned opposite their names; (district of Pabna):—Babus Dwarka Nath Chaki, Dines Chandra Roy, Jogesh Prasanno Bhaduri, Shahzadpur Independent Bench. Babu Hem Chandra Pal Ullapara Independent Bench.—(24-Pargauas) Messrs Thomas Whyte Clark and Andrew Small and Babu Shama Charan Bhattacherjee Bhatpara Independent Bench. Babu Sashi Bhusan Mooksrjte, Palta Independent Bench. Mr. Thomas Burns, Titagarh Municipal Bench. Babu Kedarnath Mukerjee, Sealdah Independent Bench.

Waylaying a Public Officer.—At about 8 p. m. on the 13th instant, whilst Babu Annoda Prosad Biswas, Sub-Registrar of Serampore, was coming back from his house at Chinsurah, with family in a second-class hackney-carriage, some up-country men numbering about a dozen, who lay in ambush by the side of the Grand Trunk Road near the Jute Mills at Champadanee, suddenly started up into view and with "lathis" in hand, gave a rapid chase, crying out "mar mar." One of the attacking party, in the attempt to stop the "garry," hurled a "lathi" in front of the horses and managed to lay his hand on the reins but the coachman used his whip briskly and succeeded in driving away the carriage and its occupants out of the reach of the miscreants. The chase was however continued up to a distance of one fourth of a mile and the Sub-Registrar having brought the matter in writing to the notice of the Sub-divisional Magistrate, the latter has ordered the Divisional Police Inspector of Serampur to make a prompt enquiry into it.

Life-Guards on Tram Cars.—Several of the motor cars and trailer cars of the Tramway Co. have up to date been fitted with Life-Guards to prevent accidents such as those which have recently shocked the public. Careful tests have been made with them and they have all been found to be properly fixed and fitted in accordance with the pattern previously approved. The Manager of the Tramway Co. reports that the efficiency of the Guards on the motor was practically tested last week in an accident which would assuredly have resulted in the death of a person who attempted to get on the car while it was in motion. He missed his hold and fell with the result that the curve of the Guard (of the motor) caught the man and threw him three feet clear of the car which is exactly the result anticipated. There are altogether 75 motor cars belonging to the Tramway Co. with the entrance at the end, 45 of which have these Life-Guards fitted on them and as the rate of progress is about 2 per day, the remainder of these cars should be completed in three weeks. There are still 106 trailer cars yet to be fitted with Guards. These at the same rate of progress should be completed in 9 weeks.

Foreign Trade.—For the month of May imports of foreign merchandise and treasure into Calcutta by sea were on a large scale in comparison with the same month of 1903. The total value is given as 380 lakhs, or an increase of 111 lakhs. Of this, fifty-five lakhs represent an improved value in general merchandise, and the balance is the result of larger receipts of gold and silver. Gold was imported to the extent of sixty-eight lakhs of which thirty lakhs came from South Africa: receipts of silver were valued at nineteen lakhs. Under general merchandise all articles participated in the increased value, with the exception of mineral oil, where the quantity fell off by over three millions gallons: from Burma also a smaller quantity came to hand. But under cotton goods, the total value was as much as 140 lakhs or an advance of 31 lakhs. Machinery, metals, railway materials and salt all exhibit a greatly enhanced trade. Under sugar the quantity of refined has risen from 53,256 cwt. to 227,742 cwt. with an increase in value of over fourteen lakhs. Imports of continental beet-root sugar have apparently commenced again on a large scale and represented 62,024 cwt. of the above quantity Java sent as much as 74,344 cwt., and Mauritius 68,524 cwt.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

A Fighting Co-wife.—On Tuesday, before Babu Gopal Chander Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore one elderly Mahomedan woman of Bastolla was charged with having seriously stabbed her co-wife. The husband of the accused recently married the complainant, neglected the former and was very fond of his newly married wife. The accused thought that the co-wife was the source of her unhappiness and misfortune. She therefore was seeking an opportunity of avenging herself on the complainant. One evening finding the girl sleeping alone in the verandah of her room the accused fell upon her with a sharp fish-knife in hand and gave several serious cuts on her person. The accused was sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

Partition of Bengal.—There is a rumour afloat that the proposed partition of Bengal which raised such a hue and cry all over the country, resulting in a great popular agitation against it, is likely to be partly stopped for the present; for, the separation of the Chittagong Division from Bengal, as might be expected, seems to have been decided upon, as is evident from the fact that the work of land-acquisition which was for sometime postponed has been taken in hand again. Of course the proposal of the separation of Dacca and Mymensingh, is, as it seems to us, kept in abeyance now. The mooting of the proposal again is only a question of time. Perhaps the creation of another Lieutenant Governorship is what has stood in the way of the division of Bengal at this juncture.—The "East" of Dacca.

A Woman Sent to Jail.—On Tuesday, before Moulvie Bazlal Karim, the third Presidency Magistrate, a woman was tried on a charge of having in her possession certain stolen property to wit ornaments belonging to one Shama Soondary. The facts of the case are these: Sometime ago, a burglary was committed in the house of the complainant woman and the burglars decamped with ornaments valued at Rs. 4,000. The police were informed but no trace of the accused was found. Lately some of the stolen ornaments were found in the possession of the accused who was once a tenant in the house of Shama Soondary. Inspector Baidya Nath Mukerjee, instructed by Babu Monoj Mohun Bose, conducted the prosecution. The Court on the evidence before it, convicted the woman and sentenced her to suffer 18 months' rigorous imprisonment.

Ugly Scene at a Bathing Ghat.—On Monday, a case was transferred to the file of the Honorary Presidency Magistrate, in which two low class Hindustani youths stood charged, by the police, with having outraged the modesty of two women of the town in Meerbahur Ghat whilst they were bathing. The facts are these: On Sunday last at about 9-30 a.m., two women of the town were bathing in the portion of the above ghat appertained for females. The accused were also bathing then. They took a dive and put their hands on the women's breast. The Jamadar of the Ghat arrested the budmashes then and there and made them over to the police. The examination of the witnesses for the prosecution over, the Court altered the charge to section 352 I.P.C. (assault) and sentenced the accused to pay a fine of Rs. 5 each.

The Tarekswar Mohunt Case.—Babu Rajendro Chandra De and others have instituted a suit in the court of Maharaj-Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb Bahadur, District Judge of Hooghly for the removal of the Mohunt Satish Chandra Giri and appointment of a fit person in his place and for a scheme for the proper management of the Debutter properties. The defendant has raised a plea that the plaintiffs have no interest to sue him as contemplated under the provisions of section 539 Civil Procedure Code. Babu A. C. Mitra and Babu Nil Madhub Mazoomdar appeared for the plaintiffs. Babu Mohendra Chunder Mitter, Government pleader of Hooghly and Moulvie Ejad Bux have been engaged on behalf of the defendant. The hearing of the suit commenced from Monday. It will drag on for some days. The case has created a good deal of sensation.

Medical Institutions in Bengal.—We cull the following from the Resolution Reviewing the annual returns on the working of the Medical Institutions in Bengal for the year 1903:—There was a decrease in the number of in-patients due partly to an improvement in the public health, but in spite of this there was a large increase in the total number of patients. Colonel Browne's remarks in regard to the more liberal supply of quinine and other febrifuges, to the impropriety of converting the hospitals into alms-houses, and pauperising the patients by not charging respectable people for diet while under treatment, and to the success of the floating dispensary in the Faridpur district and of visits of dispensary medical officers to local markets and fairs elsewhere, deserve the attention of the local authorities. Nineteen donations of an aggregate value of Rs. 3,19,500 are included in the list, and they constitute a record of which the Province has no reason to be ashamed. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals reports favourably on the work done by Civil Surgeons, and states that they have been conscientious and painstaking in the performance of the important duty of inspecting the various institutions under them.

The Mountain in Labour Produced a Mole.—Golapi, a fisher-woman by caste, is an inhabitant of Gobrapur, a village in thana Bongaon (Jessore). On the last Bengalee New Year's day she was found missing. After a fruitless but deligent search for a week her aunt lodged an information at the Bongaon thana. The thana people did not at first take any serious notice of the matter. A few days after this an anonimous letter reached the Deputy Magistrate of Bongaon, which disclosed that Golapi had been murdered by her paramour Hari Kundu of Garapota, a village contaguous to Gobrapur. The Sub-divisional Officer ordered for a police enquiry. The police now took the matter seriously in hand and on certain meagre evidence fastened the guilt upon poor Hari and asked him to furnish a bail of Rs. 500. Hari complied with their request readily, but avowed that he knew nothing of the murder and that the woman had not at all been murdered. Hari then, somehow or other, obtained ten days' time and after a careful search produced Golapi before the authorities and extricated himself from the greedy clutches of the police, who were meanwhile jubilating over their speedy success in capturing so clever a murderer. The Jessore paper says that the police are now trying to trace out the malicious scribe.

...et Market.—On Salt, Calcutta Collector of Customs has remarked that the incidence of taxation has remained the same throughout the year, though in the local Bazaar it was expected that a further reduction would be announced on the presentation of the last Budget. In salt from Europe there was a marked increase: from the United Kingdom the quantity imported rose by eight per cent., while from Germany it almost doubled. The price of Liverpool salt was lower: freights were also lower, and more space was available in the regular Liners from Liverpool owing to smaller shipments of cottons. On the other hand other foreign salts declined and to some considerable extent. From the Persian Gulf fewer Arab ships arrived at this port; and as regards the Red Sea ports freights were bad, and from Salief no Salt was received for months owing to labour difficulties. Likewise from Bombay there was a heavy decrease, but Madras sent 5,591 tons as against "nil" in the previous year. Stocks of salt in bond in the past year have fallen from 88,924 to 79,266 tons.

Injunction Against the Corporation of Calcutta.—In the Court of Second Munsiff of Alipore, Babus Ramtaran Banerjee and Ramratan Chatterjee, pleaders filed a plaint on behalf of one Habibar Rohoman against the Corporation of Calcutta and prayed for an injunction restraining the said Corporation for demolishing two rooms in the premises No. 144 Kareya Road which the Municipal Magistrate has ordered to be demolished. The said rooms are alleged to have been constructed without sanction of the Corporation and the Corporation at first brought a complaint against Habibar Rohoman under section 579 of Act III of 1899 before the Municipal Magistrate who could not convict him as the complaint was not brought within time. But the Municipal Magistrate advised the Corporation to proceed against Habibar Rohoman under section 449 of the present Municipal Act and the said proceedings having been taken, the Municipal Magistrate ordered the demolition of the said two rooms. It was contended on behalf of Habibar Rohoman that the said two rooms having been constructed before Act III of 1899 came into force, all the proceedings of the Chairman as well as the Municipal Magistrate which are under the Act are illegal and "ultra vires" and several English and Indian cases were cited in support of the contention. The learned Munsiff has issued notice on the Corporation to shew cause why an adinterim injunction will not be granted.

Subordinate Educational Service.—An exchange of appointments is sanctioned between the following officers:—Babu Durga Prasad Tewari, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Pahamau and Babu Kasi Bhusan Sen, B.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Hazaribagh. Babu Ram Das Bhattacharyya, M.A., Assistant Head Master Uttarpara Government School, and now Officiating Head Master of the Arrah Zilla School is appointed to act as Assistant Head Master of the Krishnagar Collegiate School. Babu Tarini Prasad Mukerjea, B.A., Assistant Head Master of the Krishnagar Collegiate School is appointed to act as Head Master of the Arrah Zilla School. Consequent on the appointment of Maulvi Ahsanullah, M.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Backergunge, to be Head Master of the Rajshahi Collegiate School, the following arrangements are sanctioned: Maulvi Muhammad Sulaiman, B.A. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Pabna to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Backergunge, Maulvi Abdul Lateef, B.A., Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Pabna, Maulvi Fajaruddin Ahmed, B.A., Assistant Head Master, Murshidabad Nawab's Madrasah, and now Officiating Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas, on probation for six months, but will continue to act as Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, Maulvi Abdul Quadir, M.A., Assistant Master (Maulvi) in the Patna Collegiate School, and now Officiating Assistant Master in the Anglo-Persian Department of the Calcutta Madrasah, to act as Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas, Babu Rati Kanta Kundu, M.A., Assistant Head Master of the Rangamati High School, and now Officiating Assistant Master in the Comilla Zilla School is confirmed in the latter appointment, Babu Bhuvanesvar Gupta, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi (class II), is allowed leave of absence for two months, Babu Ram Gobinda Misra, Sadar Sub-Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi, is appointed, subject to the consent of the District Board of Rajshahi, to act as Deputy Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi.

THE DACCA SENSATION.

CONVICTION OF SHANKHYANIDHI.

(From our own Correspondent)

Dacca, June 12.

The second case of Mr. Roy against Babu Lal Mohan Shaw Shankhyanidhi has ended in a conviction. In this case, your readers may remember, a charge was framed against the accused under Sec. 504 I. P. C. instead of under Sec. 500. The defence pleaded not guilty to the charge and filed a written statement to this effect: that the accused did not use the words to which the prosecution objected, in the sense in which the complainant understood them; that he said so in describing the former case which was that the complainant's wife had been to his Zenana and sat in a room where he, it is alleged, entered. &c. The defence cited several witnesses who were alleged to be eye-witnesses but examined none. Pandit Prassana Kumar Vidyaratna gave his evidence for the defence as to the meanings of the terms which formed the subject matter of complaint. Babu Girish Chandra Dutta, Deputy-Magistrate, gave evidence for the prosecution. as an expert on the meaning of these terms. His evidence went to support the prosecution. The Court held Shankhyanidhi guilty under Sec. 504 I. P. C., and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 50 (fifty) or two weeks' rigorous imprisonment in default of the payment of the fine. Babu Brojendra Kumar Chakravarty appeared for the prosecution, while Babu Toilakya Nath Bosu for the defence.

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High Court.—June 13.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(*Before Justices Pratt and Hanafey.*)

APPEAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Douglas White, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, appeared on behalf of the Local Government for the admission of an appeal against an order of acquittal passed by the Additional Sessions Judge of Buckergunj in favour of one Nabin Dakua, Dinonath Dakua, and Charan Dakua.

The prosecution story of the case was that Charan Kundu had a plot of land which he let in "barga" right to one Hara Chundra. On the 17th December 1902 Hara Chundra and several others were reaping paddy on the land when fifteen men including the three accused persons came there armed with spears and "lathis." Nabin Dakua told Hara Chandra to stop reaping which the latter declined to obey. An altercation ensued which was followed by a fight in course of which Hara Chandra was speared by Nabin. He died thereafter. On these facts Gopal Dakua and others were convicted on the 23rd of April 1903 by the Additional Sessions Judge of Buckergunj under Sections 326 and 326 read with 149 I.P.C., and were sentenced in the case of Gopal to six years and in the case of others to four years' rigorous imprisonment. The Sessions Judge and the Assessors found that the land was in the possession of Charan Kundu. The accused then preferred an appeal to this court and this court found the possession with the complainant. The accused pleaded that they were in possession of the said land and they lawfully exercised the right of private defence. This court, however, held that even had the accused been in possession there was no right of private defence because there was time to have recourse to the public authorities and further the possession being dispossession, the accused had no right to enforce the right by means of criminal force and dismissed the appeal. On the 29th February last the absconding accused Nabin Dakua, Dino Nath Dakua and Charan Dakua was tried in a supplementary trial by the Additional Sessions Judge of Backergunj under Sections 326, 326 read with 149 and 148 I P. C. The learned Judge held that the complainant Charan Kundu was not in possession of the land, and that the accused had lawfully exercised the right of private defence. The Judge acquitted the accused on these grounds. Hence the appeal.

It was contended that the Sessions Judge had erred in law and had disregarded the ruling of this Hon'ble Court.

Their Lordships admitted the appeal and ordered the District Magistrate to re-arrest the accused.

MR. W. EGERTON AGAIN.

Mr. Jackson with Babu Provash Chundra Mittra moved on behalf of Chowdhery Shyamanund Das Paharaj, a zaminder, against whom it will be remembered—several proceedings were instituted by Mr. Egerton, for the issue of a rule calling upon him to show cause why another proceeding against the petitioner instituted by Mr. Egerton should not be set aside.

About 1st May last during the petitioner's absence from home Mr. Egerton issued a search warrant for searching the petitioner's dwelling house. His house including the zenana was searched by the police and they did not even spare the temple from the search and the consequent desecration. During the said search the police had taken away some very old arms of the Maharatta time. It will be remembered that the petitioner after having been prosecuted for an alleged offence under section 174 I.P.C. moved the High Court for quashing the same and a rule was issued. While the said case was pending in the Court below the petitioner, having been refused bail and sent to hajat by the District Magistrate of Balasore on the 20th May last, moved the Sessions Judge for bail on the 23rd May, who ordered bail. The order was communicated to the District Magistrate on the 24th. That day at 10 a.m. the bail order was sent to the hajat by the District Magistrate. As soon as the petitioner was released and brought out from the jail compound, he was again arrested for an alleged offence under the Arms Act and was taken to the Magistrate's Court, where he was released on bail. It was stated in the petition that although he was arrested on the 24th the order sheet in the case showed that the proceeding commenced on the 26th. On the 25th the petitioner filed a petition for a certified copy of the police report or other information which led up to the proceeding but the Magistrate's Office refused to furnish him with such copy.

Grounds.

(1) That regard being had to the aforesaid proceedings and the state of the so-called guns the present proceedings should be quashed; (2) that the search being in contravention of the provisions of Section 25 of the Arms Act the proceeding should be quashed; (3) that in the absence of any specification as to under what clause of section 19 the petitioner is being prosecuted the present proceedings are bad in law; (4) that at any rate the case ought to be transferred to some other District; (5) that the petitioner being a respectable zaminder is entitled under the Government Rules to keep arms and is exempted from its operation; and (6) the so-called guns are exempted from the operation of the Arms Act by virtue of the notification of the Government of India, Home Department 31st March 1884 and numbered 533.

Rule.

Their Lordships issued the following rule:—"Let the records be sent for and let a rule issue on the District Magistrate to show cause why the proceedings against the petitioner under the arms Act should not be set aside on the grounds (1) that the search was not conducted by an officer authorised by law (2) that the guns in question are exempted from the operation of the Arms Act by virtue of the notification of the Government of India, Home Department, Number 533, 3 March 1884, as being ornamental arms of obsolete patterns possessing only antiquarian value and virtually useless for offensive and defensive purposes. Should the Magistrate dispute the applicability of the same notification to the guns in question he is requested to send them to this Court together with the record of the case. In the meantime, and until the disposal of this rule, further proceedings in the matter will be stayed.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, June 10.

General Kuroki report that the Japanese occupied Siuyen on the 8th, driving 4,000 Russian Cavalry, with six guns, toward Kaiping. There were thirty three casualties.

The Japanese casualties at Saimatse were twenty-seven. The Russians had twenty-three killed and wounded.

Reuter wires from General Kuroki's headquarters, on the 8th instant, that for the past two days four columns have been reconnoitring the roads towards Liaoyang, Kaiping, Saimatse and Siuyen, and have dislodged considerable Russian forces from various posts. Altogether there have been sixty-five casualties.

Reuter's Mukden correspondent confirms the news that General Kuroki has begun a forward movement in force; and the Russians officially admit falling back before superior numbers.

Reuter's Seoul correspondent says that the Russians in North-East Korea are falling back.

The English Red Cross Society has sent £2,000 for the Russian sick and wounded.

London, June 11.

Great Britan has protested against the Russian declaration that rice and food-stuffs are contrabnd of war.

Reuter wires from Mukden that the Japanese bombarded Kaiping yesterday, and that fighting has become general along the line between Kaiping and Saimatse.

Siuyen is of great strategic importance, absolutely controlling the roads to Kaiping and Haicheng, while Saimatse is also an important position controlling the routes Liaoyang and Mukden, which avoid the Motienling Mountains, where the Russian fortifications are almost impregnable.

London, June 12.

Reuter's correspondent wiring from General Kuroki's Head-quarters via Tusan, says the present is another period of preparation. Most interesting news cannot be telegraphed because of giving clues to future movements. General Kuroki continues the policy of secrecy so successful before crossing the Yalu and even the Military Attaches are kept in the dark.

The Russian head-quarters are at Lioyang.

The Chinese report that the Japanese, before Port Arthur have been heavily reinforced and it is believed an attempt will be made to take the fortress by assault as soon as the Japanese are strong enough to invest the landside and protect themselves from an attack in rear.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio wires, that Rear Admiral Togo reports, that part of the fleet on Tuesday bombarded the coast near Kaiping and repulsed a military train approaching southwards. It also bombarded the Russians working on the defences and believed caused considerable damage.

The Japanese Military Commission reports 704 Russians were buried at Nanshan.

London, June 13.

General Kuroki's advance in Manchuria has begun.

The Russian Squadron at Port Arthur is clearing mines, and, it is believed, is contemplating a dash seawards.

St. Petersburg rumours are that a naval battle has been fought at Port Arthur; two Russian and four Japanese vessels have been sunk.—"Englishman."

Vague rumours are current at St. Petersburg of a great naval battle at Port Arthur with heavy losses on both sides. No confirmation has however been received. The "Standard's" St. Petersburg correspondent says: Admiral Skrydloff telegraphs that the Vladivostok Squadron encountered a Japanese Squadron thirty miles from Port Arthur on the 7th instant and retired, as none of the Port Arthur ships appeared. The Squadron returned to Vladivostok on the 10th instant.

The critics consider that the advance of Kuroki's forces with a broad front towards Liaoyang and Mukden is accurately timed to correspond with the near approach of Oku's assault on Port Arthur.

General Charkevitch reported on the 12th that the Japanese had not advanced beyond Siuyen, where they are entrenching.

Daily skirmishing is taking place at Wafankau and Wafantien, north of Port Adams.

London, June 14.

Reuter's correspondent with Kuroki's headquarters wires, via Fusan, that the only hostilities at present are daily outpost skirmishes in which the Japanese are the victors.

Reuter wires from Tokio that despatches from Admiral Togo describe the operations of the fleet since the 6th instant including the bombardments off the western coast of Liaotung. They also mention a bombardment in the vicinity of Kaiping which caused 3,000 Russian and twenty guns to evacuate Kingkow.

Four Russian torpedo boat destroyers were discovered in Talienwan Bay and were driven back to Port Arthur.

One hundred mines have been destroyed in Talienwan Bay including floating mines drifting into the Gulf of Pechili.

A 'Daily Telegraph' despatch from New York says, that a submarine protector privately sold to Japan is now proceeding thither on board a Norwegian ship with two American instructors.

The cable between Japan and Korea is restored.

The Ottawa Cabinet has discussed the case of Lord Dundonald and it is understood that it has been decided to cancel the appointment.

Reuter from Tokio wires that the transport "Taihoka Maru" was laying mines at the entrance of Port Arthur yesterday evening when a mine exploded, killing nineteen and injuring nine of those on board. The "Taihoka Maru" was damaged, but not seriously.

The Japanese have seized a fleet of flour and rice laden junks off Chifu, and complained to the Taotai that foreign merchants are shipping goods to Port Arthur.

A Russian ukase has been issued calling out the reserves in 61 districts of various Russian provinces.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, June 12.

The discovery that the American winners of the Palma Trophy in 1903 violated the rules by using a special pattern of rifle, not identical with the Government rifle, has elicited strong protests, the result of which is that the Executive Committee of the American National Rifle Association yesterday decided to return the trophy to England.

The following is the result of the race for the Grand Prix run in Paris to-day.—

Ajax	1.
Tureune	2
Macdonald II	3

Advices from private sources at Constantinople affirm that contrary to the Porte's statement the suppression of the insurrection at Sassun was attended by much bloodshed of innocent inhabitants.

London, June 13.

Earl Percy, replying to a question in the Commons, said that the import of Indian Tea into Persia had not diminished since the new Persian Tariff.

Sir Andrew Scoble, who recently underwent an operation, has had a relapse, and his condition is serious

Speaking at a meeting of the Association for the Employment of Ex-Soldiers, Mr. Arnold Forster said that the Association's operations had done much to promote recruiting, but recruiting would never get a proper stimulus till we gave the recruit not only the possibility but the practical certainty of employment. He believed he would convince character after long service.

Parliament that there was a necessity for some method of greatly extending the cer-

The battleship "Prince of Wales" has left Tangier. Raisuli has been notified of the Sultan's compliance to his main demands, and the release of the captives is expected shortly.

A "Times" telegram from Tangier says there is a well organised plot throughout Morocco to depose the Sultan; the plot originates with religious educated classes and is supported even by the members of Government. A revolution was arranged before the Anglo-French agreement, but the latter adds fuel to the fire as the Sultan is accused of selling his country to France.

The "Standard's" Odessa correspondent says a firm there has received an extensive order for summer outfits for Afghan troops.

London, June 14.

In the Commons to-night Mr. Norman asked whether the lease of Wei-hei-Wei terminates immediately the Japanese occupy Port Arthur.

Earl Percy in reply said that by the Convention of 1898 Britain leases Wei-hai-Wei as long as Russia occupies Port Arthur.

In consequence of the recent threats against Lord Milner, three supposed foreign Anarchists have been arrested at Johanesberg.

Aden has been declared plague-infected.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE POLICE COMMISSION REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, June 14.

The opinions of the local governments on the Police Commission Report are still being awaited by the Government of India, with a view to being forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The Tibet Mission.

OPPOSED BY 8,000.

Gyantse, June 12.

Between us and the bare steep hill crowned by the monastery on the left, there are twelve large villages through which the Shigatse road runs. Our scouts report that both the monastery and the ridge above it, and the villages are very strongly held. The prisoners declare that there are three thousand warriors in the fort, two thousand in the monastery on the left and they say they do not know how many in the intervening villages; probably it is not an exaggeration to say that seven or eight thousand are opposed to us. Considering that the enemy is now known to possess numbers of rifles, also considering the courage they have shown in recent affairs, the above facts sufficiently indicate why our small garrison here has been obliged to act on the defensive. The position, however, ought shortly to be altered as reinforcements are now moving up.

One Todal Brahman and Surjan of Delhi fell out over a woman. Surjan who was armed with a knife, murderously assaulted the woman and the Brahman. The woman was slightly wounded, and is doing well, but the Brahman had serious wounds. The man ran away and was afterward arrested, but he denied any hand in the murder. The case is, however, proceeding.

A portion of the floor of the Adamji Peerbhoy Mill at Tardeo, Bombay which was built over a well, gave way on Sunday last and sank into a well which contained thirty-two feet of water, taking with it about fifty weaving looms and a portion of the roof. The accident having occurred at a time when the mill was closed there was no one near the place, and hence nobody was injured.

A correspondent writes to the "West Coast Spectator":—A civil suit of some interest to the social reformer is coming up before a Malabar court. A junior member of a Rajah family has committed the offence of drinking water offered by a Nayar! For this crime the other members kept him under a social ban, and as the result of his protest even a breach of the peace was feared. Now the young gentleman comes out as an aggrieved party and a civil court is to decide whether or not it degrades a Rajah socially or spiritually to drink water touched by Nayar hands. Of course, I ought not to pronounce upon a "subjudice" affair, but I may express the hope that on a subsequent occasion civil courts will give a ruling also on "summer drinks" and "scotch brands."

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Calcutta Gazette.—June 15.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS.

Babu Shoshi Bhusan Mukerjea, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Khulna, is appointed to have charge of the Bagerhat subdivision of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Kali Das Mookerjee.

The services of Mr. L. C. Adami, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, first grade, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Babu Umesh Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purnea, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Faridpur district.

Babu Ram Niranjan Prosad, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhum, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Purnea district.

Babu Ram Narain Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted temporarily to the head-quarters station of the 24-Parganas district.

Maulvi Syed Feda Ali Special Sub-Registrar of Patna, is appointed to be Third Inspector of Registration Offices, vice Maulvi Afzaladdin Ahmed, deceased.

Babu Annanda Prosad Mitra, Deputy Inspector Schools, Bhagalpur, is appointed to act as Assistant Inspector of Schools, Bhagalpur Division, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Baladeva Rama Jha.

PROMOTIONS.

Mr. C. A. Bell, I.C.S., is appointed substantively to be a Magistrate and Collector of the third grade.

The following promotions, appointments and confirmations are sanctioned in the Indian Civil Service, but the officers concerned will continue to act in the higher appointments or grades, if any, until further orders:—

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. H. W. P Scroope, vice Mr. T. Emerson.

Mr F P Dixon, vice D H Kingsford.

Appointed temporarily to be Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the first grade.

Mr. T Emerson, vice Mr H Walmsley.

Mr. D. H. Kingsford vice Mr. T. Emerson.

Confirmed in the first grade of Jt. Magistrates and Dy. Collectors.

Mr. H Walmsley vice Mr. G. Balthasar who lost his lien on his appointment from that date.

Mr. T. Emerson vice Mr. H. F T Magurie, retired.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the second grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. W. S. Adie, vice Mr. W. B. Heycock

Mr W S Coutts, vice Mr A H Clayton.

Appointed temporarily to be Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the second grade.

Mr. W. B. Heycock, vice Mr. A. Garrett.

Mr. A. H. Clayton, vice Mr. W B Heycock.

Confirmed in the second grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. A. Garrett, vice Mr. H. Walmsley.

Mr. W B Heycock, vice Mr. T Emerson.

LEAVE.

Babu Barada Das Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nadia, is allowed leave for one month and nine days, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Kali Das Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bagernat, Khulna, is allowed leave for three months, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Probodh Chandra Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is allowed leave for one week, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted.

Mr. Samuel Chandra, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is allowed leave for one month, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. E V Levinge, Magistrate and Collector, Muzaffarpur, is allowed leave for three months, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. R E Ransom, District and Sessions Judge, Chittagong, is allowed combined leave for eight months, viz. privilege leave for one month and twenty-eight days under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, and furlough for the remaining period under article 308 (b) of the Regulations.

Babu Baladeva Rama Jha, Assitant Inspector of Schools, Bhagalpur Division, is allowed leave for one month and nine days, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Sasibhusan Basu, Deputy Collector, Nator, Rajshahi, is vested with the powers of a Collector, under Act I of 1894, in that subdivision.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Behari Lal Ghose, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in Chota Nagpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Gobindpur, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Jnanendra Chandra Banerjee.

The services of Mr. Onil Chandra Dutt, Munsif of Serampore, in the district of Hooghly, are placed at the disposal of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Babu Kisori Mohan Sikdar, Munsif of Bankura, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Murshidabad, to be ordinarily stationed at Berhampore, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100 within the local limits of the Berhampore Munsifi.

Babu Bhupal Chandra Sen, Munsif of Berhampore, in the district of Murshidabad, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Bankura, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadar station, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100 within the local limits of the Sadar Munsifi of Bankura.

Babu Sasi Kumar Ghose, B.L. is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of, Rangpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Nilphamari, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Hemendra Lal Singh, or until further orders.

Babu Dino Nath Sircar, Subordinate Judge, Mymensingh, on leave, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge, Hooghly.

Babu Nalini Nath Mitter, Officiating Subordinate Judge, Hooghly, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Subordinate Judge, Tirhut.

Babu Sham Chand Roy, Subordinate Judge, Tirhut, is appointed to be Small Cause Court Judge of Howrah, Hooghly and Serampore, and is vested with the powers of a Subordinate Judge.

Babu Akhoy Kumar Bose, Small Cause Court Judge, Howrah, Hooghly and Serampore, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge, Hooghly, and is also appointed to perform the functions of a Court under section 3, clause (d) of the Land Acquisition Act, I of 1894, within the local limits of the original jurisdiction of the District Judge of Hooghly.

Babu Purna Chandra Banerjee, Subordinate Judge, Hooghly, now on deputation to Midnapore, is confirmed in his present appointment as Subordinate Judge of Midnapore.

Babu Mati Lal Sinha, Subordinate Judge, Burdwan, on leave, is appointed to be a Subordinate Judge in the district of Mymensingh, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 500 within the local limits of the Sadar Munsifi of Mymensingh.

Babu Gopi Krishna Banerjee, Subordinate Judge, Shahabad, now on deputation to Burdwan, is confirmed in his present appointment as Subordinate Judge of Burdwan.

Babu Gopal Chandra Basu, Munsif of Faridpur, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Jessore, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Lal Behari Dey, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 500 within the local limits of the Sadar Munsifi of Jessore.

Babu Hem Chandra Das Gupta, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Faridpur, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadar station, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Gopal Chandra Basu.

Mr. Onil Chandra Dutt, Munsif of Serampore, in the district of Hooghly, is allowed leave for thirty days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Banamali Sen, Munsif of Bhola, in the district of Backergunge, is allowed leave for nineteen days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Upendra Chandra Mukerjee, Munsif of Vishnupur, in the district of Bankura, is allowed leave for thirteen days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Kisori Mohan Sikdar, Munsif of Bankura, is allowed leave for two weeks, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Nirad Krishna Ray, Sub-Deputy Collector, Diamond Harbour, 24-Parganas, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Nadia district.

Babu Girindro Narain Singh, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Presidency Division, is posted temporarily to the head-quarters station of the 24-Parganas district.

Under the authority vested in him by section 357, sub-section (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Act V of 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor empowers Babu Rash Behary Mukherjee, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Arambagh, Hooghly, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

Maulvi Abdur Rahman Mahmood, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Sirajganj, Pabna, is allowed extraordinary leave for one month.

Babu Ambica Prosad Varma, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Muzaffarpur, is transferred to the Gopalganj sub-division of the Saran district.

Babu Jatindra Mohan Chattopadhyaya, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Dacca Division, is posted to the Pirojpur subdivision of the district of Backergunge.

Babu Charu Chandra Bannerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to be Khas Tahsildar of Noakhali.

Babu Ganoda Prosad Ghose, Sub-Deputy Collector, is allowed leave for one month and a half.

Babu Baij Nath Sahai (No. 1), Sub-Deputy Collector, Bhagalpur Division, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Jotindra Kumar Roy, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the Bhagalpur Division, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class, on being relieved of his Settlement duties in the Hazaribagh district.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Captain J. B. Cautley, R.A.M.C., Regimental Medical Officer, Dinapore, is appointed to have medical charge of the Civil Station of Dinapore, in addition to his own duties.

Major U. N. Mukerji, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Khulna, is allowed privilege leave combined with furlough for two years.

Dr. J. L. Hendley has been granted by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of leave on medical certificate for three months.

Major C. H. Bedford, I.M.S., has been granted by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India a further extension of leave on medical certificate for four months.

Third grade Assistant Surgeon Satya Saran Mitra is permitted to resign the service of Government, with effect from the date on which he is relieved.

Second grade Assistant Surgeon Suresh Chandra Bhattacharjee is permitted to resign the service of Government, with effect from the date on which he is relieved.

Senior Assistant Surgeon Debendra Nath Dey is appointed, with effect from the forenoon of the 1st June 1904, to act as Civil Surgeon of Rangpur, until further orders.

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY sets on nature's plan—loosens the cold, relieves the lungs and makes expectoration easy. For sale by * Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Hareem, Calcutta.

THE EFFICACY of Chamberlain's Pain Balm in the relief of rheumatism is being demonstrated daily. If troubled with this painful disease procure a bottle at once. One application relieves the pain. Sold by * Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Hareem, Calcutta.

INDIAN NOTES.

SHEEP IN COURT.

The case against Shadoyan, a notorious rowdy of Purusewalkam, who, it would appear, inflicted injuries to some sheep and assaulted some persons at the Choolay slaughter-house, was called for enquiry to-day before Mr. W. E. Clarke, the Acting Chief Presidency Magistrate at Egmore. Three sheep were produced by the Police and the butcher was anxious to have them delivered over immediately to him as otherwise they would be of no use to him having already been emaciated. The accused being unwell, the Magistrate adjourned the case to the 24th instant.

A CASE OF SUTTEE.

A correspondent writes from Gooty:—A sad incident took place in the small village of Gooty Railway Station on the 7th instant, Mr. D. K. Strenivasa Iyengar, a clerk in the District Engineer's Office, Madras Railway, aged about 26 years was ailing with malarial fever for the past few weeks and showed signs of recovery until Sunday afternoon the 5th instant, when all of a sudden alarming symptoms set in and with all the possible Medical aid that could be afforded he expired about 3 a.m. on the 7th. An hour prior to his expiry his beloved wife aged about 20 years was missed in the house and a search was made immediately but it was not until about 7 a.m. that her body was found drowned in a well close by. Apparently when she knew for certain that the husband would not survive any more she might have made up her mind to meet her doom at the bottom of a well. Much sympathy is felt for their two youngsters—a boy about 2 years old and one girl about 5 years.

SHAN DACOITS.

A correspondent writing on April 15 to the "Bangkok Times" says:—Nearly 200 Shan dacoits under the leadership of a Burman who pretended to be the Mingoon Prince, and who was believed by his followers and all the people to be the Prince, attacked the new city of Chieng Sen (situated just outside the 25 kilometre zone to the west of the old city) in March last. A Burman priest who is exiled from Burma (i.e., who is wanted by the Police in Burma) was second in command. This priest was shot by a Laos, as was also another Shan, and both killed instantly. Seeing their leader fall, those under this priest fled back into the 25 kilometre zone. In the meantime those following the "Prince" burned thirty odd houses and then attacked the Siamese soldiers, who were entrenched and numbered 50. The soldiers succeeded in beating the dacoits off, wounding some six or eight and losing one soldier, who died almost instantly. The Shans then fled en masse back into the 25 kilometre zone, where it was found that the "Prince" was missing. He had taken his horse and fled for his life.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The returns of the navigation through the Suez Canal for the year 1903, compared with those of the two previous years, have been issued. The net tonnage for the past year shows an increase of 658,875 tons compared with that of 1902 and 1,083,448 tons compared with that of 1901. Notwithstanding the reduction of 50 centimes in the tonnage dues from the beginning of the year, the transit receipts in 1903 amounted to 103,620,268 frs., being a decrease of 99,752 frs., compared with those of 1902, which, however, were higher than in any previous year since the opening of the Canal. The increase in the traffic through the Canal during 1903 is attributed more especially to the numerous consignments of manufactured goods and supplies for the Far East, the quantity of coal during the last few months of the year being about 200,000 tons more than during the same period of 1902. The shipments of wheat from India to ports in the United Kingdom were also considerably greater last year, amounting to 866,000 tons, compared with 449,000 tons in 1902. The number of vessels which passed through the Canal was 3,699 in 1901, and 3,708 in 1902 and 3,761 in 1903 of which 2,075 in 1901, 2,165 in 1902, and 2,278 in 1903 carried the British flag. There was an increase last year, as compared with 1902, in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 6,252,819 tons in 1901, 6,772,911 tons in 1902, and 7,403,553 tons in 1903. During the same period the tonnage of German vessels has fluctuated from 1,762, 624 tons in 1901 to 1,707,322 tons in 1902, and 7,773, 265, tons in 1903.

—Lord Curzon of Kedleston conferred on Saturday, May 21, in London with Sir William Crundall, mayor of Dover, Sir Wollaston Knocker, registrar of the Cinque Ports, and Mr. Worsfold Mowll, registrar of the Dover Harbour Board, with reference to his installation as Lord Warden of Cinque Ports, which was definitely fixed for July 2. On July 1 the inauguration of the harbour as a port of

The worst crime in the annals of Shanghai came to light on May 13th, when it was discovered that Capt. Zemenkoff and his wife had been murdered on board the Russian whaler "Georgi," lying alongside the dismantled Maund and surrounded by other craft. The Captain and his wife were terribly hacked about by axe cuts, the woman's head being literally chopped to pieces. When the crime was discovered the captain was still alive, a day and a half later, but died without being able to speak. Chinese are suspected of the crime, and robbery the motive, as lockers and cupboards were ransacked.—"Singapore Free Press."

Two Bunia women, named Nathibai and Namabai, were bathing in the sea at Stone Bounder steps, Bombay, on the 10th, when a large wave washed them off their feet. Namabai happened to gain her footing again, but Nathibai was carried off about twenty feet into deep water and would probably have been drowned but for the timely assistance of a boatman, named Goolo Alarakhia, and two native policemen, who jumped into the sea and seized her. About ten men on shore joined hands together, and assisted those in the water to rescue the woman. One of the two policemen, whose number is 479 and who belongs to the Harbour Police, was recently presented with a medal by the Royal Humane Society for saving the lives of two boys from drowning in the Prince's Dock about eightee months ago.

WAR NEWS.

With reference to floating mines shown by Russia, which excites great indignation in England and America, the "Haimun" passed two within six miles, of Wei-Hai-Wei.

A Chifu telegram reports the captain of a Russian merchant vessel, from Dalny, as stating that the Russians have 30,000 men in Port Arthur, exclusive of the crews of the warships.

According to a St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Echo de Paris," the differences between Admiral Alexeieff and General Kuropatkin are causing renewed anxiety. Admiral Alexeieff has refused to receive Admiral Skrydloff.

The "Times' Haimun" man says: "As far as it is possible to form an estimate, 10,000 troops form the present garrison of Port Arthur, besides 5,000 to 7,000 bluejackets. The statements with regard to foodstuffs are conflicting, but considerable food still reaches Pigeon Bay by junks from the coast of China. Of coal they are short, but their uses for coal now have practically vanished. Ammunition is not short.

A correspondent with the 1st Japanese Army telegraphs, under date May 13th: "Several Russian spies, disguised as Chinese, have been caught and are being sent to Japan with other prisoners. The Chinese appear well satisfied with the Japanese occupation. The countryside is covered with Russian graves. The Russian casualties since the land fighting began cannot have been fewer than 3,000 odd. Prisoners are arriving daily.

The telegrams received during the past few days from the seat of the war in the Far East leave no doubt that General Kuroki's advance on General Kuropatkin's main position has begun in earnest, and it is impossible not to admire the audacity of his strategy. The centre of Kuropatkin's position is at Liao Yang, his right flank resting on the Liao river, and his left on the Motien-Ling Pass. His precise strength is not known, but is estimated at about 100,000 men. After the battle of Yalu it was patent that the Russian Army Corps organisation had hopelessly broken down, yet Kuropatkin, who is above all a strategist, was trusted to take the utmost advantage of the difficulties of the county which separated him from the invading force of 150,000 troops. He appears to have relied greatly on the Russian fortified positions in the Motien-Ling mountains, which Reuter states are almost impregnable, but once more he left out of his calculation Japanese audacity, Japanese knowledge of the country and disposition of the enemy, and above all Kuroki's talent of command. By a brilliant move the Japanese Commander, who is evidently confident of General Oku's ability to reduce Port Arthur with the help of Admiral Togo's fleet, has occupied Siuyen, the key to Kaiping and Saimatse, which controls the routes to Lio-yang and Mukden.

DESTRUCTION OF WILD ANIMALS IN THE U. P.

The following resolution was published by the U. P. Government on the mortality caused by wild animals and snakes during 1903 and the measures taken for their destruction:—

The provincial statement shows the total loss of human life from wild animals as 77 less than last year; there was, however, actually an increase of 86 as deaths caused by jackals, which amounted to 163 in 1902, have now been excluded for the first time from the returns. Deaths due to snake bite continue to decrease.

In Kumaun there was an increase in fatalities caused by the larger carnivora; this is attributed to one tiger and one leopard. Rewards were offered and the tiger has been killed.

The most remarkable feature in the return is the large increase in deaths caused by wolves. Budaun, Cawnpore, and Fatehpur are the districts most troubled by these pests. Budaun reports 113 deaths from wolves 43 more than last year. The special measures adopted, i.e., the employment of shikaris and grant of increased rewards, have proved ineffective. It is believed that one or two man-eating wolves are responsible for almost all the cases. The opinion expressed in last year's resolution that wolves had been almost exterminated in Cawnpore has unhappily not been borne out by events. In this district, though the increased reward more than trebled the number of wolves killed, deaths attributed to these animals increased in almost equal proportion. Enhanced rewards have been sanctioned in Fatehpur, where wolves infest the ravines of the Ganges banks.

In Saharanpur 337 fewer wolves were killed during the year. The magistrate suggests that previously sufficient precautions were not taken to prevent fraud; but the Commissioner believes it is more probable that the number of wolves has been seriously reduced by the vigorous campaigns of recent years.

Hyænas are killed in large numbers in the Agra division. They, however, do comparatively little damage either to people or to cattle.

The returns of cattle killed are incomplete and untrustworthy. In the Benares division where a large number of cattle are killed by tigers, leopards, and wild dogs, no statistics are obtainable. In all districts save Kumaun the loss of cattle attributed to snakes is infinitesimal as compared with the loss of human life attributed to the same cause, though actually the loss of cattle caused by snakes must be considerable.

The statistics of snakes killed are still more fallacious. Where no rewards are paid, no proper reporting can be expected. In the Lucknow division one district, Hardoi, accounts for no less than 1,801 snakes out of 1,861 killed in the whole division—an obviously absurd proportion. Basti and Azamgarh in the Gorakhpur division, where snakes caused the greatest loss of human life, make no attempt to obtain returns of snakes killed.

The number of gun licenses in force for the destruction of wild animals or protection of crops is somewhat smaller than in the preceding year. Under the forest rules 109 licenses were granted for the destruction of large carnivora. License holders and exempted officials accounted for 45 tigers, 54 leopards and 35 bears in the reserved forests.

ULUBARIA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ulubaria, June 12.

THE BAGNAN POLICE.

One of the noticeable features in the police administration of the villages included in the thana division known as thana Bagnan is the non-commission of a single burglary within one mile of the Bagnan police station during the current year. There were six or seven cases of burglary committed within that area during the year 1903. The absence of such current year surely points to the great efficiency of the police force located in thana Bagnan, specially of the Sub-Inspector, Babu Nil Madhab Sing and of the Head Constable Babu Jotindra Nath Banerjee.

ANOTHER HORRIBLE MURDER.

We had scarcely recovered from the effects of the shock, caused by the news of the murder in Baidyanathpore, an account of which was published in these columns the other day when another horrible murder was reported from Banibun in thana Ulubaria. The two murders seem to have followed one at the heels of the other. Our feelings, however, received a great shock when we found yesterday a rather beautiful woman in her teens brought up under police custody. She was placed by the police before the Sub Deputy Magistrate of Ulubaria to have her confession recorded. She is said to have caused the murder of her son, an infant about a year and-a-half old under circumstances not yet known to me. The case is under police investigation. I shall give you a full account of the facts of this case as well as of the facts of the Baidyanathpore murder case when they will be put up before our worthy Sub-divisional Magistrate, Babu Nityananda Bhar, for enquiry.

A CASE OF FALSE PERSONATION.

Our Sub-divisional Magistrate, examined yesterday some witnesses for the prosecution in the case in which one Joynaddi Shaik and one Bhiku Shaik of Rabibnag were charged by the Sub-Registrar of Ulubaria, Babu Tarack Nath Biswas, the former with having falsely personated one Sadaruddi Shaik of Rabibhag, the real executant of a deed of lease and having in his assumed character got the deed registered and the latter with having falsely identified the first accused as Sadaruddi. The pleader for the prosecution Babu Jogendra Kumar Sen having afterwards applied for an adjournment of the case on the ground that some more witnesses should be examined, the Magistrate adjourned the case as there was some evidence on record pointing to the guilt of the accused. They were ordered to be detained in "hajut."

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE AT TARKESSUR.

Our Serampur correspondent writes:—Sarada Mondal, Soshi Bhusan Chuckerburty, Girish Chuckerburty and Jadu Kar, servants in the employ of Babu Bepin Behari Sen of Baidyapur, near Tarkessur, and five others who are tenants under the said Zemindar are being prosecuted in the Court of Mr. S. E. Stinton, Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Serampur, for having, on the 10th April last, as members of an unlawful assembly consisting of some one-hundred and fifty persons, committed mischief by demolishing a hut in front of the temple hall at Tarkessur, belonging to and for a long time in the occupation of one Dookhiram Acherjee and his relations as a shop for sale of sweets, inspite of the orders to the contrary passed by the late Sub-divisional Magistrate, Mr. A. W. Botham, who was personally present on the spot to prevent a breach of the peace. The land on which the shop stood is the property of the temple but was, some fifteen years ago, let out on a registered lease by the Mohunt to the father and uncle of Dookhiram for a yearly rent of Rs. 130. For sometime past the present Mohunt and Babu B. B. Sen have not been in the best of terms with each other and last year the latter instituted against the former a civil suit in the Sub-Judge's Court at Hooghly for adjudication of his rights as the real Shebait of the image and the consequent liability of the Mohunt as a "Pujari" under him, to render accounts. This suit was subsequently withdrawn and a second suit has now been instituted in the District Judge's Court at Hooghly by some of the defendants aforesaid and other persons, under Section 539 of the Civil Procedure Code charging the Mohunt with misappropriation of the Thakur's property and with other illegal acts and praying for the appointment of a new trustee in his stead. It is alleged on behalf of the prosecution that out of this ill-feeling and to annoy the Mohunt, the above named four defendants gave orders and in their presence, "Sannyasis" of Ramnagore, Baidyapur and other villages situate within the Zamindari of Babu Bepin Behari Sen who came in a procession to Tarkessur on the day above mentioned, carrying thorns in their hands to perform the "Kanta Jhamp" ceremony, pulled down the hut, smashing it into pieces and danced upon the "debris" destroying everything that was in it. The evidence of the Divisional Inspector of Police who was close by the scene of occurrence and witnessed a part of it, shewed that some time before this occurrence and when the "Sannyasis" had collected near the Police outpost, some of the defendants came up before Mr. A. W. Botham and told him that it was customary for the "Sannyasis" to throw the thorns down on the land on which Dookhiram's shops stood and as the Mohunt had not removed the hut as he used to do in previous occasions, they would themselves break it down. Mr. Botham immediately went to the spot and made an enquiry into the matter and after having heard a pleader on behalf of the Sannyasis, forbade the breaking of the hut and ordered that the thorns might be thorwn on the space between the shop and the temple hall. The defendants denied having caused or taken any part in the demolition of the hut, but pleaded malice and alleged that the "Sannyasis" of Ramnagore had all along enjoyed the right of throwing thorns on the land occupied by the hut. Charges under Sections 143 and 427 I.P.C. have been drawn up against all the accused and the trial is proceeding.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

A COLONEL ON A FREE PRESS.

THE COURT-MARTIAL THAT ENSUED.

"C. L." writes in the "Madras Mail":—

It was related in a former issue that, in 1823, Mr. James Silk Buckingham, Editor and proprietor of the "Calcutta Journal," was deported by order of Mr. John Adam, the Provisional Governor-General, for the publication of strictures on the appointment of a Chaplain to be Superintendent of Stationary without prejudice to his other duties. I have now succeeded in my search for the article that proved the last feather on the back of the long tried Mr. Adam; and I propose to give, onanother occasion, a sumiary of it, together with the terms of the censure pronounced upon it by Mr. Adam's Government. But by way of leading up to it. I wish to notice to-day a letter which Mr. Buckingham published in the "Journal" on the 17th May, 1822, as it shows the estimation in which his efforts on behalf of the public were appreciated in some quarters, and led to a Court Martial that had a remarkable ending. This letter was entitled "A Free Press—Brevet and Local Rank," and the writer of it signed himself "A Military Friend; Neither a Mull nor a Gull." It was dated:—"In the Deckhan, April 18."

The correspondent commenced by stating that were he to enumerate the benefits, in matters great and small, which, within the three previous years, had been done to the public service in India by the exposures and discussions in the "Journal," he would fill up more than the whole of the Asiatic department of the paper for at least a couple of days, "and put to shame, if they have any, every one of the courtly, well fed tribe who have laboured to deprive our Indian world of that Free Press which is the greatest blessing that any national people can enjoy." He alluded to the abuses of power that the "Journal" had been instrumental in checking; to the wholesome fear of its censures which it had caused to "many hundred public servants who were before under no fear, or control whatever"; to the service it had rendered by stimulating civility, attention to business, alacrity, public spirit, and emulation in public offices; to the check it had put upon foul play; and to what it had done to "introduce improvement in bazars, and in the administration of military justice, fining, flogging, taxing, cheating." So he congratulated the Editor most heartily on being in a manner the author of more improvements than all the Laws and Regulations that have yet been framed to improve things mendable." He also congratulated the natives, "from the bottom of my heart" on the good that the Editor had done them; "and I hope to see the time when it will no longer be in the power of those who are supposed to protect them from fraud and violence to harass them even in legal Courts, and under Rules and Regulations." In order to illustrate the crying evils which were perpetrated, as he maintained, under legal forms, he showed how Brevet and Local rank "was conferred, or rather said to be conferred, by Indian Chief such as the Nizam, the Berar Rajah, etc., upon British Officers." He concluded by saying that "these certainly are little things—so are most things that hold Society together—" but "let me see the proud English Knight who will be thrust out of a place at a Feast by a Knight of Malta or the Ionian Islands. Do not then let us expect an old Captain; or Subaltern in the Army to yield, or give way to his inferior in rank, let him style himself what he pleases, or dress himself in ever so imposing a Staff uniform."

The Marquis of Hastings at the time that this letter appeared, was in the last year of his joint office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in India; and Mr. John Adam was the Senior Member of his Council. His Lordship had submitted to a good deal at the hands of Mr. Buckingham, and had repeatedly pardoned many lapses by that impetuous gentleman from what was then regarded as the only right course for a "licensed" journalist to pursue. He did not share the severe views about the Press that characterised Mr. Adam sand other old Indian, whom he somewhat shocked when he said, in his reply to the people of Madras, that his removal of certain restrictions on the Press, which was gratefully acknowledged in their Address, was attributable to "my habit of regarding the Freedom of Publication as a natural right of my fellow subjects"; so that there was "no direct necessity for" retaining "invidious shackles." Had he merely thought of himself he would, doubtless, not have bestowed a second thought upon the letter in the "Journal." But he was led to defer to the opinion of his Council that that letter transgressed the bounds of propriety, and was calculated, if no notice were taken of it, to do the Government mischief. So he allowed Mr. W. B. Bayley, the Chief Secretary, to be directed to call upon Mr. Buckingham for the "name, designation, and residence" of the author of the philippic. Mr. Buckingham, in reply, begged the Government to allow him to communicate their wishes in the first instance to his correspondent, in view to obtaining his permission to divulge his name. But this reasonable request was not granted by the Government; and, further pressure being applied, Mr. Buskingham was induced to comply with the demand, and to state that the letter had emanat d from Lieutenant-Colonel William Robison, of His Majesty's 24th Regiment of Foot, stationed at Nagpur.

The Government then published a Resolution in which they declared that the letter —to which by their action they drew attention—amounted to a "gross insult" to the Government, sinc it "falsely and slanderously asserted that divers abuses and oppresions were permitted by the Government until they were exposed in the above Newspaper," and "thus encouragd the thoughtless to represent grievances through that channel with all the distortions which inexperience, misapprehension, or malignity may prompt, instead of resorting to the legitimate source of redress, where the grounds of the complaint would be justly measured." Accordingly, the Governor-General in Council "deems it inexpedient for the interests of the Honourable Company that Lieutenant-Colonel William Robison", unless he can disprove the charge so made against him by the Editor of the "Calcutta Journal," should be placed in any situation where an important trust may devolve upon him. It was therefore resolved that the most Noble the Marquis of Hastings, Governor-General in Council, should communicate this opinion to the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings, Commander-in-Chief and request "His Excellency to act in consonance to it." The Commander-in-Chief had much in common, in those days, with the Governor-General. They messed together at all times, they slept together, they rode together they worked together. The one was the echo of the other. So it was only to be expected that the Commander-in-Chief would act promptly in accordance with the request of the Governor-General in regard to the painful subject of the Resolution. Accodingly, His Extellency lost no time in removing Lieutenant-Colonel Robison from his command. He also published the following General Order to the Army:—

"The Commander-in-Chief has observed with great dissatisfaction a practice indulged by Officers, or by Persons tassuming that character, or addressing Anonymous Complaints to the public through the Newspapers, respecting imagined professional grievances. It is visible that the Reader cannot assure himself that any particular case so stated is not fallaciously represented through the inexperience, the miscomprehension, or the perverse views of the Writer; consequently the Appeal is essentially devoid of any possible utility. But it is obvious that in this procedure the legitimate sources of Redress are neglected, so that the purpose must be to give a general impression of Inattention. Oppressiveness, or Injustice in those with whom the superintendence of such concerns is lodged. The extreme mischief and Improbity of these endeavours have probably not been perceived by the Writers whom the Commander-in-Chief is willing to regard as having yielded only to a momentary inconsiderateness. The habit, however, of an Officer thus casting off his just and requisite dependence on his Military Superiors must not be permitted. The Commander-in-Chief therefore, in the strictest manner, prohibits Officers from sending to the Newspapers any such Anonymous Representations as are above described. Should a letter of that Nature henceforth be traced to any Officer, means will be taken to make the discovery almost inevitable, and the Commander-in-Chief will immediately submit to the Governor-General in Council the necessity of Suspending the Individual from Duty and Pay, while a solicitation is made to the Honourable Court for his entire removal from the Service."

Colonel Robison did not take the blow of removal from his command "lying down;" but, allowing his angry passions to rise, and forgetting the respect that he owed to superior authority, he dashed off, on the 9th June, a letter to the Chief Secretary to the Government, in which he protested against the action of the Government as "an unwarrantable and tyrannical exercise of authority, which reduces every Officer in India to a state of Slavery equal to that of the Gentlemen in the Russian Service." He declared that he did not "entertain the smallest hope of Justice or Redress from a Government capable of acting as the Government had done" towards himself. He expressed the hope that the Government would announce its Resolution "to turn any Officer out of the Country at 24 hours' notice who dares to publish a single comment, or sentiment upon public affairs displeasing to them, no matter what motives actuated him;" and that "if the Government fancy it contains the least offensive matter the Writer shall be turned out of his House and Quarters like a Dog with the Mange, at the point of the Bayonet, and left sick or well, ready or not ready, to march off, and embark for Europe if the sea coast be 700 miles distant." Furthermore, he charged the Commander-in-Chief with "taking to himself the peculiar merit of inflicting upon him truly despotic, degrading, and inhuman measures," and he accused His Lordship of "more inconsistencies, acts of injustice and barefaced abuses of Power and Patronage during his Command of the Army in India, than are to be found in the Annals of Military Transactions for 50 years before he came out to India."

Necessarily the Government could not brook such insubordination and insolence, so the Colonel was brought before a Court-Martial in Bombay, and charged with "conduct incompatible with the Duty of an Officer," for "traducing" the Government; for "pointing insulting and scandalous remarks at the head of that Government;" and "for abusive and grossly insubordinate language applied to and highly reflecting on the Commander-in-Chief." The Court was formed of "Major-General" K. Cooke, of the Hon'ble Company's Service, as President; "Lieutenant-Colonels" J. Ogilvie, C.B., H.M. 20th Regiment; R. G. Ebrington, H.M. 47th Regiment; G. Mc Konochie, 1st Battalion, 11th Regiment; N. Warren, C.B., H.M. 47th Regiment; J. W. O. Donoghu, H.M. 47th Regiment; R. Whish, Artillery; "Majors" W. Onslow, H.M. 4th Light Dragoons; G. Tovey, H.M. 20th Regiment; J. Hoog, H.M. 20th Regiment; S. R. Strover, Artillery; "Captains" L. R. Russell, Artillery; G. Rottin, H.M. 20th Regiment; J. While, H.M. 20th Regiment; and J. Goldfrap, H.M. 20th Regiment. The finding was as follows:—

"The Court having maturely weighed, and considered all that has been adduced in support of the Prosecution, as well as what has been brought forward in the Defence, are of opinion that the Prisoner Lieutenant-Colonel William Robison, of His Majesty's 24th Regiment, as Guilty of all, and every part of the Charges preferred against him, with the exception of the word 'scandalous,' contained in the second charge, of which they therefore acquit him.

The Court having found the Prisoner Guilty as above specified, do therefore adjudge him, the said Lieutenant-Colonel William Robison, to be reprimanded in such manner as the Officer approving this Sentence may think proper.

The Court are induced to award this lenient Sentence in consequence of Lieutenant-Colonel Robison's long and meritorious Service, and the high Character which he has produced in his Defence from the late Governor-General as a Confidential Servant of Government."

The significant word "Disapproved" was appended to this finding by the Marquis of Hastings; and the "Remarks of His Excellency the Most Noble the Commander-in-Chief" followed. His Lordship stated that he disapproved the Sentence since he considered it "incommensurate to the crime found by the Court" which was a "serious attaint to Discipline." There had been "Flagrant Violations of Military Subordination," yet the Court had awarded "a Punishment appropriate solely to the lowest Class of Deviation from Military Regularity." His Lordship proceeded to sit in judgment upon the Court:—

"To account for the extraordinary nature of the Sentence, the Court states its advertence to Lieutenant-Colonel Robison's long and meritorious Service. The consideration was not within the competence of the Court in the mode assumed. If such were the Court's opinion of Lieutenant-Colonel Robison's Professional Deserts, it would have been fitly brought forward with a Recommendation grounded on it to Clemency in the Quarter where alone the circumstances could be duly appreciated. But the Oath which each Member of a Court Martial takes, binds him to judge strictly on the Substantiation, and the degree of the Crime submitted to his Verdict, and to pass such a Sentence upon it as the Established Rules, or Practice of the Army prescribe in a special case of that Quality, without contemplating matter foreign to the immediate Charge. In this instance the Court could not be blind to the magnitude of the Transgression, and the Extenuation was null.

When the Prisoner admitted the 'Imprudence and Impropriety' of the step he had taken, he expressed no contrition, so that his sense of Error appears to have extended merely to the consequences of which he supposed himself in peril. He simply accounts for the intemperance of his language by saying that he had written under the impulse of an Irritated Spirit, an excuse inadmissible in itself; while he defeats even that plea by distinctly maintaining the principle on which he acted in a manner that aggravates the original offence."

In conclusion, Lord Hastings stated that it was with pain that he made these remarks. "He would, however, deem himself essentially wanting in the Discharge of his Duty, did he not seek to counteract the dangerous encouragement to Insubordination which the Sentence in question would afford were not its incorrectness thus exposed." He was, notwithstanding, compelled to order that Lieutenant-Colonel Robison "be freed from arrest," and that the Court Martial "be dissolved." Lieutenant-Colonel Robison was then directed to "repair to England;" and his [illegible] was submitted to H.R.H. the Du[illegible]ork, the Commander-in-Chief. It may be assumed that he did not succeed in persuading the authorities at the Horse Guards that he possessed sufficient discretion and appreciation of military discipline to be entrusted again with the command of a Regiment, and that India saw him no more.

POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

The following officers are appointed permanently as Superintendents of Post offices in the grade [illegible] 200.

Mr. E. A. Faithful, Munshi Fazal Hussain, Mr. Dadabbai Ardeshar Parakh, Mr. L. F.B. D Sa, Mr. G.R. McCrea, Munshi Salam-ul-Haq, Mr. S N. Devadasen, Syed Ali Mehdy.

The following officers are appointed sub. pro tempore as Superintendents of Post offices in the grade of Rs. 200.

Mr. C. E. White, Mr. Alfred Augelo, Mr. T. N. Murugiah Chetty Mr. Hamilton-Smythe, Mr A. C. Vernieux, Mr. L P Kulkarni.

The following appointments are made vice Mr. H. S. H. Pilkington, Superintendent of Post offices, appointed sub pro tempore in the grade of Rs. 400—500, with effect from the 16th March 1904; and until further orders:—

Mr. S. P. Vas, Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 250, to be sub, pro tempore in the grade of Rs. 300—400.

Mr. D. M. Kalapasi, Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 200, to be sub. pro tempore, in the grade of Rs. 250.

Mr. L. F. B. D'sa, officiating Superintendent of Post offices in the grade of Rs. 200, to be sub pro tempore in that grade.

The following appointments are made with effect from the 1st May 1904, vice Mr. C. Lawder, Superintendent of Post offices, retried:—

Mr. W. Chard, Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 300—400 is promoted to the grade of Rs. 400—500;

Mr. A. D. Gibson, Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 250, is promoted to the grade of Rs. 300-400;

Mr. G. J. H. Quilter, Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs 200, is promoted to the grade of Rs. 250;

Mr. C.B. Keene, probationary Superintendent, Punjab, to be Superintendent of Post offices in the grade of Rs. 200.

The following appointments are made, with effect from the 4th March 1904 vice Mr. A. Bose, Superintendent of Post offices, deceased:

Mr. R. Bean, Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 300—400, is promoted to the grade of Rs. 400—500,

Lala Hira Lall, B.A., Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 250 is promoted to the grade of Rs. 300=400.

The following appointments are made with effect from the 1st April 1904 in consequence of the retirement of Rao Bahadur Moreshvar Raghoba Talpade, Superintendent of Post offices.

Mr. C. C. D'Albedyhll, Superintendent of Post Offices in the grade of Rs. 300—400 to Rs. 400—500.

Mr. S.P. Vas, Superintendent of Post offices, pro tempore in the grade of Rs 300—400, is confirmed in that grade.

Mr. D.M. Kalapesi, Superintendent of Post Offices, sub pro tempore in the grade of Rs 250, is confirmed in that grade.

Mr. K. D. Tembe, Officiating Superintendent of Post offices, in the grade of Rs. 200 is confirmed in that grade.

Babu Radkhika Mohan Lahiri, Superintendent of Post offices in the grade of Rs. 250 is appointed to be sub pro tempore in the grade of Rs. 300—400.

Mr. S. Allsop, Superintendent of Post offices in the grade of Rs. 200, is appointed to be sub pro tempore in the grade of Rs. 250.

Mr. J. E. Thomas, 3rd Assistant Post Master, Calcutta, General Post Office, is granted privilege leave for one month, with effect from the 24th May 1904.

The following officiating appointments are made during his absence on privilege leave, or until further orders:—

Mr. J. E. Lauder, 4th Assistant Post-master, Calcutta, is appointed to act as 3rd Assistant Post-master, Calcutta.

Mr. H. Perejra is appointed to act as fourth Assistant Post-Master, Calcutta.

Mr. Ramchandra Govind Dashotar, Superintendent of Post offices, Chattisgarh Division, is granted privilege leave for one month with effect from the 18th May 1904.

Mr. Shaikh Umar is appointed to act as Superintendent of Post offices, Chittisgarh Division, during the absence on privilege leave of Mr. R. G. Dashotar or until further orders.

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