

and Governor general to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant enclosing an address from the Nuddia People's association.

I beg that you will convey to the members of the association, the expression of His Excellency's thanks for the welcome which they have accorded to him

EDUCATION OR IGNORANCE—The members of the British Indian Association have clearly shown that the State has not as yet done enough for the cause of High education in Bengal, that the Parliament pay much more to few colleges in Ireland than the India Government does to the whole province of Bengal though the population of the latter is about eight times more than that of the former. Then as to mass education, the memorialists show that the grant for high education does not much exceed the grant for mass education, considering that the professors of Colleges and High schools are imported from England with a high pay. Moreover Government purposes to levy something like an education cess through the new municipalities which are to be sown broad cast all over the land and this shall be purely for the spread of elementary education. And thus the memorialists strongly urge that when the people are going to pay a separate tax for elementary education why is again high education taxed for that purpose? Of course Mr. Campbell has all along asserted that he is a great friend to High education, that he has not at all injured the cause of English education, but it seems the facts were so strong against him that the people did not choose to believe those assertions though they were made by the Ruler of 60 millions, and the British Indian Association without ever alluding to those frequent hollow assurances of Mr. Campbell took it as an indisputable fact that Government did not mean well of English education in Bengal and founded their arguments accordingly. But what avails arguing or protesting if the Government is determined to carry out its favorite policy? Is Government sincere or insincere? If insincere how will you convince or move it when its interest is not to be convinced or moved? You can easily awake a sleeping man, but never a man who feigns himself asleep. But if sincere, how will you persuade it to believe that it is pursuing a wrong policy? You have no data neither has the Government to come to a right conclusion how the state grants for Education are to be divided. You claim more or the usual allotment for English education, the Government claims more for elementary education, how are these claims to be adjusted? You call the Government insincere, and the Government calls you selfish and there the matter ends. Then again whatever you might say in favor of high education, Government has one answer, and that a complete one. What would you say to the reply, "very sorry, but no money?" Are you prepared to receive another tax for English Education? If you are, admit the fact, and Government if sincere will most readily tax you and willingly spend a portion of it to further the cause of English education, and if insincere, will tax you as readily and spend all in teaching you the arts of surveying, writing, and salaaming. The great difficulty is that we have no rejoinder to the "no money" reply of Government. The money is ours and created

by us no doubt, but it is spent by others who again do not render any accurate account to us. Even if we detect defect in the account, or extravagance in a particular department, we have no control whatever upon the expenditure of our money. We would no doubt say, reduce the police and give us education, reduce the number of Civilians, or European soldiers and give us education, but nobody would hear us. There is only one vulnerable point in the British India Government. Explain to it the actual state of the public feeling and you make it attentive; convince it thoroughly that a deep and sullen discontent prevails throughout the country and you make it pliant. Lord Northbrook is universally believed by our countrymen to be a better man, but even Lord Mayo would not like to convert a peaceful, contented, and loyal population into a turbulent, discontented and disaffected one. Let the protest be from all parts of the country and all classes of the people, and we dare say even if Lord Northbrook, the joint author of our Educational Charter, fails us, the English people will not fail us. The question even now occurs in our mind what if Lord Northbrook does turn a deaf ear to our remonstrance? The thought chills our blood and occasions a feeling of despondency. It is not a matter of this tax or that law, but of national education, the most important question which a nation has to deal with. If Lord Northbrook adopts Mr. Campbell's policy what then? Should we give ourselves up for lost and gradually fall back towards barbarism, darkness, ignorance, superstition and ruin or struggle for our dearest interests? There will be yet one way left. The people of Bengal are intelligent, civilized, and eager to learn, for education they are always prepared to make a great deal of sacrifices. They are not an indolent nation, nor they are extravagant, and luxurious, they toil from morning to evening, they lead a most simple life, live most frugally and poorly yet they are unfortunately the poorest nation upon the face of the earth. They cannot provide for the education of their children in the way government wishes them to do. They already pay a large sum which, poor as they are, presses upon them severely and they cannot pay more. They have to maintain an expensive and absentee Government and after paying all its demands and paying for the bare necessities of life, they can hardly meet the existing demands upon them for educational purposes, more they certainly cannot pay. England does not help India, as she does her other subject countries, on the contrary she draws from India annually a very large sum of money. The Government again is very indigent. It has to maintain a large military establishment to keep the people in awe of its power and authority. It has to keep up an extravagant commissariat to keep the military department contented it has to keep up a large police force to keep crime, criminals and the people down, it has to import highly paid civil servants from England to govern the country according to its pleasure and help a large number of Englishmen, it has to pay liberal pensions, and allowances to make the service in India tempting to the British people, it has to keep up shows and durbars for political purposes, and India has to maintain a Home Government; and after all these, it

can scarcely give liberal grants for the education of the people. The nation poor, the government is poor and there is the probability of the people's who were rising rapidly in the scales of civilization falling back again in their pristine barbarism and ignorance. Have we not a good cause to appeal to the generosity of England to help us in this difficulty? England liberated the slaves with whom it had no concern, but we are England's own people, we have served to enrich her, our lives and liberty are completely at its mercy, Providence has committed the destiny of a vast population to her care, we have thus some claim upon the consideration of the English people. England is the richest and India is the poorest country in the world. Englishmen are our masters, and we are their slaves, to England therefore we must appeal when in difficulty. It is to the rich people of England therefore we must appeal to aid us, we must send men in England to collect subscriptions for the education of the people of India. We have great hopes of success, we have every hope that England shall come forward in such a good cause as is its wont to respond to the appeal of a nation. If we can procure adequate funds in England, good, if not we may as well send men to rich America, Germany and Russia, and we dare say, if we can properly explain our needs, and the cause of our inability to meet them we can move the hearts of good men of those countries. This is a proposal which we make in all seriousness. It is not merely made to fill up a column of a newspaper, but it is one which has met with approval in many high quarters. In short if Government does not or cannot meet the wishes of the people we must go a-begging for the education of our children. We have tasted its sweets, we have felt its advantages, we cannot forego easily such a blessing which alone can make us a nation.

THE MUNICIPALITY BILL—We have been defeated in every battle we have fought with Government since the transfer of the Empire to the Crown. Yes, the ryots obtained a partial and dearly bought victory over the indigo planters, but then the battle was not actually with Government. The honorable company had a master but the crown has none. If the company behaved ill we had an appeal to the crown but to whom shall we appeal if the crown behaves ill? The sepoys were suppressed and peaceful and loyal Bengal was taxed and disarmed. Since then measure after measure have been introduced almost all unfortunately antagonistical to native interests in spite of repeated and solemn protests from the whole nation. Thus we have fought and have been worsted in every fight. Only a few years ago the Bengalees were a happy nation, they enjoyed the confidence of their Rulers, and they confided in their Rulers. The prospect before them was cheerful, they saw progress, enlightenment and disenthralment before them and thanked the source from which it came. What a change within the course of 10 years? There was a promise that the natives shall enter the Civil service without passing the competitive examination, that promise remains unfulfilled. There was a promise that the control of the road

cess funds shall be largely with the natives, but practically the Government is very careful in its selection of the members of the cess committee so that the natives may have no hand whatever in the disposal of the funds. The safety of High education was promised, and that promise broken. It was in the beginning of this year His Honor promised a great boon to the people i.e. an institution to teach them self government, for said His Honor, "while institutions were despotic and you had no self government you could not have public spirit and you could not have patriotism." On the 20th of January, His Honor said in the council room that "he was sanguine that the difficulties might be overcome and that we should eventually arrive at efficient self government." And further on "the Bill did not increase the burdens of the people to any extent." But the amended bill shows no trace whatever of a provision for the elective system. Indeed, the Lieutenant Governor, if he chooses may introduce it to a certain extent to any municipality; so the Lieutenant Governor if he chooses may restore the colleges of Krishnagore and Berhampere to their original position. We want a better assurance. Then the Bill has increased the burdens of the people to a great extent. In January the Lieutenant Governor promises one thing, in July he offers another. Rulers of countries ought to be more careful of their statements. We do not know what the Lieutenant Governor means by self government or elective system but we know that the amended bill does not provide for either. The Lieutenant Governor (sect 12) shall appoint or cause to be elected commissioners or he will have power to delegate his authority. The Lieutenant Governor shall have power (sect 13) to remove commissioners. One third of the commissioners may be Government servants (sect 14). The Lieutenant Governor may allow a certain number of commissioners to be elected by the ratepayers. (sect 15-) Magistrates shall always be the chairmen of these municipalities [sect 17] Section 31 provides that the Chairman shall have power to appoint and remove servants. And section 135 that inspectors shall be appointed by Government at the expense of these municipalities to look into the working of these institutions. Such are some of the sections which prove that if the Government was anxious to sow the seeds of self-government, it was more anxious that the seeds may not grow into plants. Then look again into sections 168, 169 170. If the commissioner fail to maintain roads or pay for police, to provide means for elementary education, the administration of such municipality shall be transferred to the magistrate. How just! If the commissioners fail to do their duty, the people must suffer for it. If the commissioners forced upon the people and not elected by them fail to do their duty, the people, who were compelled to accept them, will have to bear the consequences. This is municipal justice. The Police as usual remains under the control of the chairman, while the final decision of the strength and pay of the police shall not remain with the people but with Government.

We do not clearly see what new concessions have been made to the people, save that the number of taxes has been increased. The assurance of His Honor that taxes will not be increased yet remains to be considered. We shall try to do it in our next.

NATIVE ENGINEERS—When Government refuses to give posts of emolument to natives it does it for two reasons. It has a natural affection for a white skin and it has political purposes to serve. When government refuses to admit natives in the military department it does it for a transparent political purpose. The Civil service, the political department, the Police are filled up with white men for the same reason. A native magistrate of a district is but a traitor in the camp. The government cannot confide in him, neither can the government get any work from him without placing some confidence in him. So a native district superintendent of Police: he may have views of his own, he may not serve government heartily if it does any thing injurious to the interest of his country. It is this distrust which stands in the way of native advancement and promotion. But we have yet to know why is government so careful to close the engineering department from the natives. Of course engineers are also employed for military purposes, but in such matters European Engineers alone might be employed. What is the political danger in employing natives in constructing roads, and bridges, digging canals, preparing estimates and superintending such works? We see none, yet Government is very careful not to employ natives in the Engineering department. General Strachey in his evidence before the Finance committee said "I have got a list here, and have been looking over it with reference to that, and I find that in the grades above the Executive Engineers, there are no natives at all; that is to say there are none as Chief Engineers or as Superintending Engineers. In the superior grades in Bengal, N. W. Provinces, Punjab, Oudh, Central Provinces, Burmah, Central India, Rajpootana, Mysore, Coorg, Hyderabad, Behar, and Port Blair, 41 Europeans are employed. Of the Executive Engineers in these provinces 216 are employed, and of these 5 are natives, and the greater part of these 5 are in the lowest grade. There are 291 Assistant Engineers, and out of that number 31 are natives. There are 653 upper subordinates, and of that number 209 are natives. It would not give you a fair idea of the distribution of these, unless I further stated that among the natives both in the class of Assistants and upper subordinates, a greater number of natives are employed in Bengal than in any other provinces." Of course when such an astounding fact was stated the members inquired why the number of natives employed was so small. To this General Strachey had no other help but to reply that the natives cannot qualify themselves for the duties required in the various grades of the department. He could not say that the British India Government and its minister of Public works were partial to white skin, that it was the policy of government to keep the natives as far as possible from the doors of the department so he had no

other alternative but to speak an untruth and lay the blame upon the shoulders of the dumb people of this country. He further says "we have not been able to induce natives to enter the Public Works department and particularly into the higher grades." It was well that this assertion was made amongst a people who are quite ignorant of the real facts of the case, but we dare say if it had been made here, the honest portions of his countrymen would have cried shame. General Strachey should have carefully examined the real state of affairs before unconsciously giving utterance to such untruthful statements. Is it not very funny that Government has been so long beseeching the people to enter the higher grades of the department without success? The cruel natives have all along according to General Strachey, heartlessly refused to respond to the importunate calls of government. Oh! the cruel natives.

মিউনিসিপ্যাল বিল।

মিউনিসিপ্যাল আইন লইয়া এদেশে এত তর্ক বিতর্ক হইয়াছে যে এ সম্বন্ধে মতন কিছু বলিবার প্রয়োজন নাই। যদি আমাদের দেশ ইংলণ্ড প্রভৃতির ন্যায় ধনশালী ও ক্ষমতাবান হইত তবে মিউনিসিপ্যাল বিল কর্তৃক বিশেষ কিছু অনিষ্ট হইত বোধ হয় না, কিন্তু এদেশের গবর্নমেন্টের এ সম্বন্ধে উত্তম উদ্দেশ্য থাকিলেও স্থান কাল পাত্র বিবেচনায় অম্মতে বিষ উৎপত্তি হইবে। বিলটি অত্যন্ত বৃহৎ এবং আর দুই দিনপরে যেখানে উহা বিধিবদ্ধ হইবে, সেখানে এ সম্বন্ধে এক্ষণে কিছু বলিতে যাওয়া বিকল মাত্র। তবে বিলের প্রধান অংশটা অর্থাৎ যে অংশে ট্যাক্সের বিষয় লিখিত আছে, আমরা তাহার সার নিবে, গ্রহণ করিলাম। মিউনিসিপ্যাল কমিটি দ্বারা ৮ রকম ট্যাক্স নির্দ্ধারিত হইতে পারিবে অর্থাৎ [১] মনুষ্যের উপর (২) স্থাবা সম্পত্তির উপর (৩) গাড়ী ও পশুর উপর (৪) বাণিজ্য ব্যবসায়ের উপর (৫) উৎসবের উপর [৬] পণ্য দ্রব্যের উপর (৭) টোল ও পারানি (৮) বোকা নদীতে নদোড় করার উপর। ইহার সকল রকম কর এক স্থানে এক এক সময় বসিবে না এবং লেকটেবেন্ট গবর্নরের অনুমতি ভিন্ন কোন রকম ট্যাক্স সংগৃহীত হইবেনা, কিন্তু ইহার একটি ট্যাক্স বসিলেই লোকের উপর অত্যাচার হইবে। এদেশের লোক চিরকাল মনুষ্যের উপর পাছে গবর্নমেন্ট কর নির্দ্ধারণ করেন এই আশঙ্কা করে, এবার কেবল ইহার নিমিত্ত গবর্নমেন্ট এ দেশ সংক্রান্ত হিসাব পত্র প্রস্তুত কর এত যত্ন করিয়াও তাহা বিশুদ্ধ করিতে পারেন নাই। গত জন সংখ্যা গ্রহণের সময় কেবল এই ভয়ে কোন পরিবারে কয় জন লোক তাহা অনেকে বলে নাই, সুতরাং এই করটী বসিলে লোক ততান্ত ভীত হইবে। যেদেশে পরিবারস্থ স্ত্রীপুরুষ সকলে স্বীয় পরিশ্রমে জীবন যাপন করে, সেখানে মনুষ্যের উপর ট্যাক্স বসান নিতান্ত অন্যায্য হয় না, কিন্তু এদেশের পরিবার মাত্র প্রায় দুই একজন উপাঙ্গন করন, এবং আর সকলে বসিয়া আহার করেন, এদেশের রীতি অনুসারে প্রত্যেক

